

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

**Bollywood singer Alka Yagnik diagnosed with 'rare hearing loss' due to viral attack**

NATIONAL

| 7

**Arvind Kejriwal's Custody In Liquor Policy Case Extended Till July 3**

INTERNATIONAL

| 8

**US soldier jailed for nearly 4 years in Russia after love story turns sour**

e-paper: [www.topnewsjk.in](http://www.topnewsjk.in)

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-168 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Blaze damages two houses, six injured in Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Jun 19 (Agencies): Two houses were damaged while six people suffered injuries triggered by the LPG blast following a massive nocturnal blaze in Bazipora area of Ajas village in north Kashmir's Bandipora district in the early hours on Wednesday.

A top official from the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) said that the blaze erupted at around 00:53 hours and quickly engulfed two houses – a double-story and a single-story structure – both with GCI sheet roofing.

"The fire caused significant damage to the roofs, ceilings, doors, and windows of both houses. Household belongings also suffered extensive damage," he said.

"Firefighters from Ajas, Bandipora, and Hajin fire stations promptly responded to the incident and brought the blaze under control," he added.

Tragically, six civilians sustained injuries during the incident due to an LPG cylinder explosion. One individual is reported to be in serious condition and has been admitted to SMHS Hospital in Srinagar for treatment.

F&ES officials believe an electrical short circuit may have triggered the fire. However, they say that the investigations are ongoing to determine the exact cause.

"Emergency services continue to monitor the situation to prevent any recurrence," the official added.

### Two Schools closed in Rafiabad village amid search operation

SOPORE, Jun 19 (Agencies): Authorities on Wednesday closed two educational institutions in view of cordon and search operation in Rafiabad village of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that classwork at government degree college Hadipora and Panash institution shall remain suspended today.

He said that the decision has been made

Turn to page 9

## Sopore encounter: Two terrorists killed, as many security personnel injured

SRINAGAR, Jun 19 (Agencies): Two terrorists have been killed in an ongoing encounter with security forces in the Hadipora area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday.

A top police officer told Srinagar based news agency Kashmir Scroll said that two terrorists have been killed by security forces in Hadipora, whose identity is yet to be ascertained.

Turn to page 9



## Govt nominates Nodal Officers for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024

SRINAGAR, Jun 19 (Agencies): Government has nominated nodal officers for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024.

As per an order issued by Government, a copy of which lies with news agency Kashmir Scroll, Shahid Choudhary will be Nodal Officer for Baltal Axis and Bhupin-

der Kumar for Pahalgam axis.

"It is hereby ordered that the officers shall be the Nodal Officers for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024 for the locations/axis that is Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Baltal Axis IAS, Administrative Secretary, Department of Rural Development and

Panchayati Raj and Mr. Bhupinder Kumar, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department Pahalgam Axis".

"The officers shall closely monitor and liaise with all concerned agencies involved in the conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024, and shall report to Chief

Turn to page 9

## Harpal Singh Bedi: Kashmir-born journalist who won hearts and laurels worldwide

NEW DELHI, Jun 19 (Agencies): The world of sports journalism lost a legend on Saturday as Harpal Singh Bedi, a veteran journalist with an illustrious career spanning over four decades, passed away at the age of 72 after a prolonged illness.

Born and raised in Srinagar, Kashmir, Harpal's journey from a curious child standing for hours, after his school hours,



reading magazines, and newspapers at a news kiosk, Sikandar News Agency in Lal Chowk, as he could not buy them then, to becoming one of South Asia's most respected sports jour-

nalists is nothing short of inspiring.

Harpal was the eldest of six siblings, growing up in a household deeply rooted in Sikh traditions, with his father, Giani Pritam Singh, serving as the Head Priest of Srinagar's main Gurdwara in Lal Chowk. As a school-going child, Harpal witnessed the historical events of Lal Chowk, the bustling

Turn to page 9

## Bengaluru Couple shocked as they find snake in Amazon Package

BENGALURU, Jun 19 (Agencies): A Bengaluru couple was shocked when they noticed a snake in their Amazon package.

The snake, suspected to be a spectacled cobra, was stuck in the adhesive tape used for the packaging, said the couple, who had ordered an Xbox controller from the online retail giant.

The couple, IT professionals from Sarjapur who wished not to be named, then made a video which went viral.

An Amazon India spokesperson said on Wednesday that the company is investigating the incident.

"The safety of our customers, employees and associates is a top priority for us. We work hard to provide

Turn to page 9

## Srinagar declared 'Temporary Red Zone' for operation of drones ahead of PM visit

SRINAGAR, Jun 19 (Agencies): Srinagar police have issued orders declaring the city a 'Temporary Red Zone' for the operation of drones and quadcopters.

This comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit,

Turn to page 9

## At least 550 Hajj pilgrims died, mostly due to heat, say Arab diplomats

RIYADH, Jun 19 (Agencies): Diplomats said at least 550 pilgrims died during the haj, underscoring the gruelling nature of the pilgrimage which again unfolded in scorching temperatures this year. At least 323 of those who died were Egyptians, most of them succumbing to heat-related illnesses, two Arab diplomats coordinating their countries' responses told AFP. "All of them (the Egyptians)

died because of heat" except for one who sustained fatal injuries during a minor crowd crush, one of the diplomats said, adding the total figure came from the hospital morgue in the Al-Muaiseem neighbourhood of Mecca. At least 60 Jordanians also died, the diplomats said, up from an official tally of 41 given earlier on Tuesday by Amman. The new deaths bring the total

Turn to page 9

## Veteran Photojournalist Nisar Ahmad passes away

SRINAGAR, Jun 19 (Agencies): Veteran photojournalist Nisar Ahmad, who extensively covered Kashmir over the past three decades, died here on Wednesday.



He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Ahmad was admitted to the SMHS hospital here on Tuesday after his health

Turn to page 9

## Unscheduled Power Cuts: SRS criticizes LG administration's claims of 24x7 electricity in Smart Metered areas



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 19: Rajiv Mahajan, President of Shri Ram Sena in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, has

<https://youtu.be/W6gg-Hmtjw?si=y16CZJTWQ2ZrGS>

vehemently criticized the Lt. Governor's claim of providing 24x7 uninterrupted power supply to

smart metered areas.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, Mahajan accused the government of failing to deliver consistent electricity both day and night, causing significant hardships for the residents of Jammu.

Mahajan emphasized that electricity is a fundamental necessity in the modern era, crucial for daily life, education, health, and safety.

Turn to page 9

## Man who went missing with AK-47 rifle in Doda held

SRINAGAR, Jun 19 (Agencies): A man who went missing along with AK-47 rifle of a Special Police Officer (SPO) in Trown area of Doda district on Tuesday evening has been held.

A top police officer told news agency Kashmir Scroll that a man identified as Muhammad Rafi, a resident of Trown near Pranoo has been held in his native district.

"He was coming from Bhella towards his village and was accompanied by a Special Police Officer who was carrying the weapon. When reached Pul Doda, the SPO Safdar Hussain deboarded the vehicle to buy some essentials and in the meantime Rafi fled in his car alongwith the rifle".

The vehicle was recovered near Jagota area of Bhella but neither Rafi

Turn to page 9

# 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.

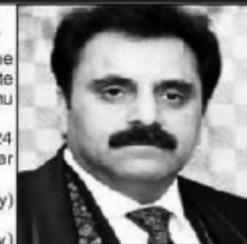


**SMT. KAMLA WATI BHAN**  
1930 - 2024

**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. Aular Krishan Bhan & Smt. Ratna Bhan  
Sh. Praduman Krishan Bhan & Smt. Sunita Bhan  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt. Santosh Bhan & Sh. I.K Bhan  
**Grand Children**  
Priyanka, Shalini, Ashish, Supriya, Siddharth, Rahul, Aastha, Aditya, Mridula.  
**Mobile:- 7006381262, 7006847290, 9165022095, 7006141919**

**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 & Chandhal -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**

**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 & Anjli 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**

**UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Ranjeet Gupta** (AG Office Jammu) S/o Sham Lal Gupta R/o Plot no. 254 Rehari colony Jammu. A noble soul whose loving personality made him unforgettable who touched the lives of many left for his heavenly abode on 18/06/2024. **Uthala** will be held on Thursday 20/06/2024. Timing 4:00 - 5:00 pm at Hari Mandir Rehari colony Jammu.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Anju Bala (Wife)  
**Bhabhi and Brother:-**  
Smt. Sushil Gupta and Lt. Sh. Kamal Nath Gupta  
Smt. Rimple and Sh. Kuldeep Gupta  
**Sister and brother in law:-**  
Mrs. Shashi bala and Sh. Vipin Kandhari  
Mrs. Deepu and Sh. Sanjay Jandyal  
**Mother in law:-**  
Smt. Shakuntla Devi  
**Sister and Brother in Law:-**  
Mrs. Namita Verma and Rakesh Verma  
**Son and Daughter:-**  
Gourav Gupta and Vaisali Gupta  
**7889975209, 7006324329**



**SHRI RANJEET GUPTA**

**10TH DAY**

"With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our mother **Mrs Kanta Zalpuri** W/o Lt Ram Nath Zalpuri, original resident of Chinkral Mohalla, Srinagar, presently at 2474 HIG, Phase 2, Urban Estate, Dugri, Ludhiana, passed away on 16 June 2024 and the **10th Day** will be on 25 June 2024 at Cremation ground, Dugri near Glada Flats, Ludhiana.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**Zalpuri's, Gorkhu's, Dhar's, Misri's, and Koul's"**



**Mrs Kanta Zalpuri**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

We inform you with heavy hearts and tearful 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**

With heavy hearts and profound grief, we are sorry to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Harbans Lal Gupta** (Retd. Range Officer) S/o Late Sh Faqir Chand (Barwal Wale) at Ward No 18 Kathua. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 21-06-2024 (Friday) at Rajput Sabha Kathua (Near Ram Leela Ground) at 12 Noon.



**Sh. Harbans Lal Gupta**  
(Retd. Range Officer)

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Wife - Late Smt. Rajinder Mahajan  
**Sons & Daughter-in-Law**  
Sh Sandeep Gupta (Insp. PDD) & Smt. Baby Gupta  
Sh Deepak Gupta (M/s Stationary World) & Smt. Bandhana Gupta (Edu. Dept.)  
Sh. Kuldeep Gupta & Smt. Pratibha Gupta (M/S Kuldeep Kumar & Rajesh Kumar)  
Er. Rakesh Gupta (Retd. Chief Engineer) & Dr. Art Pandoh Gupta (Assoc. Professor)  
Sh. Rajesh Gupta & Smt. Suman Gupta (M/S Kuldeep Kumar & Rajesh Kumar)  
Er. Ajay Gupta & Er. Manika Gupta (PDD)  
**Daughter & Son-in-Law**  
Smt. Pawan Gupta & Sh. Dina Nath Gupta (Cloth Merchant Dayala Chack)  
**Brother in law and Bhabhi**  
Sh. Tarsem Gupta & Late Smt. Sumita Devi (Pahankot)  
Late Sh. Ashok Gupta & Smt. Madhu Gupta (Pahankot)  
**Grand Son, Daughters & Daughters in laws**  
Manoj (Basi), Manish (Range officer), Rishi (City Bedicial), Rahul (Basi), Kanav (Lt Commander), Rhythm (Canada), Er. Rakshit, Dr. Anshul, Akashan, Aryaveer, Sanyam, Manvik, Raajyastree, Dr. Sary Rishi, Er. Manika, Jini, Karika, Naya, Ra.

**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 Teethi 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, Shefali, Avni, Aarti, Aayush  
**Mourning** will be held at H No. 7, Lane No. 19 Mangotriar Rajpura Jammu.  
**GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER - Myra**  
**CONTACT : 8800676724, 9149711474, 9796586545**



**Shri O N Dhar (Daddy)**

**RASM-E-CHEHLUM AND DUA-E-MAGFIRAT**

The 40th Day Ceremony of **Dr Ayesha Bhat** W/o Dr Wasim Sajad Bhat of Ramnagar Walay at present W No. 62 H No. 24-A Sec A/2 Luxmipuram Chinore Masjid Gali Chinore (Jammu North) shall be observed on Thursday, 20th of June 2024. All relatives and well-wishers are requested to join us at our residence for **IJTAMA DUA** at 12 Noon before Namaz Zohar.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN :**  
Haji Sajawat-ud-Din Bhat - F-in-law  
Alhaj Naseem Begum- M-in-law  
Dr Wasim Sajad Bhat- Husband  
Mohd Irshan Bhat- Son  
**Mob No. 94192-14382, 97857-35899**



**Dr Ayesha Bhat**

**OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our mother **Smt. Prabha Raina** W/o late Shri Radha Kiran Raina of Jawahar nagar, Srinagar and presently at 16-A, Bhawani Nagar, Janipur Jammu has left for her heavenly abode on 16th June 2024 at Jammu. **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 25th June (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat at 8:00 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Shashi & Late Sh. Kavi Rattan  
**Daughter-in-law & Son**  
Suneeta & Virender Raina  
**Grand Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Jharna & Himanshoo  
**Marsi Rattan - Grand Daughter**  
Dheeraj & Dr. Suhagini- **Grand Son-in-law & Grand Daughter**  
**Great Grand Children :** Ishita, Aryaman, Marya, Ashmit, Shivaarsh  
**Mob.: 9419155536, 9419182609**



**Smt. Prabha Raina**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

We inform with heavy hearts and tearful eyes that our beloved **Shri Vijay Kaul** resident of H No. 135, Sector 1, Indira Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu at present N-1103, Grand Anara, 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)  
Dalzy and Mohan Krishan Mongha (Bua and Fufa Ji)  
Utpal and Hina Kaul, Puneet and Niharika Kaul, Priyanka and Rohit Bhat, Ankit and Neha Kaul, Kinayha and Akshata Mongha, Ashish Kaul and Gyaneshwar Mongha  
**Mobile Nos :- 9958729719, 7678464315, 7233919845**



**Shri Vijay Kaul**

**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 Dhasram 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 Krishan Mandir adjacent to Dewan Modern Breweries, Lid, 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 :-**  
Vansh, Beantika, Udhay, Parul, Harsh, Dhanvvi  
**Mobile :- 9469214010, 7006175766, 9419620812**



**Smt Kamla Rani Gandotra**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **LATE OMKAR NATH RAINA (BOBAJI)** S/O LATE DEVI LAL RAINA OF W/ARHAMA PASHALQAM A/P H. NO.25, SEC.6, JAWALAJI COLONY GANGVAL, JAMMU ON 17TH JUNE 2024. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 26TH OF JUNE AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 08.30 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
SHYAMA PYARI-WIFE  
SWARAN KUMAR RAZDAN-SON  
SMT. DAZY RAZDAN-DAUGHTER-IN-LAW  
**DAUGHTERS AND SON IN LAWS:-**  
DAZY W/O SUNIL KUMAR BHAT  
CHAMPA W/O SANJEEV PANDITA  
**SISTER:-**  
PHOOLA PANDITA W/O LATE P N PANDITA  
**BROTHERS & BHABIS:-**  
SHIBAN KRISHAN RAINA & SANJOSH RAINA  
RAVI J RAINA & PRIMIJA RAINA  
SHRAWAN KUMAR RAINA, LALITA RAINA  
**CONTACT NO:**  
908653249, 9419143154,  
941921641, 941913732



**LATE OMKAR NATH RAINA (BOBAJI)**

**OBITUARY AND TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Sh. Sham Lal Dhar** S/o Late Sh. Sarwanand Dhar, originally R/o Yorekheospora Qabund, Kashmir, left for heavenly abode at Ashok Nagar Ghat on 17.06.2024. **Mourning** will be observed at B-32(A) Bharat Nagar, Bantala Jammu from 22.06.2024. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 26.06.2024 at Muthi Ghat (Near office of Director Education) at 9 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Ranjini Dhar (Wife)  
Kapil Dhar (Son)  
**(Daughter and Son-in-law)**  
Smt. Meenakshi and Sh. Indar Kumar Karndoo  
Smt. Roopa Ji Koul (Sister)  
Sh. Omkar Nath Dhar (Brother)  
Sh. H.N Dhar and Smt. Asha Ji (Brother and Sister-in-law)  
Sh. S.N.Dhar and Smt. Seema Ji (Brother and Sister-in-law)  
**Grandson: Master Ishaan Karndoo.**  
**Contact numbers: 9622323283, 9589102801, 8454044604 and 9665525744.**



**SH. SHAM LAL DHAR**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Late Dwarika Nath Bhat** S/o Late Lakhman Bhat of R/o Maimon-Magam District Baramulla Kashmir at present Block No. 15 Flat No. 63, 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, 90061-63993**  
**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Mrs. Uma Shori W/o Lt. Janaki Nath Bhat  
Mr. Moti Lal Bhat (Brother)  
**SAMAST BHAT PARIVAR**



**Late Dwarika Nath Bhat**

**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. Rani Nehru - Sister-in-law  
**Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Reena & Sh. G.K. Neuru  
Smt. Sushma Nehru - Sister-in-law  
**Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law**  
Smt. Dazy & Sh. Tej Krishan Nehru  
Smt. Sarita & Sh. B.N. Rana  
Smt. Renu & Sh. Bushan Sharma  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sh. Santosh Nehru & Smt. Rinki  
Sh. Rajinder Nehru & Smt. Sushma  
**Daughters & Son-in-law**  
Smt. Sunila & Sh. Sunil Pandita  
Smt. Anita & Sh. Manish Kaul  
**Grand Children:** Yuktha, Reshoo, Shivam, Nishaan, Richma, Veeraj, Dev, Dishaan, Devleena  
**Mobile No: 9906162992, 9810295675, 9622219211, 981113818, 9711923224, 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 (PYARI)** W/O SH. CHAMAN LAL RAINA OF KHAYARANANTANG PRESENTLY RESIDING AT 62A BITA NAGAR ENCLAVE (SHY TEMPLE LANE) JAMMU ON 10TH 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. SHYAMA JI PANDITA  
SMT. CHOCHA GANDOTRA  
**BROTHERS IN LAW & SISTERS IN LAW**  
SH. MOTI LAL RAINA AND SMT. GEETA RAINA  
SH. SHADI LAL RAINA AND SMT. BITA RAINA  
**DAUGHTERS AND SONS IN LAW**  
SMT. DOLLY KOLL & SH. RAMESHJI KOLL  
SMT. ANULLEE KOLL AND SH. SANJAY KOLL  
SMT. BABITA & SH. SHAILESH JI  
SMT. ANSHI RAINA & SH. ANIL BHAT  
**SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW**  
SH. NITISH RAINA & SMT. RASHI RAINA  
SH. HITESH RAINA & SMT. PREETI PANDITA  
**GRAND CHILDREN**  
MKHL KOLL, HAROK KOLL, AASHRAY KOLL, KAAN RAINA, KAASHIN RAINA  
**CONTACT DETAILS: 976683263, 999372299, 941927977, 7909044182**



**SMT. PHOOLA RAINA (PYARI)**

**10TH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and irrevocable demise of our beloved **Shri Bharat Bhushan Raina** S/o Late Sh. Bansi Lal Raina R/o House No. 72, Rampura, Ganchi 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, Rampura, Ganchi Nagar, Jammu. **KRIYA** will be performed on 20 June 2024 (Thursday) after 11:00 am at our residence. **UTHALA** will be held on 21 June 2024 (Friday) 4:00-5:00 pm at Durga Bhawan, Rampura, Ganchi Nagar, Jammu.  
**DEEPLY MOURNED BY**  
Koushalya Devi - Mother  
Juni Rana - Wife  
Ashish Rana & 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: 789957136**



**Shri Bharat Bhushan Raina (Bittu)**

**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, Roop 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)  
Sonis Anand Khullar (Daughter)  
Gaurik, Raghuw, Kabeer, Divya (Grand Children)  
**Mob. 9622022831, 9810998531, 9419129042**



**Smt. Nirmal Anand**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE ON 13TH JUNE 2024, OF **SMT. MOHINI KAUL** WIFE OF SH. TRILOK KAU OF SHALLA KADAL SRINAGAR (PRESENTLY HOUSE NO 111, LANE NO.1, NASIBNAGAR, JANIPUR, JAMMU). **TENTH DAY KRIYA - MUTHI GHAT, 22ND JUNE 2024 (SATURDAY)** AT 8.00 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN -**  
TRILOK KAU - HUSBAND  
**DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW**  
VEENA RAINA W/O DR CHAND RAINA  
**GRAND DAUGHTERS AND SPOUSES -**  
RASHI RAINA & SUEVER KAKROO  
SHEETAL RAINA & ATUL KOLL  
SHEEBA RAINA & VIKAS DHAR  
**MOB. NO.: 9419198183, 9419140486, 9419208333**



**SMT. MOHINI KAUL**

**DISCLAIMER**  
"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

## Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik Branch organized Yoga camp

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik Branch Channi Himmat, Jammu has organized a Yoga camp for five days from June 15 to 18, 2024 at Ramlilla ground Mandir sector-2 Channi Himmat and concluding function of five days yoga session is organized today on 19th June, 2024 in the premises of Panj Mandir Sector-2 Channi himmat jammu in collaboration with Bharatiya Yog Sansthan jammu in which members and participants of Bharat Vikas Parishad from others branches participated in today's International Yoga day. The Programme was

started with the tune of Vande Matram and lighting of the lamp by the chief guest. This day is very special to the entire society and it practiced in various forms around the world and continues to grow in popularity. Yoga signifies that whole world is one family and encapsulating our collective aspirations for "one Earth, One Family, and One Future. It is the consecutive 10th year and being celebrated every year across the world since June 2015. It was declared by United Nations General Assembly on 11th Dec, 2014. Yoga has emerged as one of the most trusted means to boost physical and mental well being.

Our PM Modi ji termed yoga as an "Invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition.

H.C Vaid President of the Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik branch channi Himmat jammu extended warm welcome to the chief guest and thanked all the participants for joining today's Yoga camp and makes it a successful event. On this auspicious occasion of international yoga day I feel honored to address to all of you as yoga originating from our lands and signifies in promoting physical, mental and spiritual well being.

Vaid elaborated the significance of Yoga as it is not merely a set of physical exercise but a holistic way of life that connects

body, mind and soul. Its principals of mindfulness and self awareness teach us to live in the present moment. Dr. Shreyansh jain conducted a session on pranayama describing it as a practice of breathing regulation. Sh.Ashok khajuria secretary conducted the proceedings of the programme. Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik branch channi Himmat,jammu facilitated the members of Bharatiya Yog Sansthan jammu namely Jia Lal Secretary and former Director of Horticulture, Ravinder Gupta President Disstt. Bahu, Shakti Sharma Secretary Disstt. Bahu, Subash Gupta Vice. President Disstt. Bahu and Inder Mohan

Gupta along with Sh. Satish Gupta members of Panj Mandir trust were also facilitated during this programme.

The Dignitaries of Prant namely B. B Sharma president, Shiv Sharma Secretary, Sunita Gupta finance secretary and Arun Sharma National committee member NGSC.

Ashok Gupta Prant Vice President was also honoured by Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik branch Channi Himmat, Jammu by presenting the bouquet of flowers. Ashok Gupta Prant Vice president presented the vote of thanks. Dr. Vijay Sharma Co. convener prant also explained the main objective of yoga and yoga day.

## Placement Coordinator Sindhu Central University Ladakh & casual worker at Field Petroleum Depot call on LG Mishra

### Top News Report

LEH, June 19: Placement Coordinator, Sindhu Central University Ladakh, Gurmet Dorjai called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education, Padma Angmo, IIS and Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin, were present in the meeting.

Gurmet informed the LG that he is part of the first batch of Sindhu Central University Ladakh currently pursuing M.Tech in Energy and Technology Policy at IIT

Kanpur. He requested the LG's recommendation to companies/PSUs, specifically those which are operating in the renewable energy sector, for their participation in the placement drive. He apprised the HLG of the rigorous training and practical experiences undergone by them at IIT Kanpur.

Highlighting the importance of conducting a placement drive at Sindhu Central University Ladakh separately, the LG asked Smt Padma to do the needful.

Stanzin Dolma, who is working at Field Petroleum Depot, ASC 406 Unit, Leh, called on the LG at the LG Secretariat.

Commissioner/Secretary, Smt Padma Angmo, IIS and Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin, were present in the meeting.

Stanzin informed the LG that she has been working as casual worker at the Field Petroleum Depot for the past 38 years. She also informed that despite working hard over the last four decades she was not offered a permanent post. She requested the HLG's intervention in this regard.

The LG informed Stanzin that he would take up the matter with the Army officials but the Indian Army would have the final say in the matter.

## Make Your Way' with Toyota Urban Cruiser Taisor



### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: The All-New Toyota Urban Cruiser Taisor is Toyota Kirloskar Motor's latest addition to its robust SUV lineup in India. This dynamic SUV seamlessly blends style, advanced features, and power-packed performance, making it a perfect choice for Indian customers seeking both prestige and practicality. With its modern styling and cutting-edge technologies,

the Urban Cruiser Taisor reinforces Toyota's commanding presence in the SUV category.

The vehicle's powertrain options include a 1.0L Turbo engine, a 1.2L Petrol engine, and an E-CNG variant, each designed to deliver a remarkable driving experience. The 1.0L Turbo engine is available with both 5-speed manual and 6-speed automatic transmissions, offering

versatility for those who prioritize power and performance. The 1.2L Petrol engine comes with a 5-speed manual transmission and Intelligent Gear Shift (IGS), while the 1.2L E-CNG option ensures exceptional fuel efficiency.

The All-New Urban Cruiser Taisor delivers maximum power of 100.06 PS @ 5500 rpm in the 1.0L Turbo option, offering a power packed driving experience with segment best fuel efficiency of 21.5\* km/l for Manual and 20.0\* km/l for Automatic. The 1.2L Petrol Engine offers maximum power of 89.73 PS @6000rpm with a fuel efficiency of 21x7 Manual and 22.8\*(AMT) km/l. The All-New Urban Cruiser Taisor is also available in the E-CNG option offering fuel efficiency of 28.5\* km/k.

## BJP Govt's J&K developmental figures mismatch reality on ground: Rattan Lal

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President JK NC Jammu on Wednesday said that the figures of BJP Government in J&K are quite divergent from the reality on ground as the party has expertise in manipulating things impeccably.

This was stated by the NC Senior leader in a press release issued to media persons here.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that despite unemployment crossing all previous limits, farmers confronting unending hardships and nobody is listening them, industry facing the most difficult time, public edifice in tatters, people craving for basic amenities, the JJM Scheme proving to be a damp squib, the government is brazenly painting a rosy picture through its rhetoric and propaganda machinery, spending crores of rupees by drying up the public exchequer in a merciless manner.

He said that contrary to what was promised, to the people of the J&K who are still struggling to get what it deserved on merit. He said that except



bogus assurances and promises of providing stars and moon, the BJP Government has nothing in offering for the people as its think tank is devoid of policy and plans, which has become the cause of dearth and depreciation for the people, who are facing colossal hardships which they never faced even during the previous rules. He said that the state expenditure is being spent on non productive projects in the name of Smart Cities, Jammu and Srinagar.

The Provincial President said that people have understood well about the treachery of the BJP Government and that is the reason behind BJP's performance in the recently held Lok Sabha election becoming worse with its vote share going down considerably and its central leadership deciding to remain out of contest in three vital seats of Kashmir fearing devastating defeat.

## CCI Jammu hails Gadkari, Jitendra for approving Lakhanpur-Doda NH, Chhatergala Tunnel

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: Arun Gupta President Chamber of Commerce & Industry expressed gratitude and complimented Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways for approving the much needed unprecedented and prestigious project of Lakhanpur-Doda National Highway and construction of Chhatergala Tunnel linking the Lakhanpur with Doda.

Arun Gupta also expressed sincere thanks to Dr. Jatindra Singh, MOS in Prime Ministers Office with whose relentless efforts this prestigious project has become possible.

Arun Gupta said that with the completion of the Highway, it will provide all weather connectivity between Lakhanpur to Doda district and will also reduce to travel time and will give impetus to business activities, revenue generation, enhance the employment opportunities besides giving thrust to the tourism activities of



the area. Arun Gupta emphasized that the Tourist spots of Billawar, Basohli, Bani, Bhaderwah and sarthal which are popular due to climatic conditions and are also known for the famous pilgrim spots like Maa Sukrala Mandir, Sheelta Mata mandir and Shakti Mata Mandir. These areas are most beautiful as compared to other hill stations & are known for breath taking beauty & cultural heritage.

Arun Gupta stressed the need that tourism

department should come forward and highlight the popularity of the famous pilgrim places and tourist spots enroute the highway to attract the maximum number of pilgrims and tourists to visit these areas. The government should come forward and direct the concerned departments to involve the interested parties and guide them in developing the infrastructural facilities like Hotels etc to provide better facilities to tourists/pilgrims visiting the said area.

## Manjit Singh raises concern over pathetic road condition, worsening drinking water, electricity crisis in Parmandal Block



### Top News Report

SAMBA, June 19: Expressing concern over the pathetic condition of road infrastructure in Parmandal Block, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Wednesday has urged for the intervention of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to take up the developmental initiatives that are required to upgrade the infrastructure to improve the living standard of the people in the kandi belt.

The statement was issued after an extensive tour that was conducted by the Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh along - with the J&K's ST Wing President of the Apni Party, Choudhary Saleem Alam at various villages in Parmandal Block.

During the long tour of various villages in Parmandal Block, the Apni Party leaders met the people of different segments of society and listened to their grievances. It came to fore that the

block has faced alleged deliberate negligence from the authorities, particularly the Schedule Caste (SC), and Schedule Tribe (ST) colonies, said S. Manjit Singh in his statement that was issued to attract attention of the authorities towards the plight of the people.

He said that the SC and ST colonies are among the worst affected areas where the development is still a distant dream for the residents even as it is hardly few kms from the Jammu Pathankot highway.

"It is shocking to see the level of underdevelopment in Parmandal Block. It appears, the authorities have done nothing for the people on the ground, but the claims through the press information are issued to mislead the public opinion," he added.

He said that the people are angry with the authorities for not holding any public issues redressal camp and then acting upon the listed grievances.

"The situation has aroused because there is no elected Govt, and the bureaucratic system is not working in public interest. It was not only the road and other basic amenities, but the water supply system has completely collapsed in Kandi belt, particularly Parmandal Block," he said.

He said that the people in Parmandal Block hire private drinking water tankers to supply them water in the wake of the inability of the Govt Departments in providing the water as well as electricity in Kandi.

At the same time, he said that the people in Parmandal Block are also suffering because of unscheduled power cuts amid the heatwave.

He demanded that the LG of J&K should personally review the situation in Kandi belt with the increasing heatwave in the region.

## 74 MBA students of SMVDU earn NPTEL Certificate; Vansh Gupta in Top 1%

### Top News Report

KATRA, June 19: Seventy-four MBA students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University have earned the NPTEL certificate in 'Yoga and Positive Psychology for Managing Career and Life', a course led by Prof. Ashish Pandey from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.

This 8-week course integrates methods to strengthen the physical, emotional, and intellectual aspects of oneself through Yoga and Positive Psychology principles and practices. Students explored yogic interventions for holistic life integration and well-being. Among these students, ten received silver medals, with Vansh Gupta standing out in the top 1% with an impressive 87% score.

The School of Business is dedicated to developing future managers holistically and offers a 2 Two-year MBA program, along with a newly



introduced Four-year undergraduate program (FYUG) in Business Administration. Admissions in both these programs are now open.

## The program of re-installation of Lord Valmiki's idol concluded -- Vivekanand Maharaj

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: The program of re-installation of the grand ancient idol of Lord Valmiki concluded in the presence of Swami Vivekanand Maharaj and great saints"

"On this occasion, BJP MP Yogendra Chandolia, & BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj Chandrapal Chandel, Guruji Raju Chandel, Yogendra Mehraulia, Seema Pawar & other dignitaries were present"

"On this occasion, Swami Vivekanand Maharaj while speaking said that this temple is a historical temple of the Pandava period and in this temple, the grand idol of Lord Valmiki which is made of stone of Song

Mangalwar and weighing 700 tan has been re-installed according to the law in the presence of all the saints"

"On this occasion, Shri Guruji Raju Chandel said If Lord Valmiki were not there today, people would not have

any knowledge about Lord Rama. Today, by following Lord Valmiki Ramayana composed by him, we have come to know about the existence of Lord Rama and by the grace of Lord Rama, our country has become Vishva Guru.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, N Rly., Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S.N.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
01.	94235470A	ARTHROSCOPY SYSTEM	01 Set	10.07.2024

NOTE:-Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No.: 09/2024-25 Date: 18/06/2024 1830/24

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## CHESS LEARNING CENTRE

**Unlock Your Strategies:  
Join Our Chess Classes Today!**

**Three Classes  
a Week**

**TIMINGS**  
Morning: 11 am to 12 pm  
Afternoon: 3 pm to 4 pm  
Evening: 7 pm to 8 pm

Contact Us:  
Phone/Whatsapp: 9103264178  
Email: [learnchess.jammu@gmail.com](mailto:learnchess.jammu@gmail.com)  
Location: Canal Road opposite Dr. Rajesh Gupta (Ortho) Clinic

**KEY**  
DAMA  
CABALLO  
ALFIL  
TORRE  
PEON

## EDITORIAL

Shift Towards  
Development

In recent years, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has been at the forefront of national discourse due to significant developments and policy shifts aimed at fostering development, peace, and stability in the region. This erstwhile state, now a union territory, has witnessed transformative changes that have both sparked controversy and optimism among various stakeholders. Let's delve into some key aspects that are shaping the current narrative in Jammu and Kashmir.

One of the most pivotal moments in Jammu and Kashmir's recent history was the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A of the Indian Constitution in August 2019. This move, which revoked the special status granted to the region, has been a subject of intense debate and scrutiny. Supporters of the decision argue that it has paved the way for integrating Jammu and Kashmir more closely with the rest of India, thereby enabling greater economic opportunities, infrastructure development, and administrative reforms.

Critics, on the other hand, have expressed concerns over the manner in which the decision was implemented and its implications on the region's autonomy and identity. The abrogation led to changes in the administrative structure, including the reorganization of the state into two union territories—Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. These changes have sparked mixed reactions within the region and beyond, reflecting the complex socio-political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Post-abrogation, there has been a concerted effort by the central government to accelerate development initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir. Key sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, and tourism have received attention with the aim of improving living standards and promoting economic growth. Initiatives such as the Jammu and Kashmir Development Package and the Back to Village program have been launched to address local needs and empower grassroots governance.

Infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, and connectivity initiatives, have been prioritized to facilitate easier access to remote areas and enhance mobility. This focus on development aims to create employment opportunities, attract investment, and improve overall socio-economic indicators in the region.

The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has historically been a concern due to sporadic incidents of violence and separatist movements. In recent years, there has been a visible decline in the incidence of terrorism-related activities, attributed in part to heightened security measures and proactive counterterrorism operations by security forces.

Efforts to strengthen local police forces, intelligence gathering capabilities, and community engagement have played a crucial role in maintaining law and order. Additionally, initiatives such as the rehabilitation and reintegration of former militants have been undertaken to foster peace and stability in the region.

The reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir into union territories has also influenced the political landscape. Local elections have been conducted to establish grassroots democracy and empower elected representatives at the village, block, and district levels. These elections have seen active participation from various political parties and independent candidates, reflecting a growing democratic ethos within the region.

However, challenges remain in terms of political representation and inclusivity, particularly in addressing the aspirations of diverse communities and ensuring equitable development across regions.

In conclusion, the evolving narrative in Jammu and Kashmir underscores a dynamic shift towards development, stability, and integration. While the abrogation of Article 370 and subsequent policy measures have sparked debates and concerns, the focus on economic growth, infrastructure development, and security reforms represents a significant opportunity for the region's progress.

Moving forward, continued efforts to address socio-economic disparities, strengthen democratic institutions, and foster inclusive development will be crucial in shaping a prosperous future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. As the region navigates these transformative changes, it remains essential to strike a balance between preserving local identity and harnessing opportunities for growth within the framework of a united and progressive India.

## War crimes, genocide rise as world ignores ICJ, ICC

By: Abhijit Bhattacharyya

Two major wars are currently raging across the planet -- the first for the past 28 months in mainland Europe between the white Christian nations of Russia and Ukraine, and the second for over eight months between historical enemies Israel, the Jewish state, and Palestinian terrorist group Hamas, widely believed to be supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The question that now arises is: are those engaged in these conflicts willfully indulging in war crimes, even genocide in certain cases, in complete and utter disregard of international law?

What makes these conflicts unique is that every country disagrees with others on how these wars should end. The big boys of the West are also playing a grossly partisan role, following their own agenda, not bothering about the human tragedy of either Eastern Europe or the Levant. The West seems to be reveling that they aren't losing their diminishing demography.

The landmark verdicts of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) are being scorned, scoffed at and contemptuously ridiculed by a global superpower like the United States. This only shows the arrogance of power. All through the 20th and now the 21st century, the West has prided itself as the ultimate economic, political and military role model which follows the values of "democracy and rule of law" and abides by a "rules-based international order", which should be emulated by the rest of the world. All that seems to be forgotten now.

Even before the UN's top judicial arm, the ICJ, had ordered Israel to "immediately halt its military assault on the Gaza city of Rafah"

on May 24, US President Joe Biden had given the White House's verdict on May 20: "What's happening in Gaza isn't genocide. We reject that." However, EU foreign affairs chief Joseph Borrell urged Israel to "obey the UN court on Rafah". The worst, however, came from Lindsay Graham, US Republican Senator from South Carolina, who said "ICJ to go to hell" for ruling against Israel on Rafah, which the judges described as a "disastrous humanitarian situation".

The ICJ was not the only one to face the ferocity of the very nations that champion the cause of a "rules-based" world order. When the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court sought arrest warrants against Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defence minister Yoav Gallant for "war crimes and crimes against humanity", the entire American political system burst into flames.

US Senators and Congressmen of both parties proposed sanctions on the ICC. However, earlier, when the same ICC issued an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin, the US and Europe both welcomed it. Today, Europe appears divided over the ICC verdict against the Israeli leaders, while America is united in opposing it. The Labour Party in Britain, poised to come to power next month, backed the ICC and Germany said it would arrest or deport the Jewish state's leader. Spain too "requested South Africa to intervene in the Gaza genocide case against Israel".

In this toxic environment, an explosive report on May 25 in London's Daily Telegraph stood out: "Real reason why Biden considering sanctions against ICC", and it said: "Biden's position on ICC underscores hollowness of his rhetoric on America's role in world". It said that all through his presiden-

cy, Mr Biden had "emphasised the importance of a rules-based-order", had condemned "Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine" to justify extensive US support of Kyiv, and yet "when it comes to Israel, Biden seems to take offence at an institution trying to uphold that order".

Influential US legislators have spelt out that the US is fiercely opposed to ICC manoeuvring "not only for outrage against Israel but to protect, in future, our own interests". US politicians "know very well that they have more to lose than any other country over an emboldened ICC willing to challenge American actions". As "self-appointed world police, the US has regularly violated sovereignty of other countries", the newspaper said.

America's two-faced policy in the Levant now appears to be running out of steam, with the presidential elections looming back in the US amidst internal turbulence on the "Gaza genocide", where it's 1,500 (Israelis killed) versus 40,000 (Palestinians dead). Understandably US secretary of state Blinken is intensively lobbying Middle East leaders to pressure Hamas to accept the Gaza ceasefire.

The UN's efforts to make international law enforceable through the ICJ and ICC on war crimes and genocide has become the butt of jokes. Why can't the warmongers of the West refresh their memory to apply the anti-war instruments to halt the manslaughter of the 21st century? So many agreements have been signed to ensure the peace, but when push comes to shove, virtually all agreements, treaties, protocols and conventions fall flat as nations follow the principle of "might is right".

Implied as a basic precept of international law is the concept of collective security and collective wisdom,

despite its frequent breaches. Of all factors of international relations and conflict, however, "war crimes" and "international crimes" emerge as the most vexatious. Introduced 1906, the terms are defined as "cruelty that violates international laws governing the conduct of international armed conflicts". The prohibition against the "killing of hostages, abuse of civilians in occupied territories and devastation that isn't justified by military necessity" have been on the books for over a century but seems to be quickly forgotten amidst mindless butchery of "anything that moves" by fanatical fighters among the belligerents.

To tackle all these came into being the "15-member permanent tribunal of the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the UN" in 1945, followed by another "court established by statute of the ICC (effective 2002), with jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression". The apparatus exists with all the paraphernalia, yet nothing happens except mass murder because that is the shortest and quickest way to prosperity, money, profits and road to neo-imperialism through the work of arms merchants and their clients masquerading as political leaders of the strong and mighty.

And that never ends. Just pick the wisdom of greats of the past to ponder over today's mutilated, rotten corpses on the streets. British philosopher Isaiah Berlin referred to the 20th century "as the most terrible century in Western history", and William Golding, the 1983 Nobel laureate for literature, felt that "this has been the violent century in human history". The intellectual giants were right then on both counts but will fail to have any impact today as no one appears to be listening.

## Essential skills for success after Class XII

By: VIJAY GARG

Qualifying Class 12 board exams is a significant milestone, marking your transition from the protected environment of school to the vast expanse of adulthood. This transition calls for equipping yourself with essential life skills that will serve as a compass, guiding you through the twists and turns of higher education, the workforce, and life itself.

1. Decision making: The power of critical thinking and problem-solving

In a world brimming with choices, the ability to make informed decisions is paramount. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are the bedrock of effective decision-making. Develop the habit of analysing situations from multiple perspectives, weighing the pros and cons, and considering the long-term implications of your choices. This skill will empower you to navigate complex situations and make well-reasoned decisions that align with your goals and values.

2. Financial literacy: Unlocking the door to financial independence

Mastering financial literacy is a game-changer in today's world. Understanding budgeting, investment strategies, and cost-saving techniques will equip you with the knowledge to make sound financial decisions after board exams and beyond. It's never too early to start learning about money management, as it will pave the way for financial independence and security in the long run.

3. Design thinking skills: Unleashing your creativity and

problem-solving PROCESS

Short article insert In a rapidly evolving world, the ability to think creatively and solve problems is a highly sought-after skill. Design thinking encourages you to approach challenges from a human-centered perspective, fostering empathy, ideation, and innovative solutions. Embrace this mindset, and you'll be equipped to tackle complex problems with elegance and ingenuity.

4. Communication and debating skills: The art of persuasion and clarity

Effective communication is the cornerstone of personal and professional success. Hone your ability to convey your thoughts with clarity and precision, both in written and verbal form. Additionally, develop the art of debating, where you learn to construct persuasive arguments and respectfully engage with opposing viewpoints. These skills will serve you well in academic discourse, professional settings, and everyday interactions.

5. Diversity management skills: Collaboration, teamwork, and empathy

In our increasingly interconnected world, the ability to work effectively with diverse teams is essential. Cultivate skills in collaboration, teamwork, and interpersonal communication. Develop empathy and an appreciation for different perspectives, as this will enable you to navigate diverse environments with ease and build meaningful connections.

6. Digital and AI literacy: Embracing the future of technology

The digital age has ushered in a new era of technological advance-

ments, including the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). Equip yourself with digital literacy skills, enabling you to navigate the ever-evolving digital landscape with confidence. Understand the potential of AI and its applications, including prompt engineering, and stay ahead of the curve in this rapidly evolving field.

7. Self-directed learning: Embracing the lifelong journey of learning and unlearning

In a world where knowledge is constantly evolving, the ability to embrace self-directed learning is invaluable. Cultivate a growth mindset and a hunger for continuous learning and unlearning. Develop the skills to seek out credible sources of information, analyze and synthesize knowledge, and apply it in practical contexts. This skill will enable you to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing landscape.

8. Time management: Mastering the art of prioritization and planning

Effective time management is the key to unlocking productivity and achieving your goals. Learn to prioritize tasks, create realistic schedules, and eliminate time-wasters. Develop strategies for balancing multiple commitments, such as academics, extracurricular activities, and personal pursuits. By mastering time management, you'll be able to maximize your potential and make the most of every opportunity that comes your way.

9. Adaptability and resilience: Navigating setbacks with grace

Life is full of unexpected challenges and setbacks. Developing adaptability and resilience will equip you with the mental forti-

tude to navigate these obstacles with grace. Embrace change as an opportunity for growth, and cultivate the ability to bounce back from failures and disappointments. Remember, resilience is not about avoiding hardships but rather about developing the strength to overcome them and emerge stronger on the other side.

10. Civic, cultural, and global awareness: Embracing diversity and social responsibility

As a global citizen, it's essential to develop an understanding and appreciation for diverse cultures, social issues, and global perspectives. Cultivate an open mind and a willingness to learn about different communities, beliefs, and traditions. Engage in civic activities and develop a sense of social responsibility, as this will empower you to contribute positively to your local and global communities.

Mastering these ten essential skills will equip you with the tools to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities that await you beyond the walls of high school. Embrace the journey of self-discovery and personal growth, and remember that learning is a lifelong pursuit. With determination and a growth mindset, you can unlock your full potential and pave the way for a fulfilling and rewarding future.

(Vijay Garg Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)

## Shiv Sena demands removal of flaws in Shri Amarnath Yatra arrangements, announcement of providing free tent service

### Top News Report

PAHALGAM, June 19: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has highlighted some flaws being ignored in the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra arrangements, starting on 29th June and has appealed to remove them, give priority to local people in the tender system and announced free tent facility during yatra to saints and sages.

Along with this, food was distributed among the poor and helpless people on the occasion of the 58th foundation day of the party.

Party state chief Manish Sahni while addressing the media persons



here today that a team of party leaders under his leadership interacted with the local peoples at Pahalgam regarding the Yatra arrangements. He said that there is no doubt that Shri Amarnath Shrine Board is trying to provide every possible facility to

the pilgrims. But according to past experience, there is a need to keep a special eye on the facilities and make some special improvements.

Sahni has appealed to give priority to local people in the arrangements for Shri Amarnath

Yatra, improving bedding services in the tents being set up at various stops on the Yatra route.

Along with this, he has demanded to increase the number of talkal registration counters, simplify the process of permission for langar service, keep a

special eye on middlemen and impose a complete ban on the sale of liquor during the Yatra.

Sahni announced to provide free tent service to the saints and sages during the Shri Amarnath Yatra, and asked the special permission for the same. Sahni said that it has also been learnt that some political people are taking advantage of their relations and after getting the tenders, are selling them to the local people at higher price, which needs to be kept under special watch and strict action.

On this occasion, President Women Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Malik Bashir were present.

## J&K police recovers 15 smartphones



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, June 19: Continuing its efforts to extend services to the general public and address their grievances, the Kishtwar Police Cyber Cell received various complaints about missing mobile phones. After significant efforts, the Cyber Cell of Kishtwar Police traced and recovered 15 lost mobile phones. SSP Kishtwar, Abdul

Qayoom handed over the recovered mobile phones to their legitimate owners. He appealed to the general public to take utmost care of their mobiles as they contain personal data and there is a possibility of misuse.

Upon receiving their missing/lost mobile phones, the owners felt elated and expressed their gratitude towards the District Kishtwar Police, especially to SSP

Kishtwar, for their arduous effort in tracing their missing mobiles.

At the conclusion, SSP Kishtwar emphasized the importance of safeguarding mobile devices due to the sensitive information they often contain, highlighting the potential risks associated with their misuse. He urged the public to exercise utmost caution in handling their mobile phones to prevent any untoward incidents.

## Nazeem seeks CE Jal-Shakti, DC Poonch attention towards non-functional water lift-scheme in Mendhar

### Top News Report

MENDHAR, June 19: Youth National conference leader Choudhary Nazeem Khatana on Tuesday visited panchayat at GOI in mendhar sub-division to hear the grievances of general public.

During Nazeem khatana visit to the GOI panchayat, Residents of the area raised many issues and grievances that are being facing by them. They said the water lift in their area is lying non-functional for a long time but the officials of Jal-Shakti Department are non paying any attention towards issue of non-functional water lift scheme which is adding



woes among local residents.

NC leader Ch.Nazeem khatana listened all the grievances carefully. He made a fervent appeal to Chief engineer Jal-Shakti and Deputy Commissioner Poonch to solve issue of the non-functional water lift schemes

in panchayat GOI mendhar on priority, in people interest.

He further said that he will try his best to look through these issues and approaches the concerned authorities to solve all the issues regarding sufferings of public.

## SWD holds awareness programs aiming Empowerment of Women in Ramban

### Top News Report

RAMBAN, June 19: The Department of Social Welfare, Ramban, successfully organized an awareness programme today at Halla Dhandrath focusing on various initiatives aimed at empowering women and combating substance abuse.

The event highlighted the Sankalp initiative, the functioning of the One Stop Centre for Women, Ramban, and the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan campaign.

District Social Welfare Officer, Ramban, Rahul Gupta emphasized that these campaigns are conducted regularly under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Basheer-Ul-Haq Choudhary. The primary goal is to support and empower women while addressing critical social issues such as substance abuse.

The DSWO highlighted

the Sankalp program, which aims to empower women by providing them with opportunities for personal and professional growth. He also discussed the One Stop Centre for Women, Ramban, which offers essential support and assistance to women in distress.

Rajni Sharma, a staff member at the One Stop Centre, led the awareness drive on the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan campaign. She underscored the severe impact of drug abuse on society and reiterated the District Administration's commitment to achieving a drug-free community.

The Department of Social Welfare and the District Administration has made efforts to create a safer, more supportive environment for women and to address the pressing issue of substance abuse.

## Ladakh got 22 seats in CSAB NEUT-2024 across the country in AICTE-approved Technical Institutions

### Top News Report

LEH, June 19: Under the Government of India's ongoing scheme of reservation of seats in Engineering/Technology/Architecture/ Pharmacy courses in AICTE approved Technical Institutions across the country, for students belonging to 8 North East States and 5 Union Territories, 22 seats in Architecture and Engineering in various Institutions across India under CSAB NEUT-2024 counseling has been allocated to UT of Ladakh.

The Commissioner/Secretary of Higher Education, UT Ladakh Padma Angmo stated that considering the lack of enough institutions offering professional courses in these states and union territories, the Government of India is implementing this program. CSAB NEUT-2024 will conduct "two rounds" of seat allotment.

The candidates can start registration from 19 to 28 June, choose and prioritize the courses of their choice (choice-filling) online from June 21, and lock their choices by 01 July 2024.

The first round of allotment will be done on 8 July 2024. The second round of seat allotment

will happen on 22 July 2024. It is followed by a "spot round", which will be conducted by the respective "Directorate of Technical Education (DTEs)" of all the participating North Eastern States/UTs.

The Commissioner/Secretary urged the Ladakhi candidates and their parents to frequently visit the CSAB-2024 website for updates (<https://csab.nic.in>). She informed them that they could also download the complete brochure containing the schedule of events, available seats, and related information from <https://csab.nic.in/csab-neut/>.

To have maximum participation of eligible students with utmost transparency, the Ministry of Education has taken this decision to conduct seat allotment on such seats through a Centralized Seat Allotment Board (CSAB) for the North Eastern States and Union Territories (NEUT).

The government of India has entrusted the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) Surathkal to carry out "Online Counselling" to all the NE states and UTs under the chairmanship of Director, NITK Surathkal. CSAB NEUT-2024 will make

an allotment of seats to the candidates based on their JEE (Main)-2024 scores for the first year of Engineering/Technology and Architecture courses. Allotment for pharmacy will be based on the aggregate percentage of marks obtained in class XII.

Reservation of seats for different categories is as per the rules of each state & Union Territories. All candidates with 45% (GEN/EWS/OBC-NCL) or 40% (SC/ST/PwD) in class XII (or equivalent) examination are eligible to participate in the counseling process. For Architecture, the candidate should have passed the 10+2 examination with at least 50% aggregate marks (<https://csab.nic.in>).

For further guidance and details, interested students can contact the concerned nodal officers for UT Ladakh

Shri. Rizwan Ali, Assistant Professor, GDC Kargil, and Shri Amjad Hussain Assistant Professor, EJM College at [73rizwan@gmail.com](mailto:73rizwan@gmail.com), [amjadhussainjd@gmail.com](mailto:amjadhussainjd@gmail.com), or on the phone (No. 8800873364, 7889587001) during working hours (10.00 AM to 5.00 PM).

## Showkat Ali Ganaie passes away

### Top News Report

DODA, June 19: Showkat Ali Ganaie, a respected teacher from Zone Gundna, passed away this morning at GMC Jammu following a sudden brain hemorrhage. He initially suffered the hemorrhage at his residence in Shaiva Mohalla and was admitted to GMC Doda before

being transferred to GMC Jammu, where he succumbed to his condition.

Ganaie's untimely death is being mourned deeply within the teaching community. Sajad Ahmed Rahi, a teacher at Government High School Bhartund, expressed his condolences, saying, "His loss will never be fulfilled. I pray to Almighty

Allah to grant his soul the highest place in Jannat ul Firdous and give patience to the family members to bear this irreparable loss."

Arrangements are being made to transport Ganaie's body from Jammu to Doda. The Nimaz-e-Jinaza will be held at 9:00 AM on June 20, 2024, at his residence in Shaiva Mohalla.

## Summer Camp concludes at Vishwa Bharati Public School Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: Vishwa Bharati Senior Secondary School, Jammu organised a summer camp in the school's premises from June 3 to 13, 2024.

The purpose of the camp organised was to provide a platform to all kids in order to make them active, gain educational enrichment, have fun and gain experiences that have never had before.

Students participated in various activities like Dance, Yoga, Music, Art and Craft, sports and swimming. All the activi-

ties were very interesting and fun oriented. Main highlight being swimming along with splash pool activities was a real treat during these scorching hot days.

The camp provided a safe and healthy environment for kids to come, learn and achieve expertise at whatever they were trying to master.

Dr. S.K. Koul Secretary Vishwa Bharati J&K Units and Mrs. Annapurna Koul Principal Vishwa Bharati Higher Secondary School encouraged the staff and students for their efforts in making summer camp 2024 a success.

## CU Jammu Sees Significantly Rise in Campus Placements



### Top News Report

JAMMU, 19th June 2024: Central University Jammu final placement opportunities have been substantially increased in session 2024 with the average increasing from 50% to 98%. Several Indian companies, start-ups and MNCs are hiring students here at handsome salary packages and the campus placements have started significantly picking pace.

For now as many as 10 students are recruited by the companies visiting the campus for the placement drive and the

recruiting companies are Prevest Denpro, Argumentik Group, Exigo Recycling, Truvai Global and Amar Ujala. The selected students were offered lucrative package of 7 LPA.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ congratulated the selected students and said that "we believe in providing our students with diverse opportunities to excel in their chosen fields. The placement drive not only provided students with a chance to secure placements but also allowed them to gain valuable insights into the sales

and marketing sector.

The Training and Placement Office (TPO) in its statement said that the 2024 campus placement drive would be a huge opening for their students to get placed in diverse working forums. The second phase of this placement drive had begun with the interview process in the visited companies and a good number of students had been offered placements. These companies hired more than 50 skilled candidates till now for the role of Marketing, HR, Editors and others.

## International Yoga Day celebrated at GGHSS Kargil



### Top News Report

LEH, June 19: Govt Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kargil organised preponed International Yoga Day Program in the School Premises. The program commenced at 0800hrs and concluded at 1000hrs.

Renowned Yoga Instructor Lakhwinder Singh at Yogprarthna briefed about Yoga and its importance and practised Yogasanas.

The program was organised in collaboration with Indian Army under the platform UDCHALO, NCC Cadets and students and faculty of the school participated with great enthusiasm.

## Dras Thunder Motorcycle Rally Flagged off from Udhampur



### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, June 19: Dras Thunder Motorcycle Rally was flagged off on its sixth day of journey by Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Yuddh Seva Medal, Chief of Staff, Headquarter Northern Command in a ceremony organised at Dhruva War Memorial today. The flag off ceremony was graced by senior officers from Udhampur Military Station.

The rally team comprises of army personnel,

war veterans of Operation Vijay, next of kins of bravehearts of Operation Vijay and community members from Dras. The team is scheduled to meet gallantry award winners, veterans and veer naris enroute to Dras.

The Rally was flagged off from National War Memorial, New Delhi on 13 Jun 2024 by Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vice Chief of Army Staff. The participants had reached Udhampur on 17 Jun 2024 at 1800hrs and

halted for the night at Udhampur. On 18th Jun the rally will cover a distance of 134 kms and will halt at Srinagar.

This unique journey symbolises the enduring bond between the armed forces and nation that resonate with the spirit of courage, sacrifice and patriotism. This expedition is testament to the unwavering spirit of our armed forces and aims to ensure that the memories of the Kargil War and the valour exemplified by our soldiers remain etched in the collective consciousness of the nation.

## Bollywood singer Alka Yagnik diagnosed with 'rare hearing loss' due to viral attack

Renowned playback singer Alka Yagnik recently shared an update from her life on social media.

The artist has been diagnosed with a rare sensory neural nerve hearing loss caused by a viral attack.

In her heartfelt Instagram post, the Bollywood singer revealed that the issue began suddenly a few weeks ago after she walked out of a flight and experienced a significant loss of hearing. The singer bravely took her time to process the diagnosis before deciding to speak out.

"Having mustered some courage in the weeks following the episode, I want to break my silence now for all my friends and well wishers who have been asking me why I'm missing in action.

"It has been diagnosed by my docs as a rare sensory neural nerve hearing loss, due to a viral attack... This sudden, major setback has caught me completely unawares. As I attempt to come to terms with it please keep me in your prayers," Alka wrote. She also cautioned her fans and younger colleagues about the dangers of exposure to very loud music and the frequent use of headphones, highlighting the potential health risks associated with her professional life.

Yagnik, popular for songs such as "Ek Do Teen", "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai" and "Gali Mein Aaj Chand Nikla", asked her fans and followers to send their best wishes and keep her in their prayers.

Singers Ila Arun and Sonu Nigam responded to Alka's post. Ila conveyed her heartfelt sorrow and said, "I'm deeply saddened to hear this, Dearest



Alka. With blessings and today's best doctors, you'll recover soon, and we'll hear your lovely voice again."

Sonu said, "I had a feeling something was wrong... I'll visit you once I return... May you recover quickly by God's grace."

Actress Poonam Dhillon also sent her love and support, saying, "Sending you so much love and countless prayers and blessings. You will receive all the healing power of love and soon be your beautiful, healthy self again. Love you."

Alka's fans also filled the comments section with wishes for her speedy recovery. As the news spread, questions

rose over what could have suddenly struck the singer, one of Bollywood's best known, and what happens next.

The condition is reversible, said Dr Suresh Singh Naruka, senior consultant, ENT, at Delhi's Apollo Hospitals.

"The sooner you report to the doctor and start the treatment, the higher the chances you can get your organ functioning back," Naruka said.

The ear, like any other organ, can experience failure leading to a sudden loss in hearing, explained Naruka.

"The sudden failure of the ear is called sudden sensory neural hearing loss... Virus is one such

reason.

"Sometimes, without any reason or maybe because of poor blood supply, one can have sudden hearing loss.... Virus, idiopathic (unknown cause), or sometimes a tumour, there are so many reasons one has sudden organ failure that can cause severe hearing loss in sometimes in one ear or both," Naruka said.

If it is a sudden hearing loss, the standard regime is to give steroids.

"It can be administered orally and intratympanic, in which case steroid injections are given directly into the ear to stimulate the organ again.

"Then, there is the hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which treats medical conditions by supplying 100 per cent oxygen with a little more pressure inside a specialised chamber," Naruka said.

Asked if Yagnik's condition deteriorated due to overexposure of sound as a singer, Naruka said sudden loss of hearing can't be career specific.

"We understand the world by three senses: hearing, vision and touch. After these come the other two senses of taste and smell, but they are not as important as the first three. To communicate better in the world, we need good hearing, vision and good understanding of touch."

As a precaution, however, Naruka asked people to avoid noise pollution or trauma.

"Using hearing devices like bluetooth, iPods, and loudspeakers for longer periods of time can give you sudden hearing loss. A viral fever and/or an ear infection can lead to hearing loss. We must avoid sound exposure for sure," he added.

## Sonakshi Sinha teams up with Riteish Deshmukh, Saqib Saleem for 'Kakuda'



Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who is all set to tie the knot with Zaheer Iqbal, has an upcoming streaming film 'Kakuda' on the horizon.

The actress will be seen sharing the screen with Riteish Deshmukh and Saqib Saleem in the horror-comedy film.

The film is set in the curse-inflicted village of Ratodi in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district. Every house in the

district has two similar doors, one that is of a normal size and another which is smaller than the other. The film revolves around a peculiar ritual that demands the opening of the smaller door of each house every Tuesday at 7:15 pm.

Failure to comply with this rule invites the wrath of Kakuda, who punishes the man of the house.

The film is directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, who

is known for 'Zombivili', and the recent box-office miracle 'Munjya'.

Talking about the movie, Aditya Sarpotdar said, "As a filmmaker and a fan of the horror-comedy genre, I find it incredibly fascinating to explore the delicate balance between fear and laughter. It's a challenging task to make viewers simultaneously scared and amused, but with 'Kakuda', I am confident that we have hit the right chord yet again. I am thrilled to have worked with an exceptionally talented cast, including Riteish Deshmukh, Sonakshi Sinha, Saqib Saleem and Aasif Khan who have supported the narrative brilliantly by adding humour and emotions to the story."

He further mentioned, "Their spotless comic timing and the way they portray genuine emotions have made my job as a director much easier. Together, we have crafted a unique and engaging story that will keep viewers on the edge of their seats, eagerly anticipating every twist and turn. 'Kakuda' is an experience that will take the audience on a roller-coaster ride of emotions."

Produced by RSVP, 'Kakuda' will soon drop on ZEE5.

## Justin Timberlake arrested for driving while intoxicated, released from police custody

Actor and singer Justin Timberlake was arrested on one count of driving while intoxicated and released from police custody in New York, according to his attorney.

According to the police, the singer was observed late on Tuesday "operating his vehicle in an intoxicated condition".

Timberlake was driving a 2025 BMW when he reportedly failed to stop at a stop sign and failed to maintain his lane, according to a police statement reported on cnn.com.

An officer initiated a traffic stop, and Timberlake told police he "had one martini and followed my friends home," according to court records.

Court records indicated that Timberlake's eyes were "bloodshot and glassy," and there



was a "strong odour of an alcoholic beverage" on his breath.

An officer described Timberlake as "unable to divide attention," adding that "he had slowed speech, was unsteady on his feet, and performed poorly on all standardised field sobriety tests."

Timberlake refused a chemical test three times, initially saying, "No, I'm not doing a chemical test."

The report contains details of his field sobriety tests. He was placed under arrest and held overnight for arraignment, according to police.

## Renowned designer Raghavendra Rathore styles Diljit Dosanjh for his ongoing Dil-Luminati tour that reflects the Punjabi singer-actor's cultural identity as well as Indian heritage

Couturier Raghavendra Rathore with his bespoke brand, Raghavendra Rathore Jodhpur (RRJ), has been the proud promoter of Indian heritage on the global stage. Similarly, Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh has made the whole world groove to his beats.

He has been the first Indian mainstream artiste and first Punjabi to perform at Coachella, one of the best international music festivals. As the singer-actor, for his ongoing Dil-Luminati North American tour, joins hands with Rathore to promote Indian heritage through his 'concert' looks, the latter takes us through the entire process of curating customised designs for Diljit's tour, which ends in July.

Rooted theory Taking pride in their lineage and culture is what Diljit and Rathore are known for. They might have travelled the entire world, yet make heads turn with their traditional attire. If kurta, chadra, tehamat and tamba work for Diljit, then Rathore's RRJ signature Jodhpuri bandhgala and breeches for men are globally known. "We all know Diljit's immense cultural influ-



ence amongst his followers. He sought to create history with this tour by showcasing his roots in a manner that resonated deeply with his international audience. This collaboration was fuelled by a shared vision of both of us with an aim to showcase Indian heritage on the global stage," he says.

Re-imagining Diljit One wonders how Rathore was able to infuse Diljit Dosanjh's personality into these designs! He adds, "The beauty of a bespoke brand is to create

exclusive looks by fusing personalised elements, keeping in mind the client's style. Insight into his eclectic personality and fashion choices, as well his devotion towards his roots, was crucial to ensure our designs resonated with his image and appealed to his vast fan base. We reimagined traditional outfits like the Jodhpur bandhgala-collared kurta with intricate tonal thread work. Diljit's iconic look of a black kurta and handcrafted morni chadra was customised to reflect his personal style."

While RRJ has curated costumes for movies such as Khoobsurat, Eklavya: The Royal Guard and OMG - Oh My God, and designed bespoke wardrobes for many discerning clients and celebrities, collaborating with Diljit Dosanjh for the Dil-Luminati tour presented a unique opportunity. "In Diljit's case, it was imperative to reflect his personal style on a global stage, knowing this tour would be a historic moment," he says.

Creative journey To create outfits for a concert tour needs extensive research and understanding of the client. Rathore recalls, "Diljit had a clear vision for his wardrobe and understood RRJ's essence, making this collaboration a perfect fit. Both thrive on culture and heritage, and Diljit's trust in RRJ to reflect his personality was invaluable. The team began by researching Diljit's style and cultural background, developing concepts that integrated traditional Punjabi elements with contemporary fashion. Carefully selected material ensured each look was aesthetically pleasing and comfortable for stage performances."

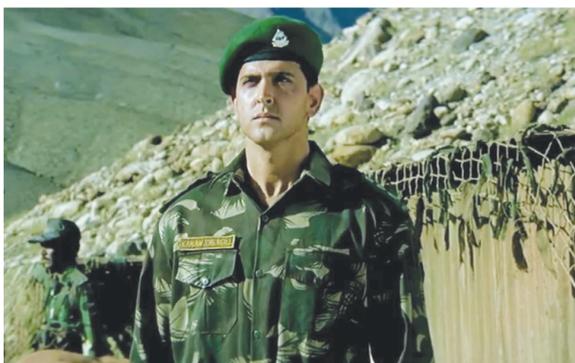
## Hrithik Roshan-starrer 'Lakshya' to be re-released in cinemas on 20th anniversary

"Lakshya", a coming-of-age film starring Hrithik Roshan, is set to be re-released in theatres on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Directed by Farhan Akhtar, the Hindi movie was set against the backdrop of the 1999 Kargil War. It revolved around an aimless young man Karan Shergill, played by Hrithik, who joins the Indian Army and matures into a battlefield hero.

While the film was originally released on June 18, 2004, "Lakshya" will again hit the screens this Friday (June 21).

Both Hrithik and Farhan shared the re-release announcement



of the film on X.

"Come, relive the journey of

a film that ignited countless dreams and inspired genera-

tions. Celebrating 20 years of Lakshya, back in cinemas on 21st June," read the caption alongside the trailer of the movie.

Produced by Farhan and Ritesh Sidhwani's Excel Entertainment, "Lakshya" also starred Amitabh Bachchan and Preity Zinta.

The film's soundtrack, composed by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy and penned by Javed Akhtar, continues to be popular among listeners.

Boman Irani, Anjula Bedi, Lillete Dubey, M K Raina, Kushal Punjabi, and Om Puri also rounded out the cast.

## 'Nobody can replace Salman Khan', says 'Bigg Boss OTT 3' host Anil Kapoor

Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor, who is all set to host the upcoming season of the streaming reality show 'Bigg Boss OTT 3', said on Tuesday that no one can replace Salman Khan who hosted the streaming show's second season.

Speaking to 'Bigg Boss 17' winner Munawar Faruqui at the launch of 'Bigg Boss OTT 3' here, Anil Kapoor said, "Nobody can replace Salman Khan or me. We all are just doing our jobs. We do work as it comes to us." Later interacting with the media, the senior actor revealed the secret behind his long and successful career. "45 saal se khada hoon yahin. Kyun? Kyunki main failure se nahi darta (I am standing here for

the past 45 years. Why? Because I am not afraid of failure). I believe in trying new things. When you try new things, you're bound to fail once in a while, but that shouldn't bog you down," he said.

"Life is all about reinventing yourself. I have done films, television, OTT fiction... So I thought, what else could I do? And that's when 'Bigg Boss OTT 3' happened, which is a non-fiction reality show," he added.

The actor also said that 'Bigg Boss OTT 3' will be completely different this time where secrets will be revealed and mysteries will be unravelled.

'Bigg Boss OTT 3' is all set to stream on JioCinema Premium from June 21.

## PM Modi inaugurates new campus of Nalanda University in Bihar's Rajgir

Earlier in the day, the PM visits the ruins of the ancient Nalanda University

NEW DELHI, Jun 19 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Bihar's Rajgir. After being sworn-in as the Prime Minister for the third term, this is his first official visit to the state.

On the occasion, PM Modi said that Nalanda University is a symbol of India's academic heritage and vibrant cultural exchange.

"This new campus will give the world an example of India's potential. Nalanda will tell that nations which are based on strong human values know how to revive the past and lay the foundation for a better future," he said.

Earlier in the day, the PM visited the ruins of the ancient Nalanda University which were declared a United Nations Heritage site in 2016.

"Education is beyond boundar-



ies; it is beyond perspective of profit and loss. It is education that defines us, gives us views and shapes them. In ancient Nalanda, admission of children was not done on the basis of their nationality. Youth from every country used to come here. In this new campus of Nalanda University, we have to strengthen the same system in a modern way," he said.

Foreign envoys from 17

countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, were also present at the event.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "It underlines Bharat's endeavour to emerge as a Vishwa Bandhu, extending the hands of friendship and co-

operation."

The educational institute, built at a cost of Rs 1,748 crore, was established through the Nalanda University Act in 2010. It started functioning in 2014 from a temporary building.

The ancient Nalanda University, which existed since the fifth century, attracted students from all over the world. It flourished for 800 years before being destroyed by invaders in the 12th century.

It was on the suggestion of then President APJ Abdul Kalam that the Bihar assembly passed a bill to build a foundation for the university.

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar said, "The Nalanda University has a glorious history. In ancient times, Nalanda University was identified as the centre of education. There were about 10,000 students and about 2,000 teachers in the old Nalanda University."

## Priyanka Gandhi Wishes "Argumentative Guide" Rahul Gandhi On His Birthday



NEW DELHI, Jun 19 (Agencies): As Rahul Gandhi turned 54, his sister Priyanka Gandhi today posted a heartfelt message for him on social media and said he was her

"friend, argumentative guide, philosopher and leader".

Rahul Gandhi, a former Congress president and MP from Rae Bareilly, has instructed all Congress workers

to avoid any grand celebrations, and instead celebrate this occasion by engaging in humanitarian efforts and charity.

In a post on X, Priyanka Gandhi said, "Happy Birthday to my sweet brother whose unique perspective on life, the universe and everything lights up the path."

"Always my friend, my fellow traveller, argumentative guide, philosopher and leader. Keep shining (star emojis), love you the most!" the Congress general secretary said.

The brother-sister duo often share heartfelt messages for each other on various occasions and post funny exchanges between them.

## Arvind Kejriwal's Custody In Liquor Policy Case Extended Till July 3

NEW DELHI, Jun 19 (Agencies): A Delhi Court today extended the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal - who has been in jail since April 1 - till July 3 in a corruption case linked to the Delhi liquor policy.

The Enforcement Directorate had arrested Mr Kejriwal on March 21 over corruption allegations in the now-scrapped Delhi liquor policy.

The Supreme Court granted him interim bail on May 10 to campaign for the elections, following which the AAP chief held a flurry of rallies across the country. He returned to the jail on June 2.

The probe agency believes that the Delhi Chief Minister played a key role in drafting the policy and seeking bribes in return for liquor licences.

The agency has claimed the AAP received kickbacks of 100 crore that were then used to fund its Goa and Punjab election campaigns.

The AAP and Mr Kejriwal have refuted all charges and called the arrest and case "political vendetta".

The arrest also triggered a political



spat between the ruling BJP and the opposition INDIA bloc, which is led by the Congress and of which the AAP is a member. After Mr Kejriwal's arrest, his wife Sunita Kejriwal emerged as the faces of the party. Ms Kejriwal even delivered a fiery speech at a political rally that included members of the Congress-led INDIA bloc, of which the AAP is a member.

Sunita Kejriwal's moment in the political spotlight has triggered talk she could make a full-time plunge into the space, particularly with the Delhi Assembly election due next year.

## Delhi water crisis: Atishi writes to PM to intervene & mitigate woes, will go on indefinite fast if situation not resolved

NEW DELHI, Jun 19 (Agencies): Amid ongoing water crisis in the national capital, Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting the immediate release of water from neighbouring state Haryana. The minister said that if water is not provided, she will begin an indefinite 'Satyagraha' from June 21.

Atishi, in her letter said that it must be known that on May 29, the temperature in Delhi was 52.9 degrees Celsius, which was unprecedented. On Tuesday last, the temperature was 47 degrees. Even at 10 pm the temperature was 41 degrees. Delhi has not experienced this much heat in the last 100 years. In this scorching heat, the need of water for the people of Delhi has increased. But when Delhiites need water in large quantities, there is a water shortage in Delhi. There is a panic for water in the city.

She further wrote that the total water supply in Delhi is 1050 MGD, out of which 613 MGD water comes from Haryana. But for the last two weeks, the water coming from Haryana has reduced considerably. If we look at the



figures of June 18, only 513 MGD water was sent by Haryana to Delhi. That means Delhi is getting 100 MGD less water.

"1 MGD of water provides water to approximately 28,500 people in a day. Due to shortage of 100 MGD water, 28 lakh people are not getting water. That means Haryana government has stopped water supply to 28 lakh Delhiites. Prime Minister ji, You tell me, is it right to keep 28 lakh Delhiites thirsty?" the Water Minister said.

"I wrote a letter to the Chief Minister of Haryana and requested him to release extra water. But Haryana government did not release the water. I folded my hands in front of Himachal

Pradesh and requested for water for Delhi. Himachal Pradesh is ready to provide its additional water, but that too has to come through Haryana. Haryana government has also refused to provide water coming from Himachal," she further said in her letter.

Atishi said that the Delhi government also went to the Supreme Court to provide water to these 28 lakh people. The Supreme Court also accepted the ongoing water crisis in Delhi, however the Haryana government did not provide 100 MGD water to the people of Delhi. Ruling party MLAs also went to meet the Union Jal Shakti Minister, but he did not meet.

"Prime Minister ji, the people of Delhi are very troubled. Now I cannot see this trouble. I have tried everything possible, but the Haryana government is not ready to give water to the people of Delhi. Now I am requesting you with folded hands that you provide water to 28 lakh people of Delhi. In case the city does not get water, I will have to do 'Satyagraha' from 21st June and sit on an indefinite hunger strike," the city's water minister concluded in her letter.

## Curfew remains in place in Odisha's Balasore for second day after clash between groups

BALASORE, Jun 19 (Agencies): Curfew remained in force in the northern Odisha town of Balasore for the second day on Wednesday following a clash between two groups over animal slaughter in which 10 people were injured, an official said.

The administration will review the situation on Wednesday night and decide whether to further continue curfew, the official said.

Commercial establishments along with private and government-run institutions remained shut while all the entry points to Balasore town are sealed, he said.

The state government has also suspended internet services in the

town till 10 am of June 20 to check the spread of rumour, a Home department official said.

"The situation is critical and miscreants are circulating false and inflammatory messages through social media to disturb the public order in Balasore municipality area," the notification issued by the home department said on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has appealed to the people to maintain peace. He also asked the district administration to take all measures to restore normalcy in Balasore town.

Though curfew was in force, the administration relaxed norms for candidates appearing in any



examination, government officials, court staff and persons engaged in essential services on production of valid ID proof.

Additional Director-General of Police (law and order) Sanjay Kumar said that 35 people have been arrested for rioting and violation of the curfew norms.

"At least six companies of the central forces are

on the way to Balasore and they will be deployed in sensitive pockets," Kumar told agency.

He said police was on high alert and keeping a close watch on the prevailing situation.

The police have so far registered seven FIRs. Balasore Collector Ashish Thakare said security forces conducted flag march in sensitive areas on Tuesday

evening as a confidence building exercise. The situation is under control and steps are being taken to restore peace in the town, he said.

Balasore SP Sagarika Nath said around 40 platoons of police force have been deployed and the situation is being monitored closely.

The communal violence flared up on Monday after some people spotted blood-stained water in a drain and staged a road blockade. The situation escalated when the two groups resorted to intense stone-pelting, leaving 10 injured. Some police personnel also suffered injuries while controlling the mob.

## Constable dies of 'accidental firing' at Ram Temple complex in Ayodhya

The victim was allegedly looking at this phone when his own rifle went off.



LUCKNOW, Jun 19 (Agencies): A constable of Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force (UPSSF) deployed at Ayodhya Shri Ram Janmabhoomi complex, died after getting injured by a gunshot fired from his own rifle on early Wednesday morning.

Senior police officers, who visited the spot, said they were trying to ascertain if it was a case of accidental firing or suicide. UPSSF has been raised specifically to guard the upcoming Ram temple on Ram Janmabhoomi premises.

The deceased, Shatrughna Vishwakarma, 25, hailed from neighbouring district Ambedkarnagar.

The incident occurred at 5.25 am. As per local police authorities, Vishwakarma was stationed near the under-construction VIP gate

in front of the Koteswar Temple, about 150 metres from the main part of the upcoming Ram Temple. He was on duty with several other security personnel at the time of the incident.

The bullet struck Vishwakarma in the forehead. His fellow security guards immediately rushed him to a nearby hospital and he was referred to a trauma centre where he succumbed during the course of treatment. The body of the deceased has been sent for the post-mortem examination, while a forensic team was examining the site to look into the circumstances that led to the incident.

As per the police sources, prima facie, it appeared that Shatrughna Vishwakarma was hit by a bullet from his own INSAS rifle

on the front part of his temple, which may have been gone off accidentally. Colleagues of the deceased reported that Vishwakarma was looking at his mobile phone when the incident took place.

While other aspects are under investigation, the victim's mobile phone has been sent for forensic analysis, said the senior police authorities. As per Pravin Kumar, Inspector General of Police, Faizabad Range, all aspects of the incident were being looked into. "Forensic reports and post-mortem examination will clear the exact cause," he said.

However, the incident led to a commotion within the temple. Senior police officers, including the Inspector General (IG) and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), arrived at the scene to conduct an investigation.

Shatrughna Vishwakarma joined the force in 2019 and hailed from Kajpura, a village under Sammanpur police station area of Ambedkarnagar district.

## Monsoon gathering pace, to strengthen in Maharashtra by June 21-22: IMD

MUMBAI, Jun 19 (Agencies): The southwest monsoon, which has slowed down after hitting Mumbai, is gathering pace and is expected to progress further by June 21-22, an official of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

The progress of the monsoon will provide

a much-needed relief to north India, which is reeling under an intense heatwave.

"Monsoon activity was weak after it hit Mumbai, but it is slowly turning moderate. It will strengthen by June 21-22 and coastal Maharashtra is likely to receive good rainfall. Central Maharashtra, including Marathwada,

will receive light to moderate rainfall during this time," Sunil Kamble, Head of the Regional Meteorological Department (IMD), Mumbai, said.

Several parts of Mumbai received showers on Wednesday morning, but it was insufficient to give respite from oppressive heat.

Monsoon arrived in Mumbai on June 9, two days ahead of its normal schedule. Since then it made little progress and it is yet to cover parts of northern Maharashtra and Vidarbha.

India has received 20 per cent less rainfall since the start of the monsoon period on June 1, with the rain-bearing system making

no significant progress between June 12 and 18.

On Tuesday the IMD said that June will receive below-normal rainfall.

June and July are considered the most important monsoon months for agriculture because most of the sowing for the Kharif crop takes place during this period.

## Russia and North Korea sign strategic partnership, vowing closer ties in face of rivalry with West

**Putin's visit comes amid growing concerns over arms arrangement in which North Korea provides Russia with badly needed munitions for Moscow's war in Ukraine**

SEOUL, Jun 19 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a comprehensive strategic partnership during a summit in Pyongyang, in a bid to expand their economic and military cooperation and cement a united front against Washington.

Putin's visit comes amid growing concerns over an arms arrangement in which North Korea provides Russia with badly needed munitions for Moscow's war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

Russian state media said Putin and Kim spoke face-to-face for about two hours in a meeting that was originally planned for one hour.

Speaking before the summit, Putin thanked Kim for North Korea's support in Ukraine and said the two countries would sign an agreement to boost their partnership as both "fight against the imperialist hegemonic policies of the US and its satellites against the Russian Federation."

North Korea is under heavy UN Security Council sanctions over its weapons program, while Russia also faces sanctions by the United States and its Western partners over its aggression in Ukraine.

Russia media said earlier that Kim will host a reception, and Putin is expected to leave Wednesday evening for Vietnam.

Before the summit, Putin hailed ties that date to the Soviet army fighting the Japanese military on the Korean Peninsula in the closing moments of World War II, and Moscow's support for Pyongyang during the Korean War.

Kim said relations between Moscow and Pyongyang are now even closer than during Soviet times and called Putin's visit an opportunity to solidify their "fiery friendship."

Kim vowed his country's "full support and solidarity to the



Russian government, army and people in carrying out the special military operation in Ukraine to protect sovereignty, security interests and territorial integrity." It wasn't immediately clear what that support might look like.

Kim has used similar language in the past, consistently saying North Korea supports what he describes as a just action to protect Russia's interests and blaming the crisis on the US-led West's "hegemonic policy."

He also hailed Russia's "important role and mission in preserving the strategic stability and balance in the world."

Before the talks, Kim welcomed Putin with a lavish ceremony in the city's main square, where he introduced key members of the North Korean leadership including Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui; top aide and ruling party secretary Jo Yong Won; and the leader's powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong.

Huge crowds lined up on the streets to greet Putin's motorcade, chanting "Welcome Putin" and waving flowers and North Korean and Russian flags.

Putin was accompanied by several top officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, Defense Minister Andrei Belousov and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, according to his foreign policy adviser, Yuri Ushakov.

US and South Korean officials accuse the North of providing Russia with artillery, missiles

and other military equipment for use in Ukraine, possibly in return for key military technologies and aid. Both Pyongyang and Moscow deny accusations about North Korean weapons transfers, which would violate multiple UN Security Council sanctions that Russia previously endorsed.

Along with China, Russia has provided political cover for Kim's continuing efforts to advance his nuclear arsenal, repeatedly blocking US-led efforts to impose fresh UN sanctions on the North over its weapons tests.

In March, a Russian veto at the United Nations ended monitoring of UN sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear program, prompting Western accusations that Moscow is seeking to avoid scrutiny as it buys weapons from Pyongyang.

US and South Korean officials have said they are discussing options for a new mechanism for monitoring the North.

South Korean analysts say that Kim will likely seek stronger economic benefits and more advanced military technologies from Russia, although his more sensitive discussions with Putin aren't likely to be made public.

While Kim's military nuclear program now includes developmental intercontinental ballistic missiles that can potentially reach the US mainland, he may need outside technology help to meaningfully advance his program further.

There are already possible signs that Russia is assisting North Korea with technologies related to space rockets and military reconnaissance satellites, which Kim has described as crucial for monitoring South Korea and enhancing the threat of his nuclear-capable missiles.

The North may also seek to increase labour exports to Russia and other illicit activities to gain foreign currency in defiance of UN Security Council sanctions, according to a recent report by the Institute for National Security Strategy, a think tank run by South Korea's main spy agency.

There will likely be talks about expanding cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and mining and further promoting Russian tourism to North Korea, the institute said.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Putin's visit to North Korea illustrates how Russia tries, "in desperation, to develop and to strengthen relations with countries that can provide it with what it needs to continue the war of aggression that it started against Ukraine."

"North Korea is providing significant munitions to Russia ... and other weapons for use in Ukraine. Iran has been providing weaponry, including drones, that have been used against civilians and civilian infrastructure."

Blinken told reporters following a meeting with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest point in years, with the pace of both Kim's weapons tests and combined military exercises involving the United States, South Korea and Japan intensifying in a tit-for-tat cycle.

The Koreans also have engaged in Cold War-style psychological warfare that involved North Korea dropping tons of trash on the South with balloons, and the South broadcasting anti-North Korean propaganda with its loudspeakers.

## At least nine Rohingyas killed in landslides at Cox's Bazar refugee camps



COX'S BAZAR, Jun 19 (Agencies): At least nine Rohingyas were killed in landslides caused by heavy torrential rain in Ukhiya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar Wednesday

morning, The Daily Star reported.

Quoting Mohammad Samsudduza, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, The Daily Star that the landslides took place in

camp no. 9 and 10. "Nine bodies were recovered," he said, adding that they are working to evacuate Rohingyas living in risky hilly areas.

Around 1.2 million Rohingyas, most of them fled to Bangladesh facing atrocity by the Myanmar junta forces in 2017, have been living in 33 camps of Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar, the report said.

Cox's Bazar has been witnessing heavy rainfall since Tuesday.

## Explosions and fire at military ammunition depot in Chad's capital causes fatalities

N'DJAMENA, Jun 19 (Agencies): Explosions and fire at a military ammunition depot in Chad's capital caused fatalities and set off frantic efforts to put out the fire and treat the wounded, authorities and witnesses said Wednesday.

The explosions late Tuesday at the depot in N'Djamena lit up the sky as thick smoke covered the clouds in the West African nation.

The fire "caused human and material damage," President Mahamat Deby Itno posted on Facebook. "Peace to the souls of the victims, sincere condolences to the bereaved families and quick recovery to the injured."

He did not give the number of fatalities.

The cause of the fire was not immediately clear, and the president said an investigation would be conducted.

People living in the area panicked, thinking the explosion was an armed attack, resident



Oumar Mahamat said.

The situation was later brought under control with security and health officials deployed in the area, government spokesperson Abderraman Koulamallah said. He urged residents to remain calm.

Local media reported the blasts started just before midnight and lasted more than 30 minutes as nearby buildings shook and ammunition was thrown from the depot with explosive force.

Authorities called on residents to stay out of the area, which was taken over by security forces gathering the scattered artillery shells.

Allamine Moussa, a resident, called on the

government to "come to our aid urgently."

"Many families have recorded deaths and it's sad," Moussa said.

Chad, a country of nearly 18 million people, has been reeling from political turmoil before and after a controversial presidential election that resulted in Deby Itno's victory. He had led the country as interim president during military rule that followed the death of his father in 2021.

The country is seen by the U.S. and France as one of the last remaining stable allies in Africa's volatile Sahel region south of the Sahara Desert following military coups in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in recent years.

## US soldier jailed for nearly 4 years in Russia after love story turns sour

VLADIVOSTOK, Jun 19 (Agencies): A US soldier was sentenced on Wednesday to nearly four years in a Russian penal colony after being found guilty by a Russian court of stealing \$113 from his girlfriend and making threats to kill her, a agency witness reported from the courtroom.

The judgement brings an end to a tempestuous love story that brought together - and then tore apart - a married U.S. staff sergeant and a Russian woman after an international romance that stretched from South Korea to Russia.

Gordon Black, a 34-year-old US staff sergeant, was detained on May 2 in Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok after an argument with his girlfriend, Alexandra Vashchuk, whom he had met while in South Korea.

Judge Yelena Stepankova of the Perovomaysky District Court of Vladivostok found Black guilty of stealing 10,000 roubles (\$113) from her purse and threatening to kill her.

Black, standing in a glass cage in the court room, was sentenced to three years and nine months in a Russian penal colony and ordered to pay back the 10,000 roubles.

He pleaded not guilty to threatening to kill her but admitted he was partially guilty of taking the money, though out of necessity. His defence lawyer will appeal the verdict.

Prosecutors had asked for a prison sentence of four years and eight months, while the defence asked for Black to be acquitted of all charges.

Vashchuk did not come to the court on Wednesday.



Black in April signed out of the Eighth Army at Camp Humphreys in the Republic of South Korea on a permanent change of station to return to Fort Cavazos in Texas, but instead he flew to China and then to Russia to meet Vashchuk.

The Pentagon has said that he broke army rules by travelling to Russia and China without authorisation.

Black has a wife and child in Texas. His wife Megan told agency last month that he and Vashchuk had a tempestuous relationship.

Black's mother, Melody Jones, told agency he had followed his girlfriend to Russia even though they "fought like cats and dogs".

Russia is holding at least a dozen American citizens in jail, including Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who will go on trial behind closed door on charges of espionage next week. Gershkovich has denied the charges of collecting secrets for the US CIA.

The US State Department advises against all travel to Russia, which it ranks as a maximum danger alongside countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, Iran and Sudan.

## Ship attacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in fatal assault sinks in Red Sea in their second sinking

**The attack comes despite a monthslong U.S.-led campaign in the region that has seen the Navy face its most intense maritime fighting since World War II, with near-daily attacks targeting commercial vessels and warship.**

DUBAI, Jun 19 (Agencies): A bulk carrier sank days after an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels believed to have killed one mariner on board, authorities said early Wednesday, the second ship sunk in the rebels' campaign.

The sinking of the Tutor in the Red Sea marks what appears to be a new escalation by the Iranian-backed Houthis in their campaign targeting shipping through the vital maritime corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The attack comes despite a monthslong U.S.-led campaign in the region that has seen the Navy face its most intense maritime fighting since World War II, with near-daily attacks targeting commercial vessels and warships.

The Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned-and-operated Tutor sank in the Red Sea, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said in a warning to sailors in the region.

"Military authorities report maritime debris and oil sighted in the last reported location," the UKMTO said. "The vessel is believed to have sunk."

The Houthis, quoting foreign reports in media outlets they control, acknowledged the sinking. The U.S. military did not acknowledge the sinking,



nor did it respond to requests for comment.

The Tutor came under attack about a week ago by a bomb-carrying Houthi drone boat in the Red Sea. John Kirby, a White House national security spokesman, said Monday that the attack killed "a crew member who hailed from the Philippines." The Philippines has yet to acknowledge the death, but the man who had been aboard the Tutor has been missing for over a week in the Red Sea, which faces intense summertime heat.

The use of a boat loaded with explosives raised the specter of the attack in 2000 on the USS Cole, a suicide assault by al-Qaida when the warship was at port in the Yemeni city of Aden, killing 17 on board. The Cole is now part of a U.S. Navy operation in the Red Sea led by

the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower to try and halt the Houthi attacks, though the rebels continue their assaults.

The Houthis have launched more than 60 attacks targeting specific vessels and fired off other missiles and drones in their campaign that has killed a total of four sailors. They've seized one vessel and sunk two since November. A U.S.-led airstrike campaign has targeted the Houthis since January, with a series of strikes May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels say.

In March, the Belize-flagged Rubymar carried a load of fertilizer sank in the Red Sea after taking on water for days following a rebel attack.

The Houthis have maintained their attacks target ships linked to Israel, the U.S. or the U.K. However, many of the ships

they've attacked have little or no connection to the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

The war in Gaza has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians there, while hundreds of others have been killed in Israeli operations in the West Bank. It began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostage.

A recent report by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency acknowledged container shipping through Red Sea has declined by 90% since December over the attacks. As much as 15% of the world's maritime traffic flows through that corridor.

Meanwhile Wednesday, the Houthi said U.S.-led airstrikes targeted Raymah, a province in Yemen under rebel control. The Houthi-controlled SABA news agency described a local radio station's building as being "totally destroyed" in the strikes. About a week earlier, the Houthis said similar strikes killed two people and wounded nine others, without saying if those hurt were fighters or civilians.

The U.S. military's Central Command said in an earlier statement it destroyed eight Houthi drones in Yemen, while also destroying a Houthi drone in flight over the Gulf of Aden over the last day.

# Škoda Auto India announces new value proposition on Kushaq and Slavia

## Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: Škoda Auto India, in continuation to its initiatives of making the brand more accessible, announced the Kushaq and Slavia with higher value, enabling enhanced accessibility to its line-up of cars that are 5-star rated and fully safe for both adults and children.

Speaking on the enhancement, Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said: "We have been in India for nearly a quarter of a century, and our commitment to this market is absolute. We have always been looking at offering more in product and affiliated actions. Since the announcement of our all-new compact SUV planned for 2025, we have maintained that with this new car, we are targeting new markets, younger customers and more accessibility



to the brand. While the new compact SUV will open new markets for us, we have achieved some efficiencies in the Kushaq and the Slavia, which has enabled us to enhance the value in our offerings and pass on the benefits to our customers and fans."

The variants  
The Kushaq and Slavia – earlier available as

Active, Ambition and Style – are now rechristened as Classic, Signature and Prestige. The Kushaq, in addition to these three variants also gets the Onyx on the value end and the Monte Carlo at the premium end of the line-up. The all-new pricing is applicable on all engine and transmission options of the Kushaq and select variants on the

Slavia. Both cars are powered by a 1.0 TSI petrol with a six-speed manual and automatic, and a 1.5 TSI petrol with a six-speed manual and seven-speed DSG. Both the Kushaq and Slavia come with six airbags as standard across the range, and have achieved a full 5-stars for adults and children under the Global NCAP tests, reflecting the

brand's uncompromising stand on safety.

The benefits

Customers stand to benefit by upto 10% based on choice of model, variants, engines and transmission. The maximum benefit will be on the Kushaq Monte Carlo, which will now be offered at an outstanding price point, while the Slavia entry point will be extremely accessible. These new prices also enables customers and fans to avail additional reductions in registration and insurance further stretching the value proposition for the entire line-up.

Škoda Auto India recently introduced six airbags as standard across all its variants. The new pricing continues making safety as top priority, and offers premium features like ventilated seats, electric seat adjust, wireless Android Auto and Apple Carplay,

a 25.4 cm in-car entertainment interface and a sub-woofer embedded in the boot among other comforts.

Customized and Tailor-made offers

The new value proposition on Kushaq and Slavia will be offered with complete freedom for customers to select what best suits their preferences. This can be clubbed across three large pillars. The first is the unmatched price leverage that customers can enjoy. The second, will be in the form of after-sales offers, maintenance packages and the overall cost of ownership. And thirdly, are the sales levers and value-added services.

Customers can select from a choice of exchange & corporate bonus options, special finance & insurance schemes run through the banking partners, extended warranty and a host of service and

maintenance packages. In the overall cost of ownership and customer experience, the superior mileage offered on both Kushaq ("upto 19.76 Km/L) and Slavia ("upto 20.32 Km/L), along with transparency, quicker servicing timelines, and the expanding dealer footprint have taken forward Škoda Auto India's strong focus on customer delight.

"Škoda Auto India is ramping up the network and personnel to get ready for high volume increase with the upcoming launch of the Compact SUV. Our dealers need to be motivated and profitable, with highly trained and experienced sales consultants. And that's why we have launched the best-ever value proposition on the Kushaq, all across the country, supported with tailor-made, unique customer offers in line with customers'

needs and preferences," added Mr. Janeba.

More sustainable

The company's 1.0 TSI engine recently got certified as E20 compliant by ARAI (Automotive Research Authority of India) and has already debuted in the new Kushaq Onyx AT with other 1.0 TSI cars to roll out soon. The 1.5 TSI is currently undergoing testing, the results of which will be made available by Q4 2024.

This certification makes the 1.0 TSI the first ever powerplant in India to receive certification from a governing authority. It is in line with government policy requiring every car in India to be E20 compliant from April 1, 2025. Engines that are E20 compliant run on 20% ethanol and 80% petrol, reducing the amount of fossil fuel consumed, reducing emissions and increasing sustainability.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Sopore encounter: Two terrorists killed, as many security personnel injured

As the joint team of forces intensified searches towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired upon the forces triggering off a gunfight.

A top police officer has confirmed to Kashmir Scroll about the killing of a two terrorists in the ongoing encounter.

Meanwhile, sources told Greater Kashmir that an army soldier and a policeman were injured in the encounter. They have been shifted to a hospital where doctors said their condition is stable.

### Srinagar declared 'Temporary Red Zone' for operation of drones ahead of PM visit

starting June 20 to the city to participate in the yoga event in connection with International Day of Yoga.

In the order dated June 18, Srinagar police stated, "Srinagar city has been declared a "Temporary Red Zone" for the operation of drones and quadcopters as per the provisions of Rule 24(2) of Drone Rules, 2021, with immediate effect."

The statement said that all unauthorised drone operations in the Red Zone are liable to be penalised as per relevant provisions of Drone Rules, 2021.

As responsible citizens, your cooperation is solicited in this regard, it added.

### At least 550 Hajj pilgrims died, mostly due to heat, say Arab diplomats

reported so far by multiple countries to 577, according to an AFP tally. The diplomats said the total at the morgue in Al-Muaisem, one of the biggest in Mecca, was 550. The haj is one of the five pillars of Islam and all Muslims with the means must complete it at least once. The pilgrimage is increasingly affected by climate change, according to a Saudi study published last month that said temperatures in the area where rituals are performed were rising 0.4 degrees Celsius (0.72 degrees Fahrenheit) each decade. Temperatures hit 51.8 degrees Celsius (125 Fahrenheit) at the Grand Mosque in Mecca on Monday, the Saudi national meteorology centre said. Earlier on Tuesday, Egypt's foreign ministry said Cairo was collaborating with Saudi authorities on search operations for Egyptians who had gone missing during the haj. While a ministry statement said "a certain number of deaths" had occurred, it did not specify whether Egyptians were among them. Saudi authorities have reported treating more than 2,000 pilgrims suffering from heat stress but have not updated that figure since Sunday and have not provided information on fatalities. At least 240 pilgrims were reported dead by various countries last year, most of them Indonesians. AFP journalists in Mina, outside Mecca, on Monday saw pilgrims pouring bottles of water over their heads as volunteers handed out cold drinks and fast-melting chocolate ice cream to help them keep cool. Saudi officials had advised pilgrims to use umbrellas, drink plenty of water and avoid exposure to the sun during the hottest hours of the day. But many of the haj rit-

uals, including the prayers on Mount Arafat which took place on Saturday, involve being outdoors for hours in the daytime. Some pilgrims described seeing motionless bodies on the roadside and ambulance services that appeared overwhelmed at times. Around 1.8 million pilgrims took part in the haj this year, 1.6 million of them from abroad, according to Saudi authorities. Each year tens of thousands of pilgrims attempt to perform the haj through irregular channels as they cannot afford the often costly procedures for official haj visas. This places these off-the-books pilgrims at risk as they cannot access air-conditioned facilities provided by Saudi authorities along the haj route. One of the diplomats who spoke to AFP on Tuesday said that the Egyptian death toll was "absolutely" boosted by a large number of unregistered Egyptian pilgrims. "Irregular pilgrims caused great chaos in the Egyptian pilgrims' camps, causing the collapse of services," said an Egyptian official supervising the country's haj mission. "The pilgrims went without food, water, or air conditioning for a long time." They died "from the heat because most people had no place" to take shelter. Earlier this month, Saudi officials said they had cleared hundreds of thousands of unregistered pilgrims from Mecca ahead of the haj. Other countries to report deaths during the haj this year include Indonesia, Iran and Senegal. Most countries have not specified how many deaths were heat-related. Saudi Health Minister Fahd bin Abdul Rahman Al-Jalajel said on Tuesday that health plans for the haj had "been successfully carried out", preventing major outbreaks of disease and other public health threats, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. Health officials "provided virtual consultations to over 5,800 pilgrims, primarily for heat-related illnesses, enabling prompt intervention and mitigating the potential for a surge in cases," SPA said.

### Govt nominates Nodal Officers for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024

Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board on regular basis," reads the order.

### Bengaluru Couple shocked as they find snake in Amazon Package

customers with a trustworthy shopping experience and it's our commitment to go above and beyond to make things right for them. We take all customer complaints seriously and are investigating this incident," the spokesperson said.

The couple said they had ordered an Xbox controller recently from Amazon and received a live snake in the package.

"The package was directly handed over to us by the delivery partner (not left outside). We live on Sarjapur road and captured the entire incident on camera, plus we have eye witnesses to the same," they claimed in a statement.

"The snake has been identified as a possible spectacled cobra (Naja Naja), a highly venomous snake species indigenous to Karnataka," they said.

The snake was stuck to the adhesive tape and did not harm anyone in our household or apartment, the couple said.

They also said that they received a com-

plete refund, but wondered "what did they get for risking their lives with a highly venomous snake."

"This is clearly a safety breach caused solely by Amazon's negligence and their poor transportation/warehousing hygiene and supervision," they alleged.

### Veteran Photojournalist Nisar Ahmad passes away

condition deteriorated and breathed his last this morning, his family said.

The photojournalist was not keeping well for past couple of years.

Ahmad was working with national English daily The Hindu for the past three decades.

Various journalists' organisations and political parties have condoled Ahmad's demise.

### Harpal Singh Bedi: Kashmir-born journalist who won hearts and laurels worldwide

commercial hub where political leaders often delivered speeches to the masses.

Living in the heart of Lal Chowk Gurdwara, Harpal and his siblings would watch these events unfold from the veranda of the Gurdwara building. This vantage point offered a panoramic view of Lal Chowk, with the Ghanta Ghar on one side and the Jhelum River and its bridge on the other. These experiences provided Harpal with a unique perspective on the politics of Jammu and Kashmir, maturing his understanding at a young age. Though he seldom commented publicly on political matters, his private analyses were sharp and insightful, cutting through complexities with ease.

Despite humble beginnings, Harpal's insatiable thirst for knowledge led him to gain admission to the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), where he earned his Masters and M.Phil from the School of International Studies, a department that has produced academics, intellectuals, bureaucrats, and ministers of the highest standards.

Minister of External Affairs, Dr S. Jaishankar, who studied alongside Harpal at JNU, expressed his sorrow at the loss of his old friend. "A particularly sad day for first-generation JNUites. Harpal Singh Bedi, the legend of our times, passed away this morning. My condolences to his family. Om Shanti," Dr. Jaishankar posted on social media, sharing a group picture featuring him and Bedi from their university days.

Throughout his career, Harpal covered numerous high-profile sporting events, including eight Olympic Games, several Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games, and World Cups of cricket and hockey and many more.

Whichever country he visited, he comfortably made friends, that may be sports journalists, officials, or sports players, he would build a one-on-one relationship in a typical Punjabi style but professionally, he would not compromise and was a sports critic not only in his writings but would dare to speak or question directly any sports personality or officer.

His tenure at the United News of India (UNI) saw him become a revered figure in sports journalism, known for his in-depth coverage and insightful commentary. In 2012, he served as the national Olympic contingent's press attaché, charming the media box with his inimitable wit and warmth.

Sheikh Manzoor Ahmed, his long-time colleague at UNI and both belonging to

Kashmir in a message said, "To lose a friend is the greatest of all losses. Veteran sports Journalist and my close colleague and friend Harpal Singh Bedi died after a prolonged illness. He was a gem of a person and great entertainer. Me along with Ashok Tuteja used to spend hours together and we were known as a gang of three in UNI."

News agency, while paying tributes to Harpal in an article mentioned that Harpal was more than just a journalist; he was a mentor and a friend to many. His colleagues remember him as a father figure in the press box, always ready with a joke to ease the tension and a piece of advice for the younger generation. "He could make nervous newbies comfortable with his trademark humour."

One of the newspapers quoting veteran journalist and sports administrator G Rajaraman said "Harpal Singh Bedi was a quintessential newsman, loved and respected... His finger was on the pulse of Indian sport and sports administration."

Despite his extensive achievements, Harpal remained humble, never boasting about his knowledge or accomplishments. His understanding of international relations, especially India-Pakistan dynamics, was profound, yet he chose to keep his views private, focusing instead on his love for sports.

Harpal's influence extended beyond journalism. He was a regular at the Press Club of India, New Delhi, where his cheerful presence and friendly handshakes were a staple. His ability to stay away from politics, despite his background in international studies, earned him respect across the board.

"Harpal Singh Bedi ji, the most cheerful among sports journalists, is no longer among us. Rest in peace," said 2008 Olympic bronze-winning boxer Vijender Singh, echoing the sentiments of many as reported by the media.

His media colleagues reported that the former sports editor of the United News of India (UNI) was among the tallest figures in Indian sports journalism and was working as a consulting editor of the Statesman newspaper for the last couple of years. "Harpal Singh Bedi was a quintessential newsman, loved and respected by all," said a UNI spokesperson.

Harpal is survived by his wife Revathi and daughter Pallavi. As we bid farewell to this remarkable man, we remember his contributions to sports journalism, kindness, intelligence, and unwavering integrity. Harpal Singh Bedi's legacy will continue to inspire and guide future generations of journalists and sports enthusiasts alike.

Kashmir will also miss him as some of his family members still live in the valley and he would every summer visit his relatives and friends and many a time to guide young journalists, who would like to take the profession and settle beyond the realms of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Unscheduled Power Cuts: SRS criticizes LG administration's claims of 24x7 electricity in Smart Metered areas

He highlighted that despite the administration's annual assurances, unscheduled power cuts remain a persistent issue every summer. This failure to provide reliable electricity has far-reaching consequences for various segments of society. Students are among the most affected by the power

cuts. Mahajan pointed out that frequent and unplanned outages disrupt their studies, making it difficult for them to concentrate and perform well academically.

The elderly population also suffers due to the inconsistent electricity supply. Mahajan explained that older adults, who often have health issues, are left in a miserable condition without reliable power. Many of them rely on electrical devices for their medical needs and general comfort, and power cuts exacerbate their health problems.

Furthermore, patients and critically ill individuals are severely impacted by the lack of consistent electricity. Homes Unscheduled power cuts can jeopardize the health and safety of patients, putting lives at risk.

Mahajan specifically mentioned the situation in New Rehari, an area that has achieved 100% smart metering yet still faces unscheduled power cuts both during the day and at night. He criticized the administration for failing to provide a regular power supply despite the technological advancements and investments in smart metering.

Expressing concern over the worsening summer power crisis in Jammu, Mahajan noted that the past fortnight has been particularly challenging for residents of New Rehari, who have experienced frequent and unpredictable power cuts. The rising temperatures and heatwaves, combined with the power cuts, have created unbearable living conditions. According to Mahajan, such a severe power crisis has not been witnessed in the past even old meter system.

He warned that night-time power cuts could lead to increased theft and terrorist activities, as darkness provides cover for criminal acts. Ensuring a continuous power supply at night is crucial for maintaining public safety and security in the region.

Mahajan urged Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to take immediate and effective steps to provide a 24x7 power supply to smart metered areas. He called on the administration to prioritize this issue and implement measures to alleviate the crisis faced by common households. Reliable electricity is not a luxury but a basic right that is essential for the well-being and development of the community, he said.

Rajiv Mahajan underscored the pressing need for the Jammu and Kashmir administration to address the power supply issues urgently. The recurrent power cuts are causing significant distress and inconvenience to the residents, particularly during the harsh summer months, he said adding that it is imperative for the authorities to ensure a stable and reliable power supply to improve the quality of life for all residents and prevent further hardships.

### Man who went missing with AK-47 rifle in Doda held

nor the weapon was present in the vehicle," he Soon after the incident, searches were started and he was apprehend, he said.

### Two Schools closed in Rafiabad village amid search operation

to ensure the safety of students and staff and a precautionary measure in view of the current situation in the specific area.

A cordon and search was launched in the area today morning, following which traffic was also diverted.

## Gear shift: The curious case of India's three-wheeler boom

NEW DELHI, Jun 19 (Agencies): There is a boom happening in India's automobile sector, and no, we are not talking about SUVs or some fancy bikes. It's the three-wheeler (3W) segment that is garnering all the attention for the right reasons.

Sales of 3W increased by 20 per cent last month, according to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) based on dealer sales, while Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) quoted shipped units to note that 3W posted their highest-ever sales in May, surpassing the record of 2018, at nearly 56,000 vehicles.

Just a few weeks ago, India had jolted the world of auto when it pipped China to become the world's biggest market for electric 3W, with sales of 5.8 lakh units last year.

These fabulous numbers come even as passenger vehicle sales have declined, while other 'glamour' categories like two-wheelers are registering moderate



growth — passenger car sales fell by 1 per cent and tractors by 1 per cent compared to May last year, while the drop was 6.6 per cent for two-wheelers and 8 per cent for commercial vehicles compared to the previous month (both did register a year-on-year growth, though).

What is happening, and when did the lowly 3W get sexed up?

"Lot of people focus on what is more sexy, a two-wheeler, and then maybe a four-wheeler, but actually it is the 3W that is selling more," quipped Pritesh Talwar, president of Lectrix EV, a company that makes electric scooters and EV battery solutions. "It is also enabling

a lot of upward mobility," he added.

Rajesh Menon, director-general of SIAM, attributes it to the curious economic and behavioural shift witnessed since the pandemic. "Growth in 3W sales lagged post-Covid (but) presently the rural economy is also recovering, resulting in better off-take of 3W. Financing of 3Ws has also become comparatively easier, enabling consumers to avail loans for 3Ws," he said.

However, that is not all. Three-wheelers are now the go-to for post-Covid last mile connectivity to metro stations and bus terminals, as more and more students and private sector executives

return to office after years of work from home.

More recently, the surge seen in quick commerce and food delivery platforms also spurred three-wheeler sales, with many of them using them for transporting their merchandise and bulk orders. Economics has been a key factor. For example, before Covid, leading taxi aggregators like Uber had 'ride sharing' options which let more than one commuter in a taxi at the same time, giving cost-effective options.

However, the nature of the infectious disease meant that option was as good as gone, with top aggregators turning to options like three-wheeler and two-wheeler taxis.

Saurav Kumar, partner with the leading law firm IndusLaw, explained how economics favoured the 3W boom. "Three-wheelers in the country are high-running vehicles, at a low entry price point, required to run for short distance or last-mile operations largely. Coupled with the ability to charge at home, Electric 3Ws are also proving

to be more convenient for drivers. The lack of range anxiety and low acquisition cost overcomes two major barriers to EV adoption, making three-wheelers key candidates for electrification, even more than two-wheelers!" The 3W boom looks set to continue for the time being. An analysis by CRISIL Ratings in early summer pinned the three-wheeler growth this financial year at up to 17 per cent, to a new all-time high of 7.8 lakh units. And though exports of 3W may suffer, it seems it will be more than made up by the demand in the domestic market.

New use cases will evolve for 3-wheeled vehicles, in newer formats, not necessarily limited to "autorickshaws", feels Amitabh Saran, member, IET Future of Mobility and Transport, pointing to how electric 3Ws used in e-commerce delivery have replaced small cargo vans running on diesel.

"That was an entirely new market which evolved through electric," he pointed out.

## Vodafone Group sells 18 pc stake in Indus Towers to raise Rs 15,300 crore

NEW DELHI, Jun 19 (Agencies) Vodafone Group Plc is further cutting its stake in India's largest telecom tower company, Indus Towers, as the British telecom giant looks to pare bank borrowings.

On Wednesday, Vodafone said it sold 484.7 million shares amounting to 18 per cent stake in Indus Towers, raising Rs 15,300 crore or around €1.7 billion. The shares were sold through block deals on the stock exchange.

Vodafone had initially planned to sell around 10 per cent, but strong investor interest prompted it to raise it significantly, according to Reuters.

Post this stake sale, Vodafone will now only be holding 82.5 million shares or 3.1 per cent stake in Indus Towers.

Indus has over 2,19,736 towers and a presence across all the 22 telecom circles. Bharti Airtel, India's second-largest telecom operator, is the largest shareholder in the company with a stake of 47.95 per cent. While Vodafone was cutting its stake, Bharti Airtel, on Wednesday, acquired 26.95 million shares or 1 per cent additional equity in Indus Towers via open



market operations.

Vodafone had announced in 2022 that it intended to sell its entire stake in Indus Towers. The proceeds from Wednesday's share sale will be used to substantially repay its existing lenders in relation to the outstanding bank borrowings of €1.8 billion secured against Indian assets, Vodafone said in a regulatory filing.

Vodafone had, a few years ago, already written off the value of much of its investments in Vodafone Idea, its telecom joint venture with Aditya Birla Group in the backdrop of rising competition and losses in the Indian unit.

Mounting losses at Vodafone Idea (VI) had also hurt Indus Towers hard as VI was the second largest tenant. VI raised Rs 18,000 crore through a follow-

on share sale in April. Analysts at BNP Paribas said in their report that the fund raise by VI would be a "game changer" for Indus Towers as it would be able to collect its past dues and get incremental business from VI.

At the same time, Bharti Airtel, over the last few quarters, accelerated its tower investments to expand its rural 4G footprint, which resulted in stronger tower additions for Indus Towers, the analysts noted.

On Wednesday, Indus Towers shares fell almost 7 per cent to an intra-day low of Rs 320.60 on the BSE, before recovering some of the losses. They were trading at Rs 334.50, down 2.7 per cent in the afternoon. Vodafone Idea shares were up 2.4 per cent at Rs 17.26 and Bharti Airtel traded down 1.9 per cent at Rs 1,402.15.

## Poisonous snake found in Amazon package sent to Bengaluru woman: What we know so far



NEW DELHI, Jun 19 (Agencies): On Tuesday, a Reddit user by the username u/tanvi2002, in a long post, narrated the ordeal of finding a poisonous snake in the Amazon package they received.

They had ordered an Xbox controller a few days ago. "We ordered an Xbox controller 2 days ago from Amazon and received a live snake in the package. The package was directly handed over to us by the delivery partner (not left outside," the user wrote.

The entire incident was recorded on camera and the user said there are also eyewitnesses.

The snake has been identified as Indian cobra, known commonly as the spectacled cobra.

The user said the snake was stuck to the packaging tape and did not harm anyone in the house.

The user said Amazon's customer support put them on hold for two hours, forcing them to handle the situation themselves, in the middle of the night.

"We did receive a complete refund, but what do we get for risking our lives here with a highly venomous snake? This is clearly a safety breach caused solely by Amazon's negligence and their poor transportation/warehousing hygiene and supervision. Where is the accountability for such a serious lapse in safety," the user asked.

The Reddit user, a software engineer, said they do not intend to go to extreme lengths with the situation. An Amazon India spokesperson said on Wednesday that the company is investigating the incident.

"The safety of our customers, employees and associates is a top priority for us. We work hard to provide customers with a trustworthy shopping experience and it's our commitment to go above and beyond to make things right for them. We take all customer complaints seriously and are investigating this incident," the spokesperson told agencies.

## JKSCC thanks J&K UT administration, Prime Minister for fulfilling commitment



### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: Through this Press Conference, Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee (JKSCC) under the leadership of Ajit Singh Chairman expressed thanks to the J&K UT administration under Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinah and His Highness Narendra Modi, Prime Minister for their earnest & quick response to fulfil the commitment by nominating S. Rajiv Singh, Prof & Head, Division of Vet. Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Science, SKUAST-J, as a

member of the J&K Public Service Commission, J&K UT, which was a very long pending demand of the Sikh Community of J&K UT as there was no Sikh member in the J&K PSC since last more than five years.

The J&K administration has justified with the sentiments of the Sikh Community by giving due representation to the Sikh Community nominating a Sikh intellectual of high calibre & dignity to the J&K Public Service Commission, which shall be proved as a boon in building the deeply rooted confidence

of Sikh Community in the J&K administration which already has been gained the momentum due to the steps taken by your esteemed administration by mitigating long pending burning demands like implementation of the Anand Marriage Act and the installation of the statue of Baba Gurbaksh Singh at Jammu.

Today, through this Press Conference, JKSCC urged the Government of India and the J&K LG Administration, to fulfill & mitigate the pending demands of the Sikh Community at the earliest.

## Appoint chairmen, members of 8th Pay Commission: NMC urges PM

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: President of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) Subash Shastri on Wednesday urged upon the Prime Minister to immediately appoint chairmen and other members of the 8th Pay Commission adding that except 7th Pay Commission all earlier pay Commission were constituted in

the 3rd year of every decade as per past practice.

Addressing NMC workers meet here Shastri said that notification for constitution of the 8th pay commission is the need of the hour, which is bound to have bearing on about one core employees and pensioners, both in Central as well as State governments. He said that commission should timely

expedite the report so that the implementation gets executed well before 01-01-2026, due date for revision of 8th pay commission.

"50 Percent of DA should be forthwith merged into basic pay and pension", he said, adding, 20 percent interim relief should be sanctioned as early as possible in favor of the employees and pensioners, so that they

would get sigh of relief of rising prices and inflation.

Stressing on the need Shastri also urged him to immediately restore old pension scheme in place of NPS as confidence building measures. He said that many states like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka have restored old pension scheme in favor of NPC employees. He hoped that the

New NDA Government at the Centre will take positive step in this regard.

Shastri also appealed to Prime Minister to release 18 months pending DA arrears, beside regularization of daily wagers who have completed seven years of service in March, 2024, adding their monthly emoluments should be raised to Rs. 18,000 per month.

## Delegates from JK Raise Travel Leave, ATD, DPC and other teachers' issues in National Executive Meeting of ABRSM

### Top News Report

AYODHYA, June 19: Delegates from Jammu and Kashmir at the recently concluded National Executive meeting of the Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shikshak Mahasangh (ABRSM) held at Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj Ayodhya, strongly raised various issues concerning teachers and the education sector. The three-day meeting saw discussions on several national, social, and educational concerns. Led by National Inter-

national Auditor and Parbhari of Higher Education in Jammu Kashmir, Devraj Thakur, and Rattan Chand, JK UT president of the School Education wings of ABRSM, the delegates highlighted pressing issues faced by the teaching community in Jammu and Kashmir. Thakur emphasized the urgency for uniform implementation of the UGC Regulation 2018 nationwide and the need to address anomalies identified by the anomaly redressal committee, advocating for transparency by making their reports



public. He also stressed the importance of developing robust infrastructure within higher education institutions to effectively implement the National Education Policy and prioritize the filling of vacant teaching positions.

Thakur stated, "Serious concerns were raised regarding the enforcement of the Common University Act by certain state governments, which contradicts the provisions of the National Education Policy. Additionally, objections were voiced against institutions charging fees for Faculty Development Programs, contrary to UGC guidelines. ABRSM has urged UGC to take swift and decisive action in these matters."

Dr. Jaspal Singh, ABRSM Vice President of Jammu University unit and Punjab Incharge, echoed

these sentiments, advocating for various reforms to benefit teaching professionals. "We strongly demand travel allowances and daily allowances for refresher and orientation courses under the Faculty Development Program," he stated. "It is imperative to reinstate paid leave for PhD pursuits and provide travel grants for presenting research work in national and international seminars. Post-doctoral research should also be counted towards career advancement, and graduate colleges should be recognized as research

centers for PhD studies."

The meeting also addressed issues pertinent to school teachers. State President (School Education) Rattan Chand presented demands regarding promotions through the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for teachers to Masters, advocating for a fair transfer policy across all cadres in Jammu & Kashmir. He also emphasized the restoration of the old pension scheme and the discontinuation of the National Pension Scheme (NPS) for the welfare of the teaching

community.

"The delegates unanimously highlighted the necessity for uniform policies on traveling leave, aligned with other Union Territories," remarked a spokesperson from the national committee of ABRSM. "These concerns, along with the restoration of the old pension scheme and other pertinent issues, have been formally included in the charter of demands set to be submitted to Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, in the coming days." ABRSM remains com-

mitted to advocating for the rights and welfare of educators across the nation, striving to ensure equitable policies and support mechanisms for their professional growth and development. As the dialogue continues, ABRSM reaffirms its dedication to fostering a conducive environment for excellence in education. National media Parbhari Darshan Bharti and Gulshan Raina, General Secretary (School Education), also presented their views on different issues of teachers in Jammu and Kashmir.

## You are one of the greats: West Indies legend Wesley Hall hails Virat Kohli, gifts him his autobiography

*The Caribbean icon feels the administrators need to find a way to prevent a mass exodus from the longest format*

BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), Jun 19 (Agencies): Legendary West Indies pacer Wesley Hall has seen a lot of great batters over the years and in his opinion, Indian superstar Virat Kohli belongs right at the top with the all-time legends of the game.

The 86-year-old from Barbados, who formed a lethal bowling partnership with Charlie Griffith in the 1960s, also feels that the modern day West Indies players can't be expected to turn down million-dollar contracts in franchise cricket though it does impact the health of Test cricket in the region.

In stark contrast to the nomadic life of a current international cricketer, Hall played 48 Tests in a career spanning 16 years.

He was a special guest at the Kensington Oval here on Tuesday when he met members of the Indian team and presented his autobiography to Kohli and head coach Rahul Dravid on the sidelines of their second training session.

Having also served as sports minister of Barbados, the man of many talents reserved humbling words for Kohli in his brief chat with the former India captain.

"You have come to practice and you have to see an old



man," that was how he broke the ice with the Indian mainstay.

"I have seen a lot of great players and you are one of them. I have followed your career and I hope you play for India for many more years," said the 86-year-old.

If I am from the proletariat, can't refuse IPL millions

T20 cricket in the West Indies seems to be in good health but the same can't be said about Tests, the only format Hall played and excelled at.

The Caribbean icon feels the administrators need to find a way to prevent a mass exodus from the longest format.

"Well, I would say that if your date is today, I'm not concerned.

But if you told me two years ago, I was very concerned. And that's what happens," he said when asked about the state of the red-ball game in the region.

"You just need to get some players who will stick with you. I mean, at one time, we had some great players, but they weren't playing Test cricket. But that's the problem, you see.

"If I am from the proletariat, I don't have any money and somebody offered me a million dollars for four years, well then I could not really refuse it. So we have to sort of deal with it in such a way that it doesn't happen every day," said Hall.

Asked about his views on how the game has changed over the

years, Hall said he doesn't like the fact that cricket has become batter-friendly.

"Well, one has to be aware that things will change. Now we are wondering what's happening, especially if you go into the area where you play the game of 20 overs. There are certain things that I wonder about.

"I just wonder why would batsmen be able to bat through the whole innings, the bowlers are restricted to four bowlers. I often ask that."

Hall, who is 6'5", believes a good fast bowler has to be at least six feet. He is also a fan of Jasprit Bumrah and is impressed with the pace talent in India.

"Earlier you had only Kapil Dev, now you have so many," he remarked.

"You have to remember that immediately after we left the scene, you know, we had about two fast bowlers in the West Indies. Some of them couldn't get in the side. We need to look for some good pacemen.

"I like a paceman that is six foot. When you put a ball in the slip corner, like how Big Bird Joel Garner used to do it, and (Curtly) Ambrose. These fellows, they bowl and they're able to get that bounce," said Hall.

## T20 World Cup 2024: Bangladesh bowler Tanzim Hasan Sakib fined for 'inappropriate physical contact' with Nepal skipper

*Bangladesh's win over Nepal ensures their progression to the Super Eight stage of the showpiece*



DUBAI, Jun 19 (Agencies): Bangladesh seamer Tanzim Hasan Sakib has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for 'inappropriate physical contact' during a verbal altercation with Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel in their final group D match of the T20 World Cup.

The incident took place in the third over of the Nepal chase, on Sunday, when Tanzim, after bowling a delivery, walked towards Paudel 'in an aggres-

sive manner and made inappropriate physical contact'.

Tanzim bowled exceptionally well in the game and finished with a match-winning spell of 4/7 to help Bangladesh claim a 21-run win at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown.

In addition to the fine, 'one demerit point has been added to Tanzim's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period'.

The 21-year-old was

found to have breached Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to 'inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator during an International Match'.

The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Sam Nogajski, along with third umpire Jayaraman Madanagopal and fourth umpire Kumar Dharmasena.

Tanzim admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees. There was no need for a formal hearing.

Bangladesh's win over Nepal ensured their progression to the Super Eight stage of the showpiece, with their next match coming against Australia in Antigua on Thursday.

## India gear up for fast lane: Captain Rohit Sharma says players ready for 'hectic' Super 8 schedule

BRIDGETOWN, Jun 19 (Agencies): India captain Rohit Sharma conceded that the T20 World Cup's Super 8 stage is going to be a "little hectic" but his players are prepared for the grind as there is "real keenness" among them to do "something special".

India will open their Super 8 campaign against Afghanistan on June 20, followed by games against Bangladesh (June 22, Antigua) and Australia (June 24, St Lucia).

"Once we play our first game, we are going to play the next two in the span of three-four days," Rohit said. "It is going to be a little hectic but we are used to all of this. We travel and play a lot so that is never going to be an excuse," the 37-year-old added.

The Indian team had



an extended practice session on Monday with senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit spending more-than-usual time in the nets.

"There is real keenness in the group to go and do something special. That's a good way to start the second stage. It clearly shows that everyone wants to make a difference and we take our skill sessions quite seriously," Rohit said. "There is something to achieve in every skill session that you do," he added.

The Indian team endured hostile batting conditions during the US leg due to the drop-in pitches used by the organisers. Rohit said the Caribbean leg brings with it a sense of familiarity and his team would look to make the most of it. "We have played a lot of games here. So, everyone understands what one needs to do to get the result in our favour. Everyone is looking forward and are quite excited as well at the same time," Rohit said.

## Kane Williamson steps down as New Zealand captain after T20 World Cup debacle

WELLINGTON, Jun 19 (Agencies): Kane Williamson has stepped down as captain of New Zealand's white-ball teams and opted out of a national contract for the 2024-25 season following the Black Caps' early exit from the T20 World Cup.

Williamson's decision marks the end of an era for a New Zealand team which made the semi-finals of the previous three T20 World Cups and the 2021 final but ultimately missed out on a maiden white-ball title.

Fast bowler Lockie Ferguson has also indicated he will not take up a national contract, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Wednesday, following the team's failure to make the Super Eight phase at the ongoing tournament.

One of the world's top batsmen and a campaigner of more than 350 internationals in tests, one-day and T20 cricket, Williamson will continue to play for New Zealand in all three formats.

However, he has opted to take up a contract outside of New Zealand in January, meaning



he will be unavailable for part of the home summer.

"Pursuing an overseas opportunity during the New Zealand summer means I'm unable to accept a central contract offer," the 33-year-old said in a statement.

"Playing for New Zealand is something I treasure, and my desire to give back to the team remains undiminished.

"My life outside cricket has changed however - spending

more time with my family and enjoying experiences with them at home or abroad is something that's even more important to me."

Williamson's likely destination in January is a T20 franchise league, with competitions running in several countries including Australia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

He gave up the test captaincy to Tim Southee in 2022, and there will be another changing

of the guard as New Zealand look to rejuvenate before the next T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka and India in 2026.

Fast bowler Trent Boult, who opted out of a national contract in 2022, confirmed last Friday he had played his last T20 World Cup following the team's elimination from the tournament.

NZC said Williamson would be available for eight tests leading into Christmas and the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February-March.

The board said Williamson's decision to opt out of a contract would not hurt his chances of selection, a departure from its usual policy which favours contracted players.

"We're happy to make an exception for our greatest ever batter - especially as he remains so committed to the team," said NZC CEO Scott Weenink.

"This is a good way to help keep Kane in the international game so that he continues to play a major role for the Black Caps - both now and in the years to come."

## Kylian Mbappé due for tests on his broken nose as France gets 'positive' news on the striker

DUSSELDORF, Jun 19 (Agencies): Kylian Mbappé was due to have tests on his broken nose on Wednesday as France tried to assess what part he could play in the European Championship.

The World Cup winner sustained the injury during his team's 1-0 win against Austria on Monday and will have to wear a face mask if he plays on at the tournament.

"There will be more tests tomorrow to see how things are developing. Obviously it was a big collision," France coach Didier Deschamps said Tuesday.

"The medical staff have done what they needed to reduce it as much as possible. This morning he was a bit better, so we will see that and we will follow it closely each day."

France plays the Netherlands in its second game of Euro 2024 on Friday. It was not known if Mbappé would be able to play after his face collided with the shoulder Austria's Kevin Danso as he attempted a header late



in the Group D match at Dusseldorf Arena.

The French Football Federation said it had received "positive" news about Mbappé's chances of continuing at the tournament as he will not need immediate surgery. But it did not specify how long it would be before he is able to play again.

"The news is rather reassuring so far as there are no operations planned for the immediate

future. As for his participation in the rest of the tournament, it's a bit too early to give a timetable," federation president Philippe Diallo said.

Mbappé stayed on the ground after the aerial collision with Danso. His nose was badly swollen and blood poured, turning parts of his white jersey red.

Austria goalkeeper Patrick Pentz signalled for urgent medi-

cal assistance. He was treated by team doctor Franck Le Gall and then went to Dusseldorf hospital.

"They tried to reduce the aftermath of his fracture, for him to be able to stay in the tournament," Diallo said.

"We'll wait until the end of the day to see how things develop. But all in all, I'd say the information was pretty positive."

The federation said a mask would be made to allow Mbappé to "consider resuming competition after a period devoted to treatment."

Mbappé's injury is a big deal for France, as the country's captain, its best player and one of the biggest stars of the tournament. It's a concern for Real Madrid, too, after he left Paris Saint-Germain as a free agent to join the Spanish club in the offseason.

Mbappe returned to the team's training camp to join up with the rest of the squad and appeared to see the lighter side of his injury. "Any ideas for masks?" he posted on X.

## FC Barcelona shuts down its football academies in India

NEW DELHI, Jun 19 (Agencies): World-renowned football club FC Barcelona has decided to shut down all its academies in India, 14 years after starting operations with an aim to train the country's kids in their famed 'La Masia (youth academy)' style.

FC Barcelona did not provide any official reason for the closure. All its academies in the Indian cities of Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune will cease to exist from July 1.

"FC Barcelona have informed the families involved in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Pune it will cease to operate as Barca Academies from 1 July 2024," the club said in a statement which it uploaded on its website. "Barcelona's presence

in India began back in 2010 and since then thousands of youngsters have learned to play football in the Barca style and with the Club's values.

"Furthermore, India was the venue for two Barca Academy APAC tournament in 2019 and 2020 and the academies have been an ever present in the 11 editions of the Barca Academy World Cup held in Barcelona during Easter Week," the club added.

Football legends such as Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets and Gerard Pique achieved their superstardom after undergoing training at the Barca Academy.

In the statement, FC Barcelona expressed gratitude to all the families for their trust in the

project over the years, as well as to all the coaches, local staff, and Conscient Football, the club's India partner that has collaborated on the Barca academies project all these years.

Barca Academy India was the largest grassroots football training and development initiative in India.

As part of the venture, it set multiple football training centres in Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Pune, organising programs, camps, leagues, tournaments, and exposure trips.

Barca Academy is the flagship FC Barcelona school aimed at boys and girls between 4 to 17 years of age and its main objective is to provide a comprehensive training environment for their students.

# PM release 17th Installment of PM-KISAN Scheme; Jammu witnesses celebratory event

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Jammu, organized a programme regarding Live Streaming of release of 17th installment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme by Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi during Grand Kissan Sammelan at Varanasi (UP).

Bharat Bhusan, Chairman, District Development Council was the chief guest on the occasion, regarding release of 17th installment during Celebration of PM Kisan Utsav Diwas at Baba Jitto, Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo, here. More than 150 farmers of Jammu division participated in the programme.

The PM-KISAN scheme, a flagship initiative aimed at providing direct income



support to farmers across the nation, will witness the digital transfer of over Rs. 19,000 crore to more than 9.2 crore beneficiary farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Highlighting the scheme's impact nationally, the Prime Minister affirmed, "So far, more than 11 crore eligible farmer families have received benefits exceeding Rs. 3.04 lakh crore under PM-KISAN, empowering rural India and farmer's

community." Speaking on the occasion Director Agriculture Jammu said that the purpose of PM KISAN scheme is to give financial assistance to the farmers of the nation. He further informed that e-KYC has been mandatory for availing benefits under PM KISAN which can be done through PM KISAN portal or face recognition mobile app or bio metric based e-KYC through CSC.

In the context of Jammu division, Director Agriculture Jammu stated, "Over Rs. 176.52 crores will be digitally transferred to more than 8.37 lakh beneficiary farmers in J&K alone during this installment. Additionally, in Jammu division, over Rs. 76.52 crores will be transferred to more than 3.82 lakh beneficiary farmers." This underscores the significant financial support reaching our farmers, catalyzing rural devel-

opment and enhancing livelihoods." The Director Agriculture further remarked, "More than 8 lakh eligible farmer families in Jammu & Kashmir have collectively received benefits amounting to over Rs. 3,085 crores under PM-KISAN, reflecting our steadfast commitment to rural prosperity in the region."

Bharat Bhusan, DDC Chairman in his address appealed farmers to adopt farming as full time profession with technical support of Agriculture department. He further informed that govt. has launched various initiatives under HADP for entrepreneurship development in Agriculture Sector & making farming profitable for youth.

Similar programmes were organized at all district and sub division headquarters.

# B Anand-led delegation from CAT Jammu Bench calls on LG Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, June 19: A delegation comprising members of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu Bench led by Administrative Member/Head of Department CAT Jammu Bench, B Anand, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin and Director, School Education Department, Shri Tsering Paldan, were present in the meeting.

B Anand-delegation from CAT Jammu Bench invited the HLG for the inauguration of the First Circuit Sitting of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu Bench in Leh on Wednesday.

Directorate of Sports and Physical Education

University of Jammu Organizes 3-day Yoga workshop to commemorate 10th International Yoga Day 2024

The Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu organizing 3-day Yoga workshop at Gymnasium Hall of Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu under the supervision of Director Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Directorate of sports and Physical Education. Around 80 participants participated in the Yoga inauguration session which started with intense learning of Basic and Advance practicing of Yog Asanas and Mudras.

In Today's inauguration function of 3-day workshop Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba Director, in his message to the participants highlighted the importance of

yoga for wellbeing and also said that practicing yoga cannot only be an effective stress reliever, but also a way to ease symptoms of anxiety and depression. By transferring focus and attention to the body and breath, yoga can help to temper anxiety while also releasing physical tension.

The Yoga session was conducted by Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Pandey, Teaching Assistant gave information about different Asanas, pranayama and Trending Utilization of Yog Mudras.

The formal proceedings and Vote of Thanks was carried out by Mr. Vimal Kishore, Assistant Professor Department of Physical Education.

Others present there were, Raj Kumar Bakshi, Gagan Kumar, Harinderpal Singh, Rishiv Sharma, Ashok Singh Bali and Sat Paul.

# AIPP opens Cutting and Tailoring Center in Queer



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: A significant milestone for the community of Queer as the All India Panchayat Parishad (AIPP), Jammu & Kashmir, inaugurated a new Cutting and Tailoring Center aimed at empowering local girls and women interested in entrepreneurship through skill development.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by former MLA Ashok Sharma as the chief guest, alongside Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, President of All India Panchayat Parishad J&K, who formally opened the center. The event was attended by several dignitaries including Kuldeep Kumar, Working President of AIPP; senior journalist Pt. RC Sharma, Chief Gen-

eral Secretary of AIPP; Capt. Joginder Singh; Uma Shanker; Bhagwan Dass Sharma, Naib Sarpanch; and Payal Thakur among others.

The Cutting and Tailoring Center aims to provide vocational training to local women, equipping them with essential skills in tailoring and garment making. This initiative is part of AIPP's broader efforts to promote self-employment and skill development among women in the region.

The center will offer courses and workshops designed to empower participants to start their own ventures and contribute to the local economy.

Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Kuldeep Sharma emphasized the importance of such

initiatives in fostering economic independence and self-reliance among women. He expressed his gratitude to all the supporters and stakeholders who contributed to the establishment of the center, highlighting the collaborative effort involved in making this project a reality.

Former MLA Ashok Sharma commended the AIPP for its proactive approach towards community development and pledged his continued support for similar initiatives in the future.

The Cutting and Tailoring Center in Queer is expected to become a hub for skill enhancement and entrepreneurship, promising a brighter future for aspiring women entrepreneurs in the region.

# JKBS congrats Vidhut Mandi for performing well in 10th class examination

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members Honorary Captain Kamal Dass Kaith, Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu, Inspector Darshan Kumar Bassa, Hans Raj Loria, R.L. Kaith, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Tilak Raj Basa, Master Naresh Kumar Kaith, Jagdish Raj Kaith and others, who met here today hailed the well deserved success of Vidhut Mandi of Village Sardare Chack in 10th class examination.

Members said, "We saw you work so hard



every day to achieve this accomplishment, and we can't think of anyone who deserves it more..."

Members congratulated Vidhut and his father Panch Jagdish Mandi on this tremendous achievement and wished Vidhut much more success ahead.

# JU organises 3-day Yoga workshop



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: The Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, today inaugurated a 3-day Yoga workshop at Gymnasium Hall of Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, under the supervision of Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Directorate of sports and Physical Education.

Around 80 participants participated in the Yoga inauguration session, which started with intense learning of Basic and advanced practices of Yog Asanas and Mudras.

During the inaugural function, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director of the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, emphasized the importance of yoga for overall well-being. He highlighted that practicing yoga

is not only an effective stress reliever but also a method to reduce the symptoms of anxiety and depression. Dr. Baba further explained that by focusing attention on the body and breath, yoga helps to mitigate anxiety and release physical tension.

The Yoga session was conducted by Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Pandey, Teaching Assistant. He also provided information about different Asanas, pranayama and Trending Utilization of Yog Mudras.

The formal proceedings and a Vote of Thanks was carried out by Mr. Vimal Kishore, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education.

Raj Kumar Bakshi, Mr. Gagan Kumar, Harinderpal Singh, Sh. Rishiv Sharma, Sh. Ashok Singh Bali and Sh. Sat Paul were also attend the session.

# Donate to needy on Jyeshtha Purnima: Mahant Rohit

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 19: Jyeshtha Purnima holds special significance in Sanatan Dharma. Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya and head of the Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, emphasized the importance of this day, where Lord Vishnu in the form of Shri Satyanarayan is worshipped. It is highly auspicious to read or listen to the story of Lord Shri Satyanarayan or to conduct his puja. Additionally, the worship of Lord Ganesha, Goddess Parvati, Lord Shiva, and the Moon holds special importance on Purnima Tithi.

Jyeshtha Shukla Paksha Purnima Tithi will begin on Friday, 21 June, at 07:32 AM and will end on Saturday, 22 June, at 06:38 AM. Devotees observing the Ratri Purnima Vrat should do so on Friday, 21 June, while those observing the Diva Purnima Vrat should do so on Saturday, 22 June.

According to scriptures, it is advised to avoid con-



Devotees should worship Lord Vishnu and, in the evening, worship the full moon with lamps, incense, flowers, grains, and jaggery, offering water to it. After this, a water-filled pot should be donated to a deserving Brahmin.

Partaking in food should only occur after feeding a Brahmin or a needy person. Performing good deeds on Jyeshtha Purnima earns merit, and worshipping the moon and fasting on this day strengthens the moon, relieving mental and financial problems.

To improve financial conditions, Mahant Rohit Shastri suggests offering 11 cowries marked with turmeric to the idol of Goddess Lakshmi. These cowries should be tied in a red cloth and kept in one's safe the following morning.

Additionally, on 21 June, Friday, the Vat Savitri (Purnima Paksha) Vrat will be observed, and on 22 June, Saturday, the birth anniversary of Saint Kabirdas Ji will be celebrated.

suming any tamasic substances, maintain celibacy, and stay away from alcohol and other intoxicants on this day as they can negatively impact both the body and future. Instead, only sattvic food should be consumed.

Bathing at pilgrimage sites on Jyeshtha Purnima is believed to free one from sins accumulated over many births, with bathing in the Ganges being particularly significant. Sincerely fasting on this day is said to remove poverty and bring prosperity to one's home.

On this day, devotees are encouraged to donate a water-filled pot along with food items to someone in need. Donating gold is also considered highly significant.

# Upcoming Elections J&K; Distt President Sanjeev asks workers to gear up



Top News Report

SAMBA, June 19: Congress Samba Constituency workers meet was held at Congress Party Office, Samba under the leadership of Distt President Sanjeev Sharma and member of Samba Constituency Congress

core Committee. In the meeting Hundreds of Congress workers from different villages of Samba Constituency attend the meeting. While addressing workers Sanjeev asked party workers to gear up for the upcoming urban local bodies, panchayat

elections and Assembly election, saying "deserving" candidates would be given the party mandate by party.

Sanjeev said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are the worst hit due to the "wrong policies" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP and accused them of "snatching" their rights over land and jobs and "downgrading" a full-fledged state to a Union Territory. Sanjeev asked them to get ready to defeat the "anti-people, anti-youth, anti-students, anti-farmers" regime in the upcoming polls.

The Congress leader called upon the party functionaries to maintain close rapport with the public and highlight the "various failures" of the BJP government.

# Army organises motivational Lecture on 'How To Join Armed Forces' at Gundna



Top News Report

DODA, June 19: A Motivational Lecture for youth on 'How to Join Armed Forces' was organised at Gundna with an aim to bring awareness about the career options in Armed Forces for eligible and enthusiastic resident youth. A total of 24 youth attended the event. During the lecture, it was emphasized that the employment is a major concern of every

youth in the district and thus the eligible and aspiring youth should prepare and participate in different recruitment rallies being conducted by Recruitment Agencies of 'Defence Services' to join a noble and fulfilling career. He brought out that it is a glorious and noble endeavor to wear the Olive Green and serve motherland. The lecture witnessed an attendance of large number of youth

Gundna with great zeal and enthusiasm. Participants were imparted awareness about the physical and educational requirement and the selection process for various types of entries into the services. Indian Army has also been conducting pre-recruitment training to enable the local boys to compete in recruitment rallies. The efforts of the Indian Army was appreciated by the School Staff and the students.