

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Soldier injured in accidental grenade blast in Samba

SAMBA, Jun 26 (Agencies): A soldier was seriously injured in an accidental grenade blast inside a camp in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said.

The sepoy was handling a training grenade that exploded in his hand inside the camp at Diyani, they said.

They said the trooper was admitted to the Military Hospital in Samba.

### Dr Mohd Ashraf is new director SKIMS Soura

SRINAGAR, Jun 26 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday has appointed Dr Mohammad Ashraf as director Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura Srinagar with immediate effect.

According to an order, "Sanction is, hereby, accorded to the appointment of Dr Mohd Ashraf Ganie, Professor, Department of Endocrinology, SKIMS, Soura as Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, with immediate effect."

### Cop dismissed from service for his involment in criminal activities in Kishtwar: Police

JAMMU, Jun 26 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said that it have dismissed a constable involved in criminal activities in Kishtwar district.

The police said that it has dismissed a Police Constable from services for his involvement in series of criminal cases including a murder case. As per reports, one Constable namely Sham Lal No. 698/Ktr, PID No. EXJ-118739 joined District Kishtwar on 09-11-2023 while he was under suspension on account of his prolong absence and indulgence in criminal cases. The said Constable was granted 03

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## NDA nominee Om Birla elected Lok Sabha speaker

NEW DELHI, Jun 26 (Agencies): NDA nominee Om Birla was elected as Lok Sabha speaker on Wednesday after a motion moved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was adopted through voice vote, capping intense debate on the issue with the opposition in a rare move proposing its own candidate.

Pro-tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab made the announcement after the opposition, which had forwarded the the name of eight-term Congress MP Kodikunnil Suresh as its candidate, did not press for votes to the motion.

With this, Birla, the BJP's MP from Kota,



gets a second consecutive term in the chair, the fifth time that a speaker will serve beyond the tenure of one Lok Sabha.

It is also amongst the few occasions that an election became necessary for a post conventionally decided by consensus.

"I announce Om Birla

elected as the speaker," Mahtab said.

Soon after, Modi and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju went to Birla's seat in the front row of the treasury benches to escort him to the chair.

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi also joined them. Gandhi

greeted Birla and also shook hands with the prime minister.

After that, Modi, Gandhi and Rijiju escorted Birla to the chair where Mahtab welcomed him saying, "It is your chair, please occupy."

In his address, the first in the 18th Lok Sabha, Modi said Birla's work as a parliamentarian should be an inspiration for new Lok Sabha members.

"It is a matter of honour that you have been elected to this chair for a second time," the prime minister said.

"I congratulate you on behalf of the entire House and look forward to your

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## Elements disturbing peace in J&K will be dealt with sternly: Lieutenant Governor



SRINAGAR, Jun 26 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday reiterated that elements involved in disturbing peace, and law & order in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be taken to task sternly.

Addressing a Tourism Development Con-

clave-2024 at SKICC in Srinagar, Lieutenant Governor said that J&K government has held a principle of "be-gunah to chedho mat, gunahgar ko chodho mat" (do not touch innocents, and don't spare guilty unpunished). He stated such kind of principle will remain in place and

no power on earth can undo this.

"Elements who will be found involved in disturbing peace, and law & order of Jammu and Kashmir won't be spared unpunished. They will be dealt strictly under the law," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said.

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## Army Commander reviews security situation in Reasi



JAMMU, Jun 26 (Agencies): Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar visited Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district and reviewed the security situation of the region.

His visit to the area along with General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 16 Corps Lieutenant General Navin Sachde-

va and GoC Romeo Force become important to review the security setup in the wake of terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in the area on June 9.

Nine persons, including seven pilgrims from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, were killed and 41 injured in the attack when the

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## One terrorist killed by security forces as gunfight rages in Doda

DODA, Jun 26 (Agencies): One terrorist was killed by security forces in an ongoing encounter in a forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday, police officials said.

The gunfight started in Bajaad village in Gandoh area around 9.50 am amid intensified search and cordon operation by the police along with the Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) following twin terrorist attacks in the hilly district on June 11 and 12, the officials said.

Six security personnel were injured when ter-

rorists attacked a joint check post at Chattargalla on June 11, while a policeman was injured in a gunfight with terrorists at Kota top in Gandoh area the next day.

After the twin attacks, security forces intensified their anti-terrorist operations and announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakhs each on four Pakistani terrorists believed to have infiltrated and operating in the district.

The police, assisted by security forces, launched an operation in the village of Sinoo panchayat but came under heavy fire from the terrorists hiding in a

'dhok' (mud house), the official said, adding that one terrorist was killed in the retaliatory fire after he came out and opened fire on the search parties.

The exchange of fire was still going on when last reports were received, the officials said.

An Army helicopter was also seen hovering over the area for surveillance, they added.

Meanwhile, a Chinese hand grenade was recovered from village Pind in Chingus area of Rajouri district, the officials said.

They said the grenade

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## Improvement in Law and Order led to increase in Tourist footfall in J&K: Chief Secretary



SRINAGAR, Jun 26: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday said that crores of rupees are being spent on infrastructure projects in the Union Territory, which is set to give a boost to the economic activities like tourism.

Stating that the improvement in the law

and order situation has led to the increase in the footfall of tourists here, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo while addressing a gathering at SKICC, said that Jammu and Kashmir has seen transformative changes in the last couple of years.

"As we are planning to formulate a roadmap for development of tourism in J&K, we need suggestions from the concerned stakeholders including tour operators, travel agents and others in this regard," Dulloo said.

He said that crores of rupees are being spent here, which will help boost the economic

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# MBA MOTORS

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## Security Forces on high alert after two armed men spotted in Pathankot

CHANDIGARH, Jun 26 (Agencies): Security forces were put on high alert after a villager claimed to have spotted two suspicious armed men in Punjab's Pathankot, officials said on Wednesday.

The Punjab Police, along with the Army and the Border Security Force (BSF), launched a massive search operation in Pathankot, a senior Punjab Police officer said.

The search operation was being carried out in the Bamial area, the officer said.

"We are on alert," Deputy Inspector General (Border Range, Amritsar), Rakesh Kaushal, said.

"A joint operation of the Punjab Police, BSF and Army is being carried out in the Bamial area," DIG Kaushal added.

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## EDITORIAL

## Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking remains a significant challenge in India, posing threats to public health, national security, and socio-economic stability. The country's geographical location, porous borders, and diverse socio-economic conditions make it vulnerable to drug smuggling and trafficking activities. This issue is compounded by the global nature of drug networks and the constant evolution of trafficking methods. Understanding the dynamics of drug trafficking in India requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both supply-side and demand-side factors while enhancing law enforcement capabilities and international cooperation.

India's strategic location between major drug-producing countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia makes it a crucial transit route for drug trafficking. Heroin, opium, hashish, and synthetic drugs like methamphetamine are among the most commonly trafficked substances. The trafficking routes often originate from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Nepal, entering India through its extensive land and maritime borders. Domestic drug production, particularly of cannabis and opium, also contributes to the supply chain.

The illicit drug trade in India is not only a transit route but also a destination market. Increasing urbanization, changing lifestyles, and rising disposable incomes have contributed to a growing domestic demand for drugs. This demand fuels local production and distribution networks, often intertwined with international trafficking routes.

Drug trafficking in India poses numerous challenges. First and foremost is its impact on public health. Substance abuse contributes to a range of health problems, including addiction, overdose deaths, and the spread of infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS through needle sharing. Vulnerable populations such as youth and marginalized communities are particularly at risk.

Secondly, drug trafficking undermines national security. The profits from drug trade often fund criminal organizations and terrorist groups, threatening social stability and the rule of law. The nexus between drug trafficking, organized crime, and terrorism necessitates a coordinated response from law enforcement agencies.

Economically, drug trafficking diverts resources away from legitimate economic activities and undermines governance by fostering corruption and undermining institutions. It also imposes significant costs on healthcare systems and law enforcement agencies, diverting resources that could be allocated elsewhere. The Indian government has adopted various strategies to combat drug trafficking. Legislative measures like the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act provide a legal framework for drug control efforts, including stringent penalties for offenders. Enhanced border security, intelligence sharing among law enforcement agencies, and international cooperation through organizations like INTERPOL and UNODC are also crucial components of India's anti-trafficking strategy.

Efforts are also focused on demand reduction through awareness campaigns, rehabilitation programs for drug users, and community-based initiatives aimed at prevention and treatment. Recognizing the importance of a balanced approach, the government encourages partnerships with civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to address the socio-economic factors contributing to drug abuse.

Despite these efforts, several challenges persist. Weak enforcement capacities, corruption within law enforcement agencies, and the vast and porous borders continue to facilitate drug trafficking activities. Moreover, the constantly evolving nature of drug trafficking networks necessitates adaptive and innovative responses.

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that integrates law enforcement with prevention, treatment, and harm reduction measures. Strengthening international cooperation and intelligence sharing is critical to disrupt transnational drug trafficking networks. Investing in community-based rehabilitation and reintegration programs can help mitigate the socio-economic impacts of drug abuse.

Furthermore, there is a need for sustained political will, adequate funding, and capacity building for law enforcement agencies to effectively combat drug trafficking. Public awareness campaigns to educate communities about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of reporting suspicious activities can also play a pivotal role.

In conclusion, drug trafficking in India is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a coordinated response at national, regional, and international levels. By addressing both supply-side and demand-side factors while enhancing law enforcement capabilities and fostering international cooperation, India can mitigate the adverse impacts of drug trafficking and work towards a safer and healthier future for its citizens.

## A wish-list for Budget: If I were Nirmala Sitharaman

By: Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is all set to make history. Some may say she has already made history by being the first woman to become finance minister, if one excludes Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who held the finance portfolio in 1969. If all goes well, she will become the first FM to serve for more than six years and 125 days by the end of 2025, smashing Palaniappan Chidambaram's record over two separate spells (2004 to 2008 and 2012 to 2014). For continuous service, the venerable C.D. Deshmukh (1950 to 1956) holds the record of six years and 53 days, which Ms Sitharaman will equal even earlier.

Contrary to popular perception -- mainly because of her impish grin when she scores a debating point -- Ms Sitharaman was not the youngest finance minister at age 60 in 2019. That honour belongs to Rajiv Gandhi in 1987 (along with being the PM) at age 43. The second youngest was Pranab Mukherjee at age 47 in 1982, followed by P. Chidambaram at age 51 in 1996.

Every FM yearns for a legacy to be remembered by. This requires substantive action beyond getting there early or hanging in there for long. Ms Sitharaman's first term under Prime Minister Narendra Modi was diligent, free of adverse outcomes but studiously correct as a sipahi (soldier) of the PM -- with apologies to Rajeev Chandrashekar of the BJP, who claims that privilege.

If I were Nirmala Sitharaman, I would use my time till 2029 to build a legacy -- beyond the implementation of 300-day rolling plans or the subsequent high decibel political outreach around relatively mundane outcomes, which generally accompany such budgetary provisions.

The finance ministry flies solo in three significant areas. First, defining the fiscal stance of the government -- the fiscal deficit, debt levels and the share of private and public investment at play in the economy. Second, developing an action plan to achieve the associated fiscal and investment metrics. If private investment must increase, relative to public resources, what is the vision for the supporting financial services -- banking, financial institutions, stock markets and insurance services?

Third, the tax policy of the government, which determines who pays for government interventions. All three are highly political decisions.

The FM plays a prime role in aligning government tax revenue to the volume of government expenditure to keep fiscal deficit and debt within norms. At present, public debt is 50 per cent higher and the fiscal deficit more than 25 per cent higher than the norm. Keeping them within the norms means shaping financial outlays towards efficiency enhancing, productive spending, while saying no to political grandstanding based on debt. In short, the FM must draw measurable red lines around the expenditure expectations of her Cabinet colleagues.

Cynics would say such foundational decisions are taken by the Prime Minister's close-knit circle of advisers. Also, how can an FM, who is in Parliament at the behest of the party (via the indirect election route to the Rajya Sabha, as opposed to getting directly elected to the Lok Sabha) do otherwise but play ball with top-down political directives?

The FM can take heart from previous FMs, also in Parliament via the indirect Rajya Sabha route. Arun Jaitley will be remembered for accepting the challenge of living within a low FD target of 4.1 per cent of GDP in 2014-15, down from 4.5

per cent, the previous fiscal, where P. Chidambaram had left it, and for reducing it further to 3.5 per cent by 2017-18. Successfully shepherding the GST regime -- an inherited, albeit much needed, hot potato from the Congress government, was another achievement, but failing to oppose demonetisation -- which was a political misadventure -- was not. Dr Manmohan Singh (as PM) braved the wrath of his own party and Left party allies for pushing through the civil nuclear deal with the United States in 2006, paving the way for the close alliances India enjoys today.

Similar opportunities await Ms Sitharaman. Consider, for example, the need for a forward-looking tax policy. Her diligent oversight and evident probity -- she did not fight the 2024 Lok Sabha elections because she could not afford the expenses required to win -- have ensured a smart uptick in Central government tax receipts.

From 6.8 per cent of current GDP in 2019-20, these increased to 9.6 per cent in 2023-24, vastly different from 2019-20 when they reduced from 7.6 per cent in 2014-15. But the underlying tax structure remains distorted, porous, and shallow.

Tax reform requires shunning high nominal rates as substitutes for poor assessment and collection capabilities. Low tax rates, minus exemptions, are preferable to high nominal rates with lots of exemptions, designed to let favoured taxpayers escape the tax, whilst others get their backs broken. Consider that, thanks to "clever" tax planning, less than 0.6 million families (0.2 per cent of all families) declared a taxable annual income of more than Rs 5 million in 2022-23.

High import tax rates seem necessary to "protect" domestic industry because the RBI keeps the rupee artificially expensive and domestic

interest rates high, to forestall an outflow of foreign portfolio investment from the stock market. Keeping the stock market at elevated levels is now a performance metric of the government, much to the glee of the middle class. But an expensive rupee makes exports expensive and uncompetitive whilst incentivising imports, widening the trade deficit, which then needs to be plugged in by higher taxes on imports and more incentives for inflows of foreign investment to plug the adverse external account (trade plus financial flows) -- pulling the economy into a circular, downward trending vortex.

High domestic lending rates, and high domestic bank lending margins compensate for losses from imprudent lending practices at low rates, often under government schemes but serve to constrain domestic investment, counteracted by "viability gap financing subsidies" for the big corporates and interest subsidies for small business.

A five-year macro-economic plan can lead us out of this circular, unstrategic, economic trap. Mandate a Fiscal and Financial Commission (FFC) to integrate the entire financial sector. Chaired by the FM with state government FMs as members working on a consensual basis, it can subsume the GST Council and the quinquennial Finance Commission, whose mandate is already diminished by the comprehensive GST framework. Inter-state allocation of grants could be determined quinquennially but monitored and fine-tuned annually.

Integrating high-level fiscal and financial decision-making under one roof would be a visible ode to Prime Minister Modi's languishing mantra of co-operative federalism. If I were Ms Sitharaman, I would step, a bit out of line, to hit a six.

## When Artificial intelligence becomes a part of life?

By: Vijay GarG

The world is growing every day with new technology and advancements in lifestyle enhancements. As we live longer and technology continues its rapid development, we can imagine in the near future when machines will augment our human abilities, help us make better life choices, and become a part of the lifestyle. Our dialogue and digital breadcrumbs will understand our life goals and aspirations, obligations and limitations, and suggest or create a lifestyle according to the best available resources. AI will seamlessly and automatically help us budget and save for different life events, so we can enjoy life's moments more lively.

A major new report on the state of artificial intelligence (AI) has shown data that AI is becoming a part of life already in at least 10% of day-to-day activities. From language generation and molecular medicine to disinformation and algorithmic bias, AI has begun to permeate every aspect of our lives.

The report argues that we are at an inflection point where researchers and governments must think and act carefully to contain the risks AI presents and make the most of its benefits.

When AI is becoming real!

There is remarkable progress made in AI over the past five years. AI is leaving the laboratory and has entered our lives, having a "real-world impact on people, institutions, and culture". Read the news on any given day and you're likely to find multiple stories about some new advancement in technology in AI or some new use of AI.

In the coming decade, I expect that AI will play an increasingly prominent role in the lives of people everywhere. AI-infused services will become more common, and AI will become increasingly embedded in the daily lives of people across the world.

Believe that this will bring with it great economic and social benefits, but that it will also require us to address the many challenges to ensure that the benefits are broadly shared and that people are not marginalised by these new technologies.

In recent years, homeowners have adopted smart home technologies to

improve their quality of life. Connected devices and appliances perform actions, tasks, and automated routines based on a homeowner's preferences. Smart technologies enable homeowners to save time, money, and energy.

Many AI technologies have emerged that come equipped with learning and decision-making capabilities in recent years. We can artificial intelligence mimics human intelligence but the output from the data collected and organized will give a better result for the human life upliftment

AI-powered smart home devices can interact and communicate with each other, allowing them to learn human habits or day-to-day life requirements. Data collected by AI smart home technologies predict user behavior and even develop situational awareness. This will allow the user more productive so that day-to-day requirements are well met with the machine learning capabilities.

Impact on work & Lifestyle

Rather than promoting the obsolescence of human labor, AI will continue to drive massive innovation that will fuel many existing industries and could have the potential to create many new sectors for growth, ultimately leading to the creation of more jobs.

While AI has made major strides toward replicating the efficacy of human intelligence in executing certain tasks, there are still major limitations. In particular, AI programs are typically only capable of "specialized" intelligence, meaning they can solve only one problem, and execute only one task at a time. Often, they can be rigid, and unable to respond to any changes in input or perform any "thinking" outside of their prescribed programming. There are lots of limitations to AI and programming in machine learning.

AI is likely to have a strong impact on certain sectors in particular:

Medical:

The potential benefits of utilising AI in the field of medicine are already being explored. The medical industry has a robust amount of data and produces a huge volume of data that can be utilised to create predictive models related to healthcare. Connected hospitals and rooms also are very helpful for diagnosing medical conditions, preexisting diseases and giving the doctor a better outcome for the patient and monitoring

the patient in real-time when it's needed even though they are not at the hospital. The behavior of the patients also can be well diagnosed for the treatment using the new age technologies.

Automotive:

We're already seeing how AI is impacting the world of transportation and automobiles with the advent of autonomous vehicles and autonomous navigation. Vehicles are becoming more connected and data-driven. This will create more and better output for the efficiency of the vehicle and safety. The user experience in AI will also have a major impact on manufacturing, including within the automotive sector.

E-Commerce:

AI will play a pivotal role in e-commerce in the future, in every sector of the industry from user experience to marketing to fulfilment and distribution. We can expect that moving forward, AI will continue to drive the industry with various system and machine learning capacities, including through the use of chatbots, shopper personalization, image-based targeting advertising, and warehouse and inventory automation.

AI for Energy Management

As we move toward an increasingly electric world, more energy will be produced by decentralised, renewable sources. It will be from microgrids, wind farms, solar panels, and batteries. The global transition to renewable energy will need artificial intelligence (AI) technology to manage decentralised grids. AI can balance electricity supply and demand needs in real-time, optimize energy use and storage to reduce rates. Technology governance will be needed to democratize access, encourage innovation and ensure resilient electricity sources. A consistent challenge with renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power is their unreliability. Weather-dependent power sources will often fluctuate in their strength.

This meant that greater precautions could be taken to harness and preserve the energy that was generated. In order to provide these detailed weather reports, the AI system mines a combination of data from local satellite reports, weather stations as well as wind farms in the surrounding area. The algorithms driving the system are trained to identify patterns within these data sets and make predictions based on those data

points. Essentially, the AI acts as a marketplace advisor, providing recommendations to help clients make informed decisions regarding to make renewable energy technologies purchases for their homes. When a household appliance is turned on, the algorithms driving the AI assistant recognize patterns and can automate a running tally of the energy costs that the item is generating. The renewable energy sector is a growing economic force and an effective strategy for improving environmental sustainability. Artificial intelligence is being integrated across major sectors of this industry, increasing the capacity of data analytics.

The variable nature of weather presents inherent challenges which may cause suppliers to rely on traditional energy sources to meet consumer demands. Therefore, AI-driven energy forecasting platforms may hold promise for providing energy suppliers with the data required to respond to fluctuations that may negatively affect operations and to plan accordingly. The renewable energy sector is a growing economic force and an effective strategy for improving environmental sustainability. Artificial intelligence is being integrated across major sectors of this industry, increasing the capacity of data analytics.

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The term "artificial intelligence" may sound intimidating to some, but it has been in use for decades and its applications are more common than you might imagine. AI powers many programs and services that help us do everyday things such as connecting with friends, using email program, or using a ride-share service.

*(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)*

## Al Khair Multi Speciality Clinic and Diagnostic Centre inaugurated

### Top News Report

DODA, June 26: The Al Khair Multi speciality Clinic and Diagnostic Centre was officially inaugurated Wednesday by the ex-Home Minister, Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy, near the new Bus Stand in Doda. This state-of-the-art facility aims to provide the highest quality healthcare services to the residents of Doda and the surrounding regions.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a diverse gathering of dignitaries, healthcare professionals, and local community members. Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy, known for



his significant contributions to public service, praised the initiative and expressed his hopes for the clinic to set new

standards in healthcare delivery in the region.

The Al Khair Multi speciality Clinic and Diagnostic Centre is

equipped with modern medical technologies and staffed by a team of experienced and dedicated healthcare professionals. The centre offers a wide range of services, including but not limited to General Medicine, Pharmacy, Dental and Diagnostics.

During the inauguration, Khalid Najeeb emphasized the importance of accessible and quality healthcare for all. He highlighted the clinic's potential to significantly improve health outcomes in the region by providing timely and comprehensive medical care.

"We are committed to enhancing the health-

care infrastructure in Doda, and the inauguration of the Al Khair Multi speciality Clinic and Diagnostic Centre is a significant step towards achieving this goal," said Janab Khalid Najeeb. "I am confident that this facility will greatly benefit the people of Doda and contribute to the overall well-being of the community."

The Al Khair Multi speciality Clinic and Diagnostic Centre is now open to the public and ready to serve the healthcare needs of the community. For more information or to book an appointment, please contact Dr. N. Gohar Mumtaz.

## 'Say Yes to Life' pledge taken by GDC Samba on International Day Against Drug Abuse



### Top News Report

SAMBA, June 26: NCORD Cell of Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Govt Degree College (GDC) Samba pledged "Say Yes to Life, No to Drugs" to commemorate International Day Against Drug Abuse and reinforce our commitment to creat-

ing a drug-free community.

On this occasion Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri highlighted the significance of this day and encouraged students to lead by example, promoting healthy and drug-free lifestyles as drugs remain the root of immeasurable human suffering.

This event aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and reinforce our commitment to creat-

At every turn, the most vulnerable people including youngsters suffer the

worst effects of this crisis.

After taking pledge about 50 students of the college attended Signature Campaign at District Administrative Complex Samba under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

GDC Samba remains dedicated to fostering a safe, healthy, and supportive environment for all its students and staff.

The whole event was organised by NCord Officer, Dr. Papinder Bhagat.

## GDC Thannamandi observes Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

### Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, June 26: The Red Ribbon Club and the NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi, observed International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking with great enthusiasm and commitment. The event saw active participation from all staff and students under the patronage of Principal Dr. Farooq Ahmed.

The highlight of the day was an extensive talk delivered by Dr. Ashaq Malik, focusing on the 2024 theme, Evidence is clear: Invest in prevention, and the significance of the day. Dr. Malik emphasized the importance of prevention, awareness, and understanding the consequences of drug abuse. His insightful talk provided valuable information on how to combat drug abuse effectively through education and proactive measures.

Dr. Malik began by elucidating this year's theme, shedding light on its relevance to the current global scenario of drug abuse and the pressing need for collective action. He highlighted the multifaceted impact of drug abuse on

individuals, families, and society at large, painting a vivid picture of the social, economic, and health-related consequences.

In his comprehensive address, Dr. Malik stressed the critical role of education in preventing drug abuse. He outlined various strategies for raising awareness, including school and community-based programs that educate young people about the dangers of drug use. Dr. Malik also spoke about the importance of early intervention and support systems to help those at risk or already affected by drug abuse.

Principal Dr. Farooq Ahmed also addressed the gathering, shedding light on the social and emotional aspects of drug abuse. His deliberation underscored the collective responsibility of the community in supporting individuals affected by drug addiction and fostering a supportive environment for recovery.

Dr. Farooq began his address by discussing the profound social impact of drug abuse, explaining how it affects not just the individual, but also their family and the broader community. He highlighted the impor-

ance of understanding the underlying emotional issues that often lead to substance abuse, such as stress, anxiety, and depression. Dr. Ahmed emphasized the need for empathy and compassion in dealing with those struggling with addiction, urging the community to adopt a non-judgmental and supportive approach.

Prof. Asif Ajaz Lone, NSS Program Officer, who conducted the proceedings of the programme ensured the smooth flow of events and active participation from the audience. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Nodal Officer of the Red Ribbon Club, expressing gratitude to all participants and contributors for making the event a success. The observance of International Drug Day at GDC Thannamandi served as a powerful reminder of the ongoing battle against drug abuse and the critical role of education and community support in this endeavor.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Rakesh Puri, Dr. Junaid, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Anuj Bali and Prof. Rizwana Kouser.

## Muslim Rashtriya Manch welcomes Advocate Imtiyaz, holds workers meeting



### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 26: While welcoming newly joined prominent Figure from Bandipora Advocate Mohd Imtiyaz, Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) Jammu and Kashmir Legal Advisor Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad convened workers meeting at Jammu on Wednesday.

Adv. Mohd Imtiyaz, a prominent personality who hails from Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir joined MRM during an impressive organisational function in its head office at Jammu.

Expressing his views, Adv. Imtiyaz said that MRM is the sole organisation that has a vision and capability to bring

about Social and Economic transformation in the country.

"The agenda of this organisation is to carry all the sections of the society together towards accomplishing equitable development of all the regions, religions and castes," Imtiyaz claimed.

Speaking on the occasion, Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad said that other organisations are playing divisive politics in Jammu and Kashmir but in today's world, there is no space for fake and vote bank politics as people are mature enough to understand their designs.

Malik said that MRM is the sole organisation that is committed to serving the people irrespective of caste, colour and creed. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Shahid Kalas (Co-Convenor Jammu Province), Rayees Ahmed Sheikh (Secretary Jammu Province), Fayaz Ahmed Wani (Co-Convenor Jammu Province) and others.

## AJKPC condemns J&K Govt for issuing Circular No JK-14

### Top News Report

JAMMU, June 26: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), a registered organization dedicated to the welfare of the rural population and the strengthening of grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, has vehemently condemned Circular No. 14 issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Administration under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

AJKPC has called on the Government of India to intervene and direct the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary of J&K to rescind Circular No. 14, issued by the Jammu and Kashmir General Administration Department on 20 June 2024. The circular appears to protect corrupt and tainted officers while intimidating citizens and the press from speaking out against corruption within government departments.

Anil Sharma, President of AJKPC, accused the current regime of the J &



K union territory of fearing transparency and accountability.

He stated that this fear prompted the issuance of the circular, which authorizes officers to file criminal cases against civilians whose complaints are deemed baseless. Additionally, citizens could face actions by the Crime Branch and be required to compensate accused officers if their complaints are unsuccessful.

AJKPC President questioned, "How can an ordinary citizen from a vulnerable section of society in a remote area stand against the powerful state and its mechanisms? No citizen would dare to file a corruption

case against an officer under such circumstances."

It is worth noting that Circular No. JK-14 also includes provisions for offering free legal aid to accused officers and seeks to suppress the press by threatening to withdraw government advertisements and cancel the licenses of accreditation of the newspaper that report issue of corrupt officers.

He emphasized that this move is intended to silence those who speak out against corrupt bureaucracy and deliberately issued instead of enhancing accountability mechanisms.

Sharma criticized the LG administration for its efforts to intimidate ordinary citizens and the press from raising concerns about corruption. He also expressed disappointment at the lack of response from political parties both local and national level, on this serious issue, likening it to the oppressive measures of the Emergency era.

## GDC R S Pura organizes awareness campaign on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking



### Top News Report

R S PURA, June 26: The international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking or World drug day, is marked on June 26 every year to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse.

To commemorate the day, Drug De-addiction Committee of GDC R.S.Pura organized an awareness campaign based on the theme, "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention."

More than 30 students of the college including faculty members were participated in the event with great zeal, enthusiasm and fervor. In this connection a pledge was taken by students fol-

lowed by Poster Making Competition in order to aware the public about drug abuse. Thereafter a motivational Lecture was also delivered by Prof Neelam Kumari with the aim to raise awareness about the importance of treating people who use drugs with respect and empathy, providing evidence-based, voluntary services for all, offering alternatives to punishment, prioritizing prevention and leading with compassion.

The event was organized under the able guidance of Prof.(Dr)Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College. She apprised the students that the day observe as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve

the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. She further added that people who use drugs can often face significant barriers to treatment and even health services for infectious diseases like HIV/ AIDS and hepatitis. Meanwhile, drug traffickers continue to prey on drug users, rapidly escalating the production of dangerous highly addictive synthetic drugs.

The entire programme was coordinated by Prof. Neelam Kumari, Convenor Drug De-addiction Committee. The staff members who make the event successful were Dr. Neena Gupta, Prof. Shifali Abrol, Prof. Anju Kumari, Dr. Meeshu Pandita, Prof. Shelly Kalsi and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch.

## GDC Doda organises 'Poet of the Year 2024' competition

### Top News Report

DODA, June 26: In order to chisel the creative talent of the students, the department of English GDC Doda organised the second season of the poet of the year competition.

The concept of the event was started last year by the then HOD English Dr Jamsheed Ahmad.

The event was organised under the patronage and guidance of Dr (Prof) Attar Singh Kotwal.

syntax and grammar the short listed poems were mailed to three judges for their assessment. It is pertinent to mention here that a blind review was followed to judge the poems. The result of the competition was declared today wherein Mr Pawan Kotwal from semester 6th was awarded with the title of the poet of the year 2024. He was presented a memento and a certificate of appreciation.

In his address the principal of the college



In the competition which was organised by Dr Jamsheed Ahmad, Prof Naz Zargar and Prof Anju Kumar self composed poems were invited from the students and after a thorough check for plagiarism,

appreciated the faculty of the department for providing the students with a platform to hone their talent. He further assured all possible guidance and help to the department in their future endeavours.

## Churat residents hold protest against water scarcity; seek LG's intervention

### Top News Report

KULGAM, June 26: The residents of Churat village area of Devsar in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday staged a protest against the Jal Shakti (PHE) department Qazigund over the issue of non-availability of drinking water in the area.

Scores of the residents including men, women and children assembled on Road and raised Slogans against Jal Shakti department Qazigund for failing to provide drinking over in their area.

Protestors alleged that



matter has been brought to the notice of the concerned administration but no improvement has been witnessed so far which forced us to hit streets.

The Residents said that we are demanding clean drinking water for their survival as the area

is facing acute shortage of drinking water facilities from last several months.

The protesters appealed to higher authorities to look into the matter and to redress the problem at the earliest so that people can feel some sort of relief.

## Low Paid Employees Federation Doda holds condolence meeting

### Top News Report

DODA, June 26: The Low Paid Employees Federation Doda, under the leadership of President Niaz Ahmed Rahi, held a heartfelt condolence meeting to express their deepest and most sincere condolences to Sadakat Malik, the federation's media spokesperson, on the passing of his beloved father.

In an emotionally charged gathering, President Niaz Ahmed Rahi addressed the attendees, acknowledging the significant loss faced by Sadakat Malik and his family.

He emphasized the importance of solidarity and support within the federation, especially during such challenging times. "We stand together as a family in moments of sorrow and loss. Sadakat Malik has been a dedicated member and spokesperson for our federation, and it is our duty to support him in his time of need," said Rahi.

The meeting saw the presence of several prominent members of the federation, including Ghulam Hassan Pampori, Rayees Gattu, Faizan Ali Trambo, Abid Pampori, Sha-keel Ahmed Dev, Manzoor Ahmed Butt, Sajad

Malik, Ashiq Jalal, Mudasir Mughal, Nasir Ahmed Khora, Parveez Butt, and Yawer Khurwani. Each attendee expressed their personal condolences to Sadakat Malik, sharing in his grief and offering words of comfort and solidarity.

Prayers were offered for the departed soul, with many reflecting on the transient nature of life and the enduring impact of those we lose. The members collectively pledged their continued support to Sadakat Malik, ensuring he and his family are not alone in their time of mourning.

## India has acted as catalyst in my journey of self-growth, says K-pop sensation Aora, who, after a successful stint in Bigg Boss, is now eyeing Bollywood

K-pop sensation Aora's charm is spreading like wildfire in India, especially after his stint in reality show Bigg Boss last year. Many relate to the singer for he embraces India's culture and traditions like his own. Talking to The Tribune, he pours his heart out.

In 2022, Aora listened to Indian music for the first time, a song called Cham Cham. The rhythm just clicked with him and from there on he started searching for more Indian music. He recounts, "At that time I did not know India had many different languages. But I resonated with all kinds of music that India offers. When I visited India for the first time, the love I received from people here made me feel very warm. So in many ways, India acted as catalyst in my journey of self-growth."

Overcoming challenges  
As the South Korean singer recently performed live in South India, he recalls his experience as a memorable one, "I have



always loved South Indian music and was looking forward to performing there. I am grateful that my first show was a huge success." Besides singing songs in many Indian languages, Aora is keen to become a Bollywood hero and Shah Rukh Khan is his idol, "I would love to sing and act in Indian films. If there is a good show and I get an opportunity, I would love to explore televi-

sion too."

As for the similarities and differences in Indian and Korean film as well as music industry, Aora says, "Stress in Korea is much higher. Too much pressure on perfection, but in India there is more freedom."

Language no bar

When it comes to singing a song in a different language, Aora says it is a challenge,

"I translate the lyrics into English and then to Korean. I try to understand the feeling and meaning so that when I sing, I can express it well. I also listen to the song more than 100 times to get the diction correct."

Rest assured Aora knows the meaning of the viral song Akh Lari Bado-Badi, a reel he made for Instagram!

'All religions teach us how to love'

One of Aora's many dedicated social media posts about India highlights his visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar. He also sang holy verses of Sukhmani Sahib in the reel. From a country like South Korea where many practise Christianity or Buddhism, it makes one wonder what makes him croon devotional songs like Raghupati Raghav? He explains, "I do not practise any religion, but I am very spiritual. At the end of the day, we all are humans and all religions teach us how to love."

## Sonam Kapoor looks stunning at the Dior Fall-Winter Haute Couture Show in Paris



Actress Sonam Kapoor, who is known for her impeccable fashion sense, made a striking appearance at Dior's Haute Couture Fall/Winter Show in Paris. On her Instagram account, Sonam shared glimpses from the event. The Ranjihaana actress wore Dior's Specta-

dior pump. Complementing the pumps, Sonam donned a rich brown leather jacket featuring an American flag motif. To complete her look, Sonam chose a grey wool skirt, and a navy polka dot tie, which added a playful yet sophisticated touch.

The show that took place on Monday featured the latest couture collections from Dior, drawing top fashion names from around the world. The Neerja actress has become a regular fixture at international fashion events, including Paris Fashion Week, King Charles' Coronation, and the Cannes Film Festival, where she was the first Indian actress to attend.

A recent report listed Sonam among the most influential celebrities for luxury fashion brands in 2023, placing her alongside names like Zendaya and Kylie Jenner. Her presence at Dior's show continues this trend, showcasing her impact on the fashion industry.

Apart from her fashion credentials, Sonam has also become the sole Indian actress to be on the South Asia Acquisition Committee of the Tate Modern Museum. Sonam recently starred in the crime thriller Blind, which premiered on July 7, 2023. The actress is also preparing for two upcoming projects, with details to be announced soon.

## Karan Johar remembers 'most solid, selfless' father Yash Johar on 20th death anniversary

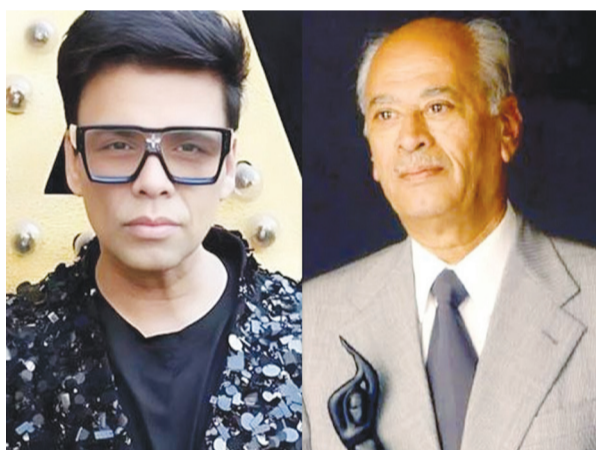
Filmmaker Karan Johar on Wednesday said he was proud to be the son of 'the most solid, soulful and selfless man' as he marked the 20th death anniversary of his producer-father Yash Johar who has left a legacy of love he and his mother Hiroo Johar still live by.

Yash, who backed several movies including 'Dostana', 'Agnepath', 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hain' (his son's directorial debut), 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham' and 'Kal Ho Naa Ho' under his banner Dharma Productions, died on June 26, 2004 of cancer at the age of 75.

"I can't believe it's been 20 years..." wrote Karan in an emotional note on Instagram.

The director-producer said his "biggest fear" was losing a parent.

"August 2nd, 2003 my father told me he had a malignant tumour... my worst nightmare was staring at me and yet it was my duty as his child to stay positive and keep the faith... but the worst thing about instincts are that...they never lie..."



he wrote alongside a series of his father's pictures.

The family lost Yash 10 months later but they gained 'every inch of his mammoth goodwill', recalled Karan.

"I was so proud to be the son of the most solid, soulful and selfless man... he put his relationships above everything else... and has left a legacy of love that my mother and I still live by .... I wish he knew our children ... but I do know he's watching over them and us...all the time ... Love you Papa..." the 52-year-old wrote.

Yash started his career in the film industry as a publicist and still pho-

tographer in the early 1950s. Soon, he joined Sunil Dutt's production house 'Ajanta Arts' where he served as a production controller on films such as 'Mujhe Jeene Do' and 'Yeh Raaste Hai Pyaar Ke'.

He helped Dev Anand with the production of his ambitious and successful film 'Guide' (1965). He continued with Dev Anand's Navketan Films and handled production of films such as 'Jewel Thief', 'Prem Pujari' and 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna'.

In 1976, Yash went on to set up his banner Dharma Productions. After his death, Karan took over the production house.

## Scarlett Johansson wanted to join 'Jurassic World' franchise for 10 years, even if it meant dying 'in first 5 minutes'

Actress Scarlett Johansson has confirmed that she will be starring in the next 'Jurassic World' movie, directed by filmmaker Gareth Edwards, who has previously helmed films such as 'Rogue One' and 'Godzilla'.

An 'enormous' 'Jurassic Park' fan, Johansson shared that she has always wanted to be part of the franchise, even if it meant "dying in five minutes".

Speaking to Comic-Book.com, Johansson said, "I've been trying to get into this franchise in any possible way for over 10 years. I'm like, 'I'll die in the first five minutes! I can get eaten



by whatever! I'll do the craft service! I'll do anything for it.

The fact that it's happened in this way at this time is just actually unbelievable."

"I am an enormous 'Jurassic Park' fan," Johansson said, reports Variety.

"It is one of the first movies I remember seeing in theatres. I remember it so vividly. It was life-changing and mind-blowing. I cannot express how excited I am."

The script for the upcoming film is by David Koepp.

The screenwriter is returning to the franchise after writing for

Steven Spielberg's 'Jurassic Park' in 1993 and 'The Lost World: Jurassic Park' in 1997.

Johansson said that "the script is so incredible" for the fourth 'Jurassic World' movie, which will be an entirely new story that's separate from the first 'Jurassic World' trilogy, featuring Chris Pratt.

"David Koepp wrote it and returned after 30 years to write it. He's so passionate about it," Johansson said.

It was earlier reported that 'Jurassic World 4' will be shot in the picturesque locales of Thailand, as well as in the studios in Malta and the UK.

## Kamal Haasan recalls how Shah Rukh Khan didn't charge any money for 'Hey Ram', says, SRK 'did that film for free'

'Indian 2' to be released on July 12, 2024 worldwide in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan's versatility and charisma have impressed millions of people across the world. In his 32 years of career, he has impressed the audience with his distinct characters and out-of-the-box performances. One such film was 'Hey Ram', which was directed by Kamal Haasan and Shah Rukh played a prominent role in it.

During the trailer launch of 'Indian 2', actor-politician Kamal recalled working with the actor and said that Shah Rukh did not charge any money for 'Hey Ram', which was released in 2000.

"As a matter of fact Shah Rukh Sahib made that film for free," Kamal Haasan said, adding, "What more do you need?"

He said, "That's not something a superstar would do. It takes a true fan of cinema, connoisseur of art and good actor. I'm ever thankful to him."

On the title of 'super-

star', he said, "We don't see all that. I don't see a superstar; he does not see a super director. We are friends. You all give us titles and we accept it."

'Hey Ram' is written, directed, and produced by Kamal Haasan. He also played the lead role in the film. It revolves around India's partition and the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

He also opened up about the big budget of the film which was impacted by Covid-19 and on-set accidents.

"The budget was not just decided by the director and the script. Covid-19 also decided our budget. Some of the incidents increased the budget. The tenacity of purpose of both the director and the producer has to be applauded even before the film becomes a hit. That I owe to them. So this is that applause for them. It's very easy to let go. They didn't do that because all of us were working. We had other films. Even they had



other films to do. But not to let go of the child, not to orphan this child, was a decision taken by Laika Productions and S Shankar," shared the actor while praising the director Shankar and the producers.

Meanwhile, taking to X, Laika Productions treated fans to the trailer of 'Indian 2'.

It is high on action. Kamal leaves his fans going gaga over his stunts and disguises.

The trailer opens by

introducing Siddharth's character, who is seen questioning the flaws of the system. Kamal is reprising his role as a freedom fighter turned vigilante.

In the clip, Kamal's character Senapathy, who once fought against the system, is back to save the society.

He also said, "This is the second war of independence. You take the Gandhian approach, while I take Netaji's approach" in the trailer.

Sharing the trailer video, makers captioned the post, 'SENAPATHY is back in style! The much-awaited #Hindustani2 Trailer is OUT NOW, packed with breathtaking action and visuals that will keep you hooked.'

'Indian 2' is the sequel to the 1996 film 'Indian', which also starred Kamal as Veerasekaran Senapathy. The franchise brings back him and director S Shankar for the sequel.

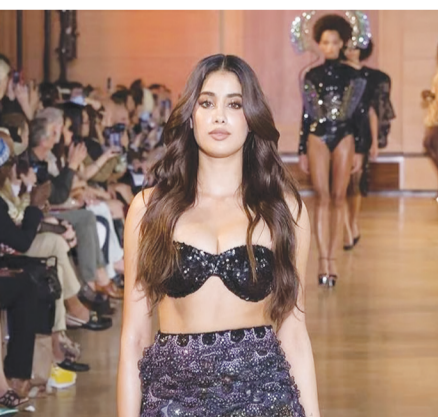
Siddharth, Rakul Preet Singh and Kajal Aggarwal are also part of the film.

'Indian 2' has music by Anirudh Ravichander and writers Jayamohan, Kabilan Vairamuthu and Lakshmi Saravanakumar on board.

The first poster of was unveiled on the occasion of Pongal in 2020.

Produced by Laika Productions and Red Giant Movies, 'Indian 2' will be released on July 12, 2024 worldwide in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

## 'There was meditative Zen-like vibration in the room': Janhvi Kapoor walks for Rahul Mishra in Paris



Actress Janhvi Kapoor became the muse for ace couturier Rahul Mishra in Paris for Haute Couture Week and said that there was a 'meditative zen-like vibration in the room'.

Making her international runway debut in a scintillating mermaid-style garment from Mishra's Couture Fall 2024 collection named Aura, Janhvi shared a motley of pictures from her walk on Instagram.

Captioning the images, Janhvi wrote, 'A first thank you @rahulmishra\_7 for having me as a part of your spectacular show that encapsulated energies and auras so beautifully.'

'There was a meditative zen-like vibration in the room that felt like such a change of pace compared to the exciting but hectic madness at Paris Couture Week that was contagious right till the door of your show.'

The silhouette featured a mermaid-style holographic skirt with a glittery embroidered skirt paired with a dramatic train and a heavily embellished black bustier. She completed her look with soft, cascading waves and dewy make-up.

The actress added, "The slow soulful music, the patiently gliding models in your intricate garments, and most importantly, you and your family and team's sincerity, simplicity, unadulterated creativity, and passion made this a perfect first."

In 2020, Mishra became the first Indian designer to showcase at the Haute Couture Week in Paris. In 2014, he was honoured with the prestigious International Woolmark Prize at Milan Fashion Week, becoming the first Indian designer to win the award.

The award-winning couturier's label design philosophy is based on the three E's: Environment, Employment and Empowerment.

## Amid Row Over "Dark Days Of Emergency", PM's Shoutout For New Lok Sabha Speaker

**"I am glad that the Honourable Speaker strongly condemned the Emergency, highlighted the excesses committed during that time," PM Modi said in a post on X.**

NEW DELHI, Jun 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today praised newly-elected Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla for his condemnation of the Emergency. In his first move after assuming the key post, Mr Birla called for a 2-minute silence to honour those who suffered during the "dark days of emergency".

Mr Birla read out a resolution condemning the Emergency in the Lok Sabha and spoke up against the then-government headed by prime minister Indira Gandhi.

The move stirred up a row and the House was adjourned amid an



uproar from the Opposition benches.

PM Modi though, backed Mr Birla calling the '2 minutes of

silence' a wonderful gesture.

"I am glad that the Honourable Speaker strongly condemned the

Emergency, highlighted the excesses committed during that time and also mentioned the manner in which democracy was

strangled.

It was also a wonderful gesture to stand in silence in honour of all those who suffered during those days," the Prime Minister said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

"The Emergency was imposed 50 years ago but it is important for today's youth to know about it because it remains a fitting example of what happens when the Constitution is trampled over, public opinion is stifled and institutions are destroyed. The happenings during the Emergency exemplified what a dictatorship looks like," he added.

## CBI arrests Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in excise scam case, seeks 5-day custody



NEW DELHI, Jun 26 (Agencies): Compounding troubles for jailed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a trial court in Delhi allowed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to arrest him in an excise scam case. Kejriwal was arrested by the agency when he was produced before the court on Wednesday.

The CBI arrested Kejriwal after Special Judge Amitabh Rawat passed the order.

The fresh development came hours before the Supreme Court was scheduled to hear Kejriwal's plea challenging the Delhi High Court's decision to stay the bail granted to him by a lower court.

Considering the new development, Kejriwal on Wednesday, following his arrest, requested the SC to allow him

to withdraw the appeal against Delhi HC's interim stay on his bail order and file a fresh plea. The top court has granted the CM liberty to file the substantial appeal.

Sources said the CBI had questioned Kejriwal on Monday in Tihar Jail and recorded his statement on the alleged irregularities in the Delhi liquor policy. On Tuesday, the central agency moved an application before a special court seeking a production warrant for Kejriwal, which was granted.

The Delhi BJP on Wednesday reacted to Kejriwal's arrest and said he was bound to be arrested as the agency had presented incriminating documents against him in court.

The excise policy was formulated under his supervision and a "big scam" was committed, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva told agency Videos. Aam Aadmi Party has not responded to the arrest. However the party had earlier accused the CBI of "conspiring to register a fake case" against their leader.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh said the Centre is conspiring to foist false cases against Kejriwal in a bid to keep him in jail.

## Defamation case: UP court orders personal appearance of Rahul Gandhi on July 2

SULTANPUR, Jun 26 (Agencies): An MP-MLA court here on Wednesday asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to appear before it on July 2 in a defamation case filed against him for alleged objectionable remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Complaint lawyer Santosh Kumar Pandey said that one Ram Pratap had demanded that he be made a party in the case. Opposing the plea, Pandey said Pratap is neither a victim nor has anything to do with the matter.

Gandhi's lawyer Kashi Prasad Shukla, who was present in the



court, also opposed the petitioner's plea.

However, the court dismissed the prayer and called for personal appearance of Gandhi on the next date of hearing.

A defamation case was filed against Gandhi in 2018 over his alleged objectionable remarks

against Shah.

The defamation complaint against Gandhi was filed by BJP leader Vijay Mishra.

Gandhi had halted his "Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra" in Amethi on February 20 this year and appeared in court, which had granted him bail.

## Whole system trying to ensure Delhi CM doesn't get bail, this is dictatorship: Sunita Kejriwal

**In a post on X in Hindi, Sunita said her husband got bail on June 20 in the excise policy-linked money laundering case and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) immediately got a stay.**

NEW DELHI, Jun 26 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita on Wednesday alleged the whole system was trying to ensure that her husband does not come out of jail and stressed that all this is akin to "dictatorship" and "emergency".

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said that when there was a possibility of Kejriwal getting bail from the Supreme Court in a money laundering case, the BJP panicked and got him arrested in a "fake case" by the CBI.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday formally



arrested Kejriwal in the alleged excise policy scam and sought five-day custody of the AAP national convener in the corruption case.

In a post on X in Hindi, Sunita said her husband got bail on June 20 in the excise policy-linked money

jail. This is not law. This is dictatorship, this is emergency," she said.

The AAP also condemned Kejriwal's arrest.

"The dictator crossed all limits of cruelty!! Today when there was every possibility of Chief Minister @ArvindKejriwal getting bail, the BJP went into panic mode and got Kejriwal arrested by the CBI in a fake case.

"The CBI took Kejriwal ji to Rouse Avenue Court where his blood sugar level dropped very low. Dictator, no matter how much oppression you inflict, Kejriwal will neither bow down nor break," it said in a post

on X in Hindi.

Kejriwal has been in prison since April 1 in connection with the excise policy-linked money laundering case being probed by the ED. On May 10, the Supreme Court had granted interim bail to Kejriwal for 21 days to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.

He returned to prison on June 2.

The Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 was withdrawn by the Kejriwal government in July 2022 after Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena recommended a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in its formulation and implementation.

## "Fantastic Lapse": Supreme Court Raps Delhi, Infra Body Over Tree Cutting In Ridge Area

NEW DELHI, Jun 26 (Agencies): Making its intention of getting to the root of the matter clear, the Supreme Court on Wednesday rapped not only the Delhi Development Authority but also the Delhi government for illegal tree cutting in the ridge area, which is an extension of the Aravallis. Ordering criminal action against the DDA officials responsible for the lapse, the court said there had been "a fantastic lapse" on the part of the Delhi government, under whom the Tree Authority is supposed to function.

While the allegation is that 1,100 trees have been cut in the area, the DDA has said that the number is 630 and the felling was done for the widening of a road.

The court also used a Sherlock Holmes reference and wondered why "the dog didn't bark" when the timber from the felled trees was taken away, hinting that there may be some inside involvement.

Continuing from the last hearing where the court had asked whether Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena had ordered the cutting of the trees, the court said the DDA vice-chairman should come to it with clean hands, adding "there cannot be any cover-up, even if something has been done by the highest authority".

The court's crackdown and strong comments come at a time when Delhi and the National Capital Region are sizzling under a record



heatwave. Pollution, especially in the winter, has also been a problem over the past few years.

Picking up where they had left during the last hearing on Monday, a special bench of Justices Abhay Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan asked the DDA whether it had been able to locate a record of the Lieutenant Governor (LG's) visit to the area on February 3. Senior Advocate Maninder

Singh, appearing for the authority, said officials are still trying to locate the documents, prompting a sharp response from the bench.

"This is absolute recklessness on your part. You cannot find a simple document. Nothing has been done and no meeting of the officers has been called. I really hope the (DDA) Vice Chairman is taking the matter seriously. We have the

doubts about the way things are being done," Justice Oka fumed.

When Mr Singh said the LG had visited a hospital and not the site, Justice Oka added, "When the LG visited, was it not the responsibility of DDA to look into the visit? You are only protecting the higher officer and shifting the blame to the lower officers, isn't this true?"

As the hearing progressed, Mr Singh admitted that there had been some loopholes, but the bench was in no mood to relent. "This is no loophole. DDA has to be the first offender here. This is an absolutely brazen act without thinking about protecting the environment," Justice Oka said.

## Pune Doctor, His Teenage Daughter Test Positive For Zika Virus Infection

PUNE, Jun 26 (Agencies): A 46-year-old doctor and his teenage daughter have tested positive for Zika virus infection in Pune city of Maharashtra, but their health condition is stable, an official said today.

The man recently developed symptoms like fever and rashes, following which he was admitted to a private hospital. The medical facility sent his blood samples to the city-based National Institute of Virology (NIV) for analysis. On June 21, his reports confirmed that he tested positive for Zika virus infection, a health official of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) said.

The doctor is a resident of Erandwane area of the city, he said.

"After he tested positive, the blood samples of his five family members were collected and sent for analysis, and it was found that his 15-year-old daughter was also positive for the infection," the official added.

The Zika virus disease is transmitted through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito, which is also known to transmit infections like dengue and chikungunya. The virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947.

After these two cases were reported in the city, the PMC's health department has started conducting surveillance,

the official said.

Although no other suspected cases have been found in the area, the authorities have started taking precautionary steps like fogging and fumigation to curb the breeding of mosquitoes, he said.

"The mosquito samples have been collected by the state health department. We have started the general public awareness in the area and given instructions to monitor the health of pregnant women in the area. Zika does not lead to serious complications in general, but in case a pregnant woman gets infected, it may cause microcephaly in the foetus," he said.

## Bombay High Court Dismisses Students' Petition Against College's Hijab Ban

MUMBAI, Jun 26 (Agencies): The Bombay High Court on Wednesday dismissed the plea filed by women students challenging the ban on wearing hijab, niqab, burkha, stole, cap, etc., on campus by a Mumbai college.

A division bench of Justices A S Chandurkar and Rajesh Patil of Bombay HC refused

to interfere in the decision taken by a Mumbai city-based college and dismissed a petition filed by nine female students challenging the college authorities' decision.

Earlier in July, the students who have been studying in the second and third year of a science degree course moved against the directive issued by

the Chembur Trombay Education Society's NG Acharya and DK Marathe College imposing a dress code barring the students from wearing hijab, niqab, burkha, stole, cap, etc. inside the premises.

The petitioners claimed such a directive was against their fundamental rights to practice their religion, right to privacy,



and right to choice. The plea termed the college's action as

"arbitrary, unreasonable, bad-in-law and perverse".

Advocate Altaf Khan, representing the petitioners, distinguished this case from the Karnataka High Court judgment on the hijab ban in junior colleges, noting that this case concerns senior college students who have a dress code but not a uniform. Khan argued that the dress code was imposed via WhatsApp without any

legal authority, contrasting it with the Karnataka case where a pre-existing uniform policy was enforced.

He claimed the dress code violates the petitioners' right to choice, bodily integrity, and autonomy.

Earlier, the college authorities claimed that the decision was merely a disciplinary one and

was not against the Muslim community.

Senior counsel Anil Anturkar, appearing for the college management, said the dress code was for all students belonging to every religion and caste.

The girls, however, claimed in their plea that such a directive was "nothing but colourable exercise of power".

## Suspected Houthi attack targets a ship in the Gulf of Aden, while Iraq-claimed attack targets Eilat

*The rebels have targeted more than 60 specific vessels by firing off missiles and drones in their campaign that has killed a total of four sailors.*

DUBAI, Jun 26 (Agencies): Suspected attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels early Wednesday targeted a ship in the Gulf of Aden, while a separate attack claimed by Iraqi militants allied with the rebels targeted the southern Israeli port city of Eilat, authorities said.

The attacks follow the departure of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower after an eight-month deployment in which the aircraft carrier led the American response to the Houthi assaults. Those attacks have reduced shipping drastically through the route crucial to Asian, Middle East and European markets in a campaign the Houthis say will continue as long as the Israel-Hamas war rages in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the Houthis faced allegations they seized commercial aircraft that brought back pilgrims from the Hajj amid a widening economic dispute between the rebels and the country's exiled government.

The ship attack happened off the coast of Aden, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said.

The captain "of a merchant vessel reported a missile impacted the water in close proximity to the vessel," the UKMTO said. "The crew are reported safe and the vessel is proceeding to its next port of call."

The UKMTO did not say if the ship had been damaged.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said early Wednesday that a drone "fell off the coast of Eilat." The military activated air raid sirens in the area.

The drone "was monitored by



(Israeli) soldiers throughout the incident and it did not cross into Israeli territory," the Israeli military said. "During the incident, an interceptor was launched toward the" drone.

The Houthis have targeted Eilat before with drones and missiles. However, an Iranian-backed umbrella group known as the Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed the attack. That group recently began what it and the Houthis describe as joint operations over the Israel-Hamas war.

The Houthis did not immediately claim the ship attack. However, it can take the rebels hours or even days before they acknowledge their assaults.

The rebels have targeted more than 60 specific vessels by firing off missiles and drones in their campaign that has killed a total of four sailors. They 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 on May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels say.

The Houthis have maintained that their attacks target ships linked to Israel, the United States

or Britain. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the Israel-Hamas war — including those bound for Iran.

Late Tuesday, Houthi military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed an attack Monday on the Liberian-flagged, Greek-managed container ship MSC Sarah V. Saree claimed without offering additional evidence that the Houthis used a new ballistic missile in the assault, which targeted a ship farther away than nearly all of the previous assaults they've launched in the Gulf of Aden.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, the minister in charge of Hajj for Yemen's exiled government alleged the Houthis seized aircraft from the country's flag carrier, Yemenia, that had brought back pilgrims from the Hajj.

"The Houthis detained four planes at Sanaa International Airport and prevented their return to Jeddah airport to transport our country's pilgrims who want to return to Sanaa," minister Mohammed Shabiba wrote on the social platform X, asking pilgrims still in Mecca to remain there. "I ask our honorable pilgrims to settle in their homes

until the return of the planes hijacked by the terrorist Houthi militia."

The Houthis did not immediately acknowledge the seizure. However, at least two Airbus A320s associated with Yemenia appeared to be stuck on the ground in Sanaa without explanation, according to flight-tracking data.

The Houthis and Yemen's exiled government have been increasingly at odds in recent months over economic issues, even after a long push by a Saudi-led coalition backing the government to end the country's war.

The Houthis have faced issues with having enough currency to support the economy in areas they hold — something signaled by their move to introduce a new coin into the Yemeni currency, the riyal. Yemen's exiled government in Aden and other nations criticized the move, saying the Houthis are turning to counterfeiting.

Aden authorities have demanded all banks move their headquarters there as a means to stop the worst slide ever in the riyal's value and re-exert their control over the economy. Aden also is pushing for other businesses to leave Sanaa.

Meanwhile, the Houthis have taken captive local Yemeni employees of the United Nations, aid groups and the former U.S. Embassy in Sanaa as part of a major crackdown. Following a pattern of their Iranian backers, the Houthis have aired repeated videos of the captives that appear to be taken under duress, alleging they are spies based in some cases on emails praising their work helping Yemenis.

## Karachi On High Alert Over Mysterious Deaths, 22 Found Dead Across City



KARACHI, Jun 26 (Agencies): The city of Karachi is grappling with a mysterious and concerning trend as the number of unidentified bodies found in various areas of the metropolis has now reached 22, according to news agency report on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, five new bodies were discovered, adding to the growing list of unexplained deaths.

According to the Chhipa Welfare Association, a non-profit welfare organization in Pakistan, three of the latest victims appear to be drug addicts, as per agency.

Despite efforts by the organization's volunteers, none of the 22 bodies have been identified.

A spokesperson of the Chhipa Welfare Association said in a statement on Tuesday, that volunteers found five more bodies in different areas of Karachi on Tuesday. "Three of them were

seemingly drug addicts, however, not a single body was identified so far," the spokesperson added.

According to Geo News, the non-government organisation, that runs a network of ambulances in the metropolis, confirmed that the number of unidentified bodies has reached 22 after today's recoveries.

It added that nearly two dozen of those bodies were still unclaimed as no relatives of the dead came to receive them.

The deaths were attributed to an ongoing heatwave in the port city which affected a vast number of citizens as many of them were admitted to different hospitals due to heatstroke.

An official of another humanitarian organisation in Karachi, Edhi Foundation's Azeem Khan told The News yesterday that most of the dead were drug addicts who died due to severe heat while being under the influence of

drugs after over a dozen unidentified persons were found dead in different areas of Karachi.

Meanwhile, in Karachi a senior citizen was brutally assaulted by a group of drug users after confronting them about openly using drugs outside his residence, agency reported.

According to details, the victim attempted to stop the youths from engaging in drug activity in front of his home, which provoked the youths, resulting in severe violence against the elderly man.

This incident highlights the rising issue of drug abuse in Pakistan, particularly the increasing use of ice, also known as crystal methamphetamine, in recent years.

Crystal meth is a highly addictive and potent stimulant that can have devastating effects on individuals and society as a whole. The usage of ice in Pakistan has been particularly prevalent among the younger generation.

The drug is often seen as a party drug that can enhance energy, alertness, and confidence, making it appealing to young people looking for a quick high. The ease of access to ice, as well as its relatively low cost compared to other drugs, has contributed to its popularity among young Pakistanis.

## WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange heads home to Australia after he pleaded guilty for publishing US secrets

SAIPAN, Jun 26 (Agencies): An aircraft carrying WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has left Saipan after he pleaded guilty on Wednesday to obtaining and publishing US military secrets.

The plea in the US Pacific commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands concluded a drawn-out legal saga that spanned continents.

The agreement with



the US Justice Department required Assange to admit guilt to a single felony count but permitted him to return to his home country of Australia without any time in an American prison.

The judge sentenced him to five years he'd already spent behind bars in the United Kingdom, fighting extradition to the United States. His plane was heading to Australia.

## Woman Who Killed 3 Daughters Jailed For 18 Years In New Zealand



WELLINGTON, Jun 26 (Agencies): A New Zealand judge on Wednesday sentenced a woman to 18 years imprisonment for murdering her three young daughters in 2021.

Lauren Dickason will begin her sentence at a mental health hospital in the custody of the state, a court official at Christchurch High Court told AFP, for the triple killings.

In a statement to local media after her sentencing, Dickason said she had "failed" her children and her husband, who has since moved back to South Africa.

"I take responsibility for taking our three beautiful girls from this world," she said.

"I would like to take this opportunity to convey the deepest and most sincere

remorse for the extreme pain and hurt caused to my children and my family by my actions."

Justice Cameron Mander did not impose a minimum non-parole period in sentencing Dickason, who escaped life imprisonment which is the usual penalty for murder in New Zealand.

Dickason was found guilty last August on three counts of murder having smothered her two-year-old twins Maya and Karla and first daughter Liane, six.

The killings took place in September 2021 at their home in Timaru while her husband was out to dinner with colleagues. He found the bodies of his children when he returned home.

The family had moved to New Zealand from South Africa just weeks before.

During last year's trial, Dickason admitted killing the girls but had argued a defence of insanity and infanticide, triggered by the stress of the move.

Under New Zealand law, infanticide is a defence for a mother who causes the death of her child when, "at the time of the offence, the balance of her mind was disturbed".

Dickason's lawyer had argued that a mental health unit was the most appropriate place for her, according to local media reports.

## Suspected North Korean hypersonic missile exploded, South Korea says

*The Joint Chiefs of Staff suspected the weapon is a solid-fueled hypersonic missile.*

SEOUL, Jun 26 (Agencies): A suspected hypersonic missile launched by North Korea exploded in flight on Wednesday, South Korea's military said, a development that comes as North Korea is protesting the regional deployment of a U.S. aircraft carrier for a trilateral military drill with South Korea and Japan.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that North Korea launched a ballistic missile from its capital region around 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday. It said the missile was fired toward the North's eastern waters, but the launch ended in failure.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff later told South Korean journalists that the missile blew up as it flew over the waters of the North's eastern coastal Wonsan city. It said the fragments of the missile were scattered in the waters, up to 250 kilometers (155 miles) away from the launch site. No damages were immediately reported.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff suspected the weapon is a solid-fueled hypersonic missile. It said Wednesday's launch spewed larger amounts of smoke than normal launches because of a possible engine fault. It said the test was probably aimed to improve the capacity of a hypersonic weapons system.

The contents of the background briefing was shared with foreign media.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said it condemns the North's launch though it didn't pose an immediate threat to the U.S. territory or its allies. It said the U.S. commitments to the defense of South Korea and Japan "remain ironclad." Japan's Defense Ministry said earlier Wednesday that it also



detected a suspected ballistic missile launch by North Korea.

Since 2021, North Korea has performed a series of hypersonic missile tests in an apparent bid to penetrate its rivals' missile defense shields. But foreign experts question if North Korean hypersonic vehicles have proved their desired speed and maneuverability during test-flights. In recent years, North Korea has also been pushing to develop more weapons with solid propellants. Such propellants make launches harder to detect than liquid-propellant missiles, which must be fueled before liftoff.

The North's reported launch also came as the rival Koreans are engaged in Cold War-style, psychological campaigns such as balloon flying and loudspeaker broadcasts in past weeks.

South Korea said Tuesday night that North Korea floated huge balloons carrying trash across the border for a second consecutive day. South Korean media reported Wednesday that about 100 North Korean balloons with bags of waste papers eventually fell on South Korean territory.

North Korea has conducted a series of trash-carrying balloon launches toward South Korea since late May in what it calls

a tit-for-tat response to South Korean activists flying political leaflets via their own balloons. On June 9, South Korea briefly restarted propaganda broadcasts from its border loudspeakers for the first time in years in response. South Korea's military said Monday said it was ready to turn on its loudspeakers again.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt arrived in South Korea on Saturday and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol boarded the carrier on Tuesday — the first sitting South Korean president to board a U.S. aircraft carrier since 1994.

Yoon told American and South Korean troops on the carrier that their countries' alliance is the world's greatest and can defeat any enemy. He said the U.S. carrier is to leave Wednesday for the South Korea-U.S.-Japan drill, dubbed "Freedom Edge." The training is aimed at sharpening the countries' combined response in various areas of operation, including air, sea and cyberspace.

North Korea's vice defense minister, Kim Kang II, on Monday called the U.S. aircraft carrier's deployment "reckless" and "dangerous." North Korea has previously called major U.S.-South Korean drills invasion rehearsals and reacted with

missile tests.

Seoul officials said the upcoming South Korea-U.S.-Japan training is meant to strengthen the three countries' response capabilities against North Korea's evolving nuclear threats at a time when the North is advancing its military partnerships with Russia.

During a summit in Pyongyang last week, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a deal requiring each country to provide aid if attacked and vowed to boost other cooperation. Observers say the accord represents the strongest connection between the two countries since the end of the Cold War.

The United States and its partners believe North Korea has been providing Russia with much-needed conventional arms for its war in Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance.

North Korea's reported missile launch is its first weapons demonstrations since Kim Jong Un on May 30 supervised the firing of nuclear-capable multiple rocket launchers to simulate a preemptive attack on South Korea. The drill came days after North Korea's attempt to put its second spy satellite into orbit ended in failure, with its rocket carrying that satellite exploding in mid-air soon after liftoff.

Since 2022, North Korea has sharply increased the pace of weapons tests to increase its nuclear attack capabilities to cope with what it calls a deepening U.S. military threat. Foreign experts say North Korea eventually aims to use its larger nuclear arsenal to wrest greater concessions from the U.S. when diplomacy resumes.





## GDC Udhampur celebrates International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, June 26: As part of the programs on Nasha Mukti Bharat, in the continuity of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahaotsav to make the rising India aware and free of addiction, the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD), NSS, Red Ribbon Club, NCC of Govt. Degree College Udhampur in Collaboration with Yuva Soch Yuva Bharat celebrated the "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" on 26th June 2024.

The Programme was organized under the Patronship of Prof (Dr) Sanjay Kumar Verma, esteemed Principal of the college. On this Occasion, an awareness lecture was organized by NCORD cell under the convenorship of Prof Shobna Samyial, while Dr Piyali Arora, Head Department of Psychology was resource person on the occasion.

In his message, the chief patron and Principal of the college, Prof (Dr) Sanjay Kumar Verma advised the students to focus on their studies, and maintain their peace of mind and harmony through Yoga, meditation and by reading the biographies of great persons

like Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore and others. He said that Youth is the future of the nation, and by building a strong Youth, we can build a strong future for our great country.

Prior to this Prof Shobna Samyial, Convener NCORD cell of the college welcome the guests and the participants and also broke the Ice by deliberating on the concern of the growing Drug Menace and exploring various ways and means for its total eradication. In her expert interaction with the students, Dr Piyali Arora discussed in detail the various facets of drug de-addiction, and the remedies which are available for de-addiction. She also discussed the various hazards which expose the youth to such ailments, and ways in which students can safeguard themselves from the evil of drug abuse.

Her main focus was on mental health involved with drug abuse. She also talked about the present status of drug menace in India and in particular, Udhampur district.

Most addicts are between the age group of 15 and 35, and many are unemployed. She further mentioned how the

COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of people and presented unique challenges for people with substance use disorders and in recovery. Indian Govt has already started world-wide programs to eliminate abuse of Drugs from the society and Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment itself disclosed in the report that 272 districts are most affected in India and many programmes are being conducted in all over India to curb drug users and drug peddlers. She revealed in her lecture that the Police is working in India efficiently and she also disclosed that the district Udhampur is much affected. She further suggested the students of the college that they should be vigilant all the times and if anybody comes into their notice they should immediately share information to the nearby Police station or dial 100 and she also conveyed them that the police provides services for the identification, treatment, and rehabilitation of addicts through volunteer organizations.

She also emphasized the role of society in curbing drug addiction issues. She motivated the students to adopt healthy life style and refrain from

drugs. She reiterated that the students can play a pivotal role in creating awareness about drug-de-addiction in the society. She emphasized upon the need to raise mass awareness against the drugs abuse and its ill effects. Further, she talked in detail about the ill effects of use of drugs. She briefed that the Drug menace is one of the major challenges in the society. It not only ruins the abuser but also the family and the whole society.

It can be eradicated only through awareness and prevention, and our fight is with the drug menace, not with the addicted persons. She appealed each and every one to join hands in the fight against the drug menace. She exhorted upon the need to rise against drug abuse and enhance cooperation to achieve a drug-free society.

In the symposium on Drug Abuse and its Mitigation: What the Youth thinks? A number of students put forth their views strongly to curb this menace with united hands. In the competition, around eleven enthusiastic speakers namely Nitish Kalotra, Akshay Thakur, Nalin Sharma, Mohit Singh, Pershotam Singh,

Akhil Brahmu, Monika Thakur, Baljeet Singh, Ambica Thakur, Rishika Sharma and Rupali Sharma participated in the symposium on the occasion. The first position was secured by Mohit Singh, the second and third prizes were secured by Ambica Thakur and Nitish Kalotra respectively.

Dr Ashok Kumar, Head Department of Mathematics, Rakesh Singh from Department of Physics and Rajesh Singh Manhas from Department of Geology were judges for the event.

At the end vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Jagjeet Singh, Staff Secretary of the college.

Nitish Kalotra Senior NSS Volunteer compared the program while many of the students from NSS Volunteers assisted in conducting the programme smoothly.

The Faculty members present on this occasion were Prof. Babu Lal Thakur, Dr Mohinder Pal, Prof Suresh Kumar Dogra, Dr Ashok Kumar Sharma, Dr Sukhchain Sharma, Prof Shivi Mehra, Dr Rozy Bamba, Dr Jagjeet Singh, Prof Rajesh Singh Manhas and others. A total of 60 students attended the lecture.

## BLSKS mounts 3 days campaign on "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking"



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 26: To observe "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2024", and to promote the traditional culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) mounted three days campaign in coordination with Directorate of Social Welfare Department Jammu & Kashmir Govt., and Sangam Tru Art Production presented its 437th Regular Series Musical Play "Nashe Kola Bacho" on drug abuse at open air theatre Durga Bhawan Janipur, Jammu under the theme "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention," which highlights the importance of evidence-based policies to combat drug abuse.

The Program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr. Anju Kumari Dogra, Govt. Health Department Jammu.

Among the Guest of Honor present were Dr. Tara Singh Charak, Former Deputy Director, Health Department J&K Government. Among the Guest of Honors, V.K Magotra, former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India & Mukesh Singh Senior Media Person.

The day commemorated as "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2024" teaches us the importance of understanding that effective drug policies need to be grounded on science, research, compassion, and full respect for human rights. Drugs are substances

that change a person's mental or physical state. They can affect the way your brain works, how you feel and behave, your understanding and your senses. This makes them unpredictable and dangerous, especially for young people. The effects of drugs are different for each person and drug. V K Magotra MD BLSKS, said in her address stressed for extracting the maximum attention of the masses especially addicted population who suffered from the use of tobacco & tobacco products, alcohol and Liquor and other such habit forming agents i.e. Cocaine, Morphine, Heroin, etc. he also said drug abuse can make you sick cause depression, personality and thought disorder. This day is utilized to instill a feeling of responsibility in individuals all around the world, particularly children and teens. It affects almost all of our member countries, undermining political and economic stability, ruining the lives of individuals and damaging communities.

The singers, musician, actors and students of music and computer institute who participated in the musical concert were M.C.Kotwal, K K Joshi, Zulekha Bano, Chahat Chadha, Bindia Okheda, Rahul Kumar, Gouri Lal, Naiya Digra, Renu Bala and many others presented enthralling performances. At last of the programme Deepak Kumar Dogra presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

## Authorities should bring neglected areas having potential on tourist map: Khatana MP instructs JSD, PDD to ensure proper water, power supply

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 26: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that many of the tourism spots in Jammu are still not brought on the tourist map due to lackadaisical attitude of the concerned departments and this will be dealt strictly.

In a statement issued to a selected group of news organisations, Khatana said that there is a dire need to bring all the neglected places of tourism importance on tourist map for enhancing the local economy of the places where such places are located.

"Right from Nagrota to Banihal, and from Jammu

to border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and also from Lakhampur to hilly belt of Billawar and Basohli and many more places in J&K there is lot of tourism potential but still the concerned authorities have paid no heed towards them," the senior BJP leader said.

He also said that if all such places with tourism potential are highlighted, then the pilgrims of upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra may visit these places also.

Meanwhile, Khatana also met some deputations at his official residence and the visiting deputations raised the issues of improper water and power supply.

Over this the Rajya Sabha member instruct-

ed the concerned authorities of Jal Shakti Department (JSD) and Power Development Department (PDD) to ensure proper water and power supply in these days of scorching heat.

He said that not only humans but the animals and birds also need water in these hot days.

Khatana directed the PDD authorities to inform the public about power cuts well in time so that the people may plan their activities accordingly.

"Where there is acute water crisis, the Jal Shakti Department should press into service their water tankers so that the people may have a sigh of relief," Gulam Ali Khatana continued.

## Health Deptt conducts De-Addiction Awareness Program at Lamdon Model School Leh

Top News Report

LEH, June 26: The Health Department conducted an awareness session on de-addiction under the School Health Education program, part of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) and the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP), at Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh.

Dr. Stanzin Jamyang, District NTCP Consultant, delivered a comprehensive presentation covering the dangers of smoking and its link to lung cancer, stages and symptoms of lung cancer, and the risks associated with smoking. He also discussed smoking as a potential gateway to drug addiction.

Phuntsok Diskit, NTCP Psychologist at SNM Hospital, Leh, addressed the addiction cycle, empha-

sizing how curiosity can lead to addiction despite bans on substances like "cool lip."

She highlighted the role of mobile counseling in de-addiction and encouraged students to avoid smoking and drugs.

Jigmet Angmo, Clinical Psychologist at SNM Hospital, Leh, spoke about identity crises and the neurological impact of drug abuse, including the release of dopamine and the challenges of dependency. She stressed the dangers of incomplete treatment and the severe consequences of addiction.

Counsellor Deachen Angmo Paldan from TeleMANAS, UT Ladakh, explained the usage of tele-manas for mental health support. The event was attended by the Principal of Lamdon School, teachers, medical officials, and students.

## Administration should play effective role to dealt drugs abuse challenges, appeal people to unite against drugs : YRS

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 26: On the occasion of "International Day Against Drug Abuse" Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) under the presidency of Vikram Singh Vicky, gave a positive message, youth should come forward in a war against drug and "Says no to drugs".

While briefing the media, Vikram briefed that in view of today's scenario, especially Jammu and Kashmir

many numbers of families are distributed due to drugs and our Youth is playing with their lives while Abusing such a dangerous drugs that effects our future and then how people silent on this main important issue.

Vishal Singh, Spokesperson YRS, said that the agencies and Police Department of J&K is doing their best in many areas especially in Samba District, Jammu City, National Highway touch-

ing locations and many locations in Rular and we hope that Administration should play effective role to dealt Drugs abuse challenge and it's also our duty to identify the victims who are involved in such type of activities.

Team YRS also appealed people of J&K to come in front and let's unite to fight against drugs as drugs is more dangerous than cancer and we have to fight against drug for our safe and happy future.

## Bandipora Ex MLA Nizamuddin Bhat disassociates self from People's Conference

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 26 ((Agencies): Senior leader and from MLA from Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat has disassociated himself from Sajad Lone led People's Conference.

Speaking with news agency—Bhat confirmed that he has disassociated himself from the party with "dignity and respect"

He said that when he joined the party he was not actively involved. "I was appointed as chairman of party's Parliamentary Board, but when Sajad Lone declared his candidature for Lok Sabha polls, he didn't consult the board and announced the decision on his own. I was virtually insulted," Bhat said.

He further said that still he supported to his best in the election and when there was core group meeting yesterday, he

was not invited, which was a humiliation on him. "No conscientious person will tolerate such humiliation. So I am no more with the party," he added.

He said that he disassociated from the party with dignity and respect, he has no complaint. "These two instances led to the decision of me parting ways with the party," he said.

The decision of him parting ways comes at a time when party faced defeat in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls for which Sajad Lone was party's candidate from Baramulla constituency. Sajad Lone lost to independent candidate Er Rashid by a huge margin and was placed at number 3 after former chief minister Omar Abdullah who was National Conference candidate for Baramulla seat.

## GDC Ramnagar observes International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, June 26: NCC Unit and NCORD Cell of GDC Ramnagar observed International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the guidance of Prof. (Dr) Bhavnai Chand (Principal GDC Ramnagar).

There were two sessions in the event. In the first session a pledge was taken against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to raise awareness and consciousness of students and staff against drug abuse. In the second session an interactive session

and symposium were organized.

The interaction session begins by keynote address by the worthy Principal of the college, which was followed by the thought provoking lectures by Dr. Pankaj Sharma (HoD English), Dr. Sham Singh (Convener NCORD) and Dr. Puyesh Kant Sharma (CTO NCC).

Later on a symposium was organized where NCC Cadets Sumit Singh, Abhi Sharma and Rohit Kumar Verma participated and shared their views and experiences. Besides, Nigam Sharma student of semester 5th also participated in the symposium.

## Drug De-addiction program marks Drug De-addiction Day at SCS GDC Mendhar

Top News Report

MENDHAR, June 26: NCORD, in collaboration with NCC & NSS units of SCS GDC Mendhar, successfully hosted a comprehensive Drug De-addiction Program today in observance of Drug De-addiction Day. The event, held under the esteemed chairmanship of Dr. Mohammed Azam Principal of the college, reaffirmed the institution's

dedication to addressing drug addiction through awareness, prevention, and support initiatives.

The program commenced with a keynote address by Dr. Mohd Riaz, Convener of NCORD, who shared crucial insights into effective strategies and recent advancements in combating addiction. Prof. Mohd Qasim Mir and Dr. Mohd Ibrahim delivered an informative lecture

on the "Impacts of Drug Addiction," highlighting its societal ramifications.

A lively exchange followed among students, focusing on the societal implications of substance abuse, the significance of early intervention, and the community's role in aiding recovery. The open forum encouraged students to share personal experiences and seek guidance, fostering a supportive environment.

## TV Broadcast Highlights Rohit Sharma's Weakness, Sunil Gavaskar Says Not A Problem

Rohit got out to left-arm pace after his whirlwind 92 off 41 balls vs Australia in the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup 2024.

GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA), Jun 26 (Agencies): India cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar slammed his broadcaster Star Sports for using a graphic about Rohit Sharma's weakness against left-arm seamers during India's Super 8 clash against Australia in the 2024 T20 World Cup. While Rohit's flaws against left-arm seamers are widely known, he smacked left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc for 29 runs in an over, en route to his 41-ball 92. However, after Starc did get Rohit out, Star Sports put up a graphic about Rohit's dismissals against left-arm pacers, which left Gavaskar annoyed.

"Thinking about Rohit Sharma once again, he got out to a left-hander (left-arm seamer). So before the next match, are we going to do another segment about his weakness to left-



handers?" asked a bewildered Gavaskar.

Aaron Finch, who was sitting next to Gavaskar in the commentary box, reasoned that there are a lot more left-arm pacers nowadays, with not only Starc for Australia, but also the likes of Trent Boult (New Zea-



land) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (Pakistan).

"There are more left-armers playing now, and they are genuine swing bowlers. So that poses a challenge to the opening batter," said Finch, trying to justify the graphic.

Gavaskar retorted, saying that

it isn't a problem worth highlighting.

"I don't think you should be looking much into that. If you're playing attacking shots when the ball is swinging in, you will be out LBW, you will be out bowled," said Gavaskar, the first man to reach 10,000 Test runs.

While Rohit Sharma played one of the best innings of the 2024 T20 World Cup, his opening partner Virat Kohli got out for his second duck of the tournament. Gavaskar has recently come under attack on social media for his supposed biased analysis towards the dismissals of the two batters.

"Commentators create divide between players and the fans," one user had tweeted, after Gavaskar criticised Kohli's shot-selection against Bangladesh, whilst calling Rohit's approach a selfless one.

## National Inter-State Athletics championships: Toor to sit out of 'mandatory' meet due to ankle pain



NEW DELHI, Jun 26 (Agencies): India's top shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor is coping with an ankle pain and will miss the National Inter-State Athletics Championships, the final qualifying event for the upcoming Paris Olympics, beginning in Panchkula on Thursday. Toor, an Asian record

holder till a few days back, is set to qualify for the Paris Games through the world ranking quota. He is the reigning Asian champion as well as the Asian Games gold medalist. "I am currently having slight ankle pain and my doctor told me not to throw for three-four weeks," Toor said with-

out specifying when the pain began.

The 29-year-old Indian's earlier Asian record of 21.77 metres was bettered on June 21 by Saudi Arabia's Mohamed Daouda Tolo during the Estadio Vallehermoso event in Madrid with an effort of 21.80m.

It remains to be seen how the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) deals with Toor's latest problem as the officials are tight-lipped as of now.

Last month, AFI president Adille Sumariwalla had made it clear that except for Olympics champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, it will be mandatory for all the other athletes to participate in the event June 27-30 event to get selected for the Paris Olympics.

## Agarwalla will be India's 1st ever dressage entry at Games

NEW DELHI, Jun 26 (Agencies): Asian Games medallist Anush Agarwalla will represent the country in the dressage event of the Paris Olympics after pipping close contender Shruti Vora on better average, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) said in a statement.

Agarwalla, who bagged gold in the team dressage and bronze in the individual dressage events at the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games, was picked ahead of Vora after a careful evaluation of the recent performances of the two contenders. It will be India's first-ever entry at the dressage event of the Olympics as largely riders in past editions competed in eventing categories only.

Agarwalla (with his horse Sir Caramello Old) has been consistent



since the qualification period began last year and achieved Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) four times, while veteran Vora earned the required two MERs this month.

When an average was taken out of the contenders, Agarwalla emerged on top. He had an average

score of 67.695 per cent which was better than Vora's 67.163 per cent.

As per the criteria set by EFI, a rider-horse combination is required to achieve a minimum of 67 per cent twice between January 1, 2023 and June 24, 2024 to be eligible for the Paris Games qualification.

## SA vs AFG: Afghanistan not in semi-finals to compete, here to win, says Jonathan Trott

TRINIDAD, Jun 26 (Agencies): Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott has claimed that his side is in the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup 2024 not just to compete but go out and win. Afghanistan scripted history when they defeated Bangladesh as they qualified for the final four stages of a major ICC event for the very first time. The Rashid-Khan led side made it out of two tough groups in the tournament where they had to face the likes of India, Australia, New Zealand and the West Indies.

Speaking to the reporters ahead of the semi-final clash, Trott admitted that his side did leave a lot of runs in their thrilling win over Bangladesh. However, the Afghanistan coach said they are going to be very, very positive and have nothing to lose heading into the semi-final clash. Trott feels



the wins over big teams like Australia and New Zealand will serve them well in the match against South Africa.

"I just think batting we've got to be better all around - we left a lot of runs out there. Yes, it wasn't the greatest of wickets but so many times just bat on ball we just missed so many balls where we could have got singles or perhaps look to hit it in the gaps. But just a little bit of a narrow experience.

I'm not sure if it's a little bit of nerves. But heck, we're in the semi-final now, nothing to lose. Very, very positive from now on in. But by no means do we feel like we're going into the semi-final just to compete."

"We're there to win the semi-final. We've seen we've beaten some major teams. We've won by large margins. We've won by tight margins. We've won in close games. So that's going

to serve us well going forward to the semi-final," said Trott.

No scarring and nothing to lose

Trott further commented that he wants his side to tighten up in a few areas. The Afghanistan coach reiterated that his side will go into the clash with South Africa with no scarring or baggage from the past and it would be a new challenge for them. He also said this makes them a dangerous side for the

clash and put pressure on South Africa.

"I think it's a case of us just looking at what we need to improve on, which is a few little areas. Nothing too major, just tighten up. I think it's just a sort of mindset shift if I like. But I also think, we go into the semi-final with no scarring or no history with regards to semi-finals. This is uncharted territory for us. We're just going to go out there and give it our all. There's no preconceived ideas on it all, or history of failure or success in semifinals in past years. For us it's a new challenge and I think that makes us dangerous in the semifinals as a side with nothing to lose and obviously a lot of pressure on the opposition," said Trott.

South Africa and Afghanistan will lock horns on June 27 in the first semi-final in Trinidad.

## Argentina advances to Copa America quarterfinals, beats Chile 1-0 on Martínez 88th-minute goal

EAST RUTHERFORD, Jun 26 (Agencies): After nearly 90 minutes of total domination, Lionel Messi and defending champion Argentina advanced to the Copa America quarterfinals after the ball ricocheted in front of the net during a frantic scramble that led to the breakthrough.

Lautaro Martínez scored off the last in a series of rebounds in the 88th minute, lifting the Albiceleste over Chile 1-0 on Tuesday night and into the quarterfinals with a game to spare.

"The ball ended up right at me and I was able to convert it," said Martínez, who scored the second goal in last week's opening 2-0 win over Canada.

Messi started the buildup to the goal with a corner kick that was sent toward goal with a glancing header by defender Lisandro Martínez. The ball landed in front of goalkeeper Claudio Bravo, where Argentina's Giovanni Lo Celso and Chile's Nicolás Fernández were wrestling. Lo Celso kicked the ball off Bravo and it rebounded to Chile's Igor Lichnovsky, who tried to poke it wide.

Lautaro Martínez, who entered in the 73rd, calmly one-timed that rebound into the roof of the net on Argentina's 21st shot. Players stood and waited for three minutes while the goal, Martínez's 26th for the national team, was confirmed in a video review.

"We deserved the win. It was not an easy match," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. "We managed to win at the moment least expected."

Argentina leads Group A with six points, followed by Canada with three, and Chile and Peru with one each. The Albiceleste finish the first round against Peru at Miami Gardens, Florida, on Saturday, when Canada meets Chile in Orlando, Florida.

Playing a day after his 37th birthday, Messi frequently flaunted his talent to spin around and slalom through defenders before an adoring sellout crowd of 81,106 at MetLife Stadium, site of the 2026 World Cup final. Argentina dominated 22-3 in shots and 11-0 in corner kicks. Chile didn't take its first attempt until the 72nd minute.

Messi came the closest to scoring before Martínez with a 30-yard shot that glanced off the post to Bravo's left in the 36th minute. Messi had received treatment on the thigh area of his right leg for nearly two minutes after getting kicked by Gabriel Suazo in the 24th.

Nicolás González's shot from another Messi pass in the 62nd was parried off the crossbar by Bravo.

Argentina outshot Chile 17-0 before Rodrigo Echeverría's 72nd-minute effort following a turnover was saved by Emiliano Martínez,

who blocked the ball while falling after it deflected off Alexis Mac Allister. The goalkeeper then used his right hand to bat another Echeverría shot in the 76th that deflected off a toe of defender Cristian Romero.

"I always have to save one or two every match. And I'm lucky to keep doing it," Martínez said.

On the 46th anniversary of Argentina's first World Cup title, the teams returned to the stadium where Chile beat Argentina on penalty kicks in the 2016 Copa America final. That defeat prompted Messi to announce his international retirement only to reverse his decision seven weeks later.

At least 90% of the fans wore Argentina jerseys, most with Messi's name and No. 10.

There were some small brown patches behind one goal on a grass field installed at a stadium where the usual surface is artificial turf. The surface was narrow, with construction scheduled to allow a wider field for the World Cup.

Bravo, at 41 the oldest player in Copa America history, had eight saves in his 150th international appearance. He and Messi, former Barcelona teammates, spoke with each other while leading their teams onto the field for the national anthems.

"Losing this way leaves a bitter taste," Bravo said. "We played against a tremendous opponent."

## David Warner's wife Candice writes 'facts filled' note for retiring Australia star

SYDNEY, Jun 26 (Agencies): Star Australia batter David Warner's wife Candice penned a heartfelt tribute for his husband as he bid adieu to international cricket following his team's ouster from the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024. Australia got knocked out of the competition as they lost their last game against India and were dependent on Afghanistan's loss in their final fixture against Bangladesh.

However, the Rashid Khan-led side won their last game in a thrilling manner by eight runs and sealed their berth in the semi-final from Super 8 Group 1 along with India. As a result, Warner, who had earlier said that he will retire after the tournament, brought curtains down on his illustrious 15-year-long career.

As the star opener called time on his career, wishes poured in from the entire cricketing fraternity as several current and former players paid tribute to the Australian cricketer. Warner's wife



Candice also posted a "fact filled" message for him mentioning his career achievements.

"Congratulations @ davidwarner31 on one of the best international cricket careers we have ever seen for our country. To have had a front row seat has been a privilege. We will miss seeing you play for Australia but we are so excited to have you home more. Love you in case you forgot! FACTS Only Australian person to have played

100 games across all 3 formats," wrote Candice in her Instagram post.

"3rd player ever in the world. 49 International centuries across 3 formats (2nd only to Ricky Ponting) Most international centuries for an opener ever. 18995 combined international runs (2nd only to Ricky Ponting) 2x ODI World Cup Champion 1x T20 World Cup Champion 1x World Cup Player of the tournament 1x Test Championship 3x Allan Border medal winner

Highest test score 335\*," she added.

David Warner's illustrious 15-year-long career. Notably, Warner has the most number of international hundreds for an opener, having 49 tons his name from 374 appearances for his national team. The southpaw was also adjudged Player of the Tournament in Australia's victorious campaign of the 2021 T20 World Cup, finishing as the second-highest run scorer of the tournament with 289 runs to his name from seven innings.

He also won two ODI World Cups in 2019 and 2023 and one World Test Championship in 2023. The 37-year-old was awarded the Allan Border Medal, the most prestigious award in Australian men's cricket, thrice in the years 2016, 2017 and 2020.

Meanwhile, following his international retirement, Warner will continue to ply his trade in the domestic T20 leagues across the world.

## SMVDSB, CGPWA join hands to promote green initiative

Top News Report

KATRA, June 26: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's (SMVDSB) eco-friendly initiative has received a significant boost with the Central Govt. Pensioners Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA) extending its support to the noble initiative. This collaborative effort seeks to address pressing environmental issues by promoting eco-friendly practices and enhancing green cover in the region besides, aligning with the shared values of environmental stewardship and community service.

In the endeavor, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in the presence of esteemed members of the Central Govt. Pensioners Welfare Association, Jammu today inaugurated 2nd Plant's Sale Counter of Shrine Board



namely 'Vaishnavi Vatika' at Vaishnavi Dham, Rail Head Complex, Jammu. The Counter offers around 38 indigenous species of plants reared in the Board's high-tech nursery at village Kunia in Panthal area near Katra. Speaking on the occasion, CEO said that the Shrine Board is delighted to have the CGPWA on board as with their vast network of members and reach will play a crucial role in spreading awareness about the importance of eco-protection and promoting sustain-

able practices among the local community. He added that in alignment with the Prime Minister's visionary directive the Shrine Board has been adopting the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. Besides, under the guidance and directions of Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT), the Shrine Board has been at the forefront of environmental conservation efforts in the region and devoting high attention to conserve the environment and ecology by car-

rying out the greening of Trikuta Hills and the spaces along the tracks leading to the Shrine by rearing and planting more than 1.50 lakh seedlings every year for soil and water conservation. This initiative not only serves as a major contributor for increasing the green cover in the region but also strengthening the ecology and building a healthier society, he said.

CEO underscored that the recent initiative of the Shrine Board by distributing plants as souvenirs to the devotees through Plant sale counter at Niharika, Katra has been met with overwhelming appreciation from the pilgrims. Now, with the joint venture of the Shrine Board with CGPWA the green initiative will further strengthen. He said that apart from locals, the Jammu based Plants Sale outlet shall facilitate Yatris embarking upon

the Shri Amar Nath Ji Shrine slated to commence from June 29.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, SMVDSB and CGPWA emphasized the importance of environmental conservation, saying we are committed to contributing to the eco-friendly initiative of the SMVDSB. In collaboration we can make a meaningful impact on the environment and create a sustainable future. He exhorted that following a motto of "EACH ONE PROMOTE TEN", the CGPWA will strive to create awareness and popularize plantation, help procuring quality plants for individuals and institutions.

On the occasion, CEO alongwith members of CGPWA and other senior officers of Shrine Board also planted saplings of different species around the Vaishnavi Dham and distributed a variety of plants to the participants.

## Natrang presents Balwant Thakur's play 'JAAL' at Nagrota

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 26: Jammu and Kashmir Excise Department in collaboration with Natrang presented Balwant Thakur's acclaimed Hindi play 'JAAL' under the direction of Neeraj Kant here today at Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota, Jammu. In a very effective manner this powerful play innovatively showcases how the Drug-menace is ruining the generations like a rapid fire, crippling the developing nations like India. The youth of the country, the largest energetic and most productive human resource of the country, sometimes unknowingly slip into the trap of dangerous drug menace.

The play was not based on one story-line but as an experiment Balwant Thakur has woven multiple stories in one theme focusing the spread of drug menace like a mesh, thus taking the toll of the strongest workforce of the country. In a sequence a young boy is shown struggling for a good company after his passing in the school and his entry in the college. Majority of his age group is shown indulged in drugs and he finds himself isolated for not being the consumer of intoxications. All around him treat him like a child which really frustrates him and to prove that he has grown-up as a young man now, he finds the easiest way and demon-



strates his coming of age by consuming a variety of intoxications. In another sequence a rural inhabitant particularly the men-folk are shown drowned in the menace of alcohol. All the miseries of the village like poverty, domestic violence, and ailments are attributed to the constant growth of consumption of alcohol in the village. In a sequence the daily routine of a villager is shown who consumes the whole of his daily earnings seeking alcohol. Being drunk completely he has lost his way home. By the time a local escorts him to his place where in the middle of the night this drunken man starts beating his sleeping wife and kids for not receiving him on his arrival. When the escort intervenes to save the poor lady and children, he is blamed for having ill intentions towards his wife. This fight further messes up when a drunken man after losing senses damages his

household belongings as well. The play unfolds a series of incidents where people influenced by drugs, alcohol and other intoxications create hell for themselves as well as for others. Many precious lives are being charred in this fire of drug menace which is to be fought unitedly to bring them out of the mesh of drugs menace.

Through this play Balwant Thakur has tried to make an appeal to save mankind from this dragon. The best way to save the youth from this menace of drugs is to make them aware of its severe consequences.

Actors who outshined in their respective performances and left an impact on their acting included Neeraj Kant, Aadesh Dhar, Palshin Dutta, Vishal Sharma, Chaitanya Shekhar, Sanket Bhagat, Kushal Bhat and Brijesh Avtar Sharma. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen

## Super Moms competition on June 30, poster released



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 26: JD Events and Production is going to organize a Super Moms competition in Jammu on June 30, for which today Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni, prominent journalist, social activist Sohail Kazmi and BJP district vice president Anu Gupta jointly

released the poster and gave an open invitation to super moms.

Giving detailed information on this, Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni said that there can be no competition regarding mother. All the mothers in this world is a super mom for her children. This competition is just an opportunity to express gratitude

towards the mother. All the moms participating in this competition will be honored, which will be a matter of pride for us. Sahni said that mother not only gives birth, but also stays with the child directly or indirectly on every path of life. Sahni said that this competition will be organized on Sunday, June 30 at 11 am at Lemon Tree Hotel near Jammu Railway Station. On this occasion, a colorful program will also be organized by school students. On this occasion SS Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Sunaal Kakker, Irfan Chowdhary, Tarun Sharma, Adil Manhas, special Guest Vishali Mangotra were present.

## BSP serious to give time-tested alternative to electorates of J&K: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 26: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K UT General Secretary and Media Head Rajesh Gupta on Wednesday described the concept as the key to retrieving back the glorious ethos of inclusive Jammu and Kashmir to its pristine glory again by adopting the policies of BSP and to strengthening it. He said BSP is spreading its roots in Jammu and Kashmir.

BSP leader in an interview with local channel lambasted BJP saying that all promises of development, employment, progress and prosperity of the region were made with the people who were mesmerized with several other seductive slogans. He

Gupta said that the BSP is a way forward to respect the urges and aspirations of all the

regions and sub-regions of Jammu and Kashmir with none being discriminated against or dominated politically, socially, and economically. Each one, irrespective of region, religion or caste, must have equal rights regarding resources and governance.

BSP leader said that BSP alone could fulfill the aspirations of the public at large and steer the erstwhile State out of the morass of poverty, underdevelopment, corruption, and communalism. He said that having experimented with various traditional parties, both national and regional, the people of J&K were a disappointed lot desperately seeking a change in the political structure of the erstwhile State. Gupta said that the BSP has taken its birth to the service of the common man, the workers, laborers, and exploited class of society.

## ABVP will register one lakh members this year in Jammu Kashmir : Akshi Billowria



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 26: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Jammu Kashmir held a press conference today at Vidyarthi Bhawan, Parade and announced their annual membership campaign. This campaign is a yearly program to register new members in an organisation.

State Secretary Akshi Billowria said ABVP believes in educational transformation through constructive efforts."

She further outlined the details of the membership campaign during the press conference. The campaign aims to register 1 lakh students across Jammu and Kashmir this year. Students can participate in the drive by contacting ABVP members present at their educational institutions.

State Membership Convener Sannak Shrivats said that the campaign will be conducted in four phases throughout the year.

In Phase one winter zone schools, this phase will focus on registering students in schools located in the winter zone of Jammu Kashmir from 27 June to 10 July. Phase 2 summer zone schools from 15 July to 31 July. Phase 3 College and University Membership. This phase will target Students registration in colleges and universities across Jammu Kashmir from 1 August to 20 August. In Phase 4 Professional Institute Membership, the final phase will focus on registering students from professional institutes in the state from 20 August to 5 September.

He said ABVP also nominated District Mem-

bership Convener, City Membership Convener, Campus Incharge for membership drive.

He further said that ABVP actively advocates for student rights and fights for their welfare on various issues. ABVP offers a unique space to develop leadership skills through participation in our campaigns and events.

Beyond academics, ABVP fosters social engagement through community service initiatives and cultural events. This allows students to give back, explore their talents and connect with like-minded individuals who share a spirit of nationalism.

Join ABVP and become part of a movement that empowers students and ignites a passion for contributing to the nation's progress.

## J&K Govt establishes Advisory Board for Industrial Development

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 26 (Agencies): The Government of Jammu and Kashmir's Industries and Commerce Department has established an Advisory Board aimed at fostering industrial growth in the region.

Chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and vice-chaired by the Chief Secretary, the board includes key officials such as the Administrative Secretary and Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKPTO), alongside heads of industry associations. With objectives focused on creating an industry-friendly ecosystem, attracting investments, enhancing trade infrastructure, and promoting sustainable industrial practices, the board will convene

quarterly, supported financially by JKPTO.

Non-official members, capped at 15 and serving three-year terms, will be selected based on expertise and dedication to advancing the board's economic development goals.

The government has also initiated dissemination of the board's establishment across relevant departments for immediate implementation.

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