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JAMMU, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-167 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Foolproof security in place for PM Modi's Kashmir visit

SRINAGAR, Jun 18 (Agencies): The highest level of security preparedness and foolproof arrangements are in place for the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Srinagar city in J&K on June 20.

The Prime Minister is arriving here on the evening of June 20 and will participate in the 18th International Yoga Day at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on the banks of the Dal Lake in Srinagar next day. Over 6,000 other participants are likely to join the Prime Minister on International Yoga Day on June 21.

This is PM Modi's first visit to J&K after being elected as the country's Prime Minister for the third term. Teams of SPG, those deployed for the Prime Minister's security, reached here five days earlier than the VVIP visit to coordinate security arrangements with the J&K security staff.

The venue of the function has been thoroughly sanitized and the SPG will take over the venue two days ahead of the Prime Minister's visit. Human surveillance, electronic equipment, drone supervision, vast area domination and Hawk-eye surveillance of the VVIP route are being maintained for the visit.

Every detail in the blue book that describes the PM's security is being followed to the minutest precision. J&K DGP, R.R. Swain is personally supervising and coordinating each detail related to the Prime Minister's security.

"All roads leading to the venue would be completely sealed a day ahead of the visit and passage on these routes would be highly regulated and allowed only after attending to the security drill as described in the blue book. "No chance is being taken with anything that concerns the security of the Hon'ble Prime Minister," said a top intelligence officer.

### Five injured in Sopore Bike Collision

SRINAGAR, Jun 18 (Agencies): A collision between two bikes occurred near 22-RR Camp in Zalooa Harwan, Sopore area of Baramulla district on Monday evening.

An official said that

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## A-category terrorist, Umar Lone eliminated during joint operation in Bandipora: Army Commander

SRINAGAR, Jun 18 (Agencies): The Army on Tuesday stated that the security forces have eliminated an A category terrorist - Umar Lone, in Aragam area of Bandipora during a joint operation launched by security forces on the intervening night of June 16 and 17 of 2024.

Addressing media persons on Tuesday in Bandipora, Commander 3 Sector- Rashtriya Rifles (RR) Vipul Tyagi said that the elimination of top rank commander was the major achievement for the security forces.

He said the operation was jointly conducted by the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) after receiving a specific intelligence inputs about terrorist activities in Aragam district of Bandipora.



"We have been closely monitoring the area. On the night of June 16-17, we received specific intelligence inputs, based on which the Indian Army, along with the JK Police and CRPF, launched a joint operation. During this operation, one of our ambush parties noticed some suspicious movement," the Army Commander said.

He said that upon confirmation, the ambush party opened fire on the terrorists, resulting in the elimination of a terrorist named Umar Lone, resident of Husankhoie Pattan in Baramulla district.

"Umar Lone was active since 2018 and he was associated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and The Resistance Front (TRF). He played a crucial role in recruiting youth into terrorist groups, managing an Over Ground Worker (OGW) network, and orchestrating numerous illegal killings," Tyagi told

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## Vigilance intensified along infiltration routes in Samba

SRINAGAR, Jun 18 (Agencies): The senior superintendent of police in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba on Monday ordered increased patrolling and surveillance along potential infiltration routes and the establishment of random night ambush checkpoints at vulnerable locations as part of enhanced security arrangements ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra.

The directive was issued ahead of the yatra, which commences on June 29, amid enhanced threat perception following four terror attacks that left 10 people, including a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel dead and 50 injured in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts.

Two terrorists were also killed.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Samba) Vinay Kumar, who chaired a joint security review on the yatra preparation, provided an overview of the security arrangements put in place for peaceful conduct of the pilgrimage, officials said.

Emphasising the need for heightened alertness, teamwork and real-time intelligence sharing, all officers were tasked with thwarting malicious intentions of anti-national elements and their collaborators across the international border, they said.

Kumar underscored the importance of 24x7 vigilance at highways, activation of highway patrol vehicles, check-

points, reinforcement of border and joint checkpoints, area domination with army and paramilitary forces and the positioning of quick reaction teams at strategic locations.

He instructed the officers to intensify patrolling and surveillance along potential infiltration routes and the establishment of random night nakas and ambushes at vulnerable locations, they said.

Station house officers and supervisory officers were directed to prioritise the verification of hotels, restaurants, lodgements, tenants and labourers from outside the Union Territory near the border, they said.

The officers were tasked with

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## Drugs come to Punjab from Gujarat, will end nexus between low-level police officials and smugglers, says Bhagwant Mann

CHANDIGARH, Jun 18 (Agencies): Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday said that his government was ready to initiate new steps to do away with the menace of drugs.

While blaming the flow of cash and drugs into the state in the past three months to be offered as enticement to voters, he said that with the model code of conduct now over, the state government was ready to curb the 'nexus between some low-level police officials and the smugglers'.



He said that drugs come to Punjab from Gujarat, but the state is being vilified on this issue.

Mann was addressing media persons after holding a meeting of SSPs from all districts and other senior police officers.

"I have asked DGP

Punjab to immediately transfer the low ranking officials in each police station. Over 10,000 such officials have been reshuffled. The cutting edge officials have been transferred in the past three days", he said.

He said that if any police officer is found involved in illicit drug trade, he will be immediately dismissed from service.

Properties of those private individuals involved in the illicit business, will be attached within a month, declared Mann. He added that 10,000

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## Cong to begin strategy sessions to prepare for upcoming Assembly Polls

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): The Congress will begin consultations next week to strengthen the organisation and work out its strategy in the poll-bound states of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Haryana besides Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi will start the strategy meetings beginning June 24 when the Jharkhand leaders would meet and evolve their strategy.

The party's strategy meet for Maharashtra would take place on



June 25 and the leaders from Haryana would meet on June 26. For Jammu and Kashmir, where the elections are yet to be declared, the strategy meeting would be held on June 27.

The Congress leadership has planned the meetings well in advance and after being buoyed with the party's

performance in the Lok Sabha elections.

"Carrying forward the momentum in our favour, we are dedicated to ensuring a handsome victory in the upcoming state elections. To kick-start our efforts, Hon'ble INC President Sh. Mallikarjun Kharge ji and Former INC President Sh. Rahul Gandhi ji will be holding strategy meetings with senior leaders of the election-going states: Jharkhand - 24 June, Maharashtra - 25 June, Haryana - 26 June, J&K - 27 June. Onward and upwards!"

AICC general secretary,

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## Woman beats ex-boyfriend to death with baseball bat for opposing affair with another man

AGRA (UP), Jun 18 (Agencies): A 38-year-old woman bludgeoned her ex-boyfriend with a baseball bat and smashed a beer bottle on his head after he allegedly disapproved of her affair with another man.

The man's body, identified as Brajveer Singh, 40, was found in Rohta, Malpura area of Agra on Saturday, and his head bore injury marks.

Kavita Chahar, a resident of SR City Colony in Agra, allegedly lured and killed him along with her new boyfriend and his friends, the police said.

The police have arrested the woman and her four accomplices. "All the accused have been sent to jail," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Sonam Kumar on Tuesday.

Kavita, who was already married, had been in a live-in relationship with Brajveer for 10 years from 2007. She fell in love with Brajveer, who lived near her in-laws' home.

Later, in Agra, she befriended Surendra Chahar and began living with him, which angered Brajveer.

In 2019, he set fire to Surendra's clothing store, leading to his imprisonment based on Kavita's testimony.

After his release from jail, Brajveer allegedly harassed Kavita, forbidding her from staying with Surendra.

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# MBA MOTORS

## MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

**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, Jagli, 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, Jagli 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, 7006647290, 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).

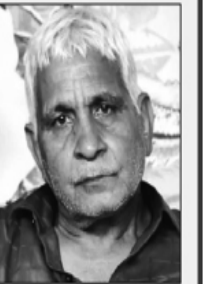


**CAPT. RAM SARAN VAID**

**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**

**KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ajit Kumar Sharma** S/O Sh. Ram Nath Sharma R/O Hno 571 Peer Mitha Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 10-06-2024.



**Sh. Ajit Kumar Sharma**

**Kriya** will be performed on 19/6/24 (Wednesday) at The Dogra Khatri Sadar Sabha, Pacca Danga, Jammu at 11:00 AM.  
**Uthala** will be performed on 19/6/24 (Wednesday) at The Dogra Khatri Sadar Sabha, Pacca Danga, Jammu at 5:00 PM.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Sharda Devi (Wife)  
Rahul & Cutie Sharma (Son & Daughter in Law)  
Sonika & Anil Kumar (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Preetika & Ajay Gupta (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Yash Paul Sharma (Brother)  
Mamta Sharma (Bhabhi)  
Vijay Kumar Sharma & Vaishno Devi (Brother & Bhabhi)  
**M.: 9906283283, 7889335667**  
**SHARMA FAMILY**

**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.  
**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**



**Sh Ravi Dogra**

**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.  
**IN GRIEF** :  
Smt Omashree Dhar-Wife  
Smt Tañhi 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 Sarita & Sanjay Sahib  
**GRAND CHILDREN**  
Prema, Munisha, Shefal, Avni, Aarti, Aayush  
**Mourning** will be held at H No. 7, Lane No. 19 Mangotriya Rajpura Jammu.  
**GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER** - Myra  
**CONTACT** : 8800676724, 9149711474, 9796586545



**Shri O N Dhar (Daddy)**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Late Dwarka Nath Bhat** S/o Late Lakshman Bhat of R/o Malhotra-Magarm District Baramulla Kashmir. At present Block No. 15 Flat No. 03, Lane No. 03 Jagli Colony Nagrota, Jammu departed heavenly abode on 14th June 2024 at 1:15 PM (Friday).  
**10th Day** will be performed on 23rd June, 2024 Sunday at Muthi Ghat near DSE Jammu at 8:00 AM.  
**Mourn** will be held at Backside of Lane No. 01 Community Hall Jagli Colony Nagrota, Jammu.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Mr. Kanya Lal Bhat & Mrs. Renu Bhat (Son & DIL)  
Bhavika Bhat (Grand Child)  
**Mobile No. 94196-94665, 60061-63993**  
**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Mrs. Uma Shori W/o Lt. Janki Nath Bhat  
Mr. Moti Lal Bhat (Brother)  
**SANAST BHAT PARIVAR**



**Late Dwarka Nath Bhat**

**10TH DAY**

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



**Smt Uma Shori Raina**

**OBITUARY**

With profound sadness, we share the news of the passing of Mrs. Kishni Koul (lovingly known as Tathi/Behna), a beloved wife and mother, on June 17, 2024. Born in Srinagar, Tathi brought warmth to everyone who knew her. She was the devoted wife of the Late Mr. P.C. Koul and a dedicated mother, remembered for her boundless kindness, gentle demeanor, and unwavering love for her family. Throughout her life, she exemplified selflessness, always placing the needs and well-being of her family above her own. Her nurturing spirit and gentle nature made her a pillar of strength and comfort to those around her. Her remarkable resilience was evident as she bravely faced a prolonged illness with an enduring smile, never letting her spirit waver. Her legacy is carried on by her loving children, grandchildren, and countless others whose lives she touched with her compassion and grace. Though she has left this earthly realm, the values and love she instilled in her family will continue to inspire and guide us. Forever in our hearts...  
**In Grief**  
Neeta Bhat and Kuldeep Bhat (Daughter and Son-in-Law)  
Ankush Koul and Neeru Koul (Son and Daughter-in-Law)  
J. K. Koul and Lalita Koul (Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-Law)  
Grandchildren: Tuhina, Nikhil, and Vedant  
Koul family, Bazaz family, Bhat family, Bhan family  
**Contact Numbers: 8121166193, 9849196937**



**Mrs. Kishni Koul**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Mohan Rani Nehru** W/o Sh. Brij Mohan Nehru of Panzala Baramulla, Kashmir on 14-06-2024. The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Sunday 23-06-2024 at residence Panzala, Baramulla, Kashmir at 9:00 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh. Brij Mohan Nehru - **Husband**  
Smt. Rati Nehru - **Sister-in-law**  
**Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Reena & Sh. G.K. Neeru  
Smt. Sushma Nehru - **Sister-in-law**  
**Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law**  
Smt. Dozy & Sh. Tej Krishan Nehru  
Smt. Sarita & Sh. B.N. Raina  
Smt. Renu & Sh. Bushan Sharma  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sh. Santosh Nehru & Smt. Rinki  
Sh. Rajinder Nehru & Smt. Sushma  
**Daughters & Sons-in-law**  
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Sunil Pandita  
Smt. Anita & Sh. Manish Koul  
**Grand Children: Yuktha, Roshoo, Shivam, Nishaan, Richma, Veeraj, Dev, Dishaan, Devleena**  
**Mobile No: 9906162592, 9810295675, 9622219211, 981113018, 971192324, 9541678990, 9419651551**



**Smt. Mohan Rani Nehru**

**OBITUARY AND TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND DEEP SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. PHOOLA RAINA (PYAR)** W/O SH. CHAMAN LAL RAINA, OF KHAYAR ANANTNAG PRESENTLY RESIDING AT 60A BUTA NAGAR ENCLAVE (SHIV TEMPLE LANE) JAMMU ON 16TH JUNE 2024.  
**THE TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 26/06/2024 AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION JAMMU AT 8:30 AM  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
SH. CHAMAN LAL RAINA (HUSBAND)  
**SISTERS IN LAW**  
SMT. SHAYMAJI PANDITA  
SMT. CHOOM GAMO  
**BROTHERS IN LAW & SISTERS IN LAW**  
SH. MOTI LAL RAINA AND SMT. GEETA RAINA  
SH. SHAGI LAL RAINA AND SMT. BITA RAINA  
**DAUGHTERS AND SONS IN LAW**  
SMT. DOLLY KOUL & SH. RAMESHJI KOUL  
SMT. ANULEE KOUL AND SH. SANJAY KOUL  
SMT. BAGITHA & SH. SHAILESHJI  
SMT. BHANSHI RAINA & SH. ANKIL BHAT  
**SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW**  
SH. NITISH RAINA & SMT. RASHI RAINA  
SH. HITESH RAINA & SMT. PREETI PANDITA  
**GRAND CHILDREN**  
NKHIL KOUL, HARSHI KOUL, AASHRAY KOUL, KAAN RAINA, KAASHI RAINA  
**CONTACT DETAILS: 9796483263, 9893782026, 9419279177, 7960481613**



**SMT. PHOOLA RAINA (PYAR)**

**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 Bharateen, Miran Sahib Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 11 June 2024.  
**Aarambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** on 17th (Monday) 9:00 AM at our residence Basti new bharteen, 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 Bharateen, Tall Morh, Jammu from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
S. Amrik Singh (New India Assurance Company) (Husband)  
S. Saipal Singh and Sdn. Harwant Kour (Brother in law and Bhabhi)  
S. Manjeet Singh and Sdn. Surmejeet Kour (Brother in law and Bhabhi)  
Late Sdn. Indrajeet 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**



**Sdn. Tejinder Kour**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Charanji Lal Kapoor** S/o Lt Sh. Manohri Ram Kapoor R/o H.No. 230 Lane No 9 Shakti Nagar Jammu.  
**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 18th 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. Ratna Devi W/o Late Sh. Charanji Lal Kapoor  
**Sons and Daughters in law**  
Smt. Sunia and Sh. Rattan Lal Kapoor  
Kashmir Jewellers Trikuta Ngr  
S K Jewellers Shakti Nagar  
Smt. Kavita and Sh. Sunil Kapoor  
Sh. Sanjay Kapoor  
Smt. Alpanakshi and Sh. Rishi Kapoor  
SARASWATI GLO SMITH, SHAKTI NAGAR  
**Daughters and Sons in law**  
Smt. Lata and Sh. Hari Lal Verma  
Smt. Neelam and Sh. Ashok Ahrol  
(Lala Chuni Lal Abrol Jewellers Udh.)  
**Grand Daughters and Grand Sons**  
Ms. Nitya and Mr. Rabat Kapoor  
Ms. Surbhi and Mr. Rajat Kapoor  
Sahil Kapoor (Grand Son)  
Sanchnita Kapoor (Grand Daughter)  
Rakshita Kapoor (Grand Daughter)  
Shavi Kapoor (Grand Daughter)  
Akshita Kapoor (Great Grand Daughter)  
**9163637733, 9906040680, 8825082946**



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

**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. Bansal Lal Raina R/o House No. 72, Rampusa, Garchi Nagar, Jammu, who left us on 10 June 2024 for eternal journey to heavenly abode.  
**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 19 June 2024 (Wednesday) 11:00 am at Durga Bhawan, Rampusa, Garchi 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, Rampusa, Garchi Nagar, Jammu.  
**DEEPLY MOURNED BY**  
Koushik Dev - **Mother**  
Urmi Rana - **Wife**  
Ashishdhan Raina & Primal Raj - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Ashish Rana - **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, Parag Gupta, Atul Sharma.  
**ALL NEARS AND DEARS**  
**CONTACT: 788957136**



**Shri Bharat Bhushan Raina (Bitu)**

**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. Kulbhushan Dutt R/o Naseeb Nagar Paloura near Bread Factory.  
**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**



**Smt. Kamla Devi**

**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.  
**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)  
Deby and Mohan Krishan Mongha (Bua and Fufa Ji)  
Utpal and Hina Kaul, Puneet and Niharika Kaul, Priyanka and Rohit Bhat, Ankit and Neha Kaul, Knyaha and Akshata Mongha, Ashish Kaul and Gyaneashwar Mongha  
**Mobile Nos :- 9958729719, 7678464315, 7233919845**



**Shri Vijay Kaul**

**10th DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Nirmal Anand** W/o Sh. Banarsi Lal Anand R/o H.No. 29, Sector 9, Roorp Nagar, Jammu.  
**TENTH DAY** will be performed on Wednesday, 19-06-2024 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Tri Murti Mandir, Janipur Colony, Jammu.  
**KRIYA** will be performed on Saturday, 22-06-2024 at our residence.  
**UTHALA / RASAM PAGRI** will be performed on Saturday, 22-06-2024 from 05:00 PM to 06:00 PM at Tri Murti Mandir, Janipur Colony, Jammu.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Banarsi Lal Anand (Husband)  
Rupali & Vishal Anand (Daughter in Law & Son)  
Sonia Anand Khullar (Daughter)  
Gaurik, Raghev, Kabear, Ditya (Grand Children)  
**Mob. 9622022831, 9810998531, 9419129042**



**Smt. Nirmal Anand**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

We inform you with heavy hearts and teary eyes that our beloved **Smt. Meenakshi Kaul (Dimpy)**, resident of SF-69, Vardhan Apartment, Abhay Khand-3, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201014, left for her heavenly abode on June 14, 2024.  
**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on June 22, 2024, at 8:00 AM at Ganga Canal Ghat (Chotta Haridwar) in Muradnagar, Uttar Pradesh.  
**Shanti Paath** will be held at 10:30 AM on the same day at the following Venue: ATS Advantage Phase 2 Club, ATS Advantage, Ahinsa Khand 1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201012.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**Kaul's and Kuchroo's**



**Smt. Meenakshi Kaul (Dimpy)**

**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. Dharam Brat Gandotra R/o H. No. JMC-363, Lane No.3, Anand Vihar, Bohri, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 09-06-2024.  
**10th Day** shall be performed on 18/06/2024 (Tuesday) at 10.30 am at Shri Radha Krishna 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 & Pooja Gandotra  
Abhay Gandotra & Sonika Gandotra  
Ajeet Gandotra & Bhawana Gandotra  
**Grand Children** :-  
Vanah, Beantika, Udhay, Parul, Harat, Dhanvni  
**Mobile :- 9469214010, 7006175766, 9419629812**



**Smt Kamla Rani Gandotra**

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## Aspirants demand fairness: Urgent action required to address inequitable Exam Center allocation

Top News Report

RAMBAN, June 18: Aspirants preparing for the upcoming Female Supervisor exam, conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on June 23, 2024, are voicing serious concerns over the allocation of exam centers in Ramban and Jammu. The current arrangement is causing significant hardship and inconvenience, as many candidates are required to travel long distances to Jammu in challenging summer conditions.

The JKSSB should endeavor to allocate examination centers within the native districts of the candidates.

The JKSSB exam for the Supervisor ICDS post in the Social Welfare Department is scheduled for June 23. However, IGNOU is also conducting its nationwide annual exam on the same date, prompting aspirants to protest and request a deferment.

This situation presents logistical challenges and raises serious questions about the fair treatment of all candidates. The principle of equality before the

law, as outlined in Article 14 of the Indian Constitution, guarantees that no individual should face discrimination or disadvantage due to administrative decisions. The current allocation of exam centers appears to infringe upon this fundamental right, creating an unfair and inequitable situation for many aspirants.

In response to these pressing issues, candidates are urging the Deputy Commissioner of Ramban to intervene immediately. They propose that exam centers be consolidated to a more

central and accessible location within the district. This measure would ensure that all candidates have an equal and fair opportunity to participate in the examination without facing unnecessary difficulties.

Advocate Fairoz Khan, Former National President of NSUI and Youth Congress Working President of J&K, emphasized, "The current situation is impractical and presents significant challenges for many aspirants. We call on the authorities to take swift action to address this matter and uphold the

principles of fairness and equality. JKSSB's handling of the situation has been irresponsible, and those in charge need to take this issue seriously. This has become a trend, and we are surprised at how JKSSB, in its deep slumber, allocates exam centers."

The aspirants are optimistic that the Deputy Commissioner of Ramban and the LG administration will act promptly and decisively to resolve this issue, guaranteeing that all candidates can take the exam under fair and equitable conditions.

## Army organises Tuition classes, distributes books & stationary To BPL Students at Gunda



Top News Report

RAJOURI, June 18: Army in its pursuit to uplift the standard of education in remote and under-developed areas of Rajouri, has conducted 'Tuition Classes' from 17 May 24 to 17 June 24 wherein books were also distributed to students of 'Below Poverty Line Families'. Indian Army, in its unwavering commitment to education and community development, successfully concluded a series of Tuition Classes

for students of Below Poverty Line (BPL) students residing at Gunda and its nearby villages. The tuition classes provided valuable academic support, aiding students in understanding Key Concepts, improving their performance and building a strong foundation for future studies. Beyond academics, the classes focused on holistic development, instilling values of discipline, teamwork and leadership among the participating students. This initiative

was to reach out to students from BPL families and ensuring that financial constraints did not hinder their educational progress. Students were awarded books and stationary items, symbolizing the successful culmination of the tuition program and acknowledging their commitment to learning. The closing ceremony marks not just the end of Tuition Classes but the beginning of a journey of 'Knowledge and Empowerment' for these students.

## Harsh Dev appeals Gadkari to ensure early construction of Salmay Bridge and Udhampur-Ghordi road

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, June 18: Former Minister and State President JKNPP (India), Harsh Dev Singh appealed through a memorandum sent to Nitin Gadkari Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, who was on a visit to J&K, seeking fulfilment of his commitment regarding double laning of Udhampur-Ghordi road and early construction of Salmay Bridge in District Udhampur.

The memorandum stated, "while expressing our gratitude to you for visiting Ghordi during 2014 Elections held in J&K, we wish to remind your honour about the public commitment made by you for double laning of the 38 km road from Udhampur to Ghordi. You had assured immediate commencement of work on the said project and its early completion while addressing a gathering of thousands of people assembled on the occasion.

"We are aware that you

had issued instructions in this regard for execution of the said road project under CRF and the work was also started but regrettably abandoned merely after straightening a few curves. The result is that out of 38 kms of single road, it is only a few kms that has been double-laned leaving the rest around 25 kms of road in shabby condition. On public agitating over the issue, it was said that funds under CRF had been stopped by the centre and that around 18 kms of single lane stretch would be black-topped under PMGSY and that double laning of the same was not possible. It was further apprised by the local administration that there were no funds for even black-topping & upgradation of the around 10 kms of single lane road up to Kaldi which continued to be in the most deplorable condition and unfit for traffic. Most shocking however is the fact that there is no bridge on river Tawi at Salmay falling on the alignment

of the said road. Around 1000 vehicles ply every day on the said road catering to a population of over 1.50 lakh. In the absence of a bridge, all the said vehicles are using an aqueduct to cross over the river. The said aqueduct constructed by PDC has been declared unsafe for traffic around 20 years back. It has now been closed for public transport causing huge inconvenience to general masses. Strange however that despite the matter being in the notice of authorities concerned has failed to elicit appropriate response. Sad that even your commitments and directions have been taken non-seriously resulting in public uproar and resentment".

Harsh Dev appealed to the Union Minister that double lane from Udhampur to Ghordi alongwith the Bridge on its alignment at Salmay be constructed as assured and committed by him in the public rally held in 2014 so that the public of the area could heave a sigh of relief.

## Varun Jamwal appointed as Secretary (Org) Youth Wing of SSP

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party (SSP) JK UT, nominated Varun Jamwal as Secretary (Organisation) of Youth Wing, Jammu District.

Varun Jamwal an entrepreneur has proved his mettle in marketing and public relations and will prove a great asset in build up and expansion of party.

Son of a veteran, he has great concern for nation and fraternity of armed forces. His job envisages the spread of ideology amongst the

youth, having power of building and transforming our great nation, to the pinnacle of our erstwhile glory.

Pathania also congratulated Varun Jamwal on behalf of all members of Sainik Samaj Party, JK UT and wished him a glorious journey in field of constructive politics. He also urged all members of the party to move in vigorously in identifying the candidates for assembly elections and corporators, as in all possibilities assembly and urban local bodies elections will be held in and around September 2024.

## On Nirjala Ekadashi, take a pledge to plant a tree in life: Bhalla

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: Working President of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee and former minister Raman Bhalla had said that the way the temperature has crossed 44 degrees in some districts of Jammu division this time, it is a warning for all of us that if we still do not start planting trees, then in the coming one or two years, the temperature in Jammu will also exceed upto 50 degrees.

Raman Bhalla reached Chib Mohalla of Kunjwani on Tuesday on the account of Nirjala Ekadashi to distribute cold and sweet water (Chhabil) to passersby set up by the Shiv Mandir Committee. Talking to journalists, Raman Bhalla said that Nirjala Ekadashi has been a great significance in Hinduism, today people quenched people's thirst by distributing Chhabils everywhere.

He said that the way trees has been cut in the last few years has caused a change in the weather, and the result is that the heat is increasing year after year. He said that today on Nirjala Ekadashi, we are earning virtue by setting up a Chhabil of cold water here. Along with this, we should also take a pledge that we all must plant a tree in our life so that our future generations can live a clean and better life. He said that the rains will start after a month and the rainy season is the best time to plant trees. He said that we all should start planting trees from our homes first and inspire other people to do the same. On this occasion, many dignitaries of the area including State Congress Committee General Secretary and former Chairman of Jammu Municipal Corporation Satish Sharma, Swarn Chib Sanjay Sharma were present with him.

## BJYM Kashmir Displaced District organizes joining program



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: Today, the BJYM Kashmir Displaced District organized a significant joining program at the Kacchi Chawni office. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and was conducted in the presence of District President BJP Kashmir Displaced District, Chand Ji Bhat, along with other district office bearers. The program was meticulously organized by District President BJYM KDD, Rohit Ganjoo.

The program saw a notable turnout of Kashmiri Pandit youth, who have been inspired by the work and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Their decision to join the BJP reflects their optimism about the future and their trust in the leadership

that has been consistently working towards the upliftment of the country.

During the event, Chand Ji Bhat addressed the attendees, enlightening them about the workings of the BJP Kashmir Displaced District. He emphasized the significant participation of Kashmiri Pandits in the previous Lok Sabha elections, highlighting their belief that only PM Narendra Modi can deliver justice to the community. Bhat assured the new members that under Modi's leadership, Kashmiri Pandits would return to the valley with dignity and honor.

Welcoming the new entrants, President BJYM KDD Rohit Ganjoo remarked that the BJP government has signifi-

cantly boosted the morale of youth across the nation. He highlighted that youth-oriented schemes and packages have given young people a reason to believe in the BJP. Over the last ten years, since the Modi-led government resumed work, a new and highly motivated wave has been evident throughout the country. Ganjoo noted that the youth now aspire to become job providers, not just job seekers. Initiatives like Make in India, Skill India, and numerous other youth-oriented schemes launched by the BJP government have instilled great hope among the youth, encouraging them to start their own ventures and fostering a strong sense of self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

## GGF celebrates Eid with representatives from various religions in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: Gandhi Global Family (GGF) in Jammu and Kashmir celebrated Eid with representatives from various religions in Jammu.

The event was presided over by Padma Shri Dr. S.P. Varma, who is the President of GGF J&K. This celebration underscores the organization's commitment to fostering communal harmony and unity among different faiths in the region.

## International Yoga Day 2024: Activities by Indian Army in villages near LoC

Top News Report

NOWSHERA, June 18: The Indian Army under the aegis of Aces of Spades Division is organising Yoga sessions and awareness campaign in various villages near LoC in Rajouri District in the run up to the International Yoga Day 2024.

Yoga session are being organised in the villages of Kalal, Pukharni, Lam,

Lehran, Bisali, Thandikassi and Sanoti.

The events are witnessing enthusiastic participation by local residents, including women and children.

The campaign underscores the Indian Army's commitment towards holistic development and support for remote villages, emphasizing the importance of health awareness in challenging environments.

## Dharmarth Trust celebrates Nirjala Ekadashi with Chabeel at Shri Raghunathji Temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: On the auspicious occasion of Nirjala Ekadashi, J&K Dharmarth Trust organized a Chabeel in front of the iconic Shri Raghunathji Temple in Jammu. This noble initiative was a gesture of goodwill and service, reflecting the spirit of the sacred day.

On the occasion, Ranvijay Singh, Trustee along with Trust Officials distributed sweetened water and eatables to the public. Ashok Kumar Sharma, Secretary of J&K Dharmarth Trust was also present.

Nirjala Ekadashi, considered one of the most significant and challeng-

ing fasts in the Hindu calendar, is dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu. Devotees traditionally abstain from food and water for 24 hours, seeking spiritual upliftment and blessings. The Chabeel, a tradition of serving sweetened water to quench thirst and provide relief, holds special significance on this day, offering comfort and refreshment to those observing the fast as well as the general public.

Ranvijay Singh, speaking on the occasion, emphasized the importance of such acts of kindness and community service. "Nirjala Ekadashi teaches us the values of sacrifice, devotion, and

service to humanity. By organizing this Chabeel, we aim to embody these values and provide relief to those in need, fostering a sense of community and compassion," he said.

He said that the Trust has a long-standing tradition of serving the devotees and preserving the religious and cultural ethos of the region. This initiative on Nirjala Ekadashi is part of the Trust's ongoing efforts to promote spiritual well-being and social welfare.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from the local community, who gathered in large numbers to receive the offerings.

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
Office of the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu

**Cancellation Corrigendum**

Sub:- **Cancellation Corrigendum for e-NIT No. PHEJ/JJM/08 of 2024-25 Dated 14.06.2024** for Construction of 200 mm Dia. Production Bore Wells by ODEX Method for 01 Water Supply Scheme (01 nos. borewell) of District Jammu of Jammu Province under Jal Jeevan Mission (JM)

It is for the information of all the intending bidders that the e-NIT No. PHEJ/JJM/08 of 2024-25 Dated 14.06.2024 published on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in), has been cancelled due to technical reasons. A fresh e-NIT shall be issued.

No. PHEJ/JJM/1040-52  
Dated:- 15.06.2024

DIP/J-1547/24

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Department  
Jammu

PURCHASE COMMITTEE  
GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS JAMMU  
e-tender Notice No: 03 of 2024

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from the Firms who are registered with Health & Medical Education Department of J&K for Supply of Animal Diet in Govt. Medical College & Associated Hospitals, Jammu, Jammu for the year 2024-25 :-

S.No.	Particulars of the tenders	Cost of tender fee	Earnest Money	Date of Opening of Bid
01	Supply of Animal Diet in Govt. Medical College, Jammu for the year 2024-25	Rs. 5000/- only	Rs. 50,000 only	00-00-2024 at 1100 hrs. or any other date convenient to the committee

- The tender document for the above job can be seen on the web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 15.06.2024 (10:00 AM) onwards.
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 15.06.2024 (10:00 AM) onwards.
- Pre-Bid meeting shall be held in the conference hall of the Principal, GMC Jammu on 20-06-2024 at 12:00 PM.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 21.06.2024 (10:00 AM) upto 11.07.2024 (05:00 PM) only.
- The uploaded bids on the website will be opened on 13-07-2024 (03:00 PM) in conference hall, Principal Govt. Medical College Jammu in presence of bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Original copy of affidavit on Rs.50/- stamp paper duly attested by 1<sup>st</sup> Class Magistrate with the effect that:-
  - The documents/catalogues etc enclosed with the Tender are original & genuine and have not been tampered or fabricated.
  - The firm has not been blacklisted in the past by any Govt./ Private institution of the country.
  - If anything found wrong at any stage, I will be personally responsible for the same.
- Complete bidding process will be on line (Price bid not to be submitted in physical form/online mode).
- Bidders willing to get their firms registered for filing the tenders may get their firms registered upto the Pre-bid meeting after submitting the requisite formalities.

-Sd-  
Chairperson  
Purchase Committee  
Govt. Medical College & Associated  
Hospitals,  
Jammu  
Dated:-13.06.2024

DIP/J-1571/24

No: GMC/PC/2024/872-76

## EDITORIAL

EVM VERSUS  
BALLOT PAPER

The debate between Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and traditional ballot paper systems has been a persistent topic of discussion in the context of elections globally. Both methods have their distinct advantages and disadvantages, and the choice between them often involves considerations of efficiency, security, accessibility, and transparency.

EVMs significantly speed up the voting process and the counting of votes. Results can be tabulated almost instantly after the polls close, reducing the time between voting and the announcement of results.

EVMs minimize human errors that can occur during the counting process in paper-based systems. The digital counting mechanism reduces the possibility of mistakes that can happen when manually counting ballots.

Although the initial investment in EVMs can be high, they can be more cost-effective over time. The recurring costs associated with paper ballots, such as printing, storage, and transportation, can be substantial.

EVMs are more environmentally friendly as they eliminate the need for paper, thereby reducing the demand for paper production and the associated environmental impact.

EVMs can be designed to be more accessible for individuals with disabilities, ensuring a more inclusive voting process.

Meanwhile, EVMs are susceptible to hacking and other forms of electronic tampering. Despite various security measures, concerns about the integrity of electronic voting persist.

The opaque nature of electronic voting processes can lead to distrust among voters. Unlike paper ballots, which can be physically counted and verified, electronic votes exist only in digital form, making verification more complex.

EVMs can malfunction due to software or hardware issues. Such failures can disrupt the voting process and potentially disenfranchise voters if backup systems are not adequately prepared.

The upfront cost of purchasing, maintaining, and upgrading EVMs can be high, making it a significant investment for many governments, particularly in developing countries.

The use of paper ballots is often seen as more transparent because the physical ballots can be counted and recounted if necessary. This tangibility can enhance trust in the electoral process. Paper ballots are simple to use and understand, making them accessible to all voters, including those who are not tech-savvy.

Paper ballots are not subject to technical glitches or electronic malfunctions, ensuring that the voting process is not disrupted by technology-related issues.

The long history of paper ballots provides a sense of continuity and reliability. Many voters and officials are more comfortable with this traditional method.

Counting paper ballots is labor-intensive and time-consuming. It can take several days or even weeks to complete the counting process, especially in large elections.

The manual process of counting paper ballots is prone to human error, which can lead to inaccuracies in the final vote tally.

The continuous need for paper, printing, and transportation of ballots results in ongoing costs and environmental concerns related to paper consumption.

Paper ballots are vulnerable to various forms of electoral fraud, such as ballot stuffing, tampering, and destruction. Ensuring the security of paper ballots requires significant logistical efforts.

The choice between EVMs and ballot papers is not straightforward and often depends on the specific needs and circumstances of a country or region. Security is a paramount concern for both methods. While EVMs can be designed with advanced security features, the perception of their vulnerability to hacking often undermines voter confidence. Conversely, paper ballots, though susceptible to physical tampering, are perceived as more secure due to their tangible nature. EVMs excel in efficiency, drastically reducing the time required to count votes and announce results. However, this efficiency comes at the cost of transparency. Paper ballots, while slower and more labor-intensive to count, offer a level of transparency and verifiability that EVMs struggle to match.

EVMs may offer long-term cost savings and environmental benefits by reducing the need for paper. However, the high initial investment and ongoing maintenance costs can be prohibitive. Paper ballots, though less environmentally friendly, have lower upfront costs but higher recurring expenses.

## Modi 3.0 govt looks much like Modi 2.0: Just like old wine put in a new bottle...

By: Aakar Patel

India's new government has a new Cabinet which is pretty much like the old Cabinet. The ministers for home, finance, external affairs and defence will be the same. These four are considered the most important by the government, which classifies them as comprising the Cabinet Committee on Security. And so, once again, it will be Amit Shah, Nirjala Sitharaman, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh. Roads and highways will again be managed by Nitin Gadkari, the railways will be run again by Ashwini Vaishnaw, commerce and industry again by Piyush Goyal, law again by Arjun Ram Meghwal.

Even where the portfolios have been shifted, the ministers have been retained and readers will not be unfamiliar with names like Kiren Rijiju, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Giriraj Singh and so on. Some famous names are gone, like Smriti Irani and Rajiv Chandrashekar, at least for now, but this is because they lost in high-profile electoral contests.

No reason has been given for moving around those ministers who have been retained but shifted, but presumably this has been done to accommodate allies like the Telugu Desam (civil aviation), Janata Dal Secular (steel), Janata Dal United (micro, medium, small industries),

LJP (food processing), Shiv Sena (ayurveda and yoga). Or done to bring in former BJP chief ministers like Shivraj Singh Chouhan of Madhya Pradesh (agriculture) and Manohar Khattar of Haryana (housing).

Overall, it resembles not so much a new Cabinet as one that has undergone a minor reshuffle. In the old days, when most newspapers reported news, this would have been reported "below the fold", as it were, meaning not on the top half of the newspaper.

The question is: why does 3.0 look like 2.0? The obvious reason is that there is nothing to change because everything is going well. Change is necessary only if there is a need to correct course, and because the BJP won the election, there is no such need.

But defeat, meaning sitting in the Opposition, would have meant no BJP Cabinet at all, so perhaps it is unclear what the middle ground would be in such a line of thinking and what conditions would trigger change. It is unlikely then that "all is well" is the reason. What else could it be? One possibility is that there is weak bench strength, that there are not enough talented individuals in the party to be given the important jobs and the Prime Minister is stuck with the small set that he has.

This is not the likely reason because under this Prime Minister, the PMO functions as a mini-Cabi-

net and intervenes on critical issues as the defence, finance and external affairs ministries well know.

There is a third possibility -- and that is the reluctance or inability to concede that something has in fact gone wrong. The Prime Minister made a speech in the Lok Sabha on February 5 that has been uploaded on his YouTube channel. As he concludes it, he says the following:

"Mr Speaker, normally I don't get into the issue of numbers. But I have observed the mindset of the nation. It will certainly take the NDA beyond 400, but it will also definitely (avashya) give the BJP 370 seats." At this point, the treasury benches are thumped and the chant of "Modi! Modi!" rises. The Prime Minister repeats: "370 seats for the BJP and beyond 400 for the NDA". The thumping and chanting goes on.

As we now know, this did not happen. The BJP did not get 370, and it did not even get 270. For the first time in his career, the Prime Minister is leading a minority government.

Is this a defeat? If you look at the Opposition and its voters, they are behaving as if they have won. The fact that the new government is shaky and dependent on external support is not lost on them. As Yogendra Yadav has said, the acceptability and prestige that was there in the last decade is gone. The invincibility is gone, and gone forever.

For this very reason, many of the BJP's supporters and especially the Prime Minister's following remain despondent. Externally, things have changed. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is again expressing itself on issues concerning the government's functioning after a decade of silence. The NDA partners are asserting themselves.

It is possible to be blind to this and pretend to carry on as if nothing has happened, but that will not change the reality. The voter has told the Prime Minister that he is less popular than he was in 2019 and less popular than in 2014. The voter has also told him that it is okay with an NDA government but not a BJP one.

To pretend we are still in February is to lie to oneself. There is no question that the performances of key ministries, including finance and perhaps even home, were the reason for the defeat. Carrying on without change is to continue with the damage. But who in the party can tell him that? Not those who are returning to their positions surrounding him. Not those who know they will be punished for speaking the truth.

For those who are opposed to the BJP, this being in denial is not a bad thing because nothing good will come of it as the coming months will show. The world does not change itself to align with one's delusions.

## Benefits of Starting NEET Preparation in early age

By: Vijay GarG

Starting early preparation for NEET, like in 8th class, doesn't mean you have to study NEET level concepts and topics. NEET preparation in class 8 is about building a foundation, learning time management, discipline, following a routine and understanding basic concepts well. Class 8, 9 and 10 clears your base for Physics, Chemistry and Biology, which will help you in class 11 and 12.

Start a habit to study every day. With time you will be able to study for long hours without losing focus.

Give up mugging and lay emphasis on learning concepts and applying them on problems.

Practice MCQs (Multiple Choice Questions).

Work on your calculations in terms of accuracy and speed. Be accurate as well as fast.

Improve your analytical skills.

Try to solve the same problem with different methods. Solve puzzles and riddles.

Build your concentration in studies.

If you are starting NEET preparation in class 8, you have 5 years in hand to prepare for NEET. You will always be a few steps ahead of most of your competition. Build a strong foundation for NEET in class 8, 9, 10, which will help you in the NEET preparation as per the actual syllabus from class 11.

NEET Foundation Books

for Class 8

In class 8, start NEET preparation with your school textbooks of Physics, Chemistry and Biology (NCERT preferably). Make sure you study to understand the concepts, not just for getting marks. It's a practice that every student should adopt from a very young age. NEET Foundation Books

NEET Foundation Course for Class 8

Join a NEET foundation course in class 8, where the teachers will give you the right direction and support that helps in developing key skills quite early in your career. Follow coaching material that helps in clearing your basic concepts and you can practice questions. The material is

prepared in such a way that it will cover your school preparation and you'll be able to learn topics and chapters in more depth.

NEET Coaching for Class 8

Coaching institute provides the best NEET online coaching for class 8 students where they can learn from the top faculty and experts in India. Reasons to join institute NEET coaching - Live interactive classes, short batches, personalized one-on-one sessions, personal attention, hard copy study material, test series.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)

## ICICI Prudential Life offers 15% lifetime discount for women and an additional 15% discount for salaried women on its term plan – iProtect Smart

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance today announced a lifetime discount of 15% exclusively for women on all the premiums to be paid, for its best-selling term insurance product, iProtect Smart. Additionally, salaried women will be eligible for an extra 15% discount on the first year's premium, empowering them to provide financial security to themselves and their loved ones. iProtect Smart combined with the critical illness benefit, provides cover against 34 critical illnesses including ailments such as breast, ovarian, uterine and cervical cancers. This combination offers benefits of both health and life insurance.

Importantly, the critical illness cover amount is paid out on diagnosis, providing the requisite financial resources for seeking immediate medical treatment, without disrupting the family's savings.

As per The Lancet estimates, the incidence of cancer diagnosed in the under 50 years adult age group had a higher ratio of women. A single hospitalisation can cost upwards of Rs. 1 lakh in an urban private hospital, hence, it is essential for women to plan availability of financial resources to treat such critical ailments. Commenting on this announcement, Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "We recognise the sacrifices women make

as caregivers and guardians to ensure the well-being of their families. To celebrate the indomitable spirit of women we are proud to offer a lifetime discount of 15% on all premiums to be paid for our most popular term insurance product, iProtect Smart. Working women are equal contributors to household finances, they play crucial roles of being 'protectors' and 'providers.' As part of our commitment to empower them to be financially secure we are offering an additional discount of 15% to salaried women on the first year's premium." He further stated, "We have seen a rising interest amongst women for both protection as well as long-term savings plans as seen

through our consistent business growth in the women segment over the last few years. As the share of working women in the country's workforce continues to rise, they will need life insurance to provide financial security to themselves and their loved ones. With our approach of 'right product to the right customer' we believe, the women segment holds significant growth potential going forward. We believe, iProtect Smart will enable them to ring-fence their long-term financial savings plan, as it can act as an income replacement tool for the family in case of any eventuality. He went on to state, "This affordable and attractive offering exclusively for women is backed by our

commitment to deliver on the promise we make. This is reflected in our industry leading claim settlement ratio of 99.17% for FY2024 with an average claim settlement turnaround time of just 1.27 days." iProtect Smart provides financial protection against life's uncertainties, including death, terminal illness and disability at affordable premiums. Also, it offers life cover up to 99 years of age. For instance, a 30-year-old salaried woman can purchase the product with a life cover of Rs. 1 crore with a policy tenure of 30 years by paying a monthly premium of just Rs. 546 after the discount. By availing this offer, women stand to save Rs. 34,920 over a 30-year premium paying tenure.

## JKBS felicitates Khushi Devi for her excellent result in SSE



### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members today felicitated Khushi Devi from Village Kirpalpur for bringing grace to her family and community by securing 94.8% marks in her 10th class examination.

JKBS members said that her outstanding performance in exams is a testament to her hard work and brilliance. JKBS members also congratulated her father Tilak Raj Sargotra and mother Naseebo Devi on her daughter's tremendous achievement and wished Khushi Devi much more success ahead.

Among those present on the occasion included Messrs R.L. Kaith, Tilak Raj Bassa, Tilak Raj Sargotra, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Subash Chander, Nasebo Devi and Shivani Kumari.

## 15 days teachers training camp concludes

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, June 18: Vidya Bharati Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Sansthan's provincial unit Bhartiya Shiksha Samiti Jammu Kashmir organized the Summer New Acharya and Shishu Vatika teachers Training Camp 2024-25 from 4th June to 18th June at Bhartiya Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School Udhampur Nainsu.

In the closing ceremony of the new Teachers training camp was organized. Present in this were Shri Balkrishan, (Seh Sangthan Mantri Vidya Bharti Uttar Kshetra), Padma Shri Romalu Ram (Retired Zonal Education Officer, Ramnagar), Haribhushan, (General Secretary Bhartiya Shiksha samiti JK UT), Hari-saran Lalotra (Prant Seh Mantri), Sameer Krishan Sapru (Office Secretary Bhartiya Shiksha Samiti Jammu Kashmir UT), Members of the Management Committee, Shiv Kumar (President BVM

HSS Udhampur), Man Chand, Anil Khajuria along with other guests Nek Ram, and Principals of different schools were also present in this programme.

There are 36 Female teachers and 11 Male Teachers participating in the training camp. Vidya Bharati is such an organization in the whole world which plays an important role in the all-round development of its students and teachers. Sa Vidya or Vimuktaye is the educational union of Vidya Bharti. It has its schools in 11 regions of the whole world in which Acharya Vikas Varg is organized twice every year.

The main spoke person Bal Krishan address to all the teacher and presenting dignities that we are fortunate that we are born on the Devbhoomi of India and we are doing our work as Acharya. In Vidya Bharati schools, we call teachers as Didi Bhaiya, this gives a feeling of belongingness. He said that Kasturirangan

has done a very good job by giving place to mother tongue in NEP 2020 and giving skill based education to children from early classes, this has also been implemented in NEP 2020. He said that two important days come in June, 5 June is World Environment Day and 21 June is Yoga Day, so today we all have to take a pledge that we will plant a tree every year on 5 June and celebrate Yoga Day on 21 June and teach our children too.

The Chief Guest Romalu Ram, while blessing Vidya Bharati, said that the moral values that are given to a student or a teacher in Vidya Bharati, such moral Values should also be there in other schools so that a student can develop in the field of Bhartiya Sanskriti along with education. In the vote of thanks, the General Secretary of the state Hari Bhushan thanked everyone present and the program was concluded with Vande Mataram.

## Dimple leads protest against PDD, PHE

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: Sunil Dimple, president of the Mission Statehood, led a strong protest against the Power Development Department (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) departments in Jammu.

The protest, which took place on Amphalla Janipur High Court Road, included the burning of effigies of the PDD department, the Union Power Ministry, and the Jammu and Kashmir government.

The demonstration was in response to unsheduled and prolonged power cuts occurring throughout the day and night, which have been exacerbated by the recent installation of smart meters leading to heavy billing. Additionally, there is an acute shortage of drinking water, with temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple criticized the PDD for imposing power



cuts during the night, which has caused significant distress to patients, children, the elderly, and women, despite them paying hefty bills. He issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the J&K government to cease the nighttime electricity cuts, restore the drinking water supply, and stop power cuts during the extreme

summer heat. Dimple called on Prime Minister Modi, who is scheduled to visit Kashmir on June 21, to announce the return of the Salal, Uri, and Rattle power projects to Jammu and Kashmir. He also demanded that the PM and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ensure that the electricity generated from these

projects first meets the needs of the people of J&K before being supplied to other states.

Warning of a potential Jan Andolan (people's movement) against the electricity curtailment and water scarcity, Dimple questioned the effectiveness of privatization and the installation of smart meters, suggesting that

these measures have led to increased electricity curtailment. He urged the Prime Minister to provide 500 units of free electricity and drinking water to the residents of J&K.

Dimple further alleged that the PHE department has halted new water connections, with 20,000 applications pending across 75 wards of Jammu city. He highlighted that for the past week, there has been no drinking water supply or tanker services, leading to severe shortages in many parts of the city. He called for the immediate commencement of construction work on the Chinab Akhnoor water supply project for Jammu city and reiterated his demand for free electricity and drinking water for the people.

Other leaders, including Partap Singh, Sanjay Mahajan, Bishan Das, Gopal Das, Pedro, Vijay Sharma, Mangu Singh, and Kala Kumar, were also present at the protest.

## Army Hospital (R&R) launches skin bank facility



### Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, June 18: Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi, on Tuesday, announced the opening of a state-of-the-art skin bank facility, a first-of-its-kind to be established within the Armed Forces Medical Services. This landmark initiative aims to revolutionize the treatment of severe burn injuries and other skin-related conditions among service members and their families.

The new skin bank will serve as a centralised hub for the collection, processing, storage, and distribution of skin grafts, providing

a critical resource for military medical centers across the country. By establishing this facility, the Armed Forces are ensuring that the personnel & their families have access to the most advanced skin replacement therapies.

The skin bank will be staffed by a team of highly-trained medical professionals, including plastic surgeons, tissue engineers, and specialised technicians. The facility will adhere to the highest standards of quality control and safety, ensuring the integrity and reliability of the skin grafts.

DGMS(Army) & Col Comdt Lt Gen Arindam

Chatterjee termed the launch of this skin bank as a testament to the unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of service members. He added that the facility will not only enhance the quality of care, but also strengthen the ability to support those who have been affected by serious injuries.

"By having a dedicated resource for skin tissue, we can provide our patients with the most effective and personalised treatments, ultimately improving their chances of recovery and rehabilitation," said Commandant, Army Hospital (R&R) Lt Gen Ajith Nilakantan.

## Haier India expands its Direct Cool Range with Phoenix

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: Haier Appliances India, the No.1 global major appliances brand for 15 consecutive years, continues its legacy of innovation in the direct cool range with the introduction of Phoenix – a series of premium glass door refrigerators. Being the industry's only brand to offer the widest range of Direct Cool



Glass Door refrigerators, the new series sports a sleek and premium glass design, adding a touch of sophistication to any kitchen space. The new refrigerators come in 185 Lts and 190 Lts and will be available across all retail channels.

The newly launched refrigerators are crafted to seamlessly blend style with functionality, catering to the needs of modern Indian homes. The Phoenix refrigerator

tors come with a base drawer for convenient storage, Diamond Edge Freezing Technology (DEFT) for efficient cooling, and Stabilizer-Free Operation for uninterrupted performance, even during voltage fluctuations.

Commenting on the launch, NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India said, "Over the years, we've meticulously curated an extensive range of refrigerators especially our direct cool single door offerings, with the aim to cater to customers who are looking for premium and vibrant home appliances with aesthetically pleasing designs. At Haier India, our commitment to customer-driven innovation, coupled with our overarching vision of "More Creation, More Possibilities," propels us to curate products that are tailored to meet the evolving needs of consumers. The launch of our new Phoenix series exemplifies this commitment, showcasing our deep understanding of evolving consumer preferences by seamlessly blending style and functionality to suit the requirements of contemporary Indian households. With its advanced features and exceptional performance, we are confident that our latest series of refrigerators will create a new benchmark in the home appliance industry."

## Summer Camp of 5.7 Dance Academy Jammu concludes



### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: The Summer Camp for Children organized by 5.7 Dance Academy Jammu concluded on Tuesday at 5.7 Dance Academy Campus, Udhewyala with scintillating performances by children which they had prepared during the camp.

Dr. Rohit Koul, Director and CEO at People's Hut Foundation was the Chief Guest at the occasion who appreciated the endeavours of Vimal Koul and his team came up with such a wonderful programme.

Children were given training in Theatre, Fine Arts and Dance by the experts in this camp and experts from different fields were the resource persons of the camp who inculcated creative skills amongst the participants. All students were facilitated with gift hampers and participation certificates were awarded to all 45 participants from the academy.

A.D Singh, Chairman Diva International Foun-

dation who was the Special Guest expressed his gladness on watching soulful performances by the children.

He along with Dr. Rohit Koul and Ritu Koul felicitated the participants and appreciated the efforts of 5.7 Dance Academy Management specially Vimal Koul, Managing Director 5.7 Dance Academy and Komal Koul, Administrator at 5.7 Dance Academy.

Earlier, in the address, Ritu Koul Director and COO at People's Hut Foundation who was the Guest of Honour shared that other than organizing several programmes of cultural and literary importance for the students, the 5.7 Dance Academy has been regularly organising the events like Summer Camp and provides an opportunity to the students to sharpen their skills. Moreover, it is during such camps, children get an atmosphere where in addition to learning, they get a chance to interact with each other and share their ideas. Best efforts are being put

in to make this event a unique fun and learning experience for the children.

Adding to the excitement, the Punjabi dance group enthralled the audience with a dynamic and well-choreographed performance. Their graceful movements and vibrant expressions showcased the hard work and creativity invested during the camp sessions.

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificates to all the participants, acknowledging their dedication and accomplishments. Parents and attendees left with a sense of pride and satisfaction, looking forward to the next edition of the summer camp, which promises to be even more enriching and enjoyable. The event was witnessed by faculty members of 5.7 Dance Academy, officials of the People's Hut Foundation, Diva International Foundation along with parents. Mr. Vimal Koul presented the vote of thanks. The event was coordinated by Ms. Komal Koul.

## Kaith Biradari congrats Dinesh Kumar for securing 96% marks in SSE

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: The Kaith Biradari members today congratulated Dinesh Kumar for bringing grace to his family and Biradari by securing 96% marks in his 10th class examination.

Members said that his outstanding per-

formance in examination is a testament to his hard work and brilliance.

Members also congratulated his father Suram Chand on his son's tremendous achievement and wished Dinesh much more success ahead.

Dinesh hails from Village Parambli and belongs to Kaith clan.



## “Commendable”: Amit Shah’s Praise For Border Force’s Daring Mission

*The body of 31-year-old American paraglider Trevor Bockstahler, missing near Kaza in Lahaul and Spiti, were brought down from 14,800 feet by the ITBP mountaineers.*

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday hailed the recovery of an American paraglider’s body by a team of the ITBP from 14,800 feet high in the mountains risking their own lives and said their dedication to humanity is commendable.

Shah in a post on ‘X’ said the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) mountain rescue team recently undertook a challenging search operation on the high mountain cliffs in Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh and recovered the body of an American citizen, who lost his



life in an accident while paragliding.

“At the request of the local administration, @ITBP\_official

team members risked their own lives and climbed 14,800 feet high in the mountains to recover the mortal remains for

a humanitarian cause. Their dedication to humanity is commendable,” he said.

The home minister said that he was proud of the “brave Himveers”.

The ITBP personnel are also known ‘Himveers’ or ‘snow warriors’.

The body of 31-year-old American paraglider Trevor Bockstahler, missing near Kaza in Lahaul and Spiti, were brought down from 14,800 feet by the ITBP mountaineers on Monday after one of the most challenging rescue missions that spanned more than 48-hours.

## After Verdict 2024, Modi 3.0 will struggle to survive: Rahul Gandhi’s big claim



NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has described the outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as a “tectonic shift” in Indian politics, claiming that the Modi government will struggle to survive after failing to secure a majority.

In an interview with agency, Gandhi said, “The space in the Indian political system has been blown open. A tectonic shift has taken place in Indian politics. The numbers are such that they are very fragile, and the smallest disturbance can drop the government.”

In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the opposition INDIA bloc beat expectations by winning 234 of 543 seats, powered

by strong showing in the bellwether state of Uttar Pradesh. Congress also delivered its best performance in 15 years by bagging 99 seats. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance won 293 seats and secured a third term, but the saffron party, with 240 seats, failed to get the magic number.

Gandhi claimed there was “great discontent” within Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s camp and hinted at possible defections. “There are people who are in touch with us from within it,” he stated, without going into specifics. “Basically, one ally has to turn the other way,” he added.

The Gandhi scion characterised the 2024 election results as a mandate against the

BJP’s divisive politics. “The idea that you can spread hatred, you can spread anger and you can reap benefits of that — the Indian people have rejected it in this election,” he said.

During the campaign, PM Modi referred to the Muslim community as “infiltrators” and alleged that a Congress-led government would give away employment and quotas set aside for the marginalised. The INDIA bloc, however, won votes among Dalits by playing on fears that the BJP would use a bigger majority to amend the constitution and deprive them of benefits.

This showed that what worked for PM Modi and the BJP in 2014 and 2019 is not working any more, claimed Gandhi. “The party that spent the last 10 years talking about Ayodhya has been wiped out in Ayodhya,” he said.

“Essentially what has happened is that the basic architecture of BJP — the idea of creating religious hatred — that has collapsed,” he stated.

## Swati Maliwal writes to INDIA Bloc leaders, seeks time to discuss assault case

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal on Tuesday sought time from INDIA bloc leaders to discuss the alleged assault against her by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s aid Bibhav Kumar.

In a letter to INDIA bloc leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Sharad

Pawar, the Aam Aadmi Party member complained she was subjected to “victim shaming and character assassination” for speaking up against the abuse.

“Instead of finding support, I was confronted with incessant attacks on my character and victim shaming orchestrated by the leaders

and volunteers of my own party,” she wrote.

“Over the past one month, I have encountered first-hand pain and isolation a survivor faces when she fights for justice. I would like to seek your time to discuss this pertinent issue,” she added.

Maliwal posted the letters addressed to

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and national president Sharad Pawar on X. “I have worked on the ground for the last 18 years and have heard 1.7 lakh cases in the Women’s Commission in 9 years. Without fearing anyone and bowing down to anyone, I have made the Women’s Commission stand

in a very high position. But it is very sad that first I was beaten badly at the Chief Minister’s house, then my character was defamed. Today, I have written a letter to all the big leaders of the INDIA alliance regarding this matter. I have asked for an appointment with everyone,” she wrote alongside the post.

## Indore Girl, 13, Waiting For School Bus, Runs Up 14 Floors, Jumps: Police

INDORE, Jun 18 (Agencies): A 13-year-old girl died allegedly by suicide by jumping from the 14th floor of a residential building in Madhya Pradesh’s Indore today, police said.

The Class 7 student had left her home to head to school in the morning, an official said.

“The girl’s father came to drop her to the school bus, but returned home before the bus arrived. As soon as her father



left, she took the lift of a residential building and jumped from the 14th floor,” Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Amarendra Singh said.

The CCTV footage of the premises was examined and the case appears to be a suicide,

he said, adding that the reason for the extreme step is yet to be ascertained.

“No suicide note was found in the girl’s clothes and school bag. We will thoroughly investigate the case,” Mr Singh said.

## “Why Did You Do This To Me?” Man Kills Ex With Huge Spanner Near Mumbai

MUMBAI, Jun 18 (Agencies): A 20-year-old man beat his ex-girlfriend to death with a spanner on a busy road near Mumbai this morning, surrounded by a crowd that did nothing to stop him. Rohit Yadav, suspecting that his ex Aarti Yadav had moved on to a new relationship, chased her with the spanner and rained blows on her until she fell dead, reveals a chilling CCTV video from Vasai.

Police say the incident took place at around 8:30 am in Vasai’s East Chinchpada area when Aarti Yadav was heading to work.

Extremely disturbing security footage shows Aarti walking on a road full of pedestrians when



Rohit Yadav, runs up behind her and strikes her on the head with a spanner. The force of the blow makes her drop to the ground. As she attempts to lift her head, her ex strikes her 15 times on



the head, mercilessly hitting her until her body goes limp. A man is seen trying to stop Rohit, who pushes him away and threatens him with the spanner. The man backs off,

and no one else attempts to stop the frenzied attack.

In another video recorded by an onlooker, Rohit is seen standing over the woman’s body, holding the spanner. He bends down to grab her face and begins talking to the corpse. “Why did you do this to me, why did you do this?” he screams in Hindi, before striking her once more. He then tosses aside the bloodied spanner and walks off into the crowd.

Police say Rohit Yadav has been arrested and will be charged with murder. He had been upset since Aarti had ended their relationship and suspected that she had found someone else, they added.

## ‘Even if there is 0.001% negligence, it should be dealt with’: Supreme Court tells NTA over NEET row

*Top court says the NTA and Centre would file their responses on fresh petitions within two weeks*

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday said even if there was “0.001 per cent negligence” on the part of anyone in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2024 examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

Observing that students have to labour hard while preparing for these examinations, the apex court said the litigation pertaining to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024 examination ought not be treated as adversarial.

“Even if there is 0.001 per cent negligence on the part of anyone, it should be thoroughly dealt with,” a vacation bench of Justices Vikram Nath and SVN Bhatti told the advocates appearing for the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The NTA conducts the all India pre-medical entrance test.

The bench was hearing two separate petitions raising grievances, including on grace

marks given to students in the examination held on May 5.

“We all know the labour which the children undergo, especially in preparing for these exams,” the bench said, adding, “Imagine a person who has played fraud on the system becomes a doctor, he is more deleterious to the society”.

“Representing an agency which is responsible for conducting the examination, you must stand firm. If there is a mistake, yes this is a mistake and this is the action we are going to take. At least that inspires confidence in your performance,” the bench told the NTA’s counsel.

Stressing on timely action by the authority, the top court said the pleas would come up for hearing on July 8 along with other pending petitions, including those which have sought a direction to conduct the exam afresh.

It said the NTA and the Centre would file their responses on these



fresh petitions within two weeks.

When one of the advocates appearing for some petitioners raised the issue pertaining to a question asked in the exam, the bench said, “They (NTA and Centre) will respond to it”.

“Let us understand the purpose of your submissions. In these matters, we are prepared to sit up to evening,” it observed.

While hearing separate petitions raising grievances over the NEET-UG 2024, the apex court had last week sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam.

The Centre and the NTA had on June 13 told the top court that they had cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses.

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

The examination was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it.

The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, apparently because the

evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier.

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

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

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

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

## 10 days after Raipur cattle transporter attack, lone survivor dies; no arrests yet



RAIPUR, Jun 18 (Agencies): A 25-year-old man, who was critically injured in an alleged mob attack wherein two cattle transporters were killed earlier this month, died in a hospital on Tuesday, police said.

Two cattle transporters, Guddu Khan (35) and Chand Miya Khan (23) died under suspicious circumstances on June 7 after being allegedly chased by a mob in the Arang police station area of Chhattisgarh’s Raipur district. Saddam Qureshi was seriously injured and was hospitalized.

On Monday, Qureshi was shifted to the government-run DKS Super Specialty Hospital from

Shri Balaji Super Specialty Hospital, a private medical facility in Raipur, where he had been on ventilator support since the incident. He died at the DKS Hospital on Tuesday, his cousin Shoheb Khan told agency.

Raipur Additional Superintendent of Police (rural), Kirtan Rathore, confirmed that Qureshi died on Tuesday and said no arrest has been made in the case so far.

The three victims, hailing from Uttar Pradesh, were on June 7 found below a bridge on the Mahanadi River in the Arang area and their truck with buffaloes was found on the bridge.

The Arang police then lodged an FIR against unidentified persons under Indian Penal Code sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 307 (attempt to murder), and 34 (common intention).

As per the FIR, complainant Shoheb Khan claimed that Chand informed him over the phone that when the trio was heading in the cattle-laden truck from neighbouring Mahasamund district towards Arang, they were chased by some people on motorcycles and other vehicles. After a tyre of the truck burst, the persons chasing the victims started abusing and thrashing them, it said. Chand told Shoheb that he and his two other associates sustained injuries and were not in a position to walk, the FIR stated.

A 14-member special team headed by Raipur ASP Rathore has been formed to conduct a probe into the case and trace the accused.

## South Korean soldiers fire warning shots after North Korean troops intrude for a 2nd time this month

SEOUL, Jun 18 (Agencies): South Korean soldiers fired warning shots to repel North Korean soldiers who temporarily crossed the rivals' land border on Tuesday for the second time this month, South Korea's military said.

The South's military observed increased North Korean construction activities along their heavily armed border to install suspected anti-tank barriers, reinforce roads and plant land mines. The work has gone on uninterrupted despite several explosions caused by mines that killed or injured an unspecified number of North Korean soldiers, said the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

According to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, around 20 to 30 North Korean soldiers, while engaging in unspecified construction work on the northern side of the border, briefly crossed the military demarcation line that bisects the countries as of 8:30 am.

It said the North Korean soldiers retreated after the South broadcasts warnings and fired



warning shots and the South's military didn't spot any suspicious activity after that.

The South also fired warning shots on June 11 after another group of North Korean soldiers briefly crossed the MDL. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said that Tuesday's incident occurred in a different area along the central frontline region. It said it doesn't believe the North Korean soldiers intruded the border intentionally and that the North did not return fire.

The South's military has said the border area is dense with

overgrown trees and plants that may have obscured the visibility of North Korean soldiers and caused them to cross the border.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said it suspects North Korea will expand its border construction activities, which started around April and is possibly aimed at making it harder for North Korean civilians or soldiers to defect to the South as Pyongyang's leadership attempts to strengthen its control over its people.

"Our military is closely monitor-

ing North Korean military activities in the frontline area while guarding against accidental situations," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The border intrusions come as tensions rise between the war-divided rivals, who in recent weeks have engaged in Cold War-style psychological warfare and made it clear they are no longer bound by their landmark military agreement in 2018 to reduce tensions.

The Koreans' heavily fortified border, referred to as the Demilitarized Zone, has occasionally been a site of bloodshed and violent confrontations between the rivals. The military demarcation line marks the border between the two Koreas within the DMZ, which is 248 kilometers (154 miles) long and 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) wide. The zone is strewn with an estimated 2 million mines and also guarded by barbed wire fences, tank traps and combat troops on both sides. It's a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

## Thailand passes landmark bill recognising marriage equality



BANKOK, Jun 18 (Agencies): Thailand's Senate passed the final reading of a marriage equality law on Tuesday, paving the way for the country to become the third territory in Asia to recognise same-sex couples after Nepal and Taiwan.

The law gained the support of nearly all upper house lawmakers and will be sent to the palace for royal approval. The law will come into force 120 days after it is published in the royal gazette.

LGBTQ+ advocates called the move a "monumental step forward" as it would make Thailand the first country in Southeast Asia to enact marriage equality legislation.

Thailand is already known for its

vibrant LGBTQ+ culture and tolerance, making it a popular destination for tourists. "This would underscore Thailand's leadership in the region in promoting human rights and gender equality," the Civil Society Commission of marriage equality, activists and LGBT+ couples said.

The bill is the culmination more than a decade of effort from activists and politicians, after previous drafts did not reach the parliament.

At the start of June, thousands of LGBTQ+ revellers and activists held a parade through the streets of Bangkok and were joined by Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, who wore a rainbow shirt to celebrate Pride Month.

## France's Macron calls for lifting of barricades in New Caledonia

*Caledonian pro-independence movements had already considered reform dead given Macron's call for snap elections.*

PARIS, Jun 18 (Agencies): President Emmanuel Macron Tuesday called on residents of the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia to dismantle barricades after weeks of unrest, adding the situation remained "unacceptable."

In a public appeal, Macron called for "the firm and definitive lifting of all blockades" and "the condemnation of violence."

New Caledonia, which is located between Australia and Fiji, has been ruled from Paris since the 19th century but many indigenous Kanaks want greater autonomy or independence.

Riots broke out in mid-May after anger over voting reform spilled into weeks of deadly protests.

French authorities insist Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia, is back under their control, although barricades remain and pro-independence demonstrators have said they are determined to stay in the streets.



In a sign of a slow return to normality after five weeks of unrest, schools reopened on Monday, as did Noumea's international airport.

Last week Macron announced that the controversial voting reform would be "suspended" in light of upcoming snap parliamentary polls in France.

In the letter published by local media in New Caledonia, Macron called for dialogue and patience.

"It always takes longer to build than to destroy," he wrote.

The French president said the situation "remains unacceptable, and those who

encouraged it will have to answer for their actions."

Caledonian pro-independence movements had already considered reform dead given Macron's call for snap elections.

Macron has called the snap parliamentary elections three years early in a dramatic gamble to shake up politics in France after the far right trounced his centrist camp in EU elections.

With the first round of voting set to take place on June 30, polls have underlined fears that his alliance risks being squeezed by new coalitions on the left and right.

## Israel Hamas war: Gaza rescuers report deadly strikes although clashes slow for Eid

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, Jun 18 (Agencies): Israeli strikes on Tuesday killed at least 13 people in central Gaza, the civil defence agency in the Hamas-run territory said, although fighting has largely subsided as Muslims mark Eid al-Adha.

An Israeli announcement at the weekend of a daily "pause" of military activity to facilitate aid flows coincided with the Muslim holiday and has brought relative calm to parts of the besieged Gaza Strip after more than eight months of war.

In Jerusalem on Monday, thousands of Israelis protested against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government over its failure to negotiate the release of scores of hostages still held in the Palestinian territory since Hamas's October 7 attack.

Demonstrators rallied outside the parliament and near Netanyahu's residence, demanding early elections and chanting "All of them! Now!" calling for the hostages' release, as US, Qatari and Egyptian mediation efforts towards a truce deal have stalled for months.



"We need to shut down the country in order to make the government fall," said Yaacov Godo, whose son Tom was killed during the Hamas attack, at the start of what activists describe as a week of anti-government action across the country.

The war should have stopped "a long time ago", and the return of the captives would "end this story", Godo said.

Israeli media said another rally was planned in front of the parliament building late Tuesday.

In central Gaza, witnesses reported gunfire and artillery shelling near Nuseirat refugee camp, where the civil defence agency said at least 13 people died in two separate strikes on a family home and on a commercial building.

Witnesses and the Hamas government media office said there

were some strikes and fighting elsewhere in northern and central Gaza.

An agency correspondent reported Israeli strikes near Gaza City, though the violence appears to have decreased in intensity in recent days.

In Rafah, where the Israeli military has said it would pause fighting along a key route in the city's east, witnesses saw Israeli military vehicles and reported shelling in other areas.

'Tactical pause' The unprecedented October 7 attack by Palestinian militants on southern Israel that triggered the war resulted in the deaths of 1,194 people, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally based on Israeli official figures.

The militants also seized 251 hostages. Of these, 116 remain in Gaza, although the army

says 41 are dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive aimed at eliminating Hamas has killed at least 37,347 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to the territory's health ministry.

The United Nations says aid access to Gaza has been severely hindered by factors including insecurity, the closing of crossing points to the territory, and Israeli procedural delays.

The vital Rafah crossing with Egypt has been shut since Israeli forces seized its Palestinian side in early May.

"The idea behind the tactical pause in general is to allow for the UN to collect and distribute more aid," said Shimon Freedman, spokesman for COGAT, the Israeli defence ministry body overseeing Palestinian civilian affairs, at Kerem Shalom crossing near Rafah.

Displaced Palestinian Ali Hassan, sheltering in a tent in central Gaza's Deir al-Balah, told agency that "Eid al-Adha this year is not like previous holidays."

"There is no meat or sacrificial animals, we don't even have clothes for the children," he said.

Hostages 'alive' In a message for Eid

al-Adha, US President Joe Biden has called for the implementation of a ceasefire plan he outlined last month, saying it was "the best way to end the violence".

Biden's proposal, which he has described as Israeli, would bring an initial six-week pause to fighting and Hamas would free hostages in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

An Israeli negotiator told agency that tens of hostages "are alive with certainty", stressing that Israel could not commit to ending the war until all the captives were released.

The Israeli official, requesting anonymity to discuss the negotiations, said Israel had approved Biden's plan though Netanyahu has not endorsed in publicly.

Hamas has insisted on the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces and a permanent ceasefire. Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners strongly oppose a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, US envoy Amos Hochstein was in the region for talks with top Israeli and Lebanese official to press for de-escalation in border clashes involving Hamas ally Hezbollah.

## Putin Says North Korea "Firmly Supporting" Russia's War On Ukraine: Report

*Vladimir Putin is set to arrive in the isolated North, which is under successive rounds of United Nations sanctions over Kim's banned weapons programs, late Tuesday for his first visit since 2000.*

SEOUL, Jun 18 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday praised North Korea for "firmly supporting" Moscow's war in Ukraine ahead of his visit to Pyongyang aimed at boosting ties between the nuclear-armed allies.

"We highly appreciate that the DPRK (North Korea) is firmly supporting the special military operations of Russia being conducted in Ukraine," Putin wrote in an article carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The two countries are "now actively developing the many-sided partner-

ship," Putin wrote, pointing to, for example, the fact that Moscow and Kim Jong Un's regime have been "maintaining the common line and stand at the UN."

Putin is set to arrive in the isolated North, which is under successive rounds of United Nations sanctions over Kim's banned weapons programs, late Tuesday for his first visit since 2000.

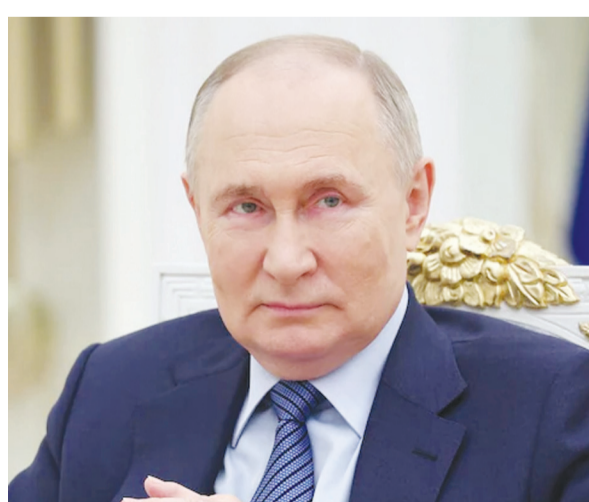
The trip "will put bilateral cooperation onto a higher level with our joint efforts and this will contribute to developing reciprocal and equal cooperation between Russia and the DPRK,"

the Russian leader wrote, according to KCNA.

Historic allies dating back to North Korea's founding after the second world war, Moscow and Pyongyang have drawn ever closer since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, as Putin has become increasingly isolated and is looking for friends, experts say.

Last year, Kim made a rare overseas trip on his bulletproof train to meet Putin at a Russian spaceport.

Seoul, Washington and Kyiv have subsequently claimed North Korea is shipping weapons



to Russia for use in its war in Ukraine, violating UN sanctions, in return for technical help with its nascent satellite programme.

North Korea has

denied this, calling the claim "absurd" -- even as it thanked Russia for using its UN veto in March to effectively end monitoring of sanctions violations, just as the UN

experts were starting to probe alleged arms transfers.

Kim has also ramped up weapons testing, including a flurry of launches this year of cruise missiles, which analysts said North Korea could be supplying to Russia for use in Ukraine.

A Pentagon report last month said Russia was using North Korean ballistic missiles in Ukraine, citing debris analysis.

- Defence cooperation -

Citing a Kremlin aide, Russian agencies said Monday the two leaders will sign "important documents" during the visit.

This may include a "comprehensive strategic partnership treaty" which will outline future co-operation and deal with "security issues", Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov was quoted as saying by state-run Russian news agencies.

But experts said that in reality, any new agreements would be focused on boosting the two countries' defence cooperation.

"Moscow and Pyongyang want to leverage the perception that their ties are long term and increasingly integrated regarding defense," Patrick Cronin, chair for

Asia-Pacific Security at the Hudson Institute, told the Yonhap news agency.

"They may also suggest this relationship is comprehensive. Certainly both countries are facing serious economic dilemmas. But regardless of the words used, current relations will focus on defense cooperation."

Putin's trip to the North is in reality "two strongmen with weak economies basking in the limelight as leaders to swap military technology and subvert the US-led order," Cronin told Yonhap.



## Alarm bells as heatwave pushes up peak demand, Power Ministry asks utilities to be on high alert

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): AMIDST A sweltering heatwave and an expected surge in agricultural load by end-June, a key body of power engineers employed across state and central utilities, on Monday flagged the possibility of a grid outage in Punjab that could have a cascading impact on the country's grid, and also warned that an imminent surge in demand "may lead to an unmanageable power situation".

Over the last one month, the northern region has been witnessing a record demand due to the prevailing heat conditions. On Monday, it touched the highest-ever peak demand of 89 giga watt (1 GW is 1,000 mega watts), which was successfully met. But such high demand has led to power supply cuts in Lucknow and Meerut, and also impacted passenger services in Delhi international airport Monday afternoon after a "significant voltage spike in the grid, reportedly due to the tripping of a 765KV line".

While a surge in domestic consumption load in the country's northern parts are behind the shortages, the Ministry of Power spokesperson told The Indian Express, "All utilities have been advised to maintain a



state of high alert and minimise forced outage of equipment." To meet demand, the Northern Region is also importing 25-30 per cent of its power requirement from the neighbouring regions, the spokesperson said.

Alarm bells as heatwave pushes up peak demand, Power Ministry asks utilities to be on high alert

The current crisis situation also brings back into focus some of the lingering structural issues. A growing demand-supply mismatch in India's power market, triggered by a slowdown in the pace of new capacity addition of coal-fired power plants coupled with the lack of effective storage options for renewable power has kept the country's grid managers on their toes over the last three summers. With soaring temperatures leading to a surge in power demand, the failure to augment baseload capacity is progressively expos-

ing the structural issues posed by the variability of renewable energy.

With renewables, electricity is generated only when the sun shines or when the wind blows, which is not always in sync with the demand cycle. As renewables grow to become a big chunk of the installed generation capacity, till the time that viable storage options are developed, the grid has no option but to fall back on thermal or nuclear for base load capacity. Consequently, stepping up thermal, especially coal, and nuclear generation, is the only way forward till the issue of intermittency in RE (renewable energy) generation is solved.

Since March 2020, the country has added about 11,990 MW of thermal power, while renewables capacity addition has been well over 56,000 MW.

Peak shortages, which happen during certain hours of the day when

loads increase, surged from 1.39 GW in 2018-19 to 8.65 GW in 2022-23, the year after demand crashed during the previous two years due to Covid-19. In 2023-24, it dropped to 3.34 GW due to a cooler than expected summer caused by unseasonal rainfall. While till April end, there has not been any peak demand shortage, data for May-June is not available.

This year, with peak demand remaining at around 250 GW amid sustained heat waves pushing up air conditioning load, the country's grid managers are struggling to keep the grid balanced. Tripping of grid infrastructure at different locations across the country most likely due to increased drawal has further aggravated the situation.

In its letter to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the AIPEF chairman Shailendra Dubey, said, "While the situation of power availability and supply is becoming serious day by day, neither the government of India nor any state government has initiated steps to control the power demand. If the situation continues, there are fair chances of grid disturbance."

Grid disturbances occur when one or more power system elements trip due

to mismatch in demand and supply. Usually, grid disturbances lead to localised power outages but can also have a cascading effect on the entire grid.

The power ministry has taken several measures to ensure grid stability, including instructing imported coal-based thermal plants to operate at full capacity until October 15 and maintaining adequate coal stock. It also instructed idling gas-based thermal plants to remain operational until June-end and allowed the sale of surplus power produced from 'linkage coal' in the market, and said states can tie up power with other states having surplus capacity via PUSHp (Portal for Utilisation of Surplus Power).

According to a retired official in the power ministry, it may not be possible for renewable power to plug the gap for declining thermal generation till the time viable storage options are developed. "The concept of renewables achieving grid-parity is proving to be a farce. If the cost of standby thermal power is taken into account, renewable power is now almost twice its cost on paper," said the retired official, who was closely associated with the capacity addition plan.

## No slowdown in infra spending; CRISIL sees 38 pc growth in roads, renewables and realty over FY25-26



NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Over the last few years, the Narendra Modi-led government has had a huge focus on infrastructure-led investment growth. Roads, renewable energy and real estate have been among the major focus areas. Over the next two years, it is expected that this growth in investments will continue to remain strong, with roads, in particular, accounting for a major share of the pie.

Credit ratings agency CRISIL expects investments in renewable energy, roads and real estate to rise 38 per cent in financial years 2025 and 2026 compared with the previous two years to Rs 15 lakh crore. The roads sector will account for 60 per cent of these investments, while the balance will be equally divided between renewable energy and real estate.

"The underlying demand drivers in these three sectors remain strong, with regular policy interventions fueling investor interest. This has also supported healthy credit risk profiles of private players and strengthened their execution and funding capabilities," said Krishnan Sitaraman, senior director and chief ratings officer, CRISIL Ratings.

Earlier this month, the Narendra Modi-led NDA won a third term in the Lok Sabha, albeit with a lower majority than earlier. CRISIL sees no major impact on government spending on infrastructure.

"We are not taking a

call on any slowdown in government spending towards infrastructure. We believe infrastructure is going to remain a very important input for economic growth. We are expecting a medium-term growth outlook of around 6.7-6.8 per cent," said Manish Gupta, senior director and deputy chief ratings officer at CRISIL Ratings.

Strengthened order books of road developers, at 2.5 times of revenue, will support 11 per cent growth in highway construction, which is seen at 12,500 km per year over this financial year and the next, according to CRISIL.

However, some moderation in budgetary allocation towards roads is seen as the government is keen to attract more private investments in this space, Gupta noted. Amendments in the build-operate-transfer (BOT) toll road concession agreement have been made to increase private participation. But, lenders's willingness to fund BOT projects and improvement in traffic estimation accuracy is something that will have to be watched out for, the ratings agency said.

In renewable energy, the government has ambitious targets to have 450 GW installed capacity by 2030. This is driving up auctions and creating a strong pipeline. In the year ended March 2024, India saw auctions of 35 GW, the highest ever in a single year, resulting in a pipeline of 75 GW, CRISIL pointed. This strong pipeline will

aid the implementation of 50 GW of renewable energy capacity over FY 2025-2026, according to CRISIL. This compares to 33 GW over FY 2023-2024. Solar rooftop capacities will further add to the renewable capacity.

"For renewables, higher import duties have enabled a domestic ecosystem for module production. This not only reined in import dependence and price volatilities but also facilitated better control of the supply chain. Also, production linked incentive scheme for battery and solar cells sets a more sustainable growth path," it said.

Residential real estate is another area that has seen a strong rebound post-COVID; particularly demand has surged for larger and more premium homes. CRISIL expects housing demand in the top seven cities in the country to sustain at 8-12 per cent.

On the commercial real estate side, leasing demand is expected to grow 8-10 per cent this year and the next. IT (information technology) and ITeS (IT-enabled services) companies have been among the major drivers for commercial properties. As hybrid and work-from-home policies took hold post-COVID, demand here slowed. It is slowly picking up as companies adopt return-to-office policies.

More than that, however, it is the growth in global capability centres (GCCs) that is going to drive up the demand for quality commercial real estate. GCCs are eyeing India's large talent pool and competitive rentals, noted CRISIL.

Regular policy interventions too have helped boost confidence and demand in the real estate sector. Recently, for instance, the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act was amended, which allows floor-wise demarcating of SEZ areas into non-SEZ areas. This should aid faster growth by attracting a wider base of tenants, it added.

## Convention on Peace and Harmony concludes at Kishtwar

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, June 18: The three-day National Convention on Peace and Harmony, organized by the National Youth Project in collaboration with Social Reform and Charitable Organisation (SRCO) concluded on Tuesday at the Ashiana Complex in Kishtwar.

The convention, which began on June 15 to 17, saw the participation of more than 32 representatives from various states, fostering a spirit of unity and collaboration.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by several dignitaries including Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Kishtwar Mahmud Anwar Alnasir, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar

Dr. Devansh Yadav, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom. The event was also attended by President of the Social Reform and Charitable Organisation, Sanjeev Parihar; senior vice President SRCO Advocate Kuldeep Sharma along with local youth, prominent personalities from Kishtwar, and the residents of Ashiana.

The inaugural session featured insightful discourses on the teachings and youth initiatives championed by S. N. Subba Rao, the founder of the National Youth Project. The session also shed light on the philosophies and contributions of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave, emphasizing their roles in promoting

peace and harmony and mobilizing youth for social change.

Keynote speakers, including Ramesh Bhaya, trustee of Vinoba Seva Ashram in Bartara, Shahajahanpur; Sh. Ajay Pandey, advisor to the National Youth Project; Suresh Rathi; R. C. Gupta; Jagdish Chowdhary; and Sanjay Rai.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, in his address, stressed the importance of involving Kishtwar's youth in the National Youth Project to channel their energy towards constructive endeavors. He underscored the potential of youth in contributing to the district's development and emphasized the need for such initiatives to har-

ness their capabilities effectively.

Later, a Prabhat Pheri was organized by representatives from the National Youth Project, alongside local youths and residents of Ashiana from Dak Bungalow to Kokila Chowk, Kuleed. This was followed by a cleanliness drive at Chowgan Ground, reinforcing the message of community service and environmental consciousness.

The convention also included a meeting at Asraria Public High School and in the Sarthal area, where representatives of the National Youth Project engaged with local youth and prominent individuals providing valuable opportunities for dialogue and the exchange of ideas,

further strengthening the community's commitment to peace and harmony.

State Coordinator NYP/ President Social Reform and Charitable Organisation Sanjeev Parihar played a pivotal role in the successful conduct of the convention, demonstrating their dedication to social upliftment and youth empowerment.

As the convention concluded, participants expressed their appreciation for the enriching experience and the valuable insights gained. The National Youth Project's commitment to fostering peace and harmony through youth engagement was widely acknowledged, setting a positive precedent for future initiatives.

## Girls Exclusive: Theatre camp inaugurated at Natrang Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: For the first time in Jammu a girls exclusive theatre camp started here today at Natrang with the lighting of a traditional lamp by the Director Natrang, Padamshri Balwant Thakur at Natrang Studio Theatre. This Summer Theatre camp is a part of the internship programme being offered by Natrang in which very selected girl students from three major colleges viz GCW Parade, GCW

Gandhinagar and Government MAM College are participating. Aimed at the holistic development of the personalities through the most latest developed techniques and devices of theatre, the methodology of this camp will later be replicated exclusively in all the colleges. Addressing the participants, Balwant Thakur dwelt in detail about the magical power of theatre and performing arts which have the immense capacity and capabilities of transforming a personality. The art of

communication skills, the confidence of public speaking, the courage to face and address larger audiences and mastery of spontaneity in decision making comes through the practice of theatre and performing arts. Sharing his experiences of working in endless countries abroad, Balwant Thakur said that theatre in the developed world is utilised in transforming societies. Even watching theatre is considered to be the most sought after high standard activity of the developed nations

and societies. Creating theatre and being a part of its creation process is considered to be the most regarded and respected activity being done for the larger welfare of those societies. Here in Jammu Natrang has destined and pledged to bring and offer all such opportunities which amazingly will bring a new revolution in the education system and civic life of Jammu. The present Theatre Camp will be a role model and its participants will be the ambassadors of new change in

Jammu. This is the high-time that we generate such occasions aimed at transforming the intellectual health of Jammu thus making the real Jammu Smart City. The young artists who are going to be benefited in this camp include Deeksha Thakur, Navjot Kour, Muskhani Manhas, Anshika Choudhary, Parul Magotra, Nandini Sharma, Lovish Mahajan, Bhumika Manhas, Aparna Singh and Kibriya Gohar. The camp is being coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and Payal Khanna

## FROM PAGE 1

### A-category terrorist, Umar Lone eliminated during joint operation in Bandipora: Army Commander

media persons. He said Umar Lone was a wanted terrorist based on his in the region.

"The elimination of Umar Lone is a significant success for the security forces. In the past few weeks, the Indian Army, JK Police, and CRPF have maintained high operational momentum which resulted in several successful operations and the elimination of many long-time terrorists," the Army commander said.

He said that the security forces have received immense support from the local population, and this cooperation will continue with the same vigor in future as well.

### Vigilance intensified

### along infiltration routes in Samba

conducting a census of dhabas on highways, areas surrounding lodgement centres and larger sites.

Kumar urged all officers to maintain heightened vigil and coordination during the Amarnath Yatra, stressing the importance of close collaboration to counteract the agenda of anti-national and anti-social elements.

### Drugs come to Punjab from Gujarat, will end nexus between low-level police officials and smugglers, says Bhagwant Mann

new personnel will be added to Punjab Police.

"Punjab had the longest code of conduct

for the Lok Sabha elections, as the polls were held here in the last phase. All development works had stopped in the state, we could only implement what was allowed by the ECI," said the CM.

Mann said that during the election campaign he got the opportunity to be at the ground zero and get a first-hand account of the ground reality.

"It opened my eyes to the problems faced by the public. In order to work on these issues, I called meetings of all bureaucrats yesterday and police officers today, and have given instructions to maintain a good administration- public interface," he said.

### Cong to begin strategy sessions to prepare for upcoming Assembly Polls

organisation, K C Venugopal, said in a post on X.

Meanwhile, Congress' Andhra Pradesh unit president Y S Sharmila met Kharge at his residence on Tuesday.

"We are strongly committed to reinvigorate the party organisation in Andhra Pradesh. Every Congress worker should work hard and become the voice of the people," Kharge said and shared pictures of the meeting.

### Woman beats ex-boyfriend to death with baseball bat for opposing affair with another man

Frustrated, she conspired to murder him. "She called the victim to meet her on June 15. As soon as he arrived, she had an altercation with him. Chahar and his friends Atul, Rohit, Sonu and Kavita attacked Brajveer with a baseball bat. They hit him on the head with the bat and smashed a beer bottle, killing him and dumping the body near the Rohta canal," the DCP said.

Brajveer's family, estranged due to his relationship with Kavita, claimed no connection with him and did not come to Agra

to collect the body. The police registered a case against Kavita and her accomplices under IPC sections 302 and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention).

### Five injured in Sopore Bike Collision

five people sustained injuries when two bikes bearing registration numbers JK05K-1037 and JK09A-8249 collided. The injured include riders and pillion riders.

The injured persons have been identified as Saqlain Shabir Bhat (23), Tawfeeq Shafi Bhat (19-20), Farhath Rashid Bhat (18), Mehraj Ud Din Mir and Hazim Mohi-ud-din Beigh (3), all residents of Harwan, Bungam Langate, and Zaloor.

According to an official from GMC Handwara, all injured individuals were transported to District Hospital Handwara for medical care.

Hazim was referred to Barzulla Hospital, Srinagar due to a suspected fracture, while Mehraj Ud din Mir was referred to SMHS Hospital for further treatment, the official added.

## India largest market for Nestle's Maggi worldwide, 2nd biggest for KitKat

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): India has become the largest market for Nestle globally for its instant noodles and soup brand Maggi and the second largest for chocolate wafer brand KitKat, according to the latest annual report of its local subsidiary. Besides, the India market with a high double-digit growth has become one of the fastest growing markets for Nestle, it added.

"Penetration, premiumisation and innovation, combined with disciplined resource allocation, have been key in driving business, making your company one of the fastest growing markets for Nestle globally," said Nestle India's annual report for 2023-24.

Nestle, which sells its popular instant noodles under brand Maggi and prepared dishes and cooking aids here, sold over six billion servings of Maggi during FY24, "making India the largest Nestle market for Maggi



worldwide," it said.

Nestle is expanding its play under brand Maggi and has launched Oats Noodle, Korean Noodles and various masala variants at an affordable Rs 10.

"The Prepared Dishes and Cooking Aids business recorded a strong growth momentum. This was aided by a balance of product mix, pricing and volume growth in Maggi noodles and Maggi Masala-ae-Magic, supported by strong consumer engagement and market presence with media campaigns and attractive consumer activations," it said.

In confectionery, Nestle India said it sold 4,200 million fingers of KitKat. The growth was fuelled by the launch of new products, expansion of the distribution network and innovative brand activations.

"KitKat has emerged as the star performer, by not only delivering strong growth but making Nestle India the second largest market for the brand globally," it said.

In India, brand Maggi recovered after a five-month ban on its instant noodles over allegation of containing lead beyond permissible limits.

However, the instant

noodles returned to market after a relaunch in November 2015 and later Nestle India extended the brand in the food segment and adjacencies.

Before the crisis, the brand had over 70 per cent market share in the instant noodles segment, which it still has not reached as the competition has intensified in the segment with arrival of new players.

Nestle, which is setting up its tenth Indian factory in Odisha, reaffirmed the significance of India as a market.

"Strengthening this further, your company is poised to invest approximately Rs 7,500 crore between 2020 and 2025 to develop new capabilities and expand existing ones with a sharp focus on sustained growth and innovation," its Chairman & Managing Director Suresh Narayanan said while addressing shareholders in the report.

The company is focusing on innovations and

in the past eight years, it has launched over 140 products. A significant portion of sales in 2023 was attributed to innovative products.

According to Narayanan, plant-based products present a significant opportunity for Nestle India, which has been operating here for 112 years. It is also expanding its presence and through RUrban journey its direct coverage has gone beyond two lakh villages.

Nestle India recently announced to continue to pay royalty to its parent company at the existing rate of 4.5 per cent of net sales after a proposal to hike it was rejected by shareholders.

The company's board approved the continuation of payment of general licence fees (royalty) at the rate of 4.5 per cent to Societe des Produits Nestle SA (licensor) and recommended to the members of the company for their approval.

## Sensex, Nifty hit all-time high levels in early trade



MUMBAI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty hit their new all-time high levels in early trade on Tuesday helped by firm trends in global markets, buying in IT stocks and fresh foreign fund inflows.

Rising for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 334.03 points to hit its fresh lifetime peak of 77,326.80. The NSE Nifty went up by 108.25 points to hit its new all-time high of 23,573.85.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Wipro, Titan,

Mahindra & Mahindra, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Bharti Airtel and Hindustan Unilever were the biggest gainers.

Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai were trading in the positive territory while Hong Kong quoted lower.

US markets ended higher on Monday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,175.86 crore on Friday,

according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.15 per cent to USD 84.12 a barrel.

Equity markets were closed on Monday on account of Eid-ul-Adha.

Rising for the third straight session, the BSE benchmark climbed 181.87 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,992.77 on Friday. The Nifty rallied 66.70 points or 0.29 per cent to hit a record closing high of 23,465.60.

## Coal India exploring lithium assets in Argentina with U.S. company

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): State-run Coal India Ltd is exploring lithium blocks in Argentina along with a U.S. company to secure supplies of the battery material, an Indian source with direct knowledge said on Tuesday.

The efforts are part of India's membership under the U.S.-led Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), which New Delhi joined last year to ensure adequate supplies of minerals to meet zero-carbon goals.

India and the United States said on Monday they were co-investing in a lithium resource project in South America and a rare earths deposit in Africa to diversify critical minerals supply chains.

India has been in talks with several countries, including the U.S., to collaborate in lithium processing and avoid relying on China, Reuters had reported.

"Coal India has come



forward for the Kachi block in Argentina in which a U.S. company and two other countries are interested to explore under the MSP," the source said, declining to be identified due to the sensitive nature of discussions.

Preliminary studies are being conducted, the source added.

In February, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on a trip to Argentina that the U.S. was exploring investment

opportunities in critical minerals, especially lithium.

Coal India and India's federal Ministry of Mines did not immediately respond to Reuters' emails for comments.

Under the minerals partnership, which India had joined last year, New Delhi was invited to participate in 20-25 critical minerals projects, of which four have been identified by the Indian government, with two of these are in collaboration

with the U.S., the source said.

The second project is in the Kangankunde block in Malawi, the source said, which is being explored by India's state-owned IREL (India) Ltd for rare earths.

IREL did not immediately respond to a Reuters email seeking comments. The Indian government has also asked miners to explore critical minerals in Australia's Dubbo region, the source said.

India had also proposed a critical minerals trade deal with U.S., which would prohibit imposition of tariffs on both countries by each other and would be similar to a pact U.S. has with Japan that grants Japanese automakers wider access to U.S. electrical vehicles tax credit, the source said.

However, the U.S. is in talks with India for a bilateral Critical Minerals Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), both countries said on Monday.

## Hyundai has the same fear like Tata Motors & Mahindra about petrol, diesel cars

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Hyundai has joined Indian car manufacturers Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra in opposing any tax breaks for hybrid vehicles, suggesting that such measures could disrupt the market for petrol and diesel cars.

Japanese carmakers like Maruti Suzuki, Toyota, and Honda are advocating for lower taxes on strong hybrids, arguing that the technology reduces emissions and improves fuel efficiency.

In regulatory documents filed with Sebi ahead of its initial public offering, Hyundai stated, "...with the objective to address climate issues, govt of India proposes to reduce GST on hybrid passenger vehicles to 5% and 12% on flex engines, while the GST on diesel and petrol vehicles is proposed to remain at 28%... In the



event such amendment becomes effective, it could have an adverse impact on the sales volumes of our diesel and petrol vehicles which could affect our margins, business, and results of operations."

Tata Motors and Mahindra have steadfastly opposed any special benefits for hybrids. According to these companies, only electric

vehicles should benefit from the 5% GST rate, arguing that solely "zero emission vehicles" merit incentives, not those offering mere "fuel efficiency improvement technologies."

"So, if it's not plugged into electricity, I don't think it qualifies for being an electric or should be compared with an EV technology. The source of energy for a hybrid

comes from two sources — regenerative braking to a small fraction, and the rest from a gasoline engine. So, effectively the source of energy for hybrids is a gasoline engine. Comparing a hybrid with an EV is very motivated as people feel that such a comparison can make hybrids qualify for policies which are supportive of electrification," Shailesh Chandra, MD of Tata Motors' Passenger Vehicles and Electric Mobility Divisions, had told TOI earlier.

Hyundai, Tata Motors, and Mahindra fear that a tax concession for hybrids could negatively affect their sales and profitability in the petrol and diesel segments.

The debate highlights the tension between promoting cutting-edge fuel efficiency technologies and fully electric vehicles in India's evolving auto industry landscape.

## Google launches Gemini mobile app in India, available in 9 Indian languages

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): American technology major Google on Tuesday launched the company's AI assistant the Gemini app in India. Both the Gemini app and Gemini Advanced, which gives users access to Google's AI models, will now be available in nine Indian languages: Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

Google chief executive Sundar Pichai on microblogging site X (formerly Twitter) posted, "Exciting news! Today, we're launching the Gemini mobile app in India, available in English and nine Indian languages. We're also adding these local languages to Gemini Advanced, plus other new features, and launching Gemini in Google Messages in English."

Elevate Your Tech Prowess with High-Value Skill Courses

New features in Gemini Advanced include new data analysis capabilities and file uploads, and the ability to chat with Gemini in Google Messages, starting in English.

The app allows you to type, talk, or add an image to get assistance.



For example, one can take a picture of a flat tire for instructions on how to change it. On iOS, however, Gemini access is rolling out from the Google app over the next few weeks.

Amar Subramanya, vice president, engineering, Gemini experiences, in a blog post said, "Gemini has had an exciting first year in India. We've been thrilled to see how people across the country are using it to collaborate with AI in diverse ways — be it for schoolwork, coding, or creative exploration. From students to developers and many other curious minds, people in India are embracing

Gemini's capabilities to enhance their productivity, learning, and creativity in everyday life."

Now, whether one needs to plan a game night, create a recipe with specific ingredients, or craft a social media caption, Gemini is available on the go.

To access Gemini on Android, one can download the Gemini app or opt-in through Google Assistant. One can then use Gemini by corner swiping, hitting the power button on select phones, or saying "Hey Google."

This enables a new overlay experience with easy access to Gemini and contextual help on the screen. Many voice

features in Google Assistant will be available through the Gemini app — including setting timers, making calls and setting reminders.

Google is bringing Gemini 1.5 Pro, its most advanced model, to Gemini Advanced in the above mentioned nine Indian languages.

With a one million token context window, Gemini Advanced now has the longest context of any widely available consumer chatbot worldwide. This allows it to process and understand vast amounts of information, from lengthy documents (up to 1,500 pages) and emails to even hours of video and extensive codebases in the near future.

This expanded capacity unlocks new features for Gemini Advanced such as document uploads. One can upload multiple large documents, up to 1,500-pages total, or summarise 100 emails.

Gemini Advanced can then provide quick summaries, personalised feedback, and actionable insights, saving time and boosting productivity. Now one can quickly get answers and

insights about dense documents, like figuring out the details of the pet policy in a rental agreement or comparing key arguments of multiple long research papers.

One can also tackle complex data analysis tasks by uploading spreadsheets (Google Sheets, CSVs, Excel).

Gemini Advanced can now clean, explore, analyse, and visualise data, transforming it into interactive charts and graphs. So whether it's figuring out patterns in expenses or the average total sales of a small business, Gemini Advanced can act as a personal data analyst, uncovering insights and building custom visualisations on the fly.

Gemini keeps files private, and they're not used to train its models.

Google is also introducing Gemini in Google Messages to for another way to collaborate with Gemini on phone. One can get help drafting messages, brainstorming ideas, or planning events - without leaving the Messages app. It will be rolling Gemini in Google Messages in English to start with, on select devices.

## India Inc revenue growth may taper sequentially in first quarter of FY2025: ICRA

MUMBAI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Rating agency ICRA has forecast that the sequential revenue growth for India Inc is likely to taper in the first quarter (April-June) FY2025 amid the slowdown in government spending and uncertainty over monsoon.

"While signs of a revival in rural demand have emerged, headwinds such as a slowdown in the Government of India's (GoI) spending during the Parliamentary elections and onset of monsoon period are likely to weigh on growth in the first half of FY2025," ICRA said.

However, the operating profit margin (OPM) will remain steady in the range of 15-18 per cent, despite the expected tapering in revenue growth, as raw material costs are expected to remain steady, it said. As a result, the credit metrics of India Inc in Q1 of FY2025 are estimated to remain largely stable with the interest coverage ratio in the range of 4.7-5.0 times, against 4.9 times in Q4 FY2024, it said in a report.

"Evolution of the global economic scenario and the onset and intensity of the monsoons in

India, would remain a key monitorable over the near term," ICRA said.

Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head — Corporate Ratings, ICRA Limited, said:

"The 5.0 per cent YoY and 6.3 per cent sequential revenue growth for Corporate India in Q4 FY2024 was supported by healthy demand in consumer-oriented sectors like airlines, hotels, automotive and FMCG. In addition, the growth in power and construction sectors was strong."

The YoY revenue expansion was curtailed to an extent by a decline in realisation levels amid softening input costs (mainly raw materials), largely for sectors like fertilisers and chemicals, which also faced a demand slowdown due to channel inventory destocking. "The growth is expected to marginally slow down in Q1 FY2025 (on a QoQ basis), on a relatively high base, amidst a perceived temporary pause in the infrastructural activities for a major part of Q1 FY2025 due to the general elections and the dependency of rural demand on the monsoon," Shah said.

Moreover, the con-

cerns of the ongoing geopolitical tensions may adversely impact demand sentiments, especially for export-oriented sectors, he said.

ICRA's analysis of the Q4 FY2024 performance of 558 listed companies (excluding financial sector entities) revealed expectedly improved OPM, increasing by 92 bps to 17.2 per cent on a YoY basis. This was primarily aided by the softening in commodity prices and benefits of operating leverage. However, on a sequential basis, the OPM remained flat, ICRA said.

Sectors like auto, power, pharmaceuticals and metals & mining reported YoY improvement in OPM on the back of gradual price hikes undertaken and softening of input costs. However, some others like chemicals and fertilisers reported YoY contraction due to weak demand for these sectors. While the input costs softened in recent months, they remained higher compared to the historic levels, and accordingly, India Inc's OPM is yet to revive to its historic highs (18-19 per cent seen in FY2022), ICRA said.

## T20 World Cup: Pooran's explosive 98 take West Indies to 104-run win over Afghanistan

*With both teams assured of a Super 8 berth, it was the two-time champions who displayed their batting might, amassing a formidable 218 for five, with Pooran going on a six-hitting spree during his 53-ball 98.*

GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA), Jun 18 (Agencies): Nicholas Pooran displayed his incredible six-hitting prowess as West Indies geared up for the Super 8 with a dominating 104-run win over Afghanistan in their final Group C match of the T20 World Cup here.

With both teams assured of a Super 8 berth, it was the two-time champions who displayed their batting might, amassing a formidable 218 for five, with Pooran going on a six-hitting spree during his 53-ball 98.

It was the highest total for the West Indies in T20 World Cups.

In reply, Afghanistan succumbed to scoreboard pressure, managing just 114 in 16.2 overs.

"We knew here will be one of the better wickets of the competition. After Guyana and Trinidad, the batters wanted to come here and get runs. (Pooran) I think it is on the back of hard work. He has had a very good 12 months.

Good to see him score runs not only in franchise cricket but also for WI," West Indies skipper Rovman Powell said at the post match presentation ceremony.

Afghanistan had bundled out their opponents for sub-100 totals in their first three games but skipper Rashid Khan's decision to bowl first here backfired as Pooran put on a ruthless display, hitting as many as 8 maximums and 6 fours during



his stay.

Opener Johnson Charles (43), Shai Hope (25) and Powell (26) also contributed with the bat as WI posted the highest total of this edition of T20 World Cup.

Gulbadin Naib (2/14) was the top bowler for Afghanistan, claiming two wickets in his 2 overs.

With the bat, opener Ibrahim Zadran (38), Azmatullah Omarzai (23) and Karim Janat (14) tried their bit but it proved too huge a total in the end.

"Don't think so (this big loss will affect us). We've achieved what we wanted - to get Super Eight. The different pitches coming up. We'll adjust to them. Good learning this loss happened at this stage, not in a do-or-die game. We take the positives with us, like fielding and middle-overs bowling," Rashid said.

Earlier, West Indies lost opener Brandon King in the

second over but hosts scored heavily in the first five overs and the last five overs.

Pooran turned on the heat in the fourth over, collecting 36-runs off Azmatullah Omarzai's bowling - 6, 5NB, 5WD, 0, 4LB, 4, 6, 6. It was the joint most expensive over in T20Is.

The wicketkeeper batter and Charles took the hosts to 92/1 at the six-over mark, the biggest Powerplay total in men's T20 World Cup history.

"You don't want to be on 97 and get run-out but it was all about reaching a respectable total.

I assessed the conditions early on, we had a good start in the powerplay, I had to take the responsibility in the middle overs with the Afghanistan spinners bowling," "Player of the Match" Pooran said.

Afghanistan really didn't recover from the onslaught as after pacer Naveen-Ul-Haq

dismissed the Charles, Pooran continued his hitting spree with Hopes and Powell playing second fiddle.

In the 18th over, Pooran launched into Rashid, smacking him for three maximums and a four for a 24-run over.

During his innings Pooran surpassed Chris Gayle (124 sixes) as West Indies' most decorated T20I six-hitter. The left-hander was eventually run-out in the last over.

Chasing the huge total, Afghanistan never looked comfortable as they lost in-form Rahmanullah Gurbaz (0) in the first over.

Zadran kept the scoreboard ticking but he couldn't really take on the Windies attack as Gudakesh Motie (2/28) and Obed McCoy struck thrice in two overs to put Afghanistan under pressure.

Wickets kept tumbling due to scoreboard pressure as most batters perished while trying for big hits.

The hosts will face England in their Super 8 Group 2 match, while Afghanistan will be up against India at Barbados on Thursday.

Brief Score: West Indies: 218 for five in 20 overs (Nicholas Pooran 98; Gulbadin Naib 2/14).

Afghanistan: 114 all out in 16.2 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 38; Obed McCoy 3/14, Akeal Hosein 2/21).

## Match Fixing At T20 World Cup? Player Approached Mysteriously, ICC Does This

*Failure to report a corrupt approach is an offence under the ICC's anti-corruption code.*

TRINIDAD, Jun 18 (Agencies): The spectre of corruption in cricket continues to challenge the game's administrators but one potential approach from a former Kenya international to a Uganda player in the ongoing T20 World Cup was dealt swiftly by the sleuths of ICC's anti-corruption unit. Agency has learned that the incident took place during the league stage matches in Guyana where a former Kenya pacer tried to contact a Ugandan team member multiple times from different numbers. Following ICC's strict anti-corruption protocol, the Ugandan player reported the approach to the ACU officials on site.

The development prompted the officials to raise a red flag against the former Kenya player by informing all the associate teams about him. "It is not a surprise that this person targeted a player from the Ugandan national team. Associate nations, as compared to the big teams, are soft targets for corruption but in this case the player who was approached did the needful by informing the ICC at the earliest," a source told agency.

Failure to report a

corrupt approach is an offence under the ICC's anti-corruption code. The other offences include match-fixing, betting on the game, misuse of inside information and failing to co-operate with an investigation. Uganda ended their T20 World Cup campaign with a memorable win over Papua New Guinea and losses to Afghanistan, New Zealand and the West Indies in Trinidad on Friday. Uganda, first-timers in the competition alongside Canada and co-hosts USA, played three of their four league games in Guyana.

"Players are approached all the time, more so from smaller nations. In bigger events like T20 World Cup, there is more scrutiny and if an approach is conveyed to the ICC ACU, then due protocol is followed and a proper investigation is conducted," said another source. With effect from June 1, the ICC tweaked its anti-corruption code to empower the governing body and its member boards to "proactively and thoroughly investigate incidents of corruption in the ongoing effort to protect the integrity of the game." "The anti-corruption code covers

all cricket (whether international or domestic) played under the auspices of the ICC and its Members and applies to all Participants; player, coach, trainer, manager, selector, team owner or official, doctor, physiotherapist, match referee, pitch curator, player agent, umpires, as well as ICC and NCF Officials. Participants are bound by the Code for 2 years after they have last participated in any form of official cricket. "The maximum possible sanction for the most serious breaches of the Anti-Corruption Code is a life ban from all involvement in the game. In some countries, there is also the possibility of criminal sanctions," reads an extract from ICC anti-corruption code for participants. All the international players are regularly briefed about a potential threat and are well-versed with the anti-corruption code.

Corrupt approaches at big ticket events are not new. Back in the 2011 ODI World Cup in India, Canada's then 20-year-old wicket-keeper Hamza Tariq was approached by alleged bookmakers. He duly reported the matter to the authorities.

## New Zealand beat PNG by 7 wickets as Ferguson creates record

TAROUBA, Jun 18 (Agencies): New Zealand's Lockie Ferguson finished with the remarkable figures of three wickets for no runs in his maximum four overs as Papua New Guinea were dismissed for just 78 in a T20 World Cup match.

The 33-year-old fast bowler's return in Tarouba was the most economical in any T20 World Cup match, surpassing Nuwan Kulasekara's 1-2 in two overs for Sri Lanka against the Netherlands in Chattogram in 2014.

Sri Lanka spinner Ajantha Mendis's 6-8 against Zimbabwe at Hambantota in 2012 remains the best bowling figure in T20 World Cup history.

Papua New Guinea, a non-Test nation, were 14-1 from four overs after losing the toss in this Group C fixture when Ferguson came on to bowl.

Ferguson then promptly struck with his



first ball, having PNG captain Assad Vala (six) caught at a wide first slip by Daryl Mitchell. He followed that over with a maiden to Sese Bau and was then taken out of the attack.

Ferguson returned for the 12th over and, two balls in, had Charles Amini lbw for 17—the top score of the innings—on review.

All the while, PNG could not get him away for even a single, with Ferguson taking his third wicket when he clean-bowled Chad Soper for one in the 14th over to leave PNG 43-5.

The next ball went for two leg byes, but

those runs do not count against a bowler, with Kiplin Doriga blocking Ferguson's last delivery of the game back to the express quick.

But his superb analysis, came too late for New Zealand, already eliminated in the first round before their final group game following defeats by Afghanistan and the West Indies, the tournament co-hosts.

Brief scores: Papua New Guinea: 78 all out in 19.4 overs (Lockie Ferguson 3/0, Tim Southee 2/11, Trent Boult 2/14).

New Zealand: 79/3 in 12.2 overs (Devon Conway 35; Kabua Morea 2/4).

## T20 World Cup 2024: How would Super 8 groups look if they were not pre-seeded

BRIDGETOWN, Jun 18 (Agencies): The Super 8 stages of the T20 World Cup 2024 are set to start on June 19. 8 teams have qualified from 4 groups after playing 4 matches each and they will fight it out amongst themselves for the semi-finals spots. The 8 teams have been drawn into two groups of four, which is nothing out of the ordinary. However, the International Cricket Council has faced a lot of flak from the fans who came to realise that they have somewhat been cheated by the organisers of the tournament.

In a world event like the T20 World Cup, half the fun is in the unpredictable nature of the tournament. As many found out in matches between USA-Pakistan or Canada-Ireland, the smaller teams were able to hand a proper scare to the established nations, even when the odds were stacked against them.

In world tournaments, the teams that top their charts are generally handed a favourable draw against the second-best team in the next group. Let's take India into consideration. Since they topped group A, they would ideally be drawn against the 2nd best team in Group B, the top team in Group C and, once again, the second-best team in Group D.

However, as the fans came to realise, that has not been the case.

The ICC, following its predictable formula, put India and Pakistan in the same group, so that they can ensure at least one match between the arch-rivals. A similar thing was done between England and Australia in Group B.



Now for the Super 8 stage, India (A1) have been drawn in the same group as Australia - who finished at the top of Group B (B1). And that is odd. In the world of sports, Australia would not be meeting India (A1), since they will enjoy the privilege of topping their group, getting drawn against the team that finished second in Group A (USA). This process is called seeding. And ideally,

there would be two groups - A1, B2, C1, D2 and A2, B1, C1, D2.

T20 World Cup 2024: India's Super 8 schedule

However, what ICC have done is that they have pre-seeded the teams and drawn A1, B1, C2, D2 in the same group. The logic, while it is not explicitly said, is that ICC would like to draw its eyeballs to the India vs Australia match, which has become one of the most watched games in the world.

ICC'S SUPER 8 GROUPS

Group 1: IND, AFG, AUS, BAN

Group 2: WI, USA, SA, ENG

In the ideal scenario, if the teams were not pre-seeded, here's how India's group would have looked at the Super 8 stages.

Group 1: IND, ENG, WI, BAN

Group 2: USA, AUS, AFG, SA

One can argue that India would have been drawn into a slightly tougher group. They would have played the defending champions England, 2-time champions and co-hosts West Indies and the tricky Bangladesh side under the captaincy of Najmul Shanto.

What the ICC's pre-seeding has done is that it has left a bad taste in the mouths of the players and fans alike. It seems that ICC is more focused on earning money, rather than focusing on better cricket in the tournament. It might not be a stretch to say that ICC is trying to make contests between certain teams more frequent. While in terms of marketability the argument might have merit, but as a fan, invested in the game, things have started to get a little boring.

## David Warner feels Sandpaper Gate scandal will always cast a shadow on him over years

ANTIGUA, Jun 18 (Agencies): Australian opener David Warner felt that the infamous 'Sandpaper Gate' scandal would always cast a shadow on his cricketer career for years. Warner is set to retire from international cricket for Australia after the T20 World Cup 2024. Amid impending retirement, Warner admitted that the Sandpaper gate from 2018 will always stay as a scar in his much-decorated cricketer career. The south-paw will call a time on his international career

that spanned 15 years, where he featured in 3 World Cup wins for Australia.

Warner put down curtains on his Test and ODI career in January 2024 with 49 international tons to his name. However, his much-celebrated career was tainted after the infamous Sandpaper Gate as he suffered a one-year ban and was demoted from the vice-captain role for the Australian team. After serving a one-year ban, Warner returned to the national team with positive returns.

"Have copped alot of flak" However, Warner revealed that the much-awaited return was not a bed of roses for him as it might have seemed to the outside world.

"My back was always up against the wall when I came back, and I knew that. I copped my fair share over my career. I've probably been the only one that's ever copped a lot of flak, whether it's people who don't like the Australian cricket team or don't like me," Warner told the reporters in Antigua.

"I've always been that



person who has copped it. I always feel like I've taken a lot of pressure off a lot of guys as well and I think, understandably, I've been that person to be able to absorb that. But one can only absorb (so much). For me, it's

great to go out knowing I'm not going to copping it anymore."

"I felt I had great support from, especially our coaching group now and selectors have been great. All in all, I've had a privileged career, since

2018 I've really enjoyed that time coming back and just being around the guys and training hard and working as hard as I can," he added. "Sandpaper Gate" continues to stay with Warner

Warner is just 67 runs short of completing 19000 runs and stands only behind Ricky Ponting among the all-time top scorers.

The 37-year-old felt that when people reflect on his career, his batting records and contributions will always be paired with the Sandpa-

per saga that happened in 2018 during Australia's 3d Test match against South Africa.

"It's going to be inevitable that when people talk about me in 20 or 30 years' time, there will always be that sandpaper scandal. But for me, if they're real cricket fanatics, and they love cricket, and my closest supporters, they will always see me as that cricketer. Someone who tried to change the game. Someone who tried to follow in the footsteps of the openers before me and tried

to score runs at a great tempo and change Test cricket in a way. Be that person who went from T20 cricket to play Test cricket - batting at No. 6 and then opening. For me, hopefully I can be remembered for that, but I understand 2018. It always comes up, and it's unfortunate - but it is what it is."

Australia is placed in Group 1 of the Super 8s alongside India, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The Mitchell Marsh-led team will take on Bangladesh in Antigua on June 21, Friday.

## Sahil releases Devotional Album "Mindal Wali De Dulare Tirath Ram"

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: Sahil Mahajan, Co-Convenor of the BJP's J&K Sanskriti Art and Culture Cell, released a devotional song album titled "Mindal Wali De Dulare Tirath Ram" near the DC Office in Jammu on Tuesday.

The album release event was organized by Maa Bawe Wali Records, where Sahil Mahajan was joined by journalist and social activist Sohail Kazmi, singer Manish Mangotra, and Geeta Madam.

The song, "Mindal Wali De Dulare Tirath Ram,"



was performed by singer Abhishek Abhi and composed by NB Naresh.

The video production was handled by Rohit and Neeraj, with lyrics by Abhishek Abhi. Special acknowledgments

were given to Guru Tirath Ram Manhas and Sahil Mahajan. The album is available on the YouTube channel Maa Kangre Wali Records.

During the event, Sahil Mahajan praised the

efforts of the BJP Sanskriti Art and Culture Cell J&K in promoting young talent. He emphasized the importance of supporting and nurturing young artists, which he believes will bring pride

to the entire Jammu & Kashmir region.

Sohail Kazmi commented the young talent of Jammu & Kashmir for producing melodious devotional albums. He particularly appreciated the production team, including the singers and Sahil Mahajan, for their hard work in making the album a reality.

Manish Mangotra also spoke about the growing opportunities for innovative minds and highlighted the rich cultural heritage of India. He encouraged the youth to direct their creative energies towards developing their skills positively.

## NCERT functioning as an RSS affiliate since 2014: Rajesh Gupta

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta on Tuesday criticized the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for its recent move to drop references to demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya and the Gujarat riots and accused it of erasing historical facts from textbooks.

The BSP had opposed NCERT's earlier decision in this regard alleging that it was part of the "saffronisation" bid by the BJP-led Union

govt and brought out a supplementary textbook containing the dropped portions.

In a statement, Gupta said NCERT had made similar attempts before as well and dropped certain portions from its history, social science and politics textbooks. "BSP leader reacted against it by publishing additional textbooks containing the dropped portions," he said.

"Children should understand the reality through studies and that's BSP's stand," he said, adding that the party has already made it clear that it won't accept distorted history

or scientific portions in the textbooks.

Dropping references to the demolition of Babri Masjid and Gujarat riots and tweaking the reference to Manipur's merger with India are among the latest set of revisions made public by NCERT in its textbooks.

Rajesh Gupta accused NCERT of no longer being a professional institution and said that it has been working with RSS since 2014. He also claimed that the revised Class XI political science textbook criticises the idea of secularism and what is perceived as policies of political parties in this regard.

## Nirjala Ekadashi celebrated in Shiv Mandir



### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: Nirjala Ekadashi celebrated on Tuesday in Shiv Mandir Sector 7 Trikuta Nagar Jammu. The term 'Nir-

jala' translates to 'without water' in Sanskrit.

Shiv Kumar Jolly President Shiv Mandir Sector 7 Trikuta Nagar Jammu made all arrangements of cold drinks and Prasad for

general public.

"Nirjala Ekadashi holds a great religious and spiritual significance in Hindu religion. This day is considered as one of the most sacred day which is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Devotees observe strict fast without food and water from sunrise till next morning and offer prayers to Lord Vishnu with immense devotion.

Devotees perform special prayers to the sacred tulsi plant, symbolizing purity and devotion in Hindu tradition," said Shiv Kumar.

Prominent among those present Vijay Vaid, Urmil Arora, Vikas Jolly and Pandit Mohinder.

## Jan Jagrukta Shivar in Khour block on June 19

### Top News Report

KHOUR, June 18: An awareness camp titled "Jan Jagrukta Shivar" is going to be organised for the local populace of villages of Tehsil Khour on Wednesday i.e. 19th June 2024 at Kaleeth.

The camp will start at 9:00 AM Sharp. This initiative aims to educate and inform the locals about various government schemes and provide an opportunity for one-on-one interaction with government officials to address any queries they may have.

The primary objective of the camp is to foster awareness among the local residents regarding the multitude of government schemes available to them. By bringing together government officials and the local community, the camp seeks to facilitate direct communication and problem-solving. Residents will have the opportunity to engage with representatives from several key sectors including: Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Health, JK Bank etc.

Administration extended a warm invitation to all residents of Khour block to attend this important event. This is an excellent opportunity for locals to gain valuable information and assistance directly from government officials.

## BJP leaders have capability to win elections on their own: Chandel

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: In a address to journalists in Jammu, senior Hindutva BJP leader Gurujit Raju Chandel emphasized the self-reliance and determination of the BJP workers in Jammu and Kashmir.

He stated that BJP soldiers, workers, and chowkidars in the region possess the passion, strength, and courage to contest the upcoming assembly elections independently, without needing any external support or "crutches."

Chandel criticized certain leaders who, according to him, aim to undermine the BJP workers by



portraying them as incapable of contesting elections on their own. He highlighted the efforts of the Jammu Kashmir BJP state president Ravinder Raina, describing him as a strong and promising leader.

Chandel asserted that if the elections are fought under Raina's leader-

ship, the BJP will be able to form a strong government in Jammu and Kashmir, as he is widely loved by people from all sections of society.

Chandel also accused some individuals of trying to weaken the BJP from within by misleading the central BJP leadership and discouraging the local leaders. He expressed confidence that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will respect the development work done by Prime Minister Modi and that the BJP should contest the assembly elections without any compromises to ensure a strong government.

## Wrestlers Chandi, Gourav share 52nd Dangal Title



### Top News Report

KATRA, June 18: Wrestler Chandi of Delhi and Gourav (Gora) of Mallerkotla in Punjab shared equally annual 52ND Dangal title 2024 in the first bout that lasted for 19 minutes at Raja Ram Singh Stadium Ramnagar in District Udhampur. Prize money of 31,000 jointly distributed equally to both the Wrestlers.

52nd annual Ramnagar Dangal was organized by Ramnagar Dangal Committee in association with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association under the overall supervision of Rajesh Khajuria (President) Rajesh Kharka and Ravi Kumar (Sanju) in the memory of Late Pahelwan Hari Dutt Sharma.

Former Joint Secretary J&K State Sports Council and President J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association Shiv Kumar Sharma graced the occasion as chief guest who gave away cash prizes to the wrestlers. Dr. Pardeep Kumar, chairman group of colleges and founder Director group of companies Delhi, DSP Ram-

nagar Manjeet Singh and SHO Ramnagar S.D Singh were the guests of honour.

The Second main bout was won by Irfan of Basantgarh in Udhampur who defeated Shaker Noor of Merrut in U.P. Winner wrestler Irfan was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 12,000 while runner-up wrestler Shaker Noor got Rs. 9,000.

Third main bout was won by Madan Singh of Reasi Akhara Roun Domail who defeated Krishan of Delhi. Winner wrestler Madan Singh was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 9,000/- while runner-up wrestler Krishan got Rs. 6,000/-.

Another 3rd bout was won by Ajay Sharma of Udhampur who defeated Sahil of Ramnagar. Winner Ajay Sharma was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 9,000/- while runner-up wrestler Sahil got Rs. 6,000.

In all 81 bouts were played in the dangal and Rs. 3,00,000/- was distributed as cash prizes among the wrestlers by chief guest Shiv Kumar Sharma.

The bouts were officiated by Master Thakur

Dass, President Ramnagar Tehsil Wrestling Association, Subash Chander Sharma, Yash Paul Sharma, Subash Singh and Om Parakash Verma, President Udhampur District Indian Style Wrestling Association.

Other Results:- Ajay Sharma of Udhampur beat Sonu of Rohatak, Jamat Ali of Nagrota beat Ravi Cheema of Delhi, Billu of Jagti beat Pard-eep of Bhawani Haryana, Subash of Chopra Shop Udhampur beat Sandeep of Delhi, Nitin of U.P beat Rashid of Ramnagar, Wakil of Manwal beat

Rohit of Delhi, Jai Paul of Roun Domail udhampur beat Rohit of Delhi, Jai Paul of Roun Domail Udhampur beat sunny of Pathankot, Gulam Nabi of Kathua beat Bhalla of Delhi, Bouts were Played Between Kartik of Banaras U.P V/s Mustaq Ahmed of Ramnagar and Sahil of Ramnagar V/s Arvind of U.P, ended in a draw. Members of organizing Dangal Committee Ramnagar who helped smooth conduct of dangal included Rajesh Khajuria, (President), Rajesh Kharka, Ravi Kumar ( Sanju), Kuldeep Kumar Kharka, Hukam Singh, Manu Gupta, Balbir Singh, Narayan Singh, Sanjeev Gupta, and Kulbir Singh (Billa Shah). Shiv Kumar Sharma, who is also President Kreedha Bharti Jammu and Kashmir appealed all the youths of J&K U.T adopt Sports as part of life.

## Eid-ul-Adha celebrated with religious fervour across Ramban

### Top News Report

RAMBAN, June 18: Eid-ul-Adha was celebrated with profound religious fervor and joyous festivities across Ramban district. The largest congregations were observed at Jamia Masjid Sharif Ramban, Eidgah in Banihal, Gool, and Batote, where hundreds of devotees gathered to perform Namaz-e-Eid, offering prayers for peace, development, and prosperity in the Union Territory and the nation at large.

Deputy Commissioner of Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, conveyed warm greetings to the people, emphasizing that such occasions foster unity, communal harmony, and brotherhood in society.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Additional SP Gourav Mahajan, Dy. SP Omprakash, CEO MC Ramban Sudarshan

Kumar, and other officials from the District Administration also extended their heartfelt wishes to the Muslim community. Senior officers were present at various locations to take part in the celebrations and ensure a peaceful observance of the festival. The District and Police Administration had meticulously arranged for necessary provisions, including robust security measures, to ensure the smooth observance of Eid-ul-Adha festivities. Eid prayers were also conducted at various mosques within the town and its outskirts, including Jamia Masjid Karol, Chandrol, Maitra, and Upper Ramban.

The spirit of Eid-ul-Adha resonated in other areas as well, including Banihal, Sangaldan, Ramsoo, Ukhral, Batote, Gool, and Rajgrah, where communities gathered in a spirit of joy and unity to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

## Bhurechak triumphs in Jai Raja Paidh Cricket Tournament



### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: The highly anticipated final match of the Jai Raja Paidh Cricket Tournament concluded on June 18, 2024, at the Bhurechak Mini Stadium. The tournament, which saw participation from 32 teams, showcased exceptional talent and sportsmanship throughout its duration.

Surinder Kumar, BDC Marh, graced the event

as the chief guest. He commended the players for their outstanding performances and emphasized the importance of sports in fostering a healthy and disciplined lifestyle.

He encouraged the youth to stay away from drugs and make sports an integral part of their daily routine to maintain both mental and physical fitness.

In the final showdown, Bhurechak faced off

against Prahladpur. Bhurechak won the toss and elected to bat first, setting a challenging target of 106 runs for 10 wickets in 15 overs. Parladhpur, despite a strong effort, was all out for 74 runs in 13.1 overs, securing Bhurechak's victory in the series. Laddi Singh of Bhurechak team was judged man of the match in the final whereas Ladda of Kanachack Jhiri was announced man of the series.

## Sant Nirankari Mission to celebrate International Yoga Day on June 21

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 18: The Sant Nirankari Mission will enthusiastically celebrate 'International Yoga Day' on Friday, June 21, at 6:00 am in open spaces and parks across various branches throughout India. This event will be conducted under the guidance of local yoga instructors.

The United Nations has themed this year's International Yoga Day as 'Yoga for Women Empower-

ment,' recognizing the importance of empowering women in today's society.

The Sant Nirankari Mission supports this initiative by implementing numerous welfare schemes aimed at empowering women, including sewing and embroidery centers, beautician courses, and tuition centers.

Joginder Sukhija, the social welfare in-charge of the Sant Nirankari Mandal, noted that since 2015, the Sant Nirankari Char-

itable Foundation has organized Yoga Day programs. This year, the event will be celebrated on a grand scale across cities in nearly every province of India.

Yoga, an ancient Indian practice, harmonizes spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health.

Regular yoga practice promotes a stress-free life and is particularly significant in empowering women. In modern times, where women juggle both domestic and professional responsi-

bilities, yoga serves as a crucial activity that helps them manage their roles effectively.

Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj has emphasized the importance of maintaining a 'healthy mind, easy life,' urging everyone to value their health as a precious gift from Nirankar God. The goal of such health programs is to ensure that people can lead healthier and more fulfilling lives by prioritizing their well-being amidst their busy schedules.