

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Fire destroys over 200 bee boxes in Jammu

JAMMU, Jun 17 (Agencies): More than 200 boxes of honey bees were destroyed in a fire in the outskirts of Jammu city, officials said on Monday.

A fire erupted suddenly in the boxes kept in a bee colony in R S Pura area late Sunday night, they said.

Fire tenders rushed to the spot and prevented the blaze from spreading to other parts of the bee colony, they said.

With the boxes, thousands of bees perished in the fire, locals said.

The reason for the fire is yet to be determined.

### Amarnath Yatra | Police conducts mock drill at Jammu Base Camp ahead of annual pilgrimage

JAMMU, Jun 17 (Agencies): Ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, the quick reaction teams (QRTs) and special operations group (SOG) of the police on Monday conducted a comprehensive mock drill at the base camp of the pilgrimage in Jammu.

This comes close on the heels of Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewing the security situation and the preparations for the annual pilgrimage.

The 52-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir will start on June 29 and conclude on August 19.

The police carried out a comprehensive mock drill exercise at base camp yatri niwas in Bhagwati Nagar here, officials said.

First responder team of sub division headquarters, including all territorial officers from the sub division, were involved in the exercise.

The SOG Jammu, along with other territorial Police officers from adjacent sub divisions and their QRTs, also participated in the drill, they said.

"The primary objective of this exercise was to provide practical training to the entire team, ensuring they are well-prepared to handle real-time operations in the event of any unforeseen incidents," a police officer said.

The exercise concluded successfully, demonstrating the

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## 15 dead, 60 injured after goods train crashes into Kanchanjungha Express in West Bengal's Darjeeling



NEW JALPAIGURI/KOLKATA, June 17 (Agencies): At least 15 passengers died and 60 others were injured, after three rear coaches

of the stationary Seal-dah-bound Kanchanjunga Express derailed on Monday morning as a goods train collided with it in West Bengal's Dar-

jeeling district, officials said.

The toll could rise, as multiple agencies of the state and Centre were simultaneously working

on war footing along with locals to rescue passengers who could still be trapped inside, they said.

The deceased include the pilot and co-pilot of the goods train, a senior railway official said.

The injured are being taken to the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital, police said.

The three rear compartments derailed under the impact of the collision from behind by the locomotive of the goods train near Rangapani station, about 30 km from North Bengal's

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## Eid Prayers Pass Off Peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir



SRINAGAR/JAMMU, Jun 17 (Agencies): Eid prayers passed off peacefully in J&K as thousands of Muslims gathered for congregational prayers at mosques and Eidgahs

in different places. The largest Eid congregation was held at the Hazratbal mosque in the Srinagar city outskirts where hundreds of Muslims gathered for the Eid prayers.

Elders carried children alongside them to the prayer grounds. Muslims greeted each other after offering the Eid prayers at various mosques and

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## Terrorist killed in encounter with security forces in Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Jun 17 (Agencies): A terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on Monday, officials said.

The gunfight broke out after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Aragam area of the district on Sunday night following information about the presence of terrorists there, they said.

The army's Srinagar-based Chinari Corps said one terrorist has been killed. The operation was in progress till last reports, it said.

"Based on specific intelligence input regarding presence of terror-

ists, a joint operation was launched by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police on the intervening night of June 16-17 in the general area of Gurihajin, Aragam Bandipora; one terrorist eliminated, operation in progress," the Chinari Corps posted on X.

The officials said the gunfight broke out after terrorists opened firing on security personnel. The identity of the slain terrorist is yet to be ascertained, they said.

"One body has been spotted at the site of the encounter while searches are on to look for more terrorists in the area," an official had

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## CDS Gen Anil Chauhan visits Jammu, holds security review



JAMMU, Jun 17 (Agencies): Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Monday arrived on a day-long visit to Jammu to review the security situation and operational preparedness in the region, officials said.

Gen Chauhan's visit comes soon after Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the

security situation and the preparations for the annual Amarnath Yatra on Sunday.

The CDS arrived at 16 Corps headquarters in Nagrota, where he is scheduled to review the security situation of the region and operational preparedness of the security forces, they said.

He will be briefed by

top commanders of the Army, including the Northern Army Commander and general officer commanding (GoC).

A series of security review meetings have been held at various levels to further chart out a strategy to deal with growing terrorism in the Jammu region with a strong arm.

Terrorists struck at four places in the Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir within four days last week, killing nine pilgrims and a CRPF jawan and leaving seven security personnel and several others injured.

Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in an encounter

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## G Kishan Reddy appointed BJP Election Incharge for Jammu and Kashmir



NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): BJP national president J P Nadda has appointed state election in-charges and co-in-charges for the upcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir, the party said on Monday.

In a letter dated June 17, Arun Singh, National General Secretary and Headquarters In-charge

said that for Maharashtra, Union Minister Bhubendra Yadav has been appointed as state election incharge with Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav as state election co-incharge.

For Haryana Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been appointed as state election in-charge and former Chief Minister and MP Biplab Kumar Deb has been appointed as State election co-incharge.

For Jharkhand, Union Minister and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan has been appointed as State election incharge and Assam

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# MBA MOTORS

## MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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## Hizbul Militant arrested in Handwara

SRINAGAR, Jun 17 (Agencies): Security forces arrested a Hizbul Mujahideen militant in Jammu and Kashmir's Handwara sub district, police said on Monday. He was in touch with a Pakistan-based handler. Zakir Hamid Mir, a resident of Kachri, Chogal was arrested in a joint operation of forces which was launched last night.

"Yesterday, we got an input about the presence of a terrorist who was waiting to carry out a terror attack. Following which a joint operation with Army's 30 RR and other security forces agencies was launched. During the operation the terrorist was arrested," Superintendent of Police, Handwara Dawood Ayoub said.

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**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Kamla Wati Bhan** W/o Late Sh. Neel Kanth Bhan originally R/o Rainawari Srinagar A/p Flat No. 7, Block-170, Lane No. 26, Jagti, Nagrota who left for the heavenly abode on 14/06/2024. The **mourning** shall be held at Community Hall, Lane No.4, Behind Block No. 19, Jagti Nagrota.



**SMT. KAMLA WATI BHAN**  
1930 - 2024

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 23/06/2024 at 8:00 AM and Assembly will be held there-after.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-laws**  
Sh. Sangeet Prakash Bhan & Smt. Veena Bhan  
Smt. Kusum Bhan W/o Lt. Sh. Samvith Prakash Bhan  
Sh. Autar Krishan Bhan & Smt. Ratna Bhan  
Sh. Praduman Krishan Bhan & Smt. Sunita Bhan  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt. Santosh Bhan & Sh. I.K Bhan  
**Grand Children**  
Priyanka, Shalini, Ashish, Supriya, Siddharth, Rahul, Aastha, Aditya, Mridula.  
**Mobile:- 7006381262, 7006847290, 9165022095, 7006141919**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI & UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our dear **CAPT. RAM SARAN VAID** S/o Late Sh. Tej Ram Vaid R/o near post office, Village Bhalwal, Jammu had left for his heavenly abode on 08th of June 2024 (Saturday).



**CAPT. RAM SARAN VAID**

**TENTH DAY, KRIYA, RASAM PAGRI & UTHALA** will be performed at our residence village Bhalwal as under:

**Tenth Day :** 17th June 2024 (Monday) 10.00 A.M  
**Kriya :** 18th June 2024 (Tuesday)  
**Rasam Pagri & Uthala :** 19th June 2024 (Wednesday) 2.00 to 3.00 PM  
**Grief Stricken**  
Smt. Kailash Vaid - Wife  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Dinesh Vaid & Smt. Santosh Vaid  
Sh. Rajesh Vaid & Smt. Seema Vaid  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Sh. Sanjay Raina & Smt. Renu Vaid  
**Grand Kids :** Nandini, Nandan, Madhvan, Ira, Prashant & Himanshu  
**Mob : 9419168433, 9469185900**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE SADLY INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED **S. GURCHARAN SINGH** S/O LATE S. CHAIN SINGH R/O TRIVUKLA BATOTTE LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 9TH OF JUNE 2024. **ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH** SHALL BE HELD ON 16/06/2024 (SUNDAY) AT 9.30 A.M. **BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH** SHALL BE HELD ON 18/06/2024 (TUESDAY) AT 9.30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE (BATOTTE). **ANTIM ARDAS** FOR THE DEPARTED SOUL SHALL BE HELD AT GURDWARA SINGH SABHA BATOTE FROM 10.30 AM TO 12.30 PM ON 18TH OF JUNE 2024.



**S. GURCHARAN SINGH**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform that our beloved mother **Smt. Kanta Rani Sudan** Sh. Sunder Dass Sudan Ji R/o Sh. Bhat Nagar Rehari Colony Jammu has left for heavenly abode on 09-06-2024. **TENTH DAY** shall be performed on 18th June 2024 Tuesday at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony Jammu at 10:00 AM. **RASAM KRIYA** will be performed on Wednesday i.e 19th June 2024 at 12:00 Noon at residence. **The UTHALA** will take place on 19th June 2024 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony Jammu.

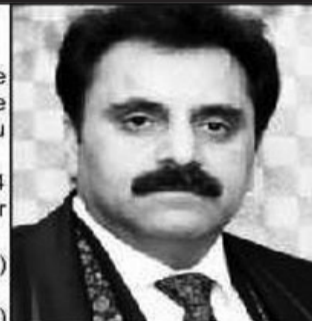


**SMT KANTA RANI SUDAN**  
(DOB: 6-7-1934 - DOD: 9-6-2024)

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Rajni Sudan W/o Late Sh. Raghubir Rai Sudan -Devarani  
Smt. Prem Lata Sudan W/o Late Sh. Pardeep Kumar Sudan - Daughter-in-law  
Smt. Veenu Bai W/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Bai - Daughter  
Smt. Karanvir Sudan & Sh. Kuljeet Kumar Sudan (JTD) - Daughter-in-law & Son  
Smt. Sheetal Sudan & Sh. Rajan Sudan - Grand Daughter-in-law & Grand Son  
Smt. Akhila Devi & Sh. Parveen Bai (Airtel) - Grand Daughter-in-law & Grand Son  
Mr. Sushant Sudan - Grand Son  
& **SAMAST SUDAN PARIVAR**  
**MOBILE : 700672537, 9419132307, 778000400, 990604952, 9858804074**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Ravi Dogra** S/o Late Sh. B. R. Dogra R/o H.No. 08, Mohalla Ustad Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 08-06-2024.



**Sh Ravi Dogra**

**10th Day** shall be performed on 17-06-2024 (Monday) at 11 AM at Mahajan Hall Shalamar Jammu.

**Kriya** shall be performed on 20-06-2024 (Thursday) at our residence Ustad Mohalla Jammu.

**Uthala** will be performed on 21-06-2024 (Friday) from 4 PM to 5 PM at Brahman Sabha Parade Jammu.

**Grief Stricken**  
**Nisha Dogra -Wife**  
**Riyansh Dogra (Rudra) -Son**  
Ashok Dogra & Chanchal -**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Raj Kumar Dogra & Rani -**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Pawan Dogra & Neetu -**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Basant Kumar -**Jija Ji**  
**Mb. No. 9149428316, 9419106482, 7006311554**

**OBITUARY & TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri O N Dhar (Daddy)** S/o Lt. Sudharshan Dhar O/R Sheshyar, Habba Kadal, Srinagar at present Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu on 13th June 2024. The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 22nd June 2024 at Shakti Nagar Ghat at 8 AM.



**Shri O N Dhar (Daddy)**

**IN GRIEF :**  
Smt Omashree Dhar-Wife  
Smt Tathi Dhar- Bhabhi  
Smt & Shri H K Dhar- Bhabhi & Brother  
Smt & Shri B L Dhar- Bhabhi & Brother  
**Daughters & Son-in-laws**  
Smt & Shri Girja & Vijay Bhan  
Smt & Shri Veena & B L Sapru  
Smt & Shri Sarla & Sanjay Sahib  
**GRAND CHILDREN**  
Prema, Munisha, Shefali, Avni, Aarti, Aayush  
**Mourning** will be held at H No. 7, Lane No. 19 Mangotrian Rajpura Jammu.  
**GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER - Myra**  
**CONTACT : 8800676724, 9149711474, 9796586545**

**10TH DAY**

Profoundly grieved we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Uma Shori Raina** on 13th June 2024.



**Smt Uma Shori Raina**

**10th Day** will be performed on 22/06/2024 at Muthi Camp Ghat at 6 am to 8 am.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**  
Sh. J.L.Raina (Husband)  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Prediman & Lovely Raina  
Pooran & Anjali Raina  
**Daughters and Sons-in-law**  
Usha & Ashok Kumar Bhan  
Ranjan & Virender Jan  
**Grand daughter & Grand Son-in-law**  
Mehak & Vivek  
**Grand Children**  
Monika, Abhinav & Paras  
**Address: H.No 150 , Lane-4, Dream City Jammu (9419202281)**

**TENTH DAY AND UTHALA**

With profound grief, sorrow and heavy heart, we are sad to inform you the demise of our beloved **Mr Prantik Abrol (Raghav)** S/o Sh Mahesh Abrol (Range Officer, Wild Protection, Udhampur) R/o H No 195, Sec 04 Extension, Colonel Colony, Talab Tillo Jammu. (Kanak Mandi Wale) on Saturday, 8th June 24.



**Mr Prantik Abrol (Raghav)**

**Tenth Day** shall be performed on Monday, 17th June 2024, at Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Lane No.15, Kabir Nagar, Poonch House, Talab Tillo, Jammu at 10.00AM.  
**Uthala** shall be performed on Wednesday, 19th June, 24 at Gurdwara, Taali Sahab, Talab Tillo at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Kamla Devi (Grand Mother)  
W/O Late Sh Madan Lal Abrol (Grand Father)  
Smt Sonika Abrol (Mother)  
Smt Pranika and Sh Anam Nargotra (Sister and Brother in law)  
Smt Bindu and Sh Rajesh Abrol (Chacha and Chachi)  
Smt Sheetal and Sh Rakesh Anand (Bua and Fufa Ji)  
**Abrol Family.**  
**Contact : 9103111786, 9797558404**

**Bhog and Antim Ardas**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sdn. Tejinder Kour** W/o S. Amrik Singh R/o Basti New Bhanteen, Miran Sahib Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 11 June 2024.



**Sdn. Tejinder Kour**

**Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** on 17th (Monday) 9:00 AM at our residence Basti new bhanteen, Miran Sahib Jammu

**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib** on 19th June (Wednesday) 9:00 AM at our residence.

**Antim Ardas** will be performed at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Basti New Bhanteen, Tali Morh, Jammu from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
S. Amrik Singh (New India Assurance Company) (Husband)  
S. Satpal Singh and Sdn. Harwant Kour (Brother in law and Bhabhi)  
S. Manjeet Singh and Sdn. Sumeet Kour (Brother in law and Bhabhi)  
Late Sdn. Indjeet Kour and S. Sukhdev Singh (Sister in law and Brother in law)  
Dr. Manpreet kour and Dr. Gurjinder Singh (Daughter and Son in law)  
Dr. Gagandeep Singh (Son)  
**Mob no. 6005875156**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Charanjil Lal Kapoor** S/o Lt Sh. Munshi Ram Kapoor R/o H No. 230 Lane No 9 Shakti Nagar Jammu.



**Late Sh Charanjil Lal Kapoor**  
11-07-1944/08-06-2024  
(Founder of Saraswati Gold Smith)

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 17th June 2024 (Monday) at Om Palace Shakti Nagar Jammu at 11 A. M. **KRIYA** will be performed on 19th June 2024 (Wednesday) at our residence on 12 noon.  
**RASAM PAGRI** will be performed at Om Palace Shakti Nagar Jammu at 5 PM (19th June 2024).  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Ratno Devi W/o Late Sh Charanjil Lal Kapoor  
**Sons and Daughters in law**  
Smt Sunita and Sh Rattan Lal Kapoor  
Kashmir Jewellers Trikuta Ngr  
Smt Kavita and Sh Sunil Kapoor- S K Jewellers Shakti Nagar  
Sh Sanjay Kapoor  
Smt Manjira and Sh Rishi Kapoor  
**SARASWATI GOLD SMITH, SHAKTI NAGAR**  
**Daughters and Sons in law**  
Smt Lata and Sh Hari Lal Verma  
Smt Neelam and Sh Ashok Abrol  
(Lata Chuni Lal Abrol Jewellers Udh.)  
**Grand Daughters and Grand Sons**  
Mrs Nitya and Mr Rahat Kapoor  
Ms Surbhi and Mr Rajat Kapoor  
Sahil Kapoor (Grand Son)  
**Sanchita Kapoor (Grand Daughter)**  
**Rakshita Kapoor (Grand Daughter)**  
**Shavi Kapoor (Grand Daughter)**  
**Akshita Kapoor (Great Grand Daughter)**  
**9103637733, 9906040080, 8825082946**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Kamla Devi** W/o Late Sh. Kulbhusan Dutt R/o Naseeb Nagar Paloura near Bread Factory.



**Smt. Kamla Devi**

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 17-06-2024 at 10.00 am at Old Shiv Mandir Pandoka Colony (Paloura) **KRIYA** will be performed on 18-06-2024 at our Residence at 12.00 Noon.

**UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI** will be performed on 19-06-2024 at Hari Mandir Rehari from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Komal and Sh. Sanjeev Kumar- **Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
Smt. Upasana and Sh. Rajeev Kumar- **Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
(Sony Video Vision)  
**Bakshi Family Mob. 7006202296, 9419105135, 9086369037**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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



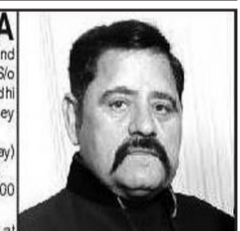
**Shri Vijay Kaul**

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

**Grief Stricken :**  
Sumedha Kaul - (Wife)  
Shachi and Saavni Kaul (Daughters)  
Surinder Kaul (Father)  
Tej Krishan and Rajinder Kaul (Uncles)  
Veena Kaul (Aunty)  
Daziy and Mohan Krishan Mongha (Bua and Fufa Ji)  
Utpal and Hina Kaul, Puneet and Nihaika Kaul, Priyanka and Rohit Bhat, Ankit and Neha Kaul, Krayha and Akshata Mongha, Ashish Kaul and Gyanshwar Mongha  
**Mobile Nos :- 9958729719, 7678464315, 7233919845**

**10TH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Shri Bharat Bhushan Raina** S/o Late Sh. Sani Lal Raina R/o House 1b, 72 Rampura, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, who left us on 10 June 2024 for eternal journey to heavenly abode.



**Shri Bharat Bhushan Raina (Bittu)**

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 19 June 2024 (Wednesday) 11:00 am at Durga Bhawan, Rampura, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 20 June 2024 (Thursday) after 11:00 am at our residence.

**UTHALA** will be held on 21 June 2024 (Friday) 4:00-5:00 pm at Durga Bhawan, Rampura, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

**DEEPLY MOURNED BY**  
Kousalya Devi - Mother  
Urmil Raina - Wife  
Abhinandan Raina & Primal Raj - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Abhishek Raina - Son  
Neelam Langer & Late Vijay Kumar Langer - Sister & Brother-in-law  
Sunita Chopra & Virender Chopra - Sister & Brother-in-law  
**Nephews & Nieces :**  
Vikas Langer Anshul Gupta, Khushboo Langer, Sachin Chopra, Pankaj Gupta, Atul Sharma.  
**ALL NEARS AND DEARS**  
**CONTACT: 7898557136**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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



**Smt. Lalita**

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Moti Lal Ji & Dulari Ji - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Krishen Ji & Usha Ji - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Ashok Ji & Artie - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Santosh & Kamal Ji - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Phool & Pawan Ji - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Suneta & Dileep Ji - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Veena & Vijesh Ji - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
**All Grand Children**  
**Mob: 9906309158**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Sat Pal Sharma** S/o Lt Sh. Boora Ram Sharma R/o H No. 55-A, Lane No. 1, Patoli Magotrian Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 09-06-2024.



**Sh Sat Pal Sharma**

**10th Day** shall be performed on 18-06-2024 (Tuesday) at 10:00 am at Vikas Nagar Shiv Mandir.

**Kriya** shall be performed on 19-06-2024 (Wednesday) at our residence Patoli Magotrian Jammu

**Uthala** will be performed on 19-06-2024 (Wednesday) from 06 PM to 07 PM at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony, Jammu

**Grief Stricken**  
Mr. Acha Sharma & Mrs. Anita Sharma (Son in law & Daughter)  
Anupam Sharma (Daughter)  
Chander Shekhar (Son)  
**Mob No. 9906268172**

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**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Suhaag Rani (Santosh Sharma)** (Ex. Sr. Member Prajaparisad Jan Sangh and BJP Mahila Wing Jammu) W/o Late Shri Mukh Raj Sharma of Peer Mitha Jammu on 08.06.2024.



**Smt. Suhaag Rani (Santosh Sharma)**

**TENTH DAY** shall be performed on Monday 17-06-2024 at 10 AM at our residence 157 C/o Mukh Raj & Sons, Peer Mitha, Jammu.

**KRIYA** shall be performed next day on Tuesday 18-06-2024 at 12 Noon at Devi Dwara Mandir Malhotra Street, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**Sons and Daughters in law**  
Sh. Kuldeep Raj & Smt. Anita Sharma  
Sh. Romesh Chander & Smt. Manju Sharma  
Sh. Parveen Sharma & Smt. Anita Sharma  
**Daughter and Son in law**  
Smt. Raj Rani & Sh. Jugal Kishore  
**Grand Sons:** Ashish, Shaurya, Pankaj, Yogesh, Naresh, Harsh  
**M/S MULKH RAJ & SON**  
**M/S KASHMIR CHAKKI HOUSE**  
**PEER MITHA & CHANNI HIMMAT JAMMU**  
**MOBILE: 9419141686, 9419223377, 8494017949**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Kamla Rani Gandotra** W/o Late Sh Dhamam Brat Gandotra R/o H No. JMC-363, Lane No.3, Anand Vihar, Bohri, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 09-06-2024.



**Smt Kamla Rani Gandotra**

**10th Day** shall be performed on 18/06/2024 (Tuesday) at 10.30 am at Shri Radha Krishan Mandir adjacent to Dewan Modern Breweries, Ltd, Bohri Jammu.

**Kriya** will be performed on 21/06/2024 (Friday) at our residence.

**Uthala** will be performed on 21/06/2024 (Friday) at 5 pm to 6 pm at Arya Samaj Mandir, opp Hotel PR Bakshi Nagar, Jammu  
**Grief Stricken :**  
**Sons & Daughters in law**  
Ajay Gandotra & Puja Gandotra  
Abhay Gandotra & Sonika Gandotra  
Ajjeet Gandotra & Bhawana Gandotra  
**Grand Children :-**  
Vansh, Beantika, Udhay, Parul, Harsh, Dhanvivi  
**Mobile :- 9469214010, 7006175766, 9419620812**

## Mula Ram, Uday criticize Govt's inaction on crucial issues affecting Jammu people

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: Senior Congress leaders has strongly criticized the present dispensation for its apparent lack of concern in addressing crucial issues affecting the everyday lives of people in the region.

In a Congress workers' meeting held at Neter Kothain, which covers Ward No. 65 and 67 in the Jammu North Assembly segment, Former Minister and Senior Vice President of JKPC, Mula Ram Ji, along with Uday Bhanu Chib, National General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), and Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of JKPC, expressed their dissatisfaction with the government's performance and rallied support for the upcoming elections.

They extended their gratitude to the workers for their support and the lead they provided from their polling booths during the recently conducted Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir. They also appealed for continued support during



the forthcoming Assembly and local body elections.

In his address, Mula Ram highlighted the severe hardships faced by the people of Jammu region due to the non-availability of regular power and water supply amidst an extreme heatwave. He criticized the government for installing smart meters with the promise of providing 24x7 power supply but the government has failed to provide regular water and power supplies to general public. "The whole of Jammu region is suffering due to the non-availability of power and water amidst an extreme heatwave," Mula Ram said.

The former minister

assured the participants that the Congress Party if voted to power in the upcoming Assembly elections will replace the Smart Meters with traditional ones. Additionally, he promised that the party would oppose the implementation of water smart meters and the imposition of property taxes, which have been causing distress among the residents.

Mula Ram also praised the efforts of Uday Bhanu Chib and Hari Singh Chib in strengthening the Congress Party in the Jammu North Assembly.

Uday Chib, in his address, emphasized that unemployment is at its peak in Jammu and Kashmir, and the soaring

prices of essential commodities have exacerbated the struggles of common people. He criticized the government for its apparent lack of concern in resolving these crucial issues, which are affecting the everyday lives of the residents. "The government seems indifferent to the problems faced by the people. Unemployment is rampant, and the rising prices of essential goods are making life difficult for everyone," he said.

Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of JKPC, appealed to the people of Jammu region to support the Congress Party in the upcoming Assembly and Local Body Elections. He emphasized that the

Congress Party is dedicated to addressing the residents' concerns and improving their quality of life. He highlighted the need for a government that listens to the people and acts on their behalf, rather than burdening them with taxes and failing to provide essential services.

By supporting the Congress Party, Hari Singh Chib assured the attendees that they would be choosing a party committed to solving their problems and ensuring a better future for all residents in the region.

Among those who were present in the meeting include Romesh Singh, Som Nath Sharma, Parshotam Singh, Surinder Kumar Bhagat, Jung Bahadur Singh, Pummy Manhas, Kaka Ram, Madan Singh Chib, Amit, Joginder, Ashwani Kumar, Fakir Chand former Sarpanch, Harbans Lal, Neeta Chib, Kamal Singh, Raj Kumar Bhagat, S Rashpal Singh, Toshi Devi, Sham Lal, Ram Dhan, Pawan Kumar Bhagat and Ramesh Singh.

## Adhyatmikta: A soul healing session preserving our cultural heritage to Mark Int'l Day of Yoga

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: Awakening souls with malvi successfully hosted "Adhyatmikta: A Soul Healing Session," a special event celebrating the International Day of Yoga on the 16th of June, 2024, at the Iconic Lawns of Hari Niwas, Jammu, set against the majestic backdrop of Amar Mahal.

The event commenced at 5:30 AM with Chief Guest Kuwarani Ritu Singh offering salutations to the Sun God amidst chanting by priests, lending an air of sanctity to the occasion. The energy of the early morning sun, combined with the collective devotion of the attendees, created an atmosphere of profound peace and spiritual awakening.

The session was led by esteemed yoga expert, Dr. Malvi Gupta, who guided participants through a journey of spiritual healing and self-discovery. Dr. Gupta's expertise provided an enriching experience that

aligned with the holistic essence of yoga, blending physical well-being with spiritual growth.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Guest of Honour Major Dr. Tilak Raj, MS ESIC Hospital Bari Brahmana Jammu. Additionally, Dr. Mahreen Wani from the Ayush Department, serving as Medical Officer, honored us with her presence.

In her address, Chief Guest Kuwarani Ritu Singh emphasized the deep spiritual essence of yoga. Her speech touched on the importance of preserving our cultural heritage, which yoga exemplifies, and urged everyone to integrate yoga into their daily lives for a healthier and happier existence.

Post the yoga session, a powerful Aarti on the lines of the Ganga Aarti was performed, paying tributes to Surya Putri Tawi Maa. This initiative, led by Dr. Singh, was a special observance of Ganga Dussehra. The tranquil surroundings of

Hari Niwas Palace provided a perfect backdrop for this spiritual ceremony, enhancing the overall experience for everyone present.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from people of all age groups, who came together to celebrate the ancient practice of yoga. Through various sessions and demonstrations, participants experienced the profound benefits of yoga in achieving mental peace and physical well-being.

This event was made possible with the generous support of our sponsors: Hari Niwas, One Level Up Sports, Decathlon, Pahalwan, TM Adventure and Monika's Kitchen. Their contributions were vital in creating a space for communal wellness and spiritual growth.

"Adhyatmikta: A Soul Healing Session" has indeed been a source of inspiration, reminding us all of the timeless wisdom embedded in our heritage and the transformative power of yoga.

## Mental Strength, Endurance, Ability to bounce back are essential in wrestling: Col. Mahan

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, June 17: The Annual Chhinj Mela, a celebrated event in the hilly region of Kathua, took place with immense fanfare and enthusiasm today in Mahanpur.

Inaugurated by Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua, the event drew over 5,000 spectators, organizers, and more than 300 wrestlers from various states in Northern India. The occasion was further animated by a team of Dholis (drum beaters) from Himachal Pradesh, with several prominent personalities in attendance, including DySP Suresh Kumar SDPO Basohli, Sonu Gupta, Sandeep Chib SHO Basohli, Shanti Bhushan, Rajinder

Jaswal, Raj Singh, Ram Chand (ex-BDO), and Atul Gupta (Joint Secretary), among others.

The highlight of the day was the final bout between top wrestlers Hind Kesari Mohinder Gaikwad of Pune (Maharashtra) and Jammu Kashmir Kesri Amin Beniya of Jammu. In a remarkable display of wrestling skill, unparalleled strength, and stamina, Mohinder Gaikwad triumphed over Amin Beniya.

Speaking on the occasion, Col. Mahan Singh commended the arrangements and smooth conduct of the event by the local Chhinj Management Committee, headed by Sonu Gupta. He underscored the importance of local youth participating in

such events and other sports to maintain physical and mental fitness.

"The game of wrestling requires mental strength, along with endurance and the ability to bounce back against your opponent," Col. Mahan said and emphasized the need for young people to develop these qualities through active participation in sports.

Col. Mahan also highlighted that Chhinj Melas are a reflection of our rich culture and heritage, fostering a sense of community and tradition. He urged the youth to take pride in these events and to engage more actively, as they not only build physical strength but also promote mental resilience and a sense of belonging within the community.

## Kavinder, Arun urge Union Minister Gadkari to establish Katra-Delhi Expressway as vital trade link for Jammu

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, June 17: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister and chamber of commerce representatives today held a crucial meeting with Union Minister of Roads, Transport and National Highways, Nitin Gadkari in Srinagar to discuss the proposed design of the RCC Wall structure for the Katra-Amritsar-Delhi Expressway flyover passing from Narwal to Sainik Colony, seeking modification of the proposed RCC Wall structure with Pier and Grider Wall structure.

In the meeting, President of Chamber of Commerce and Industries Arun Gupta, Vice President Anil Gupta,



Vikram Randhawa former MLC and Sham Langer Convener BJP Trade Cell accompanied the former deputy Chief Minister.

At the beginning of the meeting, Jammu Chamber President Arun Gupta elaborated on the importance of the

expressway's design. He emphasized that the stretch from Kunjwani onwards should be flyover-based on pillars due to its dense urban setting. This area encompasses schools, hospitals, local markets, shops, malls, banquet halls, the main fruit

and vegetable markets, transport hub, ISBT bus stand, and new railway station platforms. Arun Gupta pointed out that the proposed blind wall structure would adversely affect these establishments and impede the free movement of people. He stressed that as the prime entrance point to Jammu City, this area's development cannot be compromised.

Kavinder Gupta emphasized the need for modifying the proposed RCC Wall structure to incorporate a Pier and Grider Wall structure. He highlighted that this modification is crucial to address the concerns raised by the trader community of Jammu, who view the expressway as a pivotal trade link for the region.

The former deputy Chief Minister articulated the strategic significance of the expressway in enhancing connectivity and facilitating economic growth in Jammu. He stressed that the adoption of a Pier and Grider Wall structure aligns better with the commercial interests and future development aspirations of the region.

Giving a patient hearing, the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari affirmed that necessary instructions would be promptly issued to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), acknowledging the sensitivity of the issue and pledged to prioritize the interests of the public, particularly the trader community in Jammu.

## Tawi Andolan celebrates Ganga Dussehra at Tawi Arti Ghat

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: Ashok Koul, General Secretary Org. BJP JK supported all pursuits undertaken by Tawi Andolan for revival of prestigious glory Suryaputri Tawi.

He was addressing the gathering at Tawi Arti Ghat Biram Chowk Jammu East in program Ganga-Dussehra. Koul praised Tawi Andolan for its continuance and relentless working of Tawi Andolan for last more than 10 years.

Chander Mohan Sharma, BJP Senior Leader and Chairman Tawi Andolan, demanded creation of Tawi Development Board as Tawi is revered as shrine

throughout its 150 kms run through different districts of Jammu Division. He expressed satisfaction on creation of artificial lake.

He further said that at present, river Tawi is being dealt by different govt department and their departments working in tandem, therefore affecting in the development Tawi as Tourism destinations. For coordination of working of these concerned departments, a common authority as Tawi Development Board is required.

Prof Rajinder Mishra, JU gave historical facts and importance of celebrating Ganga Dussehra. Veena Bakshi Women Wing Incharge

of Sehkar Bharti, an organisation dedicated for empowerment of people through cooperatives said that the Sehkar Bharti has started tradition of celebrating Ganga Dussehra in J&K. It will keep its efforts for bringing prosperity through cooperative means. Kulwant Singh Bhatti gave a detailed account of martyrdom of Guru Arjan Devand his contributions for the welfare for the society. He paid rich tribute to 5th Guru. Devotional songs were recited by famous singers Nidhi, Ganesh Dass, Megha Raina, Sunita Kundal, Satpal Raina and Ram Lal. Prominent who attended the function included

Retd Judge Subash Gupta, K B Jandial Former Director Information, Corp. Surinder Sharma, Prem Gupta, Ravinder Singh Birpuria BJP Leaders, Anjali Sharma Former Director Doordarshan, Arun Dev Singh Jammal State President BJYM JK, Smt Anu Gupta, Charanjeet Singh, Sham Lal Bhasin, Manav Mahajan, Karan Singh, Raj Kumar Gupta, Subash Gai President Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha honoured all speakers and performers with Mata ki Chuni.

Balwinder Singh Bhatia gave vote of thanks and after performing the Aarti, diyas were floated in hundreds by the activists into the river.

## J&K Reasi terror attack case: MHA hands over probe to NIA

SRINAGAR, June 17 (Agencies) : The Union Home Ministry on June 17 handed over the probe into the recent terror attack on a bus in Jammu and Kashmir to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), officials said.

Nine people, including three women were killed, and 41 injured as a bus carrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi plunged into a deep gorge after an ambush by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on June 9. The terrorists opened fire at the 53-seater bus when it was en route from Shiv Khori temple to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine at Katra.

## Modi Govt will wipe out terrorism from Jammu region as it did in Valley: Dr. Parneesh

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, Convener Department of Training, BJP, J&K, today reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of Modi government to eradicating terrorism from the Jammu region, following the recent security review meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah.

In a statement issued today, Dr. Parneesh expressed his confidence in the government's strategic and robust measures to tackle terrorism. "The Modi government has demonstrated its determination and capability in eliminating terrorist threats in the Kashmir Valley. We are now focusing our efforts on the Jammu region, and I

am confident that we will achieve the same level of success here," he said.

The high-level security review meeting chaired by the Home Minister in response to the recent terror attack in the Jammu region underscored the government's proactive stance on national security. Home Minister Amit Shah emphasized the need



for heightened vigilance and coordinated efforts among security agencies to prevent further attacks and ensure the safety of citizens.

Dr. Parneesh said "The security review meeting led by Home Minister Amit Shah is a testament to our government's relentless pursuit of peace and stability in the region. We are com-

mitted to providing all necessary resources and support to our security forces to eliminate the terror menace," he added.

Dr. Parneesh also praised the bravery and dedication of the security forces who have been instrumental in thwarting numerous terror attempts and maintaining peace in the region. "Our forces

are the backbone of our fight against terrorism. Their courage and resilience are commendable, and they have our full support and gratitude," he stated.

The senior BJP leader reiterated the Modi government's comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism, which includes not only military and intelligence efforts but also

socioeconomic initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of extremism. "The Central Government is working on a multi-faceted strategy that includes development projects, educational programs, and employment opportunities to bring about lasting peace and prosperity in the region," he concluded.

## EDITORIAL

ANTI-TERRORIST  
CAMPAIGN

The anti-terror campaign in Jammu and Kashmir has been a persistent and complex endeavor shaped by geopolitical dynamics, historical grievances, and regional security concerns. This campaign primarily aims to counteract various militant groups operating in the region, uphold national security, and restore stability in a contentious territory. This essay explores the multifaceted dimensions of the anti-terror operations in J&K, detailing the challenges, strategies, and impacts involved.

The conflict in J&K traces its roots back to the partition of British India in 1947, which resulted in the formation of India and Pakistan. The disputed status of the region has been a source of enduring tension, leading to multiple wars and a prolonged insurgency. Various militant groups, often with external support, have exploited local grievances and political aspirations to wage armed struggles against Indian security forces.

One of the primary challenges faced by security forces in J&K is the rugged terrain and the local population's intricate support network for militants. The mountainous terrain provides ample hiding places and logistical advantages for insurgents, making it difficult for conventional forces to operate effectively. Moreover, the civilian-military interface is delicate, with public sentiment often oscillating between support for Indian administration and sympathy for separatist or militant causes.

The anti-terror campaign employs a combination of military, intelligence, and socio-economic strategies to address the insurgency. Military operations involve targeted strikes against militant hideouts, neutralization of high-value targets, and coordinated efforts to prevent infiltration across the Line of Control (LoC). Intelligence gathering plays a crucial role in preempting attacks and dismantling militant networks.

Furthermore, socio-economic initiatives aim to win hearts and minds by promoting development, improving infrastructure, and enhancing governance in affected areas. These efforts seek to address underlying grievances and diminish the appeal of militancy among the local population.

The conflict in J&K has significant international ramifications, given its location and the involvement of neighboring Pakistan. Diplomatic efforts aim to garner international support for India's position on J&K while engaging in dialogue with Pakistan to address cross-border terrorism and maintain regional stability. Efforts such as Track II diplomacy and confidence-building measures are integral to reducing tensions and fostering peaceful resolution.

The anti-terror campaign in J&K has not been without controversy, particularly concerning allegations of human rights violations and excessive use of force. Critics argue that stringent security measures, such as curfews and internet shutdowns, infringe upon civil liberties and exacerbate tensions. Balancing security imperatives with respect for human rights remains a delicate issue in the region.

Over the years, the anti-terror operations in J&K have yielded mixed results. While there have been significant setbacks for militant groups and improvements in security, sporadic incidents of violence continue to challenge stability. The region's future hinges on sustained efforts to address socio-economic disparities, promote inclusive governance, and resolve the underlying political dispute through dialogue and reconciliation.

The anti-terror campaign in Jammu and Kashmir is a complex and multifaceted endeavor shaped by historical, geopolitical, and socio-economic factors. While security forces employ a range of strategies to combat militancy, the region's future stability ultimately depends on addressing root causes, promoting human rights, and pursuing diplomatic solutions to the longstanding conflict. Balancing security imperatives with respect for civil liberties remains critical in achieving lasting peace and prosperity in the region.

## Encourage kids to think, raise questions: Vital for democracy

By: Devi Kar

India's recent Lok Sabha elections unfolded very dramatically and though we couldn't quite trust the print media and TV channels, we were vastly engaged as well as entertained by the social media. I was in New York during this entire period and was drawn by the political story that was simmering there around Donald Trump's trial over the "hush money cases". It was like an addictive mini serial and finally the former US President was declared guilty on all 34 counts for which he had been charged. This is the first time in American history that a felon would be a candidate for the White House.

Another arena of theatre was the issue of the Gaza war, while Americans were supplying potent weapons to Israel. I read about the unrest in different US campuses and the fiery speeches of valedictorians being shouted down at graduation ceremonies. Next, I saw a prominent opinion piece titled "Harvard Should Say Less. Maybe All Schools Should" (written by Noah Feldman and Alison Feldman, professors of law and philosophy at Harvard).

Now there is a big controversy around this as colleges and universities jealously guard their right to speak freely, to dissent and to speak or write publicly against their school's as well as the nation's policy. Till recently, any criticism of the Indian central government's policy was deemed

"seditious" and "anti-national", but the very definition of democracy implies discussion, differences of opinion, argument and activism. Notwithstanding the earlier protests, Harvard has decided that in the absence of a formal policy governing the issue of an official statement, university leaders "can and should speak out publicly to promote and protect the core function of the university, which is to create an environment suitable for pursuing truth through research, scholarship and teaching". However, it is not their business to side with Israel or Ukraine or Russia or to show sympathy for Gaza. Universities understand the need to exist meaningfully in a polarised world.

So far as our schools in India are concerned, the media never publishes the discussions and arguments that take place in schools, and I am sure such conversations are not discouraged in the schools that want their students to think for themselves. The pursuit of truth is the central pillar of education and a school should not limit its teachings to the prescribed course material.

I am afraid that when it comes to social science subjects such as history, civics, sociology or even political science, students are usually taught only facts that are relevant to the topics prescribed in their syllabus and the comments are restricted to those mentioned in the prescribed course books. If at all there is any discussion of different views, students tend to present what they hear

at home. If there are different viewpoints in class, the teachers prefer to appear neutral. They explain things diplomatically, keeping different sides happy. I have not yet heard of school teachers trying to present their own political views forcefully nor school students arguing powerfully with their teachers. The total absence of discussion of significant or disputed policies is a big flaw in our approach to teaching and learning. If, broadly speaking, education is taken as the pursuit of truth, discussion and differences of opinion must be accommodated, otherwise we end up nurturing students who have passively received knowledge that has been established and conveyed by others and they have not been encouraged to process knowledge independently.

Thus, it is important for people, young and old, to keep questioning, reflecting and pursuing the truth for themselves. While thinking about this, I sometimes, come to the conclusion that the most important virtue one can have is courage -- courage to stand up to people, courage to say something different, courage to not join the herd and courage (and basic common sense) to not be brainwashed by people in authority.

In the school context, it is perhaps important to include an important caveat. We have to make sure that these discussions and arguments take place in an environment that is conducive to thinking and learning. Perhaps it is the

worry that classrooms would be transformed into battlegrounds, that factions would emerge and the ultimately harmony would be destroyed that makes schools extra cautious about allowing political discussions in school. However, if the whole exercise is taken as part of the education system and teachers are adept at managing conflict as well as facilitating discussions, the school would become a rich learning ground where children don't receive information passively or accept the beliefs of the adults around them unquestioningly.

Nation building in a democracy starts with the development of responsible citizens and the building blocks are discussion, argument, consensus and the acceptance of differences. If these practices are not adopted in school, we will not have a mature nation where civilised arguments take place in Parliament, political opponents are not looked upon as enemies, personal attacks are not made and hate speeches are not resorted to.

We should be proud of our democracy and proud of our ordinary citizens who are, in many cases, given attention only before elections. However, it is imperative that young people should be educated to become responsible citizens not only by observing Independence Day and Republic Day or supporting the Indian team in sports competitions but many of them should want to participate in the actual governance of the country. India needs able and upright political leaders.

## Women Bearing the Brunt of Pollution

By: Vijay Garg

The situation is getting out of control due to air pollution in India. According to the World Health Organization, almost the entire population of the world is breathing air in which pollutants exceed the limits of the prescribed guidelines. In 2019, about 67 lakh people died due to this. Air pollution affects people of all ages, but due to weak immunity of the elderly, it is having a fatal impact on the health of the elderly and middle-aged women. elderly women spend most of the time indoors. But they are also struggling with air pollution inside the house. Due to pollution, problems related to eyes, skin, nose, throat, itching, dizziness, fatigue, blood pressure, irritability, depression, insomnia, deafness, mental diseases, stomach related diseases are continuously increasing. Recent research shows that some serious diseases have increased rapidly due to air pollution, which is badly affecting elderly women. Doctors believe that air pollution causes the most damage to the lungs and heart. chapter It is not known that twenty out of every thousand elderly people in India have become victims of dementia due to air pollution. Its prevalence is said to be higher among elderly women. According to author Professor Frank Kelly, head of Imperial's environmental research group, dementia is one of the greatest challenges to health and social care in the twenty-first century. According to a joint study conducted at Yale and Peking University,

the brain is also affected due to air pollution. In this, the brain of the elderly suffers the most. Reaches. Arthur Jiabo Gang, the head of the study, says that due to air pollution, people's ability to speak is more affected. Air pollution has such a bad effect on the brain that many people are unable to even utter words to speak. This study states that if a person remains exposed to air pollution for a long time, his cognitive ability is more affected. Whenever the issue of air pollution arises, indoor air pollution is often ignored, whereas indoor air pollution is the reason for such fatal diseases is that the indoor air is as poisonous as the outdoor air; air pollution in homes is a big problem in rural areas as well. According to the study published in the journal BMC, women who are exposed to air pollution in their homes have lower memory, ability to do everyday tasks, logical and intellectual abilities than other women. Even today, in most rural homes in developing countries, about one-third of the world's population uses clay for cooking. Oil, wood, crop residues, cow dung and coal etc. are used, which causes harmful air pollution in homes. Research and data conducted in rural environments show that this danger is more dangerous for elderly and middle-aged women. Women exposed to coal have double the risk of lung cancer. A study published in 2017 by the medical journal 'Translational Psychiatry' reported that older women who live in polluted areas, including high levels of fine particulate matter, are more likely

to They experience rapid aging and mental weakness. Symptoms of diseases like dementia and Alzheimer's were seen in them. A new study presented at the European Respiratory Society International Congress in Barcelona, Spain, has shown that breathing diesel fumes can be fatal for women. Researchers have reported changes in people's blood due to exposure to diesel exhaust. Changes in blood components related to inflammation, infection and heart disease have been found in women. according to research Outdoor air pollution may be a factor in approximately one in ten cases of lung cancer. Air pollution particles damage the DNA in cells. There may be a risk of cancer. This led a study led by Harvard T.H. to find that long-term exposure to air pollution may increase the risk of depression in the elderly. Just five days of exposure to air pollution may increase the risk of stroke in elderly women. Scientists from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health A new study led by Dr. has revealed that the increasing air pollution in the environment is also dangerous for the bones of women. According to the study, exposure to air pollution with increasing age is also associated with osteoporosis along with reduction in bone mineral density in women. Because of this the risk of bone breakage increases. Even before this, research had revealed evidence that air pollution could be dangerous for women's bones. 121 increase in disability due to decreasing bone mineral density and fractures between

1990 and 2019 Percentage has increased. This research suggests that long-term exposure to fine particles of air pollution increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and death in postmenopausal women. Researchers in one study also found that the greatest increase in breast cancer incidence was found in women whose exposure to 'particulate matter' levels greater than PM 2.5 was found. The smoke coming out from motor vehicles, burning oil, coal or wood smoke etc. contains more PM 2.5. elderly women towards the environment They are sensitive. They need to be aware of the dangers of how bad their air can get. What can be done to reduce it and protect ourselves from it. Monitor the air quality where they live on a daily basis. Do not go where there is more pollution. Avoid places with industrial pollution and use clean technologies for lighting. The kitchen area should be well ventilated. Maintain stoves, fireplaces and other appliances so they burn fuel efficiently. Building and paint products, cleaning and household Be careful of other common sources of indoor pollutants, including chemicals. The healthier our elders are, the less likely they are to develop health complications following exposure to air pollution.

(Vijay Garg Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout  
Punjab)

## Three-Day National Executive Meeting of ABRSM in Ayodhya concludes

Top News Report

AYODHYA / JAMMU, June 17: The three-day national executive meeting of Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) concluded today at Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Ayodhya, with a focus on the expansion and strengthening of ABRSM at the cluster level.

The NEC meeting, which commenced on June 15, saw active participation from teachers across both school and higher education wings of ABRSM, who discussed various issues and challenges faced by the teaching community.



Teachers from school education and higher education wings discussed the problems they are facing, such as payment anomalies, the implementation of NEP 2020 in all states, transfer Policy and issues specific to teachers and professors at the state level. They requested the central body to raise these concerns at the central government level.

Sunil Bhai Mehta, the

main speaker and Rashtriya Bodhik Prashikshan Pramukh of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, emphasized the crucial role teachers play in various issues in the society. He highlighted how educators can serve as role models and positively influence society. Mehta also stressed the extension and strengthening of ABRSM at the cluster level.

He said, "With the help

of work at the cluster level, we will be able to reach out to unit-level work, that is, schools. To achieve this goal, there is a dire need for comprehensive planning that we must undertake wholeheartedly."

During the meeting, teachers shared their experiences and deliberated on numerous issues. Discussions also covered the significant role of the teaching community in addressing various social and national issues. Additionally, teachers examined organizational matters and proposed measures to strengthen ABRSM at both the cluster and school levels.

One of the key initiatives

discussed was "Mera Vidyalaya Mera Teerth," aimed at transforming schools into sources of energy for students, teachers, and the society. This initiative seeks to enhance the educational environment, making it a focal point for community development and holistic development of students.

Mahendra Kumar, National Vice President, presided over the valedictory function. Mahendra Kapoor, National Organizing Secretary, spoke on the organizational issues and asked the national executive members to be vigilant and active for the welfare of the teaching community and the nation.

## JKBS members congratulate Uday Motan on being selected as Army Lieutenant

Top News Report

BISHNAH, June 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members on Monday cordially congratulated Uday Motan on being selected to the position of Army Lieutenant.

JKBS members said that his dedication, leadership skills, and unwavering spirit would undoubtedly contribute to the strength and integrity of our armed forces.

They wished him for his future endeavors in protecting our nation. Thank you for believing in my visions and supporting me in achieving an important milestone



of my journey, said Uday Motan to JKBS members.

JKBS' General Secretary R.L. Kaith disclosed to members that Uday Motan has also broken the Guinness Record in identifying maximum country calling codes in 60 seconds and 50 strop

tests in one minute.

The JKBS members included Messers Inspector Darshan Kumar Bassa, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Ex Sarpanch Manohar Lal Motan, Tilak Raj Bassa, Tarlok Motan, Kalmosh Motan, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Vijay Kumar Mandi and Sahil Motan.

## EuroKids Preschool Hosts Heartfelt Father's Day Festivities Across Centres

Top News Report

MUMBAI/JAMMU, June 17: EuroKids Preschool, the country's foremost preschool expert, held a nationwide Father's Day celebration, engaging over 500 children across 30 centres.

The celebration was marked by a series of engaging and heartwarming activities. The celebration aimed at creating lasting memories for fathers and their children while fostering a sense of appreciation, teamwork, and togetherness.

Father's Day served as an opportunity to underscore the importance of paternal figures in children's lives and to highlight the role they play in shaping their children's future. EuroKids believes in celebrating occasions like Father's Day as they provide a platform to reinforce the values of love, respect, and appreciation within families. Recognising fathers for their invaluable contributions not only strengthens family bonds but also nurtures a sense of gratitude and understanding in young minds. By acknowledging the significance of fathers, EuroKids aims to instill in children a deep sense of respect and admiration for their parents, fostering a supportive and nurturing environment both at home and in the classroom, a testament to the importance of the

Father's Day celebration.

EuroKids organised various activities to engage both fathers and children as part of the celebration. The celebrations kicked off with the Father's Day Sports Carnival, where fathers and children participated in various sports activities. From relay races to friendly football matches, the carnival promoted physical fitness and teamwork. The event also featured singing and dancing, celebrating unique skills and creating cherished memories between children and their fathers. Additionally, puppet storytelling with dad encouraged fathers to captivate their children with engaging stories using puppets. This storytelling not only sparked children's imagination and creativity but also strengthened the bond between fathers and their little ones as they shared moments of joy and laughter. Our children made beautiful medals with their handprints to honour their fathers, adding a personal touch to the festivities.

Reflecting on the heartfelt celebration of Father's Day, KVS Seshasai, CEO, Pre-K Division, Lighthouse Learning (EuroKids), expressed, "At EuroKids, we are committed to nurturing strong family bonds and creating meaningful experiences for children. Father's Day is not just about celebrating the fathers but also

about acknowledging the love, support, and guidance they provide us with every day. Our celebrations were meticulously designed to provide enriching experiences that fostered strong bonds and a sense of teamwork. The various activities were a platform for children to understand the importance of gratitude and appreciation. We are dedicated to instilling essential values among children, recognizing the pivotal role they play in shaping well-rounded and confident individuals."

Speaking on the successful Father's Day celebration, Geeta Kharbanda, Centre Head, EuroKids Chakkar, Shimla, said, "Our Father's Day celebration was marked by great enthusiasm and heartfelt joy. Our children crafted beautiful medals adorned with their handprints, symbolizing their love and appreciation for their fathers. The event featured captivating performances, with children singing and dancing to express their gratitude and admiration. We also organized a series of engaging games and activities that fostered a spirit of camaraderie and fun among the families. By participating in these shared experiences, we hope to create lasting memories and reinforce the essential role fathers play in their children's lives"

## Himanshu, Radhika win Virtual Showcase Contest



Top News Report

DODA, June 17: In an effort to uncover and promote hidden talent, the JK Talent Club organized a virtual competition featuring dance and singing categories. The event attracted around 300 entries, out of which 133 were selected to participate.

In the dance category, Himanshu Hans secured the first rank. The singing competition was won by Radhika Koul. The top runners-up in the dance category were Jayraj Nair, Shreyan Deb, Sanaya Gupta, and Tanisha Bhat. In the singing category, the runners-up included Yashwini

Rathore, Shravani, Netra Tickoo, and Harmanpreet Singh.

Winners in each category received a cash prize, an award of honor, and a certificate of appreciation. Runners-up were given appreciation awards, and leading performers were awarded certificates of participation.

Pratham Jandial and Kavish Jandial, the minds behind this initiative, extended their congratulations to the winners, runners-up, leading performers, and all participants. They also announced plans to organize future contests on a larger scale.

## Dimple celebrates Eid ul Azha with Muslim brothers



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: Sunil Dimple, president of the Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, celebrated Eid ul Azha with Muslim brothers at Eidgah, Residency Road, Jammu.

During the celebration, he prayed for the strengthening of love, communal harmony, brotherhood, and the restoration of normalcy and peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also prayed for an end to bloodshed and the killing of innocents in the

region.

Dimple conveyed a message to the country and abroad, expressing the desire of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to live in peace and communal harmony.

He urged misguided youth to join the national mainstream and abandon gun culture, emphasizing that no religion supports bloodshed and the killing of innocents.

He highlighted that prophets, God, and spiritual leaders teach love, equality, and brotherhood among all religions. Speaking to the media,

Dimple praised the communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir, where people celebrate festivals of all religions together.

He also prayed for the early restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir and the initiation of the democratic process in the region.

In response to media queries, Dimple criticized the BJP, stating that they are not interested in holding assembly elections. He noted that the recent high-level meeting with the Home Minister did not discuss holding assembly elections.

## Shiv Sena vows to restore privileges and rights of local people



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, June 17: The people of Jammu and Kashmir have shown a glimpse of their anger in the Lok Sabha elections, the full picture will be seen in the upcoming assembly elections.

stated by Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni.

Setting an example of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood on the auspicious occasion of Eid, a delegation of state leaders led by Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir chief Manish Sahni celebrated Eid with party leaders and workers of Kashmir division today

at Ilaahi Bagh in Srinagar with the prayer of peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing the media on this occasion, Sahni said that his party and Jammu and Kashmir are victims of the deceit and betrayal of the Central government. While in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena was stripped of its name and symbol and divided into two groups whereas in J&K, Ladakh was separated and state status was taken away.

Our cultural identity and the rights of the sons of the soil are being violated. With the resolve to restore it, the party high command has directed the

Jammu and Kashmir unit to contest the elections.

Sahni said that they will contest the elections with the promises of special status to Jammu and Kashmir and restoration of rights of local people, better education, health and employment and with the support received from the public, he is very much sure to create history in the upcoming assembly elections. On this occasion president mehilawing Meenakshi Chhibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, centre Kashmir incharge, Mohd. Ramzan Dar, district youth president Gulzar Ahmed, Kounsar, Fasil, Faizan Ahmed and many others were present.

## Ajeet Bhagat extends Eid greeting to people

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, June 17: Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Sr. Leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat extended warm greeting and good wishes to the people on the auspicious and

joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Azha and wished people a blissful time ahead.

Bhagat also wished that people should celebrate the festival in true spirits of our composite culture of peace, brotherhood and co-existence among all sections of society.

## JKESTW Society greets Eid-ul-Adha

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: Jammu & Kashmir Excise State Taxes Employees Welfare Society (JKESTW) executive body members greeted people on the occasion of festival of Eid-ul-Adha.

In a message President of the Society, Vijay

Sharma Retd DC to the people said Eid-ul-Adha teaches us to be kind Charitable and to work for the greater good of humanity.

It is our constant endeavor that the festival should be celebrated in the spirit of love peace and brotherhood amongst all faith he said.

## Iron Rush 9th Mission Slim Possible Summer Championship 2024 concludes



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: The Iron Rush 9th Mission Slim Possible Championship 2024 45 days weight loss program was successfully concluded on Sunday at the Bagha Beach Resort Sangwal Road Vijaypur Samba.

The event was organized by the Jammu & Kashmir State Amateur

Bodybuilding Association in collaboration with the Iron Rush Fitness Club.

Competitors from various parts of J&K participated in event. The overall male champion, Rahul Pandoh, achieved a total weight loss of 16.5 kg, and the female champion, Raminder Sachdeva, lost 12.3 kg in 45 days.

Speaking on the occasion,

Anil Kumar, former Corporator of JMC and Chief Guest of the event, emphasized that sports and games help keep youth away from the menace of drugs and violence. He also congratulated the & Fitness Club Iron Rush & association on the successful conduct of the event and extended his congratulations to the winners.

## Saksham celebrates Foundation Day at Bhadarwah

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, June 17: Saksham NGO organized its foundation Day at Bharat Mata Mandir here today under the chairmanship of its Vice President Jammu and Kashmir Ajit Singh Kotwal.

In a press statement, Kotwal said that Saksham has diligently disseminated its message far and wide about its goals and man-

ifestoes.

"As the NGO consistently advocates social welfare, we stand resolutely with the people. From the very inception, we've championed the rights and issues of all disabled individuals. We are committed to the assigned cause resolutely," Kotwal claimed.

The statement observed that Saksham programs are frequently conduct-

ed across India with the primary objective of empowering disabled individuals by forwarding their rights, offering support and addressing the challenges they are faced with. "Saksham is dedicated to resolving the issues of the people with disabilities, ensuring that they receive the assistance in hour of their need," it said and added, "a significant barrier that



remains is the issue that a large number of disabled individuals are unaware of the various government

schemes. Saksham tries to bridge this gap by raising awareness and providing necessary information and resources for this purpose."

The event was attended by locals and concerned stakeholders who were apprised about various benefit providing government schemes especially meant for differently Aabled Persons

## Meet these bold, cunning, menacing actresses, who have redefined how we see women-villains on the big screen

The dark recess  
Parul Gulati — Silence  
2

Parul Gulati made a striking impression with her role in the thriller, Silence. Known for her work in web series and television, Parul's transition to a dark and complex character was amazing. Her portrayal of a cunning and manipulative antagonist showcased her ability to dive deep into the psyche of her character, delivering a performance that was both chilling and captivating.

In an industry often dominated by heroic narratives, a select few female actors have turned the tables, bringing depth, nuance, and unforgettable charisma to their villainous roles. These performances not only challenge the stereotypes of female characters in cinema but also showcase the extraordinary range and talent of these actresses.

Here's a closer look at some remarkable performances where leading ladies have owned the screen as the antagonists.

Meet the sorceress  
Mouni Roy — Brahmastra: Part One — Shiva

Mouni Roy's role as the dark sorceress



Junoon in Brahmastra marked a significant departure from her earlier roles. Known for her work in television, Roy embraced the challenge of playing a powerful and sinister villain with remarkable ease. Her portrayal of Junoon, a character driven by ambition and darkness, was both visually and emotionally impactful.

Ruthless & vulnerable  
Vidya Balan — Ishqiya & Neeyat

Vidya Balan is known for her unconventional roles, and her perfor-

mances in Ishqiya and Neeyat are perfect examples of her fearless approach to acting. In Ishqiya, Balan played Krishna, a widow with a mysterious and dangerous side. Her nuanced performance brought a blend of vulnerability and ruthlessness, making Krishna an unforgettable character. In Neeyat, Vidya stepped into the shoes of a cunning and calculating villain with aplomb.

Master of the game  
Tabu — Andhadhun & Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2

Tabu has long been celebrated for her versatility, and her roles in Andhadhun and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 have solidified her status as a masterful villain. In Andhadhun, she played Simi, a morally ambiguous character whose actions drove the film's suspenseful plot.

In Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2, Tabu took on a dual role, showcasing her exceptional range. Her portrayal of the vengeful spirit Manjulika was a tour de force. She blended horror and

empathy in a way that few could achieve. Her performance was both haunting and poignant.

Comic & charismatic  
Richa Chadha — Fukrey

Richa Chadha's portrayal of Bholi Punjaban in the Fukrey film series is a testament to her incredible acting prowess. As the tough and street-smart antagonist, Richa brought a blend of humour and menace to the role, making Bholi Punjaban a memorable character. Her performance was marked by a perfect balance of comedic timing and ruthless determination, endearing her to audiences while also keeping them on edge. Richa's charismatic performance was a key factor in the success of all three parts of Fukrey. — Dharam Pal

Secret weapon  
Konkona Sen Sharma — Killer Soup

Konkona Sen Sharma's performance in Killer Soup was a masterclass in understated menace. Known for her critically acclaimed roles in independent cinema, Sharma brought a quiet but terrifying presence to her character. Her portrayal of a seemingly benign individual who hides a dark and deadly secret was both chilling and compelling.

## Avneet Kaur declares she is not getting married anytime soon



Popular actress and social media influencer Avneet Kaur has addressed the talk about her marriage and cleared the air with a mix of humour and

sincerity that there is no wedding happening anytime soon.

Avneet Kaur was interacting with media on the sidelines of a launch event in Mumbai. When

asked about her marriage, she said, "Now this one question has been asked so many times, I don't know why everyone is so worried about my marriage, let me tell you, there is plenty of time in my marriage, so calm down and wait a little longer."

"I personally believe in love marriage, but if I can get my parents' blessings for a love marriage, it becomes arranged and love marriage, I wish to have something like that, and if I cannot get it, I think I am going to cry alone then," she added. The young actress has a whopping 32 million followers on Instagram. Avneet also added that she loves glamour and fashion, and her new movie Luv Ki Arrange Marriage, is an extension of love for fashion.

She said, "Glam and fashion for me are never going to end, I'd love to style myself, I love fashion, I love everything about fashion. In my new movie, Luv Ki Arrange Marriage, I have done many glamorous looks in it."

Luv Ki Arrange Marriage is directed by Ishrat R. Khan, written by Raaj Shaandilyaa, also stars Sunny Singh, Annu Kapoor, Supriya Pathak and Rajpal Yadav in key roles.

## Emilia Clarke on starring in GOT and the love she receives for it even today

Game of Thrones star Emilia Clarke recalled starring in the iconic series in which she portrayed Daenerys Targaryen. She shared that it, 'means the world' and fans have showered so much love and appreciation to the series that she feels more attached to it.

She said, "The more distance I have from GOT, the more I can quantify it. When I started, I didn't know what I was doing. Now, as more and more time goes between it and me doing it, the more I'm like, that was incredibly special and that was incredibly rare." The fantasy drama ran for eight seasons from 2011 to 2019.



## Ammy Virk defends Diljit Dosanjh's decision of keeping his marriage a secret, it's about 'keeping family safe'

Punjabi singer-actor Ammy Virk has defended Diljit Dosanjh's decision of keeping his family a secret amid buzz around the global icon's marital status.

There have been speculations that Diljit is married to an American-Indian woman and they also have a son.

In an exclusive interview with news agency, Ammy Virk hinted that Diljit is married when it was mentioned that the singer is not introducing his family to the world because there may be "some issues".

Ammy, who will soon be seen in 'Kudi Haryane Val Di', said if family members are known to public, they may not be able to go out so openly and also may not be safe.

"You cannot stop anyone. If we look at Diljit Paggi's point of view, it is his private matter. It



is his family. There must be a reason that he isn't introducing them to the world. I also have a wife and a daughter. Even I do not want them to come out in public. They also do not want it. For now, they can roam around anywhere and nobody

knows they are Ammy's family or Diljit's family. If people know, they (families) will be troubled," said Ammy.

"We are in such a profession where we not only have fans but there might be some other issues too, maybe there

is some enmity. Families must not suffer. For now, they can go to the market or wherever, nobody cares. If people get to know, they might be targeted. This is for their security and this is their own will as well," he said.

Ammy also spoke highly about Diljit for making India proud at the global level and assured the singer will win an Oscar or a Grammy one day. "He has worked hard. He has been working for almost 24 years now. It takes a lot of courage and hard work. He hasn't performed a Coachella just like this. He has been working for it for so long. He has a catalog. When he performs on stage, he has a different energy altogether. He has been working on his music, he is doing films. We feel really good. This is just the beginning. He will surely win a Grammy or an Oscar soon," he said.

## Bridgerton 3 star Nicola Coughlan denies rumours of photoshopped waist in new season

Bridgerton star Nicola Coughlan expressed her thoughts regarding the speculations around her waist size online. Fans speculate that the actress's waist was edited in season 3 of Jess Brownell's directorial to make her look thin. However, Nicola denied the allegations of photoshopping her waist size in the show. The Irish actress, who is the lead protagonist of the new season of the regency era show, explained why it might have seemed so to the fans in an interview.

Nicola explains it is the corsets, not a photoshop in an interview with agency, Nicola addressed the online

rumours about her waist being photoshopped in season 3 of Julia Quinn's novel-inspired show. She explained, "I think if you wear corsetry for long enough, your body really moulds to it. Sometimes they come in a fitting for a fashion designer and they put a corset on me and I'm like, 'Oh, you can go tight,' and they go, 'What do you mean?' I'm like, 'My body now will go whew.'"

Bridgerton is a period drama and corsets are inevitable of the costume and the piece of clothing is known for making the waist look slimmer than the actual size. Therefore, Nicola's explanation checks. The



Derry Girls actress had earlier expressed her concerns regarding certain scenes in the recent season and the trolling it might bring along.

Nicola's character in Bridgerton Season 3

Nicola played the role of Penelope Featherington, who is seen this season romancing her neighbour and long-time crush, Colin Bridgerton. Nicola's character in this season went through a

lot of changes in her costume and aesthetics. As the season focuses on Penelope, she abandoned citrus colours which she was often seen wearing in previous seasons and went for different colours. Bridgerton 3 follows the journey of Penelope from being the wallflower of 'the ton' to being the wife of Colin.

Season 3 Part 1 ended with Colin asking Penelope to marry her and them getting engaged still unaware of the fact that she is the Lady Whistledown whom he despises.

The story continued in Part 2 of Bridgerton, currently streaming only on Netflix.

## Yo Yo Honey Singh to attend 'best friend' Sonakshi Sinha's wedding



Ahead of the wedding of Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal on June

23, rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh has a sweet message for the soon-to-wed couple. Honey

took to Instagram and posted a message for Sonakshi.

He said though he would be busy with the shoot of his upcoming EP Glory in London, he would make sure to attend Sonakshi's wedding in Mumbai.

The rapper called Sonakshi his best friend and shared how she helped him immensely in his career. He wrote, "Tho I gonna be in London shooting Glory's first song. But I will make sure I will attend my best friend's Sonakshi's wedding. As she has been a big support in my career and helped me so many times in life. Best wishes to the power couple."

## NSA Ajit Doval holds wide-ranging talks with his American counterpart Jake Sullivan; focus on iCET, regional, global issues

Sullivan is on an official visit to New Delhi from June 17 to 18

NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Monday held extensive talks with his American counterpart Jake Sullivan primarily focusing on implementation of the ambitious India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

The two top security officials are also learnt to have deliberated upon pressing global and regional issues of mutual interest.

Sullivan, accompanied by a delegation of senior American officials and industry leaders, is on an official visit to New Delhi from June 17 to 18. Following the launch of the



iCET by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph Biden on the sidelines of the Quad summit in Tokyo in May 2022, the two NSAs have driven

a concerted effort to engage in identified areas of collaboration in diverse domains of new and emerging technologies, including semiconductors, artificial

intelligence, quantum computing, defence innovation, space and advanced telecommunications.

NSA Sullivan also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar earlier on Monday. He is also expected to call on Prime Minister Modi.

"Delighted to welcome US NSA @JakeSullivan46 in New Delhi today morning. A comprehensive discussion on a broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues," Jaishankar said on 'X'.

"Confident that India-US strategic partnership will continue to advance strongly in our new term," he said.

## 4 Maoists, including a woman, killed in encounter with police in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum



CHAIBASA, Jun 17 (Agencies): At least four Maoists, including a woman, were killed in an encounter with police in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Monday early morning, officials said.

The incident took place in Tonto and Goikera area, they said.

"Four Maoists were killed in the gunfight, while two have been arrested," Jharkhand Police spokesperson and IG (Operations), Amol V Homkar, told agency.

Among the four killed Maoists, one was a zonal commander, one sub-zonal commander,

one area commander and a cadre of the organisation, the IG said.

Two Maoists including a woman Maoist were also arrested and one of them is an area commander of the organisation.

Another police officer said that the police were out for a search operation. Meanwhile, the Maoists, who were lying in ambush, started firing and police returned the fire in which four Maoists were killed.

He said that the search operation is still going on.

## POCSO case: Former Karnataka CM Yediyurappa appears before CID

BENGALURU, Jun 17 (Agencies): Former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday appeared before the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for an inquiry in connection with a POCSO case registered against him.

The Karnataka High Court on Friday restrained the CID from arresting the veteran BJP leader in connection with the March 14 case.

According to police, Yediyurappa has been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and Section 354 A (Sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he molested her daughter during a meeting on February 2 this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony here.

Yediyurappa has denied the charge, and said "people would teach a lesson to those indulging in conspiracies against him."

The victim's brother had filed a petition in the court last week alleging that though the case was registered nearly



three months ago, no progress has been made in the investigation. The petitioner prayed that Yediyurappa should be arrested and interrogated.

After the Sadashivanagar police registered the case in March, the Karnataka Director-General of Police Alok Mohan had issued an order transferring it to the CID for further investigation.

The 54-year-old woman, who had levelled the charge against Yediyurappa, died at a private hospital here last month, due to lung cancer.

In April, the CID collected the voice sample of Yediyurappa after summoning him to the office.

## NCERT working as RSS arm, assaulting constitution: Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Amid the row over revision of NCERT textbooks, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday alleged that the institution has been functioning as an RSS affiliate since 2014 and is mounting an assault on the Constitution.

In a post on X, Ramesh said the National Testing Agency has blamed the NCERT for the 'grace marks' fiasco in NEET 2024. That is only drawing attention away from the NTA's own abject failures, he alleged.

"However it is true that the NCERT is no longer a professional institution. It has just been revealed that its revised Class XI political science textbook criticises the idea



of secularism as well as what it considers policies of political parties in this regard." NCERT's objective is to produce textbooks, not political pamphlets and propaganda," the Congress leader said.

NCERT is mounting an assault on our country's Constitution in whose Preamble secularism features explicitly as a foundational pillar of the

and Training.

All of its textbooks are now of dubious quality vastly different from those that shaped me in school," the Congress general secretary alleged.

TMC leader Saket Gokhale also hit out at the NCERT, saying, "Shameless NDA 1.0 Government" is hiding "inconvenient facts" from students.

"By this logic, why teach kids about other 'violent depressing things' like the World War?" he said.

"Are BJP and Modi ashamed of their history as criminals and rioters? Why hide the truth from students?" Gokhale asked. Rejecting accusations of saffronisation

of school curriculum, the NCERT director has said that references to Gujarat riots and Babri masjid demolition were modified in school textbooks because teaching about riots can create violent and depressed citizens.

In an interaction with agency editors, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) director Dinesh Prasad Saklani said the tweaks in textbooks are part of the annual revision and should not be a subject of hue and cry.

Saklani said, "Why should we teach about riots in school textbooks? We want to create positive citizens not violent and depressed individuals.

## "Water Stolen By Tanker Mafia": BJP Protesters Against AAP Over Delhi Crisis

NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Delhi BJP leaders and MPs along with party workers on Monday staged demonstrations across Delhi slamming the AAP government over the water crisis in the city.

Carrying bottles of dirty water, the BJP protesters raised slogans against the AAP government and smashed 'matkas' (earthen pitchers) as a mark of protest over water scarcity in the national capital.

They also alleged that people were getting sick after being forced to drink dirty water from the taps.

At a protest in Geeta Colony, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva claimed that Haryana was releasing Delhi's full share of water into Yamuna.

"This water gets stolen by tanker mafia after it enters Delhi because the ministers and



MLAs of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party are hand in glove with them," Sachdeva charged.

He said the Delhi BJP will continue to protest against the AAP government till people get adequate water. The party has been in power for the last 10 years but people are getting

contaminated water, he said.

Party MPs Manoj Tiwari, Bansuri Swaraj, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Praveen Khandelwal and Yogendra Chandolia also participated in the protests held at different places. North East Delhi MP Tiwari, protesting along with party leaders and

workers in Mukherjee Nagar, slammed water minister Atishi alleging theft by tanker mafia.

New Delhi MP Swaraj alleged AAP was elected by the Delhi people to work for them but the party was involved in publicity and corruption only.

"It is so unfortunate that the government that used to talk about giving free water, during their rule, Delhi is struggling for water. This is the voice of the people of Delhi who are in a dire state. They are suffering because the AAP government has not done a single thing to conduct any repair work for Delhi Jal Board's infrastructure in the last decade," she said during a protest in Moti Nagar.

Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal alleged that AAP wanted the water crisis to persist so that it could remain involved in politics over the issue.

## 21-Year-Old IIT Kharagpur Student Found Dead At College Campus



KHARAGPUR, Jun 17 (Agencies): The body of a 21-year-old IIT Kharagpur student was found in the college campus on Monday, police said.

Devika Pillai, the fourth year biotechnology and biochemical engineering student from Kerala, had returned to the campus a few days ago.

On Monday morning, the students of Sarojini Naidu Hall and Indira Gandhi Hall of IIT Kharagpur found

the body in the space between the two halls.

The students immediately informed the authorities about the incident.

"Whether it is a case of suicide or something else is yet to be ascertained. We have started an investigation of the death," a senior police officer told news agency.

The body has been sent to Kharagpur Sub-Divisional Hospital for post-mortem examination, the officer added.

In a separate development, the mother of IIT Kharagpur student Faizan Ahmed, whose decomposed body was found in the hostel around two years ago, on Saturday said she is hopeful of getting justice after a court-appointed forensic expert said the youth from Assam "might have been hit by an object and shot at".

According to the latest QS World University Rankings 2025, IIT Kharagpur is the third-best among IITs and the fourth-best educational institute in the country.

The rankings aim to project university performance for the next academic year, hence they are named for the following year.

## One trekker dies, another rescued in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi

DEHRADUN, Jun 17 (Agencies): A trekker, who went to Dodital trek in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district, died of a heart attack while another was rescued, officials said on Monday.

State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) officials said after receiving the information, their team reached Dodital track in Agoda area.

They said that the body of one of the two trekkers was brought to the main road through an alternative route on a stretcher and handed over to the district police.

The deceased has been identified as Virendra Chauhan, Assistant Engineer of the Public Works Department posted



in Uttarkashi.

According to the officials, Chauhan died of a heart attack.

The team also rescued another trekker safely. He has been identified as Kanti Nautiyal, a resident of Matli in Uttarkashi.

## Air India passenger finds blade-like metal in flight meal, airline responds

MUMBAI, Jun 17 (Agencies): A week after an Air India passenger allegedly found a blade-like metal piece in his food onboard a Bangalore-San Francisco flight, the airline on Monday confirmed the presence of a "foreign object" in the food.

It (the object) came from the vegetable processing machine used at the facilities of its catering partner, the airline said in a statement.

"Air India confirms that a foreign object was found in the meal of a guest aboard one of

our flights. After investigation, it has been identified as coming from the vegetable processing machine used at the facilities of our catering partner," Air India Chief Customer Experience Officer Rajesh Dogra said in the statement.

The airline had initiated a probe after the passenger posted on X that there was a blade-like metal object in the meal.

"Air India food can cut like a knife. Hiding in its roasted sweet potato and fig chaat was a metal piece that looked like a blade. I got a feel of it only after chew-

ing the grub for a few seconds. Thankfully, no harm was done," the passenger, Mathures Paul, a journalist, said in the post.

Paul blamed Air India's catering service, adding, "but the incident doesn't help the image I have of Air India", adding that "what if the metal piece was in the food served to a child?"

The airline has worked with its catering partner to strengthen measures to prevent any recurrence, including more frequent checking of the processor, especially after chopping any hard vegetables, Dogra said in the

statement.

"Air India has engaged with the affected customer and deeply apologises for this experience," he added.

This is the second incident involving the food served on the Tata Group-owned airline's long-haul flights.

Earlier on Saturday, a business-class passenger of the airline's New Delhi-Newark flight had alleged that he was served "uncooked" food by the airline and the seats were dirty, describing the journey as "no less than a nightmare".

## "Nuclear Arms Race Underway": Atomic Weapons Spending Soars Amid Global Tensions

*The world's nine nuclear-armed states jointly spent \$91 billion on their arsenals last year, fueling concerns of new arms race underway.*

GENEVA, Jun 17 (Agencies): Nuclear-armed countries hiked spending on atomic weapons arsenals by a third in the past five years as they modernised their stockpiles amid growing geopolitical tensions, two reports showed on Monday.

The world's nine nuclear-armed states jointly spent \$91 billion on their arsenals last year, according to a new report from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

That report, and a separate one from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), indicated that nuclear weapons states are dramatically scaling up spending as they modernise and even deploy new nuclear-armed weapons.

"I think it is fair to say there is a nuclear arms race underway," ICAN chief Melissa Parke told agency.

Wilfred Wan, head of SIPRI's weapons of mass destruction programme, meanwhile warned in a statement that "we have not seen nuclear weapons playing such a prominent role in international relations since the Cold War".

SIPRI's report showed that the total estimated number of nuclear warheads in the world actually declined somewhat to 12,121 at the start of this year, from 12,512 a year earlier.

But while some of that included older warheads scheduled to be dismantled, it said 9,585 were in stockpiles for potential



use -- nine more than a year earlier.

And 2,100 were kept in a state of "high operational alert" on ballistic missiles.

Nearly all of those were held by the United States and Russia, but China was for the first time believed to also have some warheads on high operational alert, SIPRI said.

"While the global total of nuclear warheads continues to fall as Cold War-era weapons are gradually dismantled, regrettably we continue to see year-on-year increases in the number of operational nuclear warheads," SIPRI director Dan Smith said.

Nuclear weapons spending jump

The spending surge reported by ICAN appeared to back that up.

The report showed that in 2023 alone, nuclear weapons spending worldwide jumped by \$10.8 billion from a year earlier, with the United States

accounting for 80 percent of that increase.

The US share of total spending, \$51.5 billion, "is more than all the other nuclear-armed countries put together", said ICAN.

The next biggest spender was China, at \$11.8 billion, followed by Russia, spending \$8.3 billion.

Britain's spending meanwhile rose significantly for the second year in a row, swelling 17 percent to \$8.1 billion.

Spending for 2023 by the nuclear-armed states -- which also include France, India, Israel, Pakistan, and North Korea -- jumped more than 33 percent from the \$68.2 billion spent in 2018 when ICAN first began collecting this data, it said.

Since then, the nuclear-armed states have spent an estimated total of \$387 billion on the deadly weapons, the report showed.

'Investing in Armageddon'

Parke slammed "the billions of dollars being squandered on nuclear weapons" as "a profound and unacceptable misallocation of public funds".

She highlighted that that money was more than what the World Food Programme estimates is needed to end world hunger.

"And you could plant a million trees for every minute of nuclear weapons spending," she said.

"These numbers are obscene, and it is money that the state says is going towards weapons that... will never be used," she said, pointing to the nuclear deterrence doctrine.

The investments are not only wasteful but also extremely dangerous, she warned.

"What happens when deterrence fails?"

Geneva-based ICAN won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its key role in drafting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which took effect in 2021.

Seventy countries have ratified it to date and more have signed it, although none of the nuclear weapons states have come on board.

"Instead of investing in Armageddon, the nine nuclear-armed states should follow the example of almost half the world's countries and join the treaty... and make a real contribution to global security," said Alicia Sanders-Zakre, a co-author of Monday's ICAN report.

## No War, Only Defence Against "Troublemaker" China, Says Taiwan Defence Minister



TAIPEI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Taiwan is not seeking war with Beijing, and its policy is to build up a defensive, multi-level deterrence capability to make it harder for China to capture the island, Taiwan Defence Minister Wellington Koo said on Monday.

Democratically governed Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, has faced a stepped-up military and political pressure campaign from Beijing to accept sovereignty claims that the government in Taipei rejects.

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te on Sunday said that China views the annexation and "elimination" of Taiwan as its great national

cause, telling Taiwanese military cadets not to give in to the defeatism of "the first battle is the last battle", a theory that Taiwan could collapse as soon as China launched an attack.

Asked at parliament by reporters how long Taiwan could hold out without U.S. support in the event of a Chinese attack, Koo said that was not the point of their strategy.

"It's not an issue of how long we can last. Our strategy, our hypothesis, is asymmetric warfare to build our multi-domain deterrence, and during this process to weaken" China's ability to invade, he said.

As part of ongoing military reforms, Taiwan is promoting the idea of

"asymmetric warfare", to make its forces, which are much smaller than China's, more mobile and harder to attack, with for example vehicle-mounted missiles and drones.

China says Lai is a "dangerous separatist" who risks conflict by pushing for Taiwan's formal independence. Lai says only Taiwan's people can decide their future, and has repeatedly offered talks with Beijing but been rebuffed.

Koo said it was China who is the "trouble maker" and provoker of tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

"We have never sought war. We are very clear that our entire strategy is defensive operations," he added.

U.S. President Joe Biden has upset the Chinese government with comments that appeared to suggest the United States would defend Taiwan if it were attacked, a deviation from a long-held U.S. position of "strategic ambiguity".

Koo said the whole point of U.S. strategic ambiguity was to complicate China's plans for any invasion of Taiwan.

"They will never be able to rule out the possibility of a U.S. military intervention," he said.

## Israeli PM Netanyahu dissolves 6-member war cabinet amid Gaza conflict

JERUSALEM, Jun 17 (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced the dissolution of his six-member war cabinet, multiple reports said on Monday, citing officials. This was a widely expected move, following the departure of the centrist former general Benny Gantz last week.



The Israeli Prime Minister's far-right coalition partners have been pushing for a new war cabinet to be constituted after Gantz announced his resignation from Netanyahu's emergency government. He was the only centrist leader in the war cabinet.

Besides bolting the coalition last week, Gantz took with him Gadi Eisenkot, one of the three war cabinet observers.

The dissolution came

as no surprise because far-right National Security Minister Ben Gvir had been lobbying to be added to the forum.

Netanyahu is now expected to hold consultations about the ongoing Gaza war with a small group of ministers, including Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, who were part of the war cabinet, news agency reported.

Ben Gvir will reportedly be kept out of these consultations as well, The

Times of Israel reported.

Benny Gantz exit from the war cabinet came after he had earlier presented Netanyahu with a June 8 deadline to commit to an agreed version for the ongoing Gaza conflict that would include stipulating who might rule Gaza after the war with Hamas. Gantz had threatened to quit the war cabinet and withdraw his centrist party from the emergency cabinet.

Gantz announced his resignation on June 9.

## 3 Children, 1 Woman Killed In Vietnam After House Catches On Fire

HANOI, Jun 17 (Agencies): A house fire in Hanoi has killed three children and a woman, police said Monday, the latest fatal blaze to hit the Vietnamese capital.

The fire ripped through the six-storey building late on Sunday, with three adults escaping by jumping onto the roofs of nearby buildings.

More than 100 rescuers and 12 fire trucks



were dispatched to bring the blaze under control.

Police found the

bodies of the 53-year-old woman and three children, aged between two and 11, when the fire

had been extinguished.

The bottom three floors of the building were used as a shop and storage area for paint and construction materials, while the outside was covered with advertising boards.

The tragedy comes less than a month after 14 people perished in an apartment block fire in Hanoi, and less than a year after another apart-

ment block blaze there killed 56.

Vietnam's communist authorities have sought to improve fire safety after years of regulations being ignored, particularly in densely populated urban areas.

Separately, another similar fire on Sunday in Bac Giang city, 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Hanoi, killed three people.

## South Korea And China To Begin Diplomatic Talks On Korean Peninsula Issues

SEOUL, Jun 17 (Agencies): South Korea and China will hold their first round of diplomatic and security dialogue on Tuesday, Seoul's foreign ministry said on Monday, in line with an agreement the two nations made last month.

The talks will be led

by South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Hong-kyun and his Chinese counterpart Sun Weidong, and joined by senior defence officials from both sides, the ministry said in a statement.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Chinese Premier Li

Qiang agreed to launch the talks and resume free trade negotiations when they met last month in Seoul for a summit that included Japan.

During the meeting, "the two countries plan to exchange views on issues of mutual interest including bilateral rela-

tions, Korean peninsula issues, and regional and international situations," the ministry said.

The talks could coincide with a possible visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin to North Korea, which prompted Seoul and Washington to warn against further

military exchanges in breach of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Yoon has urged China and Russia to play a greater role as a permanent member of the Security Council, with Pyongyang racing to advance its nuclear and missile capabilities.

## Chinese vessel, Philippine supply ship collide in the disputed South China Sea

BEIJING, Jun 17 (Agencies): A Chinese vessel and a Philippine supply ship collided near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on Monday, China's coast guard said.

The coast guard said a Philippine supply ship entered waters near the Second Thomas Shoal, a submerged reef in the Spratly Islands that's part of territory claimed by several nations.

The Chinese coast guard said in a statement on the social media platform WeChat the Philippine supply

ship "ignored China's repeated solemn warnings ... and dangerously approached a Chinese vessel in normal navigation in an unprofessional manner, resulting in a collision".

"The Philippines is entirely responsible for this," it added.

The Philippines says the shoal, which lies less than 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from its coast, falls within its internationally recognised exclusive economic zone and often cites a 2016 international arbitration ruling

that invalidated China's expansive claims in the South China Sea based on historical grounds.

Several incidents have happened in recent months near the shoal, where the Philippines maintains a post aboard the BRP Sierra Madre ship.

The territorial disputes have strained relations and sparked fears the conflict could bring China and the United States, a longtime treaty ally of the Philippines, into a military confrontation.

Washington lays no

territorial claims to the busy seaway, a key global trade route, but has warned that it's obligated to defend the Philippines if Filipino forces, ships and aircraft come under an armed attack in the South China Sea.

Aside from China and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan are also involved in the long-seething territorial disputes, which are regarded as a flashpoint in Asia and a delicate fault line in the longstanding US-China rivalry in the region.

## Passenger plane lands safely in New Zealand after fire shuts down one of its engines



WELLINGTON, Jun 17 (Agencies): A passenger plane landed safely at a New Zealand airport on Monday after a fire shut down one of its engines, the nation's fire service said.

The Virgin Australia Boeing 737-800 jet bound for Melbourne, Australia, landed in the New Zealand

city of Invercargill after the fire forced a diversion.

Fire trucks met the plane as it arrived in Invercargill about 50 minutes after takeoff from Queenstown, said Lynn Crosson, shift supervisor for Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

The cause of the engine fire

and the number of passengers on board the plane were not immediately known, Queenstown Airport spokesperson Catherine Nind said.

Virgin Australia said in an emailed statement that the incident may have involved "a possible bird strike."

Queenstown, with a population of 53,000, is popular tourist destination on New Zealand's South Island, famous for skiing, adventure tourism and alpine vistas.

The rate of birds striking planes at New Zealand's airports is about four in every 10,000 aircraft movements, the country's aviation regulator says on its website. The consequences vary in severity depending on where the aircraft is hit, the size of the birds and the pilot's reaction, the agency says.



## EX-NCC Cadet Dr Juhie Mohan motivates cadets at CATC-J1 camp

Top News Report

NAGROTA, June 17: The CATC-J1 camp at the Nagrota Training Academy witnessed an inspiring session as Dr. Juhie Mohan, an ex-NCC cadet and renowned RJ at 92.7 Big FM Jammu, addressed the cadets. Reconnecting with her roots, she shared her transformative journey from an NCC cadet to a celebrated radio jockey, emphasizing the profound impact of NCC values on her life and career.

With an air of nostalgic enthusiasm, Dr. Juhie Mohan recounted her days as an NCC cadet, vividly describing the camaraderie, discipline, and adventures that shaped her formative years. Her emotional connection with the cadets was palpable, creating a contagious atmosphere of motivation and pride. Through her life stories, she illustrated how the NCC experience instills enduring values that transcend time and shapes the future of its cadets.



Dr. Juhie spoke passionately about the core values of NCC—discipline, leadership, and service. She highlighted how these principles have been instrumental in her journey, guiding her through challenges and successes alike her journey from an NCC cadet to a coveted citizen and influential media personality serves as a testament to the transformative power of the NCC. She emphasized that the skills and values acquired during her cadet days have been

fundamental to her success. "NCC taught me the importance of resilience and perseverance," she said. "These values have been my guiding light, helping me navigate the ups and downs of life with unwavering confidence." Throughout her talk, Dr. Juhie encouraged the cadets to embrace the opportunities presented by NCC, urging them to participate wholeheartedly and absorb the invaluable lessons it offers. She reminded them that the experiences and values gained through NCC

would not only shape their careers but also mold them into responsible and esteemed citizens of India. While weaving the tapestry of nostalgic journey Dr. Juhie inspired cadets to champion water conservation, urging them to preserve this vital resource for future generations. Her impassioned call for ensuring their civic responsibility resonated with the cadets, emphasizing the critical role each individual plays in sustainable water management. She highlighted the urgen-

cy of the issue, encouraging proactive measures to be taken to minimize wastage and maximize efficiency. The cadets were deeply moved by Dr. Juhie's words, and were filled with a feeling and renewed sense of purpose and motivation. Her emotional contagion and genuine connection with the cadets left an indelible mark, inspiring them to strive for excellence and uphold the values of NCC in every aspect of their lives and for the betterment of the nation.

## Army organises 'Door To Door' interaction with ESM, Veer Naris & Widows' at Keri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, June 17: Living up to the traditions of maintaining contact with Veer Naris and Veterans, Indian Army organized door to door interactive session with Veer Naris and Ex- servicemen at Keri, Rajouri District with an intention to resolve grievances and to assist them in conveying the latest policies pertaining to pensions or other documentation procedures. Veer Naris and Veterans embody the indomitable spirit of our nation. Their resilience and determination to move forward despite challenges serve as a shining example



to society. Indian Army expressed its deepest gratitude for their sacrifice.

## Dr Shaifu Gupta enlightens NCC cadets on cyber security



Top News Report

NAGROTA, June 17: In an inspiring and insightful session, Dr. Shaifu Gupta, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Jammu, delivered a riveting lecture on cybersecurity to NCC cadets attending the CATC-J1 camp. Emphasizing the crucial role of cyber hygiene, Dr. Gupta's talk was a beacon of awareness, highlighting the indispensable nature of proactive cybersecurity measures. Her lecture, titled "Your Password: Your First Line of Defence," underscored the profound importance of vigilance and aware-

ness in the digital age. Dr. Gupta began by stressing the fundamental principle that awareness is the most powerful tool to prevent cyber mishaps. Dr. Gupta elaborated on various facets of cyber hygiene, a term that encompasses a range of practices aimed at maintaining system health and improving online security. She provided the cadets with actionable tips, such as regularly updating software, creating strong and unique passwords, and being cautious of phishing attempts. Her advice was not only practical but also tailored to the everyday digital experiences of the young cadets. The session delved into

a myriad of cyber threats that individuals face today. From malware and ransomware to phishing scams and identity theft bringing out the potential consequences of lax cybersecurity practices. The session equipped the cadets with knowledge needed to navigate the digital world securely. Dr. Gupta's encouraged the cadets to become ambassadors of cybersecurity awareness, urging them to share the knowledge they gained with their peers and communities. Her passionate delivery and the urgency in her message left a lasting impression on the cadets, empowering them to take control of their digital lives.

## Fawad Khan – Sanam Saeed starrer 'Barzakh' set to premiere on Zindagi's YouTube and ZEE5 on July 19

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17. Zindagi expands its horizons with its most anticipated web series, Barzakh by offering a glimpse into the enchanting World of Barzakh with six artistic posters. This groundbreaking show is directed by Asim Abbasi, the maverick behind the web series Churails and Cake, a film chosen as Pakistan's official entry for Oscar consideration. It marks his second collaboration with Zindagi. After Barzakh's acclaimed premiere at the prestigious Series Mania Festival in France, the series will be available to audiences worldwide on Zindagi's YouTube and ZEE5 from Friday, July 19th. It stars Fawad Khan, a global favorite icon, and the talented Sanam Saeed. Barzakh follows the poignant journey of a 76-year-old reclusive man who invites his estranged children and grandchildren to his remote valley resort to celebrate an extraordinary and unconventional event—his wedding with the ghost of his

first true love. This emotionally profound narrative makes viewers think about life's mysteries, what happens after death, and the deep feeling of love that ties us together. The series unfolds against the backdrop of the picturesque Hunza Valley, showcasing its ethereal beauty and bringing the narrative to life. Alongside Fawad Khan & Sanam Saeed, the 6-episode series boasts of an exceptional ensemble cast, including Salman Shahid, M. Fawad Khan, Eman Suleman, Khushhal Khan, Faiza Gillani, Anika Zulfikar, Franco Giusti among others. Notably, Zindagi with Barzakh reunites Fawad and Sanam for the first time since their superhit show Zindagi Gulzar Hai 12 years ago. Produced by Shailja Kejriwal and Waqas Hassan, with cinematography by Mo Azmi, Barzakh is a collaborative effort of visionary talents in the industry. Furthermore, Barzakh bravely explores themes of mental health, postpartum depression, genera-

tional trauma and gender inclusivity through a gripping narrative that challenges societal conventions. It also delves into the profound role of folklore in the complex tapestry of human existence, prompting viewers to contemplate life's nuances. Director Asim Abbasi said, "All storytellers dream of moments like this in their career, where they are allowed to run wild. Barzakh is just that - me running wild through this forest of fear and hope and magic - to create something a little bit spiritual and a whole lot of trippy. It's a story about love and faith. About humans desperately looking for connections and meaning. Fragile, broken souls, looking to hold on to whatever they can, to make sense of this big, bad, beautiful thing called life. Thanks to Shailja and Zindagi, Barzakh has truly been a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. And whilst I hope the six hours of this series thoroughly mesmerise and entertain audiences; more than that, I hope that the 'Land of Nowhere' changes a

small part of their heart, in an unexpected way. The way it changed so many of us, involved in its making." Producer Shailja Kejriwal adds, "A dead bride. A family reunion, where ghosts arrive! Concepts like these make you revisit the reason why you chose to be in this profession over everything else. One can play safe, throw data and focus groups at the creator, or become a facilitator with irrational beliefs. Barzakh for me is that story where the entire cast and crew came together to be a part of something unique, fresh, and slightly mind-bending. Asim Abbasi creates a surreal world where ghosts cry milky tears carrying the weight of unresolved emotions on their backs; a world where fairies come to take troubled young girls to their meadows beyond the mountains, where young love blossoms under apricot trees, and promises are made for a 'happily ever after!' Leo Tolstoy once said, 'Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhap-

py in its own way'. At its core, Barzakh is about an estranged family reuniting for a wedding. It is unique because this reunion brings together the living as well as the dead. It is elevating because at the end of it all there is a 'happily ever after!'" Producer Waqas Hassan said, "Creating Barzakh Universe with Asim and Shailja was in many ways a milestone not just for me but for the many who were involved in a project of this scale and caliber. I feel like working with an international production partner not only broadened my horizons but gave Pakistani film makers and thespians a platform to prove to the world that they can match global expectations and quality. From building literal villages to creating lifelong friends and communities; from building roads to paving a narrative that goes beyond the norm or normal storytelling, Barzakh has it all. I can proudly say that Team Barzakh poured their heart and souls into this project, and I can't wait to share it with the world."

### FROM PAGE 1

## 15 dead, 60 injured after goods train crashes into Kanchanjunga Express in West Bengal's Darjeeling

New Jalpaiguri station, the official said. In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the "railway accident in West Bengal is saddening. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones". "I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. Spoke to officials and took stock of the situation. Rescue operations are underway to assist the affected. The Railways Minister Shri @AshwiniVaishnav Ji is on the way to the site of the mishap as well," he said. The PM also announced that an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh would be given to the next of kin of each deceased, while the injured would be provided Rs 50,000. Meanwhile, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Monday left for West Bengal to take stock of relief operations following the train accident. According to preliminary information received from rail officials, the passenger train was stationary on the tracks when the goods train rammed into it from behind. While two rear compartments of the Kanchanjunga Express were immediately thrown off the tracks under the severe impact, another bogie was seen precariously hanging mid-air with the engine of the goods train tucked underneath.

Incliment weather in the region posed an additional challenge to the rescue operations, the officials said. The accident triggered haunting memories of the Coromandel Express disaster near Bahanaga Bazar in Odisha a year ago, which killed nearly 300 people and injured over a 1,000 others. The 13174 Kanchanjunga Express was bound for Sealdah from Agartala when the accident occurred around 9 am, the railway official said. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in a post on X, said: "Shocked to learn, just now, about a tragic train accident, in the Phansidewa area of Darjeeling district. While details are awaited, Kanchenjunga Express has reportedly been hit by a goods train. "DM, SP, doctors, ambulances and disaster teams have been rushed to the site for rescue, recovery, and medical assistance. Action on war-footing initiated," she added. Long-distance train services from north Bengal and the northeastern part of the country were affected due to the accident. State government officials said additional bus services were being introduced from the region on an emergency basis to transport the affected commuters. BJP MP from Darjeeling Raju Bista was among the leaders who rushed to the spot to oversee rescue operations. A passenger from Agartala, who was in coach number S6 of the Kanchanjunga Express, said he felt a sudden jerk and the compartment screeched to a halt. He also claimed that the relief and rescue operations were delayed. "My wife, child and I somehow managed

to come out of the mangled coach. We are currently stranded... The rescue operations also started quite late," the passenger told a television channel.

## Eid Prayers Pass Off Peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir

Eidgahs in other cities and towns of the Valley and the Jammu division. Three former chief ministers, Dr Farooq Abdullah, his son, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti joined the congregational prayers at Hazratbal mosque. Speaking to reporters the three leaders individually greeted people at the festival. Authorities had made adequate arrangements for security for the devotees who came out in large numbers for the thanksgiving prayers on the holy occasion. Reports of large congregations have also come in from Baramulla, Anantnag, Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Budgam and Kupwara districts of the Valley. Despite the scorching morning sun, devotees turned out in large numbers in Jammu city to offer prayers at the Eidgah ground in the Residency Road area of the city. Reports of congregational Eid prayers have come in from Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar and other districts of Jammu region. In many places, the Hindu members of the society waited outside the prayer grounds to exchange Eid greetings with their Muslim friends. No report of any untoward incident has

come in from anywhere in the UT and Eid prayers have concluded peacefully throughout J&K, officials said.

## Terrorist killed in encounter with security forces in Bandipora

said earlier. **CDS Gen Anil Chauhan visits Jammu, holds security review**

with security forces in Kathua district. On June 9, terrorists opened fire on a bus carrying pilgrims when it was en route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra from the Shiv Khori temple. The bus plunged into a deep gorge following the gunfire, killing nine people and injuring 41 others. On June 11, terrorists fired at a joint checkpoint of the Rashtriya Rifles and police at Chattergalla in Baderwah while a search party in the Gandoh area of Doda district was attacked on June 12, resulting in injuries to seven security personnel, including a policeman.

## G Kishan Reddy appointed BJP Election Incharge for Jammu and Kashmir

Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma

has been appointed as State election co-incharge.

For Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy has been appointed as state election incharge. Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Haryana will go to polls later this year. The exact dates have not been announced yet.

## Hizbul Militant arrested in Handwara

He added a Chinese pistol, a hand grenade and two magazines of a pistol were recovered from the Hizb's possession. The SP said Zakir Mir was in touch with the Pakistan-based handler Zahoor Ahmad Mir of Mirtigam Handwara, who is linked with Hizbul Mujahideen. He said further investigation in the case is continuing.

## Amarnath Yatra | Police conducts mock drill at Jammu Base Camp ahead of annual pilgrimage

readiness and coordination of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, he said. The police on Wednesday issued an 'alert advisory' in the Jammu region, urging residents to stay vigilant regarding the movement of suspicious individuals and objects.

## IPO, FPO rush: 56 companies plan to raise over Rs 90,000 crore

MUMBAI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Driven by a resilient domestic economy, buoyant stock market and growing participation of retail investors, the initial public offering (IPO) and follow-on public offer (FPO) markets in the country are set to witness surge in activities, with around 56 companies, including Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL), looking to raise over Rs 90,000 crore.

Close to 17 companies have received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), for launching IPOs/FPOs, up to June 7, according to Prime Database. These companies are looking to raise over Rs 11,000 crore. Among these companies, Asirvad Micro Finance and Allied Blenders & Distillers are planning to mobilise nearly Rs 1,500 crore each. Further, around 38 companies have filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Sebi as of June 7 and are awaiting approvals to launch IPOs/FPOs,



data from Prime Database showed. Of these, some of the large IPOs include Swiggy (Rs 8,000 crore), Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd (Rs 7,000 crore), Afcons Infrastructure Ltd (Rs 7,000 crore), Ola Electric Mobility (Rs 5,500 crore) and National Securities Depository Ltd (Rs 4,500 crore).

Bajaj Housing Finance's public offer of up to Rs 7,000 crore comprises a fresh issue of equity shares of up to Rs 4,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to Rs 3,000 crore, as per the DRHP. Last week, auto major

Hyundai Motor filed DRHP with the Sebi, offering to sell up to 142.19 equity shares at a face value of Rs 10 each. The company is looking to raise Rs 25,000 crore through a listing of shares, making it the largest IPO in the country.

"We are likely to witness a sustained long-term IPO momentum starting with this year likely being the best ever IPO year. India's strong macros and superior growth prospects serve as a great backdrop to this robust IPO market. Equally important, we are seeing strong domestic institutional flows as well

as retail participation. FPIs recognise the long-term attractiveness of Indian markets among all emerging markets," said V Jayasankar, Managing Director & Member of the Board, Kotak Investment Banking. Strong fundamentals, large retail participation

India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals and large retail participation are driving the IPO market. The IPO market, over the past few quarters, have also witnessed a good amount of oversubscription and listing gains.

According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, political insecurity feared by the market during the election-result period has translated into a bloom in anticipation of a strong coalition government. The growth-focused agenda is expected to persist, with the rural economy poised to benefit from increased government spending and a favourable monsoon.

IPO, FPO rush: 56 companies plan to raise over

'90,000 crore

"The enthusiasm to invest in IPOs has become more valid as a growth-based agenda is expected to nurture corporate performance," he said. During the calendar year 2023, nearly \$6 billion were raised via IPOs, which could double in CY2024, to over \$12 billion through IPOs and 2025 is likely to be even better, Kotak Investment Banking's Jayasankar said.

In the case of main board IPOs, 24 companies have garnered around Rs 18,000 crore through listing of shares in the first four months of 2024, the Sebi data showed. HDFC Securities Head of Retail Research Deepak Jasani said IPO markets have seen a good amount of oversubscription and listing gains over the past few quarters, aided by buoyant secondary markets, active grey market, Application Supported By Blocked Amount (ASBA) facility and high-level of subscription.

## Mcap tracker: LIC, HDFC Bank biggest gainers among Top 10 firms

NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers on Dalal Street in terms of valuation last week as five of the Top 10 companies gained Rs 85,582.21 crore in market capital.

The other gainers in the list were Reliance Industries, State Bank of India and Bharti Airtel. The remaining five firms in the Top 10 basket – Hindustan Unilever, TCS, Infosys, ICICI Bank and ITC – saw their market cap eroding by Rs 84,704.81 crore last week.

LIC soared Rs 46,425.48 crore in terms of valuation to Rs 6.74 lakh crore while HDFC Bank surged Rs 18,639.61 crore to 12.14 lakh crore. The valuation of Reliance Industries, the most valued company in the country, leaped to Rs 10,216.41 crore to Rs 19.97 lakh crore. SBI, the largest PSU



bank, saw its market capital zooming Rs 9,192.35 crore to Rs 7.49 lakh crore and telecom giant Bharti Airtel rallied to Rs 8.11 lakh crore after going up by Rs 1,108.36 crore.

Among the laggards, the worst impacted was FMCG major Hindustan Unilever, whose market valuation plummeted by Rs 22,885.02 crore to Rs 5.82 lakh crore.

IT majors TCS and Infosys saw their mcap plunging Rs 22,052.24 crore and Rs 18,600.5 crore to hit Rs 13.86 lakh crore and Rs 6.18 lakh crore in valuation respectively.

The market capital of ICICI Bank slid by Rs 11,179.27 crore to Rs 7.77 lakh crore while ITC tumbled Rs 9,987.78 crore to reach an mcap of Rs 5.38 crore.

In terms of market capitalisation, Reliance Industries continues to be the most valued company in the country. It is followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank and SBI. LIC, which in the eighth position, surpassed Infosys, after gaining considerably for two weeks in a row. The final slots were filled by FMCG giants Hindustan Unilever and ITC.

## Will stock market continue rally in absence of major triggers? Here are global cues to watch out for

MUMBAI, Jun 17 (Agencies): The elections are over, the RBI has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged and the US Federal Reserve has refused to cut interest rates. The industrial production data and inflation data have also been revealed. Two major market-moving weeks are behind us and there are no drastic domestic or foreign triggers ahead of us. The upcoming week is unlikely to see major volatility and investors will track global cues and follow trends set by foreign investors.

Other market triggers include Brent crude movement, rupee-dollar trend, data from China and US bond yields.



With equity markets closed on Monday for Bakrid, this week will only have four trading days. Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd, told PTI, "This week is a truncated one with no major triggers expected. However, we anticipate sector-specific movements amid budget-related buzz. Key factors to watch will be progress of monsoon and institutional flows."

Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial

Services Ltd, told the new agency that Bank of England interest rate decision will also be crucial. "We expect market uptrend to continue this week supported by positive macro trends, expectation of sustained government spending and policy continuity, healthy monsoon and strong earnings," he added.

The 30-stock BSE Sensex hit its lifetime peak of 77,145.46 on June 13 while Nifty touched record high of 23,490.40 on June 14.

## Oppo F27 Pro+ 5G: Price, display, camera, battery and all features you need to know

NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Oppo F27 Pro+ 5G, which is available on sale from June 20, is reportedly the company's first phone to achieve IP66, IP68, and IP69 ratings. Hence, it is designed to withstand high-pressure, high-temperature water jets and water immersion for up to 30 minutes.

Here is a look at the key features

**Price**  
Oppo F27 Pro+ 5G comes with a price tag of Rs 27,999 for its 8GB/128GB variant and Rs 29,999 for its 8GB/256GB variant.

**Display**  
Oppo F27 Pro+ 5G flaunts a 6.7-inch 3D curved AMOLED display with a resolution of 2400 x 1080 pixels, featuring a 120Hz refresh rate and

950 nits of brightness.

**Camera**  
Oppo F27 Pro+ 5G features a triple camera setup, with a 64MP primary camera, a 2MP depth camera and an 8MP selfie camera.

**Colours**  
Oppo F27 Pro+ 5G, which has a vegan leather back and a cosmic ring pattern is available in Dusk Pink and Midnight Navy with a silver ring around the camera.

**Processor and OS**  
Oppo F27 Pro+ runs on an octa-core MediaTek Dimensity 7050 chipset and operates on ColorOS 14.

**Battery**  
Oppo F27 Pro+ 5G comes with a 5,000mAh battery and supports 67W SUPERVOOC charger which can inject 100 per cent juice in 44 minutes.

## Zomato, Paytm confirm talks over movie ticketing business: 'No binding decision taken'

NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): After reports claimed that Zomato and Paytm parent company One97 Communications are nearing a deal worth Rs 1,500 crore, the food delivery firm has confirmed that it is in discussions to acquire the fintech major's movie ticketing business.

"We have noticed that there are certain news articles circulating in the mainstream media with the subject 'Zomato in talks to acquire Paytm's movies, ticketing business'. This voluntary disclosure is being made to clarify our stance on the matter given that any transaction that is considered potentially meaningful may create uncertainty in the market," Zomato said in a regulatory filing.

"We acknowledge that we are in discussions



with Paytm for the aforementioned transaction, however, no binding decision has been taken at this stage that would warrant a Board approval and subsequent disclosure in accordance with applicable law," it added in the communication to the exchanges. "The above discussion is being undertaken with the intent to strengthen our going-out business further and is in line with

our stated position of focusing only on our four key businesses currently added to the filing."

Paytm has also released a regulatory filing, saying the deal is under consideration and that the discussions are preliminary and non-binding.

In 2021, Zomato had acquired quick commerce platform Blinkit in a deal worth Rs 4,447 crore.

## China keeps lending rate unchanged as housing market still struggling

Bangkok, Jun 17 (Agencies): China's central bank kept a key lending rate unchanged on Monday, choosing not to loosen credit as data for May showed signs of persisting weakness in the world's No. 2 economy's manufacturing and real estate sectors.

The central bank kept its rate for 1-year medium-term lending facility loans, used as a benchmark for other lending rates, at 2.5 per cent. The decision aligned with expectations: instead of cutting already low interest rates Beijing has focused on channeling spending to areas considered to be high priorities such as high-tech industries.

The government reported Monday that factory output fell 5.6 per cent in May from the year before, slowing from 6.7 per cent in April, though analysts noted some impact due to more work days in this year compared with the year before.

Property investments fell 10 per cent year-on-year and home sales sank 30.5 per cent, suggesting a raft of measures to try to turn around a real estate slump have yet to take hold.

Home prices in major, so-called Tier 1 cities like Beijing and Shanghai, fell 3.2 per cent.

The downturn in the



property industry followed a crackdown on excessive borrowing by property developers several years ago. That led many to default on their debts as they meanwhile have struggled to deliver apartments that buyers had already paid for. That also hit contractors and suppliers of building materials, appliances and other household goods.

This data was certainly on the disappointing side and may ring some alarm bells, as May's policy support package has not yet translated to a slower decline of housing prices, let alone a stabilization, Lynn Song, chief economist for Greater China at ING Economics, said in a commentary.

Disruptions and job losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with falling prices for homes a staple form of

investment for most Chinese families have left many Chinese unwilling or unable to spend, sapping the economy of another major driver of business activity.

Although the external environment is complex and changeable and the domestic economy is also facing some troubles and challenges, the fundamentals of economic recovery and long-term improvement have not changed, Liu Aihua, spokesperson for the National Bureau of Statistics, told reporters in Beijing.

She pointed to rising retail sales and investments in various high-tech industries as signs of progress. A program encouraging Chinese families to recycle old appliances and trade in their cars for new, electric vehicles is helping revive consumer spend-

ing, Liu said.

Sales of products online, which account for about a quarter of all retail sales, rose 11.5 per cent in May, while sales of household appliances and audio-visual goods such as televisions rose nearly 13 per cent in May.

Chinese buyers also have returned to auto showrooms, with vehicle sales climbing 8.3 per cent from a year earlier to nearly 11.5 million units in January-May, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers reported last week. Auto sales rose 1.5 per cent in May.

Buying capacity and consumer confidence needs further improvement, but there are many favourable factors supporting continued growth of the consumer market, Liu said.

Liu said there would be more policies to support the ailing real estate market, following moves to reduce mortgage rates and down-payment requirements for some property purchases, among other recent moves meant to help ensure that home buyers are able to get the properties they have purchased.

We must also see that the implementation time of some policies is still relatively short, Liu said.

## Interview| Kotak Mahindra Bank to go aggressive on new outposts, targets 200 branches in FY25, says senior official

NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) plans to focus on brick-and-mortar business strategies and aims to open 170-200 branches in 2024-25, the bank's group president and head of consumer banking Virat Diwanji said.

The bank, which recently faced regulatory actions from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), plans to focus on its existing customers. The central bank in April issued a cease-and-desist order under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, after weaknesses were detected in its operational risk management. The regulator prevented the bank from enlisting new customers through online and mobile banking channels and from issuing fresh credit cards.

The unsecured loans business, on which the bank has set an annual growth target of around 15-16 per cent, is a section where the bank will continue to focus and target existing customers, Diwanji said. Edited excerpts from the interaction:

**How is Kotak Mahindra Bank looking at growing its retail and unsecured business after the RBI restrictions?**

The RBI restrictions are on digital acquisition of new customers and fresh issuance of credit cards. On the account opening side, we always had two

streams, one being digital and the other through our frontline staff in branches through direct contact of potential customers using biometric verification. While we may not be able to cover the entire shortfall on account of digital acquisition, we are trying to improve productivity of our frontline branch staff through data analytics, providing better quality leads to our ground team.

The loss of book growth in value terms for credit cards would be real. However, we will focus on our huge customer base through advanced analytics to prequalify customers for personal loans and business loans.

**With restrictions in place on your bank's digital business, how and what will be the focus to grow CASA (current account and savings account) deposits? What are the new things that the bank is looking at?**

We are taking multiple steps to improve CASA deposits. First, we are focusing on increasing both the number and quality of customers acquired through our physical channel teams. Second, we are enhancing customer service and engagement to ensure customers do not move their money out of the bank. Third, we have relationship managers engaging with customers to make Kotak Bank their primary account. This includes encouraging cus-

tomers to subscribe to services like SIPs (systematic investment plans), utility bill payments, and EMI (equated monthly instalment) payments through their Kotak account.

We have relaunched our ad campaign for Active Money which had given us good upside on CASA in addition to deposits. These measures aim to increase customer engagement and retention, thus improving CASA deposits.

**What would be your ideal growth target for the unsecured loans business in FY25?**

We have always maintained that our unsecured portfolio would be around the mid-teens of our overall asset book. We will aim to still pursue this target. In the recent past our credit cards business has been growing fast and we already have a strong base. Our focus is on offering immense value to our customers by enhancing customer engagement through multiple propositions, loyalty programmes and, thereby, increasing the overall spends on the cards.

**How is your bank looking at branch expansion? Will we see more of it in FY25 compared to FY24?**

As we know, 95 per cent to 96 per cent of savings account customers transact outside the branch, either on mobile or on net banking and, hence, the expansion has been

focused on the area where essentially there is a business community.

Infra development and urbanisation coupled with increasing prosperity in rural India are opening up new opportunities. For branch expansion, we're figuring out the pockets where we are under-penetrated and where the availability of liabilities is easy. We have been adding roughly 150-odd branches for several years now. This year too, the momentum is going to continue. We are looking to add about 175-200 branches this financial year.

**On the retail side, which subsegments are working well for your bank and what are some trends that you've seen in the businesses in the past few months?**

Our other businesses such as the mortgage—which includes home loans and loans against property—and business banking segments are doing very well. Our mortgage book crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore milestone in the quarter ended March 31, 2024. In general, with rapid infra development such as highways and airports across the country, urbanisation and industrial clusters coming up, there's good momentum in the economy and we are capitalising on it. The focus on the SME (small and medium enterprise) sector is also yielding positive results on lending book growth.

## T20 World Cup: Sri Lanka save their best for last, beat Netherlands by 83 runs

*Netherlands were bowled out for 118 in pursuit of an improbable target of 202 set by Wanindu Hasaranga's men*

GROS ISLET (SAINT LUCIA), Jun 17 (Agencies): Sri Lanka finally found their mojo as they clinically disposed of the Netherlands by a whopping 83 runs in an inconsequential final group D league game of the T20 World Cup here.

With Bangladesh beating Nepal by 21 runs in the other group league game, the faint outside chance that the Netherlands had despite a way inferior net run-rate was up in smoke as they were bowled out for 118 in pursuit of an improbable target of 202 set by Wanindu Hasaranga's men.

The Sri Lankans left it too late while bringing their A game to the fore as all three units fired in unison but the horse has already bolted as they were out of reckoning for the Super Eights.

The Sri Lankan middle order were brilliant with veteran Angelo Mathews (30 off 15 balls) and skipper Hasaranga (20 off 10 balls) shored up the scoring rate but it was left-hander Charith Asalanka's 21-ball-46 that was the real difference in their innings. Asalanka smashed five sixes as Sri Lanka crossed the 200-run mark.

Asalanka, smoked the Netherlands bowlers with minimal footwork and maximum power, keeping a stable base that allowed him to go for the jugular. "These are far better condi-



tions than the USA, and we enjoyed those conditions. It can be tough to come in at No. 5. We just played the conditions," said Asalanka, who was adjudged 'Player of the Match'.

"I know I have to be a little more consistent. In general we are a little disappointed about the results in the first two games. But in the end we had a good game here," the southpaw said.

During the chase, the Netherlands openers Michael Levitt (31) and Max O'Dowd (11) added 45 in just 4.2 overs but once Maheesh Theekshana got the former stumped, there was virtually no resistance from the other batters.

Slinger Nuwan Thushara (3/24) was the pick of the Lankan bowlers while Chennai Super Kings star Matheesha Pathirana (2/12) also remained accurate during his overs hitting the blockhole consistently.

From being 45 for no loss in the first five overs, the Netherlands lost half of the side by the time they reached the halfway stage. Any remote chances of an impressive win ended then and there.

It was one of the best tracks across both USA and the Caribbean islands and there was very little room for error on a track where ball came onto the bat nicely. Kusal Mendis, a seasoned campaigner, started the

onslaught with 46 off 29 balls with a flurry of boundaries in the Powerplay to set the tone.

That allowed Asalanka, Mathews and Hasaranga to go hammer and tongs towards the back-end.

"After the bad first two games this win is very healthy for us. The wicket was really good we just wanted to put a 160-170 score on this wicket. With our attack anything over 160 we can defend. In the first two games we lost two or three wickets in the first six overs. Today we didn't. I think that was the difference," Hasaranga said at post-match presentation ceremony.

For Netherlands, the performance was a bit underwhelming in this format after impressing one and all during their 50-over global campaign in India last year. Even their Australia-born skipper Scott Edwards, who scored 31 on the day, admitted that his team was found wanting against better quality sides.

"We had good patches throughout the tournament where we gave our chances to win at least three of those games. But something was slightly off and against good quality sides you can't afford that.

"In the batting, we needed someone to have a big innings, and we weren't able to do that. Backing our boys to come back firing."

## T20 World Cup 2024: Tanzim, Mustafizur star in Bangladesh's Super Eight entry

*Nepal were on course at 78 for 5 at one stage before losing their last five wickets for seven runs.*

KINGSTOWN, Jun 17 (Agencies): Pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib's career-best figures of 4 for 7 with an astounding 21 dot balls headlined Bangladesh's dominant bowling performance as they entered the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup with a comfortable 21-run win against Nepal in their final group league game. Having nearly shocked South Africa in their previous game, Nepal bowlers were again on target, bowling out Bangladesh for 106 but Tanzim along with seasoned Shakib al Hasan (2/9) and Mustafizur Rahaman (3/7) bowled out Nepal for 85 in 19.2 overs. Nepal were on course at 78 for 5 at one stage before losing their last five wickets for seven runs as a determined Bangladesh team used all its reservoir of experience after a disappointing batting show. Bangladesh should have won the match when Nepal were reduced to 26 for 5 after seven overs courtesy the right arm outswing specialist Tanzim but Kushal Malla (27) and world record holder Dipendra Singh Airee (25) added 52 runs to raise visions of a first big win for the country against a major Test playing nation.

But as it happens with ICC's Associate Member nations, the batters with little exposure of facing quality bowling didn't know what to do with an experienced player like Mustafizur.

Needing 22 off 12 balls, 'The Fizz' was an artist at work as he bowled his customary slow off-cutters, which would pitch on middle stump and cut across the right hander. Airee, who holds the world record of fastest T20I fifty off 9 balls and only third cricketer after Yuvraj Singh and Kieron Pollard to hit six sixes in an over, understood the difference of facing a world class

operator to plundering runs against Mongolia and Qatar. Mustafizur didn't even let Airee lay bat on ball during the five deliveries that also had a slow bouncer. He got Airee off the last delivery. In fact, four among the last five Nepalese batters failed to open their accounts with the fifth remaining not out without troubling the scorers. "Very happy the way we played this round. I hope we can continue with our bowling performance and hope that our batting performance will be fine in the next round," Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto said at post-match presentation ceremony.

The skipper wasn't happy that none of the Bangladeshi batters could even cross 20 but has confidence that his bowling unit can defend any totals.

"We have everything. All the fast bowlers have worked really hard in the last two or three years. In this format, the bowling unit is very important and I hope they continue their form. We have to plan for the next round and execute our plans," he said. As far as Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel is concerned, he conceded that inexperience became their undoing. "As a batting unit, we could have done better, especially the top order batters. We could have batted tighter. Bangladesh bowled really well with the new ball and we were under pressure after that. They were asking us challenging questions," a dejected Paudel said at post-match presentation ceremony. "Top order batters could have done better and taken more responsibility. We need to step up, need to know where to score runs and how to assess conditions," the skipper said as he promised the ardent fans of a better show in the coming tournaments.

## Smriti Mandhana hits sixth ODI ton, Asha Sobhana picks up four on debut as India beat South Africa by 143 runs

BENGALURU, Jun 17 (Agencies): Smriti Mandhana's resolute hundred and a disciplined bowling effort, led by spinners Deepti Sharma and Asha Sobhana, piloted India to a huge 143-run win over South Africa in the first women's ODI here.

Mandhana's sixth ODI century (117 off 127 balls, with 12 fours and one six) formed the fulcrum of India's competitive 265/8 on a sluggish Chinnaswamy pitch. The Indian bowlers then worked their magic around the South African batters to bowl out the visitors for 122 as debutante leg-spinner Asha (4/21) led the show with a frugal spell and was well-supported by off-spinner Deepti (2/10). Pacer Renuka Singh (1/30) gave India the perfect start, dismissing the in-form South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt in the first over itself. The Indians soon fetched the wickets of Tazmine Brits and Anneke Bosch as the tourists slumped to 33/3. The experienced Marizane Kapp (24 off 39 balls) hammered Renuka for a four and a six, and tried to revive the innings with Sune Luus, who fought well with a 33. But their fourth-wicket alliance of 39 runs consumed 68 balls as the asking rate

climbed over seven, which never really came down thereafter. Asha ended that struggle when the leg-spinner had Kapp caught at covers by Harmanpreet Kaur.

Earlier, India's script for victory was written by Mandhana, who thrilled the home crowd with a well-paced hundred. Mandhana stitched two significant partnerships with Deepti (37 off 48 balls, with three fours) and Pooja Vastrakar (31 not out) to take India out of trouble after the hosts found themselves at 99/5 at one stage. Mandhana and Deepti added 81 runs (92 balls) for the sixth wicket. Pooja, who had to leave the field later with a knee niggle while fielding, then assisted the Indian vice-captain to make 58 runs (54 balls).

Mandhana was forced to eschew her flair because of the team situation and the sluggish nature of the pitch, to which India's top-order batters such as Shafali Verma (7), Harmanpreet (10) and Jemimah Rodrigues (17) failed to adapt, leading to their soft dismissals.

Brief scores: India: 265/8 in 50 overs (Mandhana 117, Deepti 37, Pooja 31\*; Khaka 3/47, Klaas 2/51); South Africa: 122 all out in 37.4 overs (Luus 33, Kapp 24; Asha 4/21, Deepti 2/10)

## Today at T20 World Cup: New Zealand look for positive finish against spirited PNG

TAROUBA, Jun 17 (Agencies): New Zealand and Papua New Guinea are set to face each other in a Group C match of the T20 World Cup 2024 on Monday, June 17 at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad. Both teams are out of the competition and will be playing for pride. The Black Caps started with defeats at the hands of the West Indies and Afghanistan, after which they could never recover.

They defeated Uganda by 9 wickets to get themselves a consolation victory. Tim Southee won the Player of the Match award after he finished with stupendous figures of 4-1-4-3. Trent Boult kept leading the pack efficiently after he accounted for a couple of crucial scalps.

Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson also bowled their hearts out. Chasing a modest target of 41, the Kiwis romped home in 5.2 overs. After the match, Boult



also confirmed that the ongoing T20 World Cup is his last in the ongoing mega event.

PNG, on the other hand, are languishing at the bottom of the table with a net run rate of -0.886 after losses in all 3 of their matches. In their previous game, PNG lost to Afghanistan by 7 wickets. Odds are stacked against them ahead of their match against the Black Caps,

but Assad Vala's men would want to put their best foot forward.

NZ vs PNG Head-to-Head New Zealand and Papua New Guinea are yet to face each other in international cricket.

NZ vs PNG: Team News Both teams will be looking to test out their bench strength in the dead rubber. The Kiwis may bring in Ish Sodhi in place of

Mitchell Santner. Michael Bracewell may get another chance as New Zealand will look to sign off from the tournament on a high.

NZ vs PNG: Pitch Report The average score at the venue has been around the 150-run mark in 7 T20Is until now. In the ongoing T20 World Cup, the average score has been 113. Hence, a low-scoring match seems to be on the cards. Teams batting first have won 4 out of 7 matches.

NZ vs PNG: Probable Playing XI

New Zealand Probable XI: Devon Conway (wk), Finn Allen, Rachin Ravindra, Kane Williamson (c), Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, James Neesham, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Trent Boult, Lockie Ferguson.

Papua New Guinea Probable XI: Tony Ura, Assad Vala (c), Lega Siaka, Sese Bau, Hiri Hiri, Chad Soper, Kiplin Doriga (wk), Norman Vanua, Alei Nao, John Kariko, Semo Kamea.

## Pakistan salvage pride with consolation three-wicket win over Ireland in their final T20 WC game

LAUDERHILL, Jun 17 (Agencies): Former champions Pakistan restored a semblance of pride with a toiling three-wicket win over Ireland in their inconsequential final game of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

The 2009 champions, who were eliminated following their loss to India and the USA in the earlier group matches, restricted Ireland to 106 for 9 after opting to bowl, with Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/22) leading the show.

Despite chasing a not-so-daunting target, Pakistan's fragile batting was once again exposed as they slumped to 62 for six in 11 overs, raising the vision of another collapse. But skipper Babar Azam (32 not out) and Abbas Afridi (17) shared a 33-run stand to take them home at 111 for 7 in 18.5 overs.

Shaheen Afridi hit the winning runs with two mighty sixes in his 5-ball 13 not out. Pacers Barry McCarthy (3/15), Curtis Campher (2/24) and Mark Adair (1/24) bowled their hearts out but Pakistan stood tall in the end as Ireland ended their campaign winless.

While chasing, Pakistan opener Saim Ayub looked in good nick as he slammed a six and two fours before top-edging Adair to keeper Lorcan Tucker.

Mohammad Rizwan hit three fours but was sent back by McCarthy when Pakistan were



39 for 2.

In the next three overs, Pakistan lost four quick wickets—Fakhar Zaman (5), Usman Khan (2), Shadab Khan (0) and Imad Wasim (4)—to find themselves in deep trouble.

Babar held on at the other end while Abbas made a 21-ball 17 and then Shaheen blasted two big blows to end the proceedings.

Earlier, Ireland had a nightmarish start as Afridi and Amir left them tottering at 4 for three in the second over.

The left-arm pacer Afridi struck twice in three balls, removing Andrew Balbirnie (0) and Tucker (2) in the opening over.

Amir then had Ireland skipper Paul Stirling (1) caught behind to leave the top order in

disarray.

Harry Tector survived a caught-behind appeal but was trapped by Afridi in the next ball with a fuller delivery that hit his back leg to reduce Ireland to 15 for 4 in three overs.

George Dockrell blasted two fours to ease the pressure a bit but he fell to a caught and bowled by Amir, who deceived him with a slower ball, as half of the Irish side returned to the hut within powerplay.

Rauf then joined the party, getting rid of Campher, who went for a pull, only to see the top-edge landing in the safe hands of Ayub.

Delany clobbered the first six of Ireland innings off Rauf in the 9th over, before hammering spinner Shadab Khan for a six over long-on to bring up the team fifty. Delany ended the over with a four after Rauf missed an overhead catch at the boundary.

Abbas was next in line for Delany as he smoked a pitched up delivery from the pacer over deep square leg for another maximum.

Imad was then introduced into the attack and he dismissed the dangerous-looking Delany with a ball that bounced and spun as the 44-run stand was broken, reducing Ireland to 76 for 7.

The number 10 Joshua Little (22 not out) then threw his bat to take Ireland past the 100-run mark. But it was too late, too little.

## 'Very few players play at that pace': Navjot Singh Sidhu lauds Suryakumar Yadav's performance in T20 World Cup



NEW YORK, Jun 17 (Agencies): Former India cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu lauded the star Indian batter Suryakumar Yadav following his unbeaten knock against the hosts, the United States at the Nassau International Cricket Stadium in New York.

Suryakumar didn't have the start that the world no 1 T20I batter wanted as he failed to make a mark in the first two matches of the ongoing competition. However, the right-hand batter played an unbeaten innings of 50 runs from 49 balls which was laced with two fours and sixes each in his innings at a strike rate of 102.04 against the hosts, United States.

The former Indian opener asserted that the middle-order batter's 40 per

cent of runs in the innings against the USA came in the fine-leg area.

"He has made areas where playing shots was considered a crime. Almost 40 per cent of the runs in his innings were in the fine-leg area. He is playing in the reverse V. He is doing a 360-degree attack. So you cannot set a field. When you cannot set a field, you are left stunned," Sidhu said on Star Sports.

Sidhu further commented on Suryakumar's pace at which he scores adding that if he goes past the 50-run mark then he will guide his team towards victory.

"The pace at which he scores, if he scores more than 50, he will win the match. Very few players play at that pace. Maybe Hardik Pandya and Travis Head, that too with the new ball against the short ball. There are very few game-changers," the commentator added.

India concluded the first round with seven points and at the top of Group A. The Rohit Sharma-led side had already qualified for Super 8 following their victory over the co-hosts USA.

India will play their first match of the Super 8 on Thursday against Afghanistan at Kensington Oval Barbados.

# Kuldeep urges SMVDSB to reduce airfare from Rs 35000 to Rs 6000

## Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: In a scathing critique aimed at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, Chief Spokesperson of Jammu Bachao Manch, has strongly condemned the proposed airfare of Rs. 35,000 for a return ticket from Jammu Airport to Bhawan. Dr. Sharma labeled the proposed fare as exorbitant and accused the Shrine Board of exploiting devotees rather than serving their interests and asked the Shrine Board to fix Rs 6000 with a return ticket

Dr. Sharma emphasized that the primary purpose of the Shrine Board, as originally envisioned, is to facilitate the pilgrimage of devotees in a manner that upholds their faith and respects their financial capacities. He lamented, "The Shrine Board was constituted by the former Governor Mr Jagmohan to serve the devotees, not to loot them." He also added that the Governor Mr Jagmohan has stopped the tradition of loot but at present the Shrine Board has started the same tactics to loot the devotees. He further criticized

the potential transformation of the Shrine Board into a profit-oriented entity akin to a business establishment. "The income of the shrine is unlimited due to the devotion of the countless pilgrims. There is no need to turn it into a corporate sector," Dr. Sharma stated emphatically. Calling for immediate action to rectify the situation, Dr. Sharma urged the Shrine Board to reconsider and revise the proposed airfare to a more reasonable amount. He suggested that a fare of Rs. 6,000 for a round-trip would

be more equitable and affordable for pilgrims. Sharma urged the chairman of the Shrine Board to provide hundred percent concession to Hindu senior citizens above 65 years and also to Hindu handicapped persons so that they may have easily darshan of the Holy Shrine. He said that it is a Hindu shrine and mostly Hindu devotees donate the money and the money should be spent on the financial weaker Hindu devotees. "The pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi is a sacred journey for millions of devotees. It is

the responsibility of the Shrine Board to ensure that this journey remains accessible and respectful of the devotees' faith and financial means," Dr. Sharma concluded. The Jammu Bachao Manch spokesperson's statement comes amidst growing concerns among pilgrims and local communities regarding the potential impact of high airfares on pilgrimage accessibility and affordability. He further said that more organizations will come forward to oppose the proposed exorbitant airfare, which is sheer broad-day loot.

# World's highest railway bridge set to boost tourism, connectivity in J&K: Raman

## Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: With the successful trial run of electric engine on world's highest railway bridge at Reasi and subsequent starting of train services to Srinagar soon, tourism is going to get a huge fillip in Jammu and Kashmir. Other than the Government and Indian Railways, common people too are excited to see this train running between Jammu and Srinagar, which ultimately will connect Kashmir with Kanyakumari and fulfil the dream of millions of people to see this engineering marvel happening on this soil.



is being laid on building massive infrastructure for all of them.

Raman Suri said, inclement weather conditions during rainy or winter season, many-a-times, trigger landslides thereby snapping road links to Kashmir but once the railways start their operations here, tourists will be able to reach Kashmir round the year. The BJP leader said that the entire rail route from Jammu to Srinagar and Baramulla is scenic and offers visitors with a unique experience in all weather conditions. Vistadome and other facilities are going to be the star attraction for tourists, whose numbers are likely to increase manifold in months to come.

It is very likely that the trial run between Sangaldan and Reasi will be completed in a month's time and after that, the first train will run on this track and take passengers to Kashmir, which will also be an attraction for foreign tourists, Raman Suri said, adding that passing

over the world's highest arch railway bridge will be a marvel to watch. The spirit of locals was worth witnessing when, for the first-time, the electric engine reached Reasi after crossing the Chenab Arch Bridge. People welcomed it with patriotic slogans and, with slogans in favour of Indian Railways and its engineers, who have given to Jammu and Kashmir an engineering marvel.

Raman Suri said, for Northern Railways, completion of this section of the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project is going to be a great achievement. Suri also congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of State PMO Dr Jitender Singh for the successful trial run over the world's highest rail bridge and said that it could happen only under the BJP government as our Prime Minister believes in delivering projects well on time. His special concern for J&K is visible by the fact that he has sanctioned multi-crore infrastructural projects for J&K, which, in years to come, will make our UT blink on the international maps. Officially, it is likely that the first train between Sangaldan and Reasi will be flagged off on June 30, 2024.

# Chandel expresses objection to misguide inclusion of RSS in Air India Food Menu Debate

## Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: Hindutva leader Raju Chandel strongly objects to the involvement of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the recent controversy over Air India's meal menu, which has been polarized as a Hindu meal versus Muslim meal issue.



non-vegetarian to reflect dietary preferences without religious connotations.

This controversy began when Congress Lok Sabha MP Manikam Tagore questioned whether Air India is under RSS control due to the menu categorization. Raju Chandel supports Tagore's objection, agreeing that categorizing meals as Hindu and Muslim is unnecessary and divisive. He advocates for classifying meals as vegetarian and

Chandel clarifies that the RSS promotes Hindutva, a socio-cultural and political ideology rooted in India's cultural ethos, and does not support categorizing meals based on religious identities. Sar Sangh Chalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat has emphasized that Hindu-

ta includes all Indian citizens, including Muslims, and does not seek to separate them from the national fabric.

Chandel urges Congress members and other stakeholders not to politicize or involve the RSS in debates concerning Hindu-Muslim relations, as such actions create misunderstandings and detract from genuine societal issues. He criticizes Congress for its policies of discrimination between Hindus and Muslims and accuses the party of defaming the Hindu religion and the RSS. Chandel demands an apology from the Congress MP for spreading rumors and creating discrimination between Hindus and Muslims.

# Rajan appeals for smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra

## Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: Rajan Gupta, the President of Sarv Shakti Sena Jammu & Kashmir, has made a fervent appeal to the administration for ensuring the smooth conduct of the 52-day Amarnath Yatra, which is set to commence on June 29, 2024.



ity arrangements at key points, including Bhagwati Nagar, and along the entire route of the yatra.

Highlighting the significance of the yatra for devotees, Rajan emphasized the need for comprehensive security measures in light of recent attacks, including the ones on Shiv Khori. He urged the central government to provide mandatory protection for all pilgrims, ensuring their safety throughout the pilgrimage.

In his appeal, Rajan Gupta specifically called for robust secu-

He stressed that the administration must take all necessary steps to safeguard the Yatris and facilitate a peaceful and uninterrupted pilgrimage.

# CTF expresses concern over declining business activities in Jammu region

## Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF) on Monday expressed concern over the declining business activities in Jammu region and urged for immediate steps to increase liquidity in market place so as to give a much needed push to business.

In a meeting held today under the stewardship of Neeraj Anand, Patron CTF, members and stakeholders expressed concern over the falling business sentiment in a traditionally trade based economy of Jammu, low business volumes and rising expenses are leading to unprecedented pressures thus putting survival of businesses at stake, observed many.

To make things worse ambiguity in various revenue laws and long delays of over 8-10 years in settling certain issues is denying businesses adequate capital under various schemes, be it use of nomenclature like Gair Mumkin Khad confused with water bodies or nazool land or policy paralysis of maintaining complete

mum with regards to regularized land under State government backed Roshni scheme and many more such issues has blocked much of value available for business development in Jammu. Even in the mainstay sector of J&K Economy-horticulture, stake holders and investors in trade are facing survival issues due to non-renewal of lease deeds of Jammu Fruit Mandi. Non-renewal of lease deeds or land pledged as security getting caught in revenue Jargons in turn prevents renewal of bank limits.

In many cases inheritance issue wherein transition of family properties in natural course is stuck due to silence of those approached for the job. The officer concerned express helplessness citing no clear cut policy on such issues thus leaving the general public battle the vagaries of life on their own. This catch-22 situation has increased the mental stress level and increase in depression cases is seen amongst the small and medium businessmen shared a few traders.

Although many committees have been formed to resolve such issues but little progress is visible on ground till date, was the common sentiment shared by stakeholders. Concluding the meet, Neeraj Anand urged the administration to expedite the process of removing bottlenecks and treat economic issues with due sensitivity and urgency they demand.

He also touched upon payments pending of local vendors under various government projects besides the all important issue of security revamp in view of the upcoming Shree Amarnath ji Yatra. Neeraj also appreciated the quick action taken by local administration in containing terror incidents. The meet also condoled the death of innocents in Reasi Bus firing. Neeraj also raised concern for businesses that are adversely affected by flyovers and road widening activities, he opined that even though development is imperative but those who lose livelihood should be adequately compensated and relocated.

# BLSKS celebrates 11th anniversary of Art of Giving

## Top News Report

JAMMU, June 17: As part of celebrations of 11th birth anniversary of AOG (Art of Giving), Eid-ul-Zuha, & to promote the Traditional Cultural of India, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan & Volleyball association of J&K organized captivating cultural program on peace and harmony its 435th Regular Series Musical Play "EKTA KA DIYA" at Rehearsal Hall, Durga Bhawan, Janipur Jammu today. During the year BLSKS also will presents programs on the said theme in 10 District of Jammu Provinces ie., Jammu, Kathua, Kishtwar, Poonch Rajouri, Reasi Etc., the Organization will also presents full length musical plays Like Maa Sheran Wali, Raja Mandlik, and other Awareness Songs to save the Environment of Universe. The Program was inaugurated by Chief Guest Sh. V.K.Magotra, former Regional Director of Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. Dr. Anju Dogra from Health Department, J&K Government, Mr. Mukesh Singh, Media Person Jammu, J.K.Raina, Freelancer Producer Director were Guest of Honor. The superior official of volleyball association J&K,



Sh. Vajak Raj, Patron in chief, President Sidharth Daluja, CEO, Kuldeep Magotra, Vice President, H.S.Gill, Mohd. Tariq Joint Secty, R.C. Sharma & others were Special Guest apricated the organization for Best performance on the theme.

The concepts art of giving aimed at promoting peace, happiness, harmony and friendship, all across the globe as conceived by its founder Achyuta Samanta who is also founder of KIIT and KISS, KIMS university, Bhubaneswar was highlighted by artists of BLSKS in colorful manner. Besides this importance of all festival, with special reference to Eid-ul-Zuha celebration which is also known as symbol of sacrifice besides cementing bonds of peace & harmony were also articul-

ated by the artist through colorful presentation of the prog.

Dr.M.L.Dogra, Chairman Blsks, read the message of Prof. Achyuta Samanta, founder of AOG, whose 11th anniversary is being celebrated all across the country. Prof Samanta's multifaceted personality in the field of education, Social Services Community welfare and sports were cherished on the occasion. Not only this Prof. Samanta contribution as President of Volleyball Federation of India was also highlighted. Dr.Dogra also said "Peace and love are often said in the same breath. Peace, you could say, is the natural afterglow of showing love toward others. It turns out that peace might not be the "absence of conflict" at all. Instead, it comes

from the show of love (or compassion) toward others, including when challenges develop. The balance, order, rhythm and harmony. Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all. He who lives in harmony with himself lives in harmony with the universe.

Speaking on the occasion Vijay Kumar Magotra, Gen. Sec. Volleyball Association of

J&K revealed that Prof. Samanta's contribution in development of sports and tribals would go a long way in transforming modern India. The J&K chapter of AOG has drawn up a series of special programmes to commemorate role 11th anniversary of AOG all across JK UT by way of holding cultural, yoga, sports, lectures etc. in the coming days in coordination with various sports and cultural organization in J&K. Magotra appreciated the role of artists in promoting various concepts of cultural heritage of India, National Unity. The singers, musician and actors who performed were Usha Raina, K K Joshi, M.C.Kotwal, Jogi Rajeev Nath, Chahat Chadha Bindia Okheda, Raju Bajgal, Kamla Devi, Sudesh Devi Manhas, Naiya Dagra, Renu Bala, presented the enthralling performance. Master Deepak Kumar presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

# Kaith Biradari organises Chabeel at Piri Trai

## Top News Report

AKHNOOR, June 17: In remembrance and tribute to Late Girdhari Lal, Sagar Lal and Suresh Kumar, a Chabeel was organised at Piri Trai

here today by the Kaith Biradari, in which sweet and cool milk sharbat was distributed to a large number of people.

Hony Captain Kamal Dass shared that the most special thing about

chabeel is that it would keep their sweet memory fresh in the minds of Piri Trai people, and also inculcate a sense of oneness among those who serve as well as those who are served.

Among those who assisted in serving the chabeel were Naib Subedar Kaku Ram, Naib Subedar Jamit Raj, Havildar Mast Ram, Havildar Ajay Kumar, Parma Nand, Rakesh

Kumar, Vivek Kumar, Rohit Kumar, Rawel Kumar, Sumit Kumar, Ashwani Kumar, Kuldeep Kumar Mohinder Lal, Pritam Chand, Swarn Lal, Dheeraj Kumar and Sameer Kumar.