

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Free From Prison, Julian Assange Plans To "Rediscover Life", Enjoy Freedom



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BRIEFLY

J&K Police attach properties belonging to 5 Pakistan-Based terror handlers in Baramulla

BARAMULLA, Jun 27 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday attached properties worth Rs 1 crore belonging to five Pakistan-based terror handlers in Baramulla.

Police in Baramulla after obtaining the attachment order passed by Baramulla Court attached properties which included nine Kanals of land.

The five terror handlers based in Pakistan have been identified as Bashir Ahmad Ganie, Mehraj ud din Lone, Ghulam Mohd Yatoo, Ab Rehman Bhat and Ab Rashid Lone.

The action was taken under sections of 83 CRPC and has been linked with case FIR No.04/2008 u/s 2/3 EIMCO Act,7/25 Indian Arms Act,13 UA (P) Act of PS Kreeeri.

The properties were attached during an investigation carried out by the Jammu and Kashmir police. Further probe into the matter is underway.

Barring Engineer Rashid from taking oath mockery of democracy: Tarigami

KULGAM, Jun 27 (Agencies): Launching a tirade against the authorities for barring Engineer Rashid from taking oath as Lok Sabha member, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Wednesday termed the decision as a mockery with democratic process.

"There is much talk about democracy, but in this region jailed Engineer Rashid was not allowed to take oath. It is the mockery of democratic process", Tarigami told reporters in Behibag village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Rashid who is currently lodged in Tihar jail in connection with a terror funding case was elected as a member of the 18th Lok Sabha from Baramulla parliamentary constituency. He, however, was not administered oath despite his name

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Kashmir Valley gave befitting reply to enemies of India through record polling: Prez Murmu



NEW DELHI, Jun 27 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday highlighted the high voter turnout in

Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha elections and said Kashmir has given a befitting reply to the enemies of India by

breaking polling records of many decades.

Addressing a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament after the constitution of the 18th Lok Sabha, Murmu also said the Constitution has fully come into force in Jammu and Kashmir where things were different earlier due to Article 370.

Article 370, which accorded a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated

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Army Commander reviews operational preparedness of military formations in Udhampur



JAMMU, Jun 27 (Agencies): The Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar visited various formations

in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district to review the operational preparedness of troops in the region, officials said on Thursday.

His visit to the local formations on Wednesday evening was aimed to evaluate their preparedness in wake of the forthcoming Amarnath yatra and the security situation of the Jammu region.

"The Army commander visited local military formations in Udhampur to review their operational preparedness," the Northern Command posted on X on

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Bohri Kadal Blaze: Farooq Abdullah meets victims, demands probe



SRINAGAR, Jun 27 (Agencies): National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday called for a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the fire incident in Bohri Kadal locality of the city here earlier this week.

The National Conference (NC) president visited the site of the Monday's tragic fire incident that left a trail of destruction in which two commercial buildings, around 10 residential houses and a 75-year-old mosque were gutted.

Accompanied by party's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, Abdullah's visit was to assess the situation and extend support to those affected by this unfortunate incident.

During the visit, he expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families impacted by the tragedy.

He assured the victims and traders that he would advocate for their rehabilitation and recovery with the government agencies concerned.

In his interactions with the fire victims, Abdullah acknowledged their hardships and promised to do everything in his capacity to support their rehabilitation efforts.

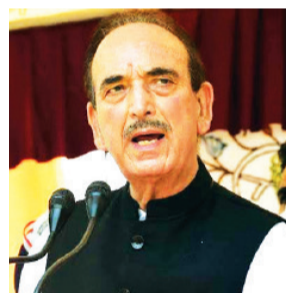
He also called for a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the incident and appealed for community-based assistance in helping the fire victims rebuild their lives.

Highlighting the apparent inadequacy in infrastructure as a major cause for this alarming trend, he emphasized the urgent need to address the increasing incidents of fires in Srinagar.

"There is a pressing need to address the deficiencies in the fire-fighting infrastructure in Srinagar. The current state of the infrastructure is inadequate and poses a significant risk to the safety and well-being of the residents. The authorities must prioritize this issue and allocate the necessary resources to improve the firefighting

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Allow Engineer Rashid to take oath as MP: Azad to Centre



SRINAGAR, Jun 27 (Agencies): Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and former Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Azad, has urged the central government to allow Eng Rashid to take his oath as a Member of Parliament.

In his statement, Azad emphasised, "As Eng Rashid sahib secures a decisive victory in the Lok Sabha with overwhelming public support, the government should acknowledge this man-

date and promptly allow him to take the oath. His constituents in the four districts of Kashmir deserve representation without delay. If the law permitted his candidacy, it should equally permit his full participation in parliamentary proceedings."

Azad further said, "His family and followers have been in pain for the last five years as Eng Rashid remains in jail. I must appreciate his two sons who campaigned for their father and ensured his victory in the Lok Sabha elections.

People have voted in large numbers, showing their belief in the Indian Constitution. Therefore, the government must release him and allow him to take his

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L.K. Advani admitted to AIIMS in Delhi



NEW DELHI, Jun 27 (Agencies): Veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani was admitted to the AIIMS in Delhi late on June 26, sources said.

"He is stable and under observation," a source said.

The 96-year-old former Deputy Prime Minister has been admitted in the old private ward of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences

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6 to 7 militants groups present in Jammu: ADGP Jain

JAMMU /SRINAGAR, Jun 27 (Agencies): Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain has said that three hardcore militants were killed in a day-long gunfight between security forces and terrorists.

He said that these terrorists were carrying huge arms and ammunition, adding that police has recovered two M4 rifles, one AK-47 rifle, grenades and other ammunition.

Talking to media persons at Gundoh after the gunfight was over, ADGP Jain said that on June 12, security forces had established contact with terrorists in which a police constable was injured.

"Since then forces had launched search operation and today immediately after receiving the information about



presence of terrorists in the area, the operation was launched and security forces successfully eliminated three terrorists," he said.

"We are ascertaining the identity of these terrorists," he said, adding that with the elimination of these terrorists, people of Gundoh area have taken a sigh of relief as this region used to remain free from terrorism for the past many years.

The ADGP has sought public cooperation, asking them to share the

information about the people who have been providing shelter and food to these terrorists so that action is taken against them as well.

Responding to a question as how many terrorists' groups are present in division, the ADGP said, "There were three to four groups of terrorists earlier but after recent infiltration, the number has gone up to around six to seven groups."

It was big achievement for security forces and the search operation is continuing in the area after the killing all the three terrorists.

"We are also ascertaining whether it was the same group which was seen in Chattergalla area of Bhandarwah or not," Jain added.

Speaking on the occasion, an Army

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

J&K Stands Number two in PM Vishwakarma training

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: MSME DFO Jammu, Field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSMEs of Jammu & Kashmir. PM Vishwakarma scheme is being implemented by the Union Ministry of MSME with the active support of Government of Jammu & Kashmir. PM Vishwakarma is a scheme inaugurated on 17th September 2023 in the presence of Various Dignitaries and thousands of artisans who

have been invited from various parts of the country including Jammu and Kashmir. This scheme is designed for to uplift and recognize the crucial role of skilled artisan of 18 different trades play in preserving and enriching cultural heritage. The scheme offers Recognition and Certification, Skill Development and Training, Credit Assistance and Marketing Support. The scheme paves the way for a brighter future for J&K's talented Viswakarmas. Their empowered presence will not only contribute to the economic growth

of the Jammu & Kashmir but also preserve and enrich the unique cultural tapestry of Jammu and Kashmir. MSME DFO Jammu J&K played a pivotal role in implementing the scheme. Officers of the DFO have been nominated districtwise and follow up and review meeting held daily basis and the teething issues and also other issues has been addressed timely. MSME DFO Jammu has organized Seminars in all the districts of Jammu & Kashmir to create awareness about the scheme in nook and corner of

Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir stands number two in PM Vishwakarma training ahead of bigger states. Two Districts of J&K comes under top 10 districts of the country and they are Budgam from Kashmir Division and Jammu from Jammu Division. State Level Screening committee held timely to clear the applications timely and instrumental in making the benefits reaching the artisans timely. Training to artisans have closely followed up with MSDE representatives and implemented

the training in Farflung area also timely. Because of these initiative's the Jammu and Kashmir has moved in the implementation and has been a role model to other states and UTs for the remaining parts of the Country. MSME DFO Jammu is recommending all the applications received under PM Vishwakarma at Stage 3 on daily basis from 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir. All the queries received by email are also pursued timely. This has been made possible with directions of G.Velladurai IEDS Joint Director.

Delegations from Art of Living-SSRDP Trust & ALTOA call on Lt Governor

Top News Report

LEH, June 27: A delegation from Art of Living- Sri Sri Rural Development Programme (SSRDP) Trust led by its Trustee, Deepak Sharma and Director, New Millennium School, Leh, Rinchen Wangmo, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to the HLG, L Franklin, was present in the meeting. Deepak informed the LG about the skill training provided by the Trust to students at the Advanced Skill Development Training Center in Janyang High School, Leh in renewable energy and plumbing. He also informed that the students at New Millennium School are being trained in bakery skills. He further informed about the Trust's MoU with ITBP to collaborate on development projects in border areas under the Vibrant Villages Programme. Informing about the Himalay Unnati Mission (HUM) or Save Himalaya initiative in which 102 NGOs from India, Nepal and Bhutan are collaborating, Deepak apprised the LG of the plan to organise a conference in Leh. He also informed the LG of the plan of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar to visit Ladakh soon. Rinchen Wangmo requested the LG's intervention in the extension

of time to upgrade the schools at New Millennium School for affiliation with CBSE. The LG appreciated the Trust for their work in providing skill training to youth in Ladakh and asked them to provide skill training to youth in Kargil also. He also spoke to CEC LAHDC Kargil, Mohd Jaffer Akhoun and asked LAHDC Kargil to collaborate with the Trust to provide skills training to youth/students at two schools in Kargil. He also spoke to the concerned Army official and asked them to hold a meeting with the members of the Trust to explore potential developmental projects in border areas under Vibrant Villages Programme. The LG also asked Rinchen and the Trust members to meet with Principal Secretary, School Education Department, regarding the interventions required for the school's affiliation with CBSE. A delegation comprising members of All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA) led by its President, Tsewang Dorje called on the LG at the LG Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin, and Secretary, Tourism Department, Vikram Singh Malik, were present in the meeting. Dorje and General Secretary, ALTOA, Namgyal raised several issues regarding tourism industry in Ladakh, including making Ladakh Resi-

dence Certificate (LRC) mandatory for registration of tour operators/agencies in Ladakh; some part of the peak climbing fee being charged by Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) to be utilised for cleanliness drive in Ladakh; providing mountaineering training to guides from Ladakh; permission to use satellite phones in trekking routes where telephone network is not available; the need to increase the number of flights in Ladakh; installation of traffic lights and ensuring no-honking zones in Leh town; the need to prepare a new logo for Tourism Department, etc. The LG informed members from ALTOA about the plan to replicate the model adopted by Sikkim for the benefit of guides/mountaineers from Ladakh. He also shared the plan to provide mountaineering training to guides from Ladakh. He stated that Ladakh Security would look into the security risks posed by the usage of satellite phones and then take necessary actions based on the report. The LG informed the delegates that 16 flights are operating in Ladakh daily to cater to the needs of the tourists visiting Ladakh. The LG informed the delegates that he would ask ADGP Ladakh Police to look into the matter of installing traffic lights and marking a few areas as no-honking zones in Leh town.

Chief Post Master General India Post J&K calls on LG Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, June 27: Chief Post Master General, India Post, Jammu and Kashmir, Kalpana Rajasinghot and Superintendent of Post Offices, Ladakh Division, Rajeev Sharma, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin, was also present in the meeting. The LG inquired about the delay in delivering mail sent through India Post along with initiatives

being taken by India Post to tackle the issue so that the people do not face any inconvenience. Kalpana apprised the LG of improvements made by India Post in delivering mail/parcels in Ladakh, including special dispensation for Ladakh to airlift mail/parcels/cargo during the winter months at their own expense so that people do not face any inconvenience; the operation of a one-ton vehicle between Leh and Srinagar and vice versa to deliver mail/parcel/cargo; issuance of extra vehicles for delivery of mail/parcel in interior

parts of Ladakh, etc. She informed the LG about the three-fold increase in India Post parcel business in Ladakh within a span of one year. Assuring the LG that she would look into the issue of delay in the timely delivery of mail in Ladakh, Kalpana informed the LG regarding the issue faced by India Post due to the lack of space for sorting mail/parcels in Ladakh. The LG assured to take up the matter with the concerned Ministry and explore the option of providing them with sorting space at the KBR Airport in Leh.

ADGP Jammu visits GMC Doda, enquires about health of police personnel injured in encounter

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Jammu Anand Jain, IPS today visited GMC Doda and enquired about the health and welfare of the SgCt. Ashiq Hussain Belt No 551/D EXJ 066800 Posted with SDPO Gandoh as PSO who sustained bullet injuries in an encounter at Gandoh, Baderwah sector of district Doda on Wednesday and are undergoing treat-

ment there. During visit to GMC, Doda, the ADGP Jammu was accompanied by SSP Doda. They met with injured Sg.Ct and assured all possible help from the Police department and best possible means of treatment in GMC, Doda. The doctors were requested to take care of the injured. ADGP Jammu wished for his speedy recovery and assured him that all help will be provided to him.

Gujarat Model of paper leakage is a gift to people of country: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: The Senior AAP leaders Deep Singh, Founder & National Council Member, Maj. General Retd.R.S. Jammwal, Farooq Ahmed Banday, R.S Chauhan, Sakinder Azam, Retd Sasion Judge, Nirmal Mahna, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Amit Langer, S.S. Jammwal, Agya Kour, Ram Pal Khajuria, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bhandral, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Suresh Bhagat, Ashni Matoo, S.Ranjodh Singh, G.N. Khan, Sandeep Parihar & Sham Lal Thakur, while lashing at the central government & have accused the ruling Party working in an autocratic manner. The BJP is misusing the central agencies like CBI, ED and influencing the courts also. The leaders of opposition Parties have been arrested or jailed. The corrupt politicians having joined BJP has been exonerated only the

opposition & downtrodden is crushed & defamed. Majority of the centrally sponsored schemes are not practically applied on the ground, back to village, Agni veer, Education & Health system. The youth are jobless & 50% have become drug addicts & majority of the problems are as such & nothing on ground. Huge amount has been utilized for the propaganda. Rs 23000 crore have been utilized for the advertisements, radio, TV, Media and hoardings by BJP central government. The AAP leaders further said that as regards the plight of highly educated youths, Gujrat Model of paper leakage where 22 cases surfaced in 5 years is being implemented in UP & other states of India & now APPSC paper leak scam & paper leak in NEET-UG examination, 2024, playing with their future without estimating that the same

youth generation has the capacity to change the government & pay in the same coin in the coming state elections also as is done in Lok Sabha election in UP, Maharashtra & Rajeshtan etc. On February 19, 2024, a police constable in Luknow had lodged a first information report (FIR) over a paper leak in his exam centre, within hours after the two-day exam ended. Despite that BJP's top leadership and officials continued to deny the allegations of paper leak. The wire has a copy of the FIR, which says that around 150 questions that were found in a paper chit, carried by an accused applicant to the exam centre, were featured in the question paper, indicating that the paper had been leaked in advance. After initially denying the allegations of a paper leak, the UP home department under Chief Minister, Adityanath, on February 24, said it had

directed the UP police recruitment and promotion board (UPPRPB) to conduct fresh exams within six months. The same process of initially denying the allegation of paper leak, in NEET, UG 2024 by the Education Minister & later said that one isolated incident Bihar paper leak should not affect lakhs of students who took the examination sincerely & added strict action to be taken against any official of NTA if found guilty but now BJP can't befool all the people for all the time ; it's Delhi Model that has earned national and international fame particularly in the field of Education and Health which is in fact being emulated by all the states; it's now for the people to decide whether they want wards of laborers, rickshaw wala etc to become Doctors or Engineers; in fact BJP wants more people to be illiterate so that no body questions them.

As regards future of highly educated, frustrated & unemployed youths in J&K, the AAP leaders said that paper leakage is a bold slap on the face of ruling dispensation and a gift to the youths on the analogy of Gujarat where 22 paper leakage were noticed in 5 years, showing utter insensitivity of the government which came to power promising 2 crores jobs every year, the AAP leaders cautioned & appealed to reject the spent forces who have exploited & deceived people in the name of region & religion & have only sold "Pseudo-Secularism & Pseudo-Nationalism" over the past 74 years & tried to carve out their vote pockets weakening the fabrics, unity & integrity of Nation and embrace the Delhi Model of governance across the country which has proved its bench mark status globally as well.

DPAP seeks fair investigation by CBI in NEET Paper scam



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: "We extend a warm welcome to the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra to the city known as the abode of temples, Jammu and Kashmir. We anticipate a smooth and peaceful commencement and conclusion of this sacred pilgrimage. The government assures special security arrangements throughout the yatra period to ensure the safety and comfort of all devotees," said Democratic Progressive Azad Party leaders in a press conference her on Thursday. Expressing deep con-

cern, they addressed the "NEET Paper Leak Scam" and emphasized the need for a fair and expeditious investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). They said DPAP stands in solidarity with the aspiring youth who have been affected by this issue, urging justice through the proper conduct of crucial examinations that shape the future of our younger generation. In addition, DPAP stands steadfastly with the families of farmers who sacrificed their lives during recent agitations, advocating for their rightful causes within the com-

munity. "We call upon the Central and UT governments to establish a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops grown by farmers in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring their welfare and sustainability," they said. Led by former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, they said, DPAP is committed to restoring statehood with guarantees for land and job security. "Our agenda includes free electricity for consumers, restoration of the Roshni Scheme, regularization of daily wage workers, and expedited recruitment to fill all

government and public sector vacancies within six months. We aim to enhance drinking water and irrigation schemes, optimize power projects for uninterrupted supply, abolish water taxes and implement smart metering, and designate Jammu and Kashmir as a drug-free zone," they said. They press confer-

ence was addressed by Ch. Gharu Ram, Ashok Sharma, Ashwani Honda, Ch. Sobat Ali, Gourav Chopra, Balbir Singh, Ashok Bhagat, Kamalpreet Singh, Kulwant Singh Chib, Manik Sharma, and Balwinder Singh. They expressed their commitment to achieving these goals for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

NDA Chief congratulates Om Birla on 17th Speaker of LS

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: Sushil Singh Charak Founder cum Chief Functionary Nations Development Association (NDA) has congratulated Om Birla on being re-elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Sushil Singh Charak Chief Functionary NDA said that Birla's exemplary commitment to strengthening parliamentary democracy will reinforce the glory of the

Indian Constitution and the values enshrined in it. Sushil Singh Charak extended his best wishes to Om Birla for his next tenure.



Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Jal Shakti (Irrigation & Flood Control) Department
Office of the Ex. Engineer Irri, Div. No. 1,
Canal Road, Jammu
Email/Fax: ifcjmuxend11mu@gmail.com

No: JID-1/2377-86 Dated: 25.06.2024.

Corrigendum.

Subject: Construction of Meeting Hall for I&FC Department Jammu at First Floor of Control Room Building of Tawi Barrage at Jammu Civil, Sanitary & Electrical works.

Reference: This office e-NIT No.09 of 2024-25 dated: 21.06.2024.

Due to some administrative reasons, the tenders invited for the above mentioned eNIT is hereby cancelled till further notification.

Signed for and on behalf of the LG UT
J&K

DIP/J-1948/24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division No.1
Jammu

Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government
Office of the Additional Director, Jambu Zoo
Nagrota, Jammu
Email: wdpjambuzoo@gmail.com

Corrigendum

With respect to the e-NIT No. 18/WLW/JZ of 2024-25 i.e. Supply of Fresh meat, Chicken and live fish for Jambu Zoo and Manda Deer Park at Jambu Zoo, due to administrative reasons, the tender is hereby cancelled and will be retendered soon.

-sd-
Additional Director,
Jambu Zoo, Jammu

No. WLWJZ/664-65 Dated: 24/06/2024

TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA 2024

Tele/FAX NO. -01912578774 EMAIL ID: ssprfcjmu@jkpolice.gov.in

- ⇒ Shri Amarnath Yatra shall commence from June 28, 2024 and will conclude on 19 August 2024. There shall be complete as well as partial diversions during the movement of Yatra convoy. The General Public is advised to refrain from utilizing the route of Yatra convoy from 0300 hours to 0600 hours to avoid inconvenience during the movement of Yatra Convoy.
- ⇒ No vehicle shall be allowed to proceed from Asia crossing and Canal Head towards Bhagwati Nagar during movement of convoy.
- ⇒ The HMVs shall be diverted from Kunjwani towards Narwal and shall not be allowed to proceed towards Satwari Chowk and from Satwari Chowk towards Bikram Chowk.
- ⇒ Cut off points have been established at Qasim Nagar, Sidhra Cut, Radio Station, Panjirthi, Bajalta Cut and TCP Nagrota. No vehicle, except ambulances/emergency vehicles shall be allowed beyond these points during movement of convoy.
- ⇒ The 4th Bridge and main Tawi Bridge has been reserved for the movement of Amarnath Yatra. Hence, General Public is advised to utilize Gujjar Nagar Bridge as well as Sidhra Bridge for to & fro movement.
- ⇒ The cut off timing for the Kashmir bound LMVs from TCP Nagrota Jammu shall be from 0600 hours to 1200 hours, thereafter no Kashmir bound vehicles shall be allowed from TCP Nagrota towards Kashmir.

No. 13298-99
Dated:- 26-06-2024

DIP/J-1958/24

Sr. Superintendent of police,
Traffic City Jammu.

EDITORIAL

SAFE
PILGRIMAGE

Jammu and Kashmir, renowned as the crown jewel of India, welcomes thousands of pilgrims annually to its revered sites, including the Amarnath Yatra. This pilgrimage holds profound spiritual significance for Hindus, who trek through challenging terrain to seek blessings at the Amarnath cave shrine, dedicated to Lord Shiva.

The pilgrimage is not merely a religious journey but a testament to faith, endurance, and communal harmony. However, amid the spiritual fervor, ensuring the safety and security of pilgrims remains paramount. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir, along with various security agencies and local administrations, meticulously plans and implements measures to safeguard pilgrims throughout their journey.

Months before the yatra commences, extensive preparations are undertaken. This includes the construction and maintenance of trekking routes, setting up base camps, and ensuring the availability of essential facilities such as medical aid, accommodations, and food supplies. The routes are carefully surveyed for potential risks such as avalanches, landslides, and adverse weather conditions.

Security arrangements are a cornerstone of the yatra preparations. The Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and other paramilitary forces collaborate to create a robust security grid. Critical points along the yatra route are fortified with checkpoints, CCTV surveillance, and deployment of personnel to deter any untoward incidents.

Given the arduous nature of the pilgrimage, medical facilities are strategically stationed at various points along the route and at base camps. Teams of doctors, paramedics, and support staff are equipped to provide immediate medical assistance to pilgrims in need. Helicopter services are also on standby for emergency evacuations from remote and inaccessible areas.

To facilitate smooth coordination and dissemination of information, communication centers are established at key locations. Pilgrims receive regular updates on weather conditions, route advisories, and any other pertinent information through these centers. Mobile medical units and rescue teams are ready to respond swiftly to emergencies.

Environmental conservation is a priority during the yatra. Measures are implemented to minimize the ecological footprint, including waste management initiatives and awareness campaigns among pilgrims to maintain cleanliness and respect the natural surroundings.

Local communities play a crucial role in supporting the yatra. From offering hospitality to pilgrims to actively participating in rescue operations during emergencies, their contribution is invaluable. The spirit of communal harmony is exemplified as people from diverse backgrounds come together to ensure a successful pilgrimage experience.

Despite meticulous planning, the Amarnath Yatra faces challenges, primarily stemming from the rugged terrain and unpredictable weather.

However, proactive measures such as early warning systems for weather changes, continuous monitoring of the pilgrimage routes, and swift response mechanisms help mitigate potential risks.

The Amarnath Yatra is not just a spiritual journey but a testament to the enduring faith and resilience of pilgrims. The efforts of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, security agencies, and local communities in ensuring a safe and secure pilgrimage are commendable. Through coordinated efforts and meticulous planning, every year witnesses thousands of devotees embarking on this sacred journey, reaffirming the rich cultural tapestry and spiritual heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

As we look towards the future, continuous improvement in infrastructure, technology integration, and community engagement will further enhance the safety and experience of pilgrims. The commitment to safeguarding this revered pilgrimage remains unwavering, ensuring that the Amarnath Yatra continues to inspire and unite people from all walks of life in the spirit of peace and harmony.

How to stabilise, secure J&K for Assembly polls

By: Syed Ata Hasnain

Having witnessed at least five elections in J&K plus the panchayat polls of 2011, I find myself reasonably qualified to comment on the ways elections have to be secured in conflict zones. Jammu and Kashmir is actually no longer a conflict zone of the classic kind, where violence can take place for the asking, the streets are aflame with angry young men, terrorists have a field day striking at will at targets of choice and the security forces have to continuously monitor activities, especially movement along roads, tracks, jungles or elsewhere.

Yet every few months, a terrorist strike or a set of coordinated strikes by elusive terrorists, who have yet to suffer any casualties, ends up with people questioning what the reality of Jammu and Kashmir really is. There is also immense restiveness about the casualty figures, both of civilians and of soldiers, with observations by a rabble-rousing media that the only way to resolve this is by retaliatory strikes on the sponsors of terror in Pakistan. It is often said that if Israel has no qualms about taking the battle directly to the adversary, then why should India hold back.

All relevant questions, but they remain just that -- questions. The answers are not difficult, provided people are willing to be rational and even-handed in their understanding about the compulsions of the Indian security establishment. There are two aspects about Israel which are not applicable to our situation. First, it functions and exists entirely under the shadow of the United States, being its primary frontline state in the Middle East. The US over-

looks almost everything that Israel does in terms of operations against terrorist elements, which invariably has heavy collateral; witness the situation in the Gaza Strip today. It metes out treatment to the population with little consideration for human rights and a complete disdain for following any of the rules which demand humanitarian considerations. Second, Israel with evident asymmetry in its favour, may respond to a terrorist action on its soil by an over the top and out of proportion hit against a target with full knowledge that it will not draw a counter response of similar intensity. Even Iran's response is usually comparatively muted. Contrast that with our situation, where the intent of the layered Deep State in Pakistan is mainly to make statements of capability through terrorist actions and instigate such turbulence as to ensure J&K does not stabilise. The Government of India is right in its assumption that it needs to remain circumspect and on course to full normalisation in Jammu and Kashmir by providing a combination of a secure environment and rapid paced development; only responding when a strategic threshold is crossed. To discuss or even attempt to link a threshold to numbers, casualties and situations would be virtual sacrilege, and the last thing the Government of India needs is public pressure to do something which won't fetch strategic dividends or only contribute towards dissipating our national aim vis a vis J&K.

It's not as if India will sit back and accept being targeted by Pakistan-sponsored terror groups. However, its challenge lies in the fact that identifying suitable targets that hurt the adversary without escalation

into a conventional war scenario is fairly difficult. Even if India is fully proficient in response and accepts the consequences of escalation, there is never a guarantee of a short, sharp conflict which will put an end to Pakistan's strategic intransigence. The matter is far too complex for public consumption and it's actually a "war gamer's" delight. It's far more important that we move towards the next big event, the Assembly elections. In that we must ensure we give a most honest and transparent electoral exercise to the Union territory and do it with full security to enable every citizen to vote fearlessly.

It's not just the presence of the security forces in large numbers, what is needed is to eschew any feasibility of slippages in the security grid. That means that units and sub-units of all forces must remain fully sensitized to the scenarios which could present themselves. We cannot afford the movement of personalities, resources or personnel without adequate protection. The responsibility for slippages has to be pinpointed and necessary action taken.

The Sri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) is just about getting underway. It potentially offers the largest target for anti-national elements and over a sustained period of time. The J&K government knows how to secure it, but primarily in very conventional ways. What the Deep State across the border would be observing is the potential of the yatra, long a potential target, for something out of proportion. I recall 1999, the most happening yatra, with the backdrop of the then ongoing Kargil war. Securing the SANJY needs to be done in wargame mode, to identify

potential loopholes and plug them. Much of this was done in 1999, the findings probably consigned to strong rooms full of archives. SANJY is not a routine event which can be secured by a transactional approach; it needs an all-agency approach which the security set-up of J&K seems to be adopting.

It is suspected that 25-30 terrorists are currently roaming the Pir Panjal tracts in small groups, mostly avoiding contact but awaiting a chance to strike when feasible. Their beat can be both sides of the Pir Panjal and with attempts to keep the security forces' focus rooted to this belt. That is often done through small-scale strikes while a bigger one is planned and the opportunity awaited elsewhere. We cannot bank on zero infiltration in the Valley and infiltration in the Jammu region is presumed to be feasible at any time. Thus, from Jammu to the holy cave, the multiple routes on which the "yatis" move, have to be secured in reasonable depth. That depth would also mean coverage of the Warwan Valley, and northwards in the valleys leading from Kishtwar to Kargil.

A secure and eventless yatra would be indicative of capability to ward off threats to the Assembly elections. The complete attention of the Central agencies would need to be focused on Kashmir, the Jammu region and North Punjab because they form a continuum of support networks for the management of physical and human resources. Narcotics, weapons and cash, including fake currency, will need to be worked upon. With all this in place, a safe and successful J&K Assembly election should be possible and is to be hoped for.

Monsoons Beauty



By: Shahnaz Husain

Monsoons are here. Are you one of those who enjoy when the rains come?

After the dreaded season of sunburn and tan, The rainy season brings a refreshing change in the weather, but it also poses challenges for maintaining a flawless makeup look. Change of season affects your skin more than you think.

As the weather changes, a drastic increase in humidity can pose significant challenges for your skin.

Our skin can suffer damage from humidity, moisture, and repeated exposure to rainwater, which can cause several issues like breakouts, blackheads, whiteheads, and excessive oiliness.

However, with a few essential tips and tricks, you can master the art of creating a flawless

rainy-season makeup look.

Always remember, the basic rule is to cleanse, tone, and moisturise your skin during monsoon season.

1--Cleansing:-----Increased humidity causes an increase in sebum secretion, which attracts dust and pollution particles that cause clogged pores and breakouts. To prevent clogged pores and breakouts, opt for a gentle cleanser that removes dirt, pollutants, and excess oil without stripping away your skin's natural moisture. cleanse your face at least twice a day using a mild, chemical-free cleanser which will help remove excess oil, dirt, and impurities from your skin. Natural ingredients like seaweed extracts in your face wash help maintain the skin's pH balance and ensure it stays nourished despite the changing weather.

2--Choose lightweight and waterproof products:

The skin may feel sticky during the monsoon season due to high humidity. Heavy makeup can clog pores and lead to breakouts. Opt for oil-free formulas for foundation, concealer, and powder.

Look for waterproof makeup products that will last throughout the rainy and humid days. You can use a waterproof setting spray instead of powder to set the makeup. Choose lightweight formulas like tinted moisturisers or BB creams. Finding the

right moisturizer for the monsoon is essential, especially for acne-prone skin. A lightweight, waterproof or oil-free moisturizer can keep your skin oil and grease-free that can prevent acne and keep the skin hydrated.

3---Include Vitamin C in the Diet

Vitamin C is an antioxidant that keeps the skin healthy during the monsoon season.

Citrus fruits like lemons, oranges, and grapefruits are excellent sources of vitamin C. Kiwis, bell peppers, and broccoli are also rich in this essential nutrient. Vitamin C helps in the production of white blood cells, which are crucial for fighting off infections and boosting your body's defenses

Vitamin C serum can maintain the skin's glow. It eliminates microorganisms, prevents the onset of age-related changes, and lessens scars and blemishes to give you clear, flawless skin

4---Exfoliating Regularly
Choose a gentle scrub to exfoliate at least 2-3 times every week to deeply cleanse the stubborn dirt deposit and remove any excess oil.

Exfoliation removes dead skin cells from the top, making your skin brighter and lighter.

Exfoliating regularly to keep your skin glowing and soft. This will prevent clogged pores during the monsoon season and help you avoid breakouts.

It improves skin radiance and

helps get rid of dead skin cells. It removes dead skin cells from the top and lets brighter and fresher skin appear. Additionally, it prevents the clogging of pores with dirt and sweat. Thus, you can also avoid blackheads.

5---Clay Mask

When your skin appears flaky, dull, uneven, or even dry or oily, clay face masks have medicinal and cosmetic properties beneficial for any skin type. Use a face mask at least twice a week to draw out impurities, absorb excess sebum, and tighten your pores in addition to following a standard skincare regimen. Selecting the right clay mask depends on your skin type. If you have oily skin, opt for a bentonite clay mask as it excels at absorbing oil. Those with dry or sensitive skin may find kaolin clay to be gentler and more suitable. Acne-prone individuals can benefit from a turmeric clay mask, which works wonders for all skin types. In addition, the clay mask also aids acne and balances sebum production. Regular use of clay masks will leave your skin refreshed, balanced, and less prone to breakouts.

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

HDFC Bank empowers MSMEs with special knowledge sessions

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: Ahead of World MSME Day today, HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, started an exclusive campaign for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to provide an impetus to businesses in deeper geographies. The campaign aims to spread awareness on various banking products and services, government policies for MSMEs and encourage them to adopt digitization in their busi-

ness dealings.

As part of the campaign, the Bank will be providing a host of offers on working capital loans, business loans, business cards, trade services and Dukan-dar overdraft. The Bank will also run virtual and on-the-ground knowledge sessions in partnership with HDFC SKY, HDFC ERGO, Niva Bupa General Insurance, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, and Aditya Birla General Insurance, among others. The sessions, which are themed around digital transformation of busi-

nesses, will happen in the following 15 cities: Indore, Surat, Roorkee, Nashik, Ludhiana, Raipur, Dehradun, Coimbatore, Varanasi, Vizag, Patna, Nagpur, Kanpur, Hubballi, and Guwahati where over 1,000 small and medium businesses will be invited.

On the occasion, the Bank has released a special film thanking MSMEs for trusting HDFC Bank as their banking partner.

Mr. Rahul Shyam Shukla, Group Head - Commercial and Rural Banking (CRB), HDFC Bank said, "MSME entre-

preneurs, through their perseverance and enterprise, play a strong role in shaping India's economic growth trajectory. HDFC Bank recognises their contribution to GDP, exports and most importantly, employment creation. A large number of micro enterprises do not apply for credit despite being eligible for loans due to lack of access to information. We continue to address MSMEs' financial needs by providing services in over 700 districts, extending education on a variety of gov-

ernment schemes, and by going beyond the usual assessment criteria like firm size, value added, access to trade credit, among others, to specifically address their needs."

As of 31st March, 2024, the Bank's distribution network stands at 8,738 branches and 20,938 ATMs across 4,065 cities/towns. A total of 52% of the branches are in semi-urban and rural areas, along with 15,182 business correspondents, which are primarily manned by Common Service Centres.

Road damage dispute erupts as Jal Shakti Dept digs newly macadamised route in Kulgam



Top News Report

KULGAM, June 27: A dispute has arisen in the Parrypora Lamma area of Kulgam district over a recently macadamised road, as the Jal Shakti department's excavation for a water pipeline has led to significant damage. Local residents, who had welcomed the long-awaited upgrade by the PMGSY department just a year ago, now find their hopes dashed by the unforeseen consequences of the new construction.

According to reports from the area, the PMGSY department had undertaken the macadamisation of the Bonigam to Brinel Lamma road after nearly a decade of neglect. How-

ever, barely a year after its completion, the Jal Shakti department began digging into the newly laid surface without seeking permission, resulting in extensive damage to the road and its drainage systems.

A senior official from the PMGSY department expressed dismay over the lack of coordination, stating that the Jal Shakti department had not obtained the necessary permits for the work. "We have halted their operations twice already," the official remarked, emphasizing that proper procedures could have prevented the damage. Plans to pursue legal action were briefly discussed, although it was clarified that discussions with the district administration

were ongoing to resolve the matter swiftly.

In response to these accusations, AEE Jal Shakti, Mohd Rafiq, defended the department's actions, claiming that they had sought permission at a higher level due to multiple infrastructure projects along similar routes. "Our intention is to minimize disruption and ensure the pipeline's integrity," he stated, reassuring locals of their commitment to repairing any harm caused.

Meanwhile, local residents expressed frustration over the apparent oversight, urging authorities to prioritize coordination to prevent further harm to public infrastructure. As discussions continue between concerned departments, the fate of the road remains uncertain, highlighting the challenges of infrastructure development in the region.

The dispute underscores the importance of effective communication and cooperation among government departments to safeguard public assets and meet community needs.

Teachers Forum nominates Executive, General Councils

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: In the comprehensive and enlarged interest of Forum and Teacher community, the acclaimed voice and the true representation of Teachers, Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum has extended membership campaign in length and breadth.

It has first time nominated its two separate Councils, Executive and General Council.

This move will surely engross the forum stability and will maintain an equilibrium in the forum teamwork, thereby will discharge its unparalleled service for the benefit and boon of both teachers and students.

General Council and Executive Council which are established under the leadership and will work under his aegis, Chairman Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum and National Vice president AISTF, Mohd Amin Khan.

Besides Chairman of the Forum the Executive Council consists of vice Chairman Showkat Ali Beigh, UT President Muhammad Ashraf



Sheikh, General Secretary Shabbir Ahmed Bhat, State Secretary Ghulam Nabi Sofi, President Female Wing Maymona Khan, Additional Secretary Ram Krishan Singh, Organizer Ghulam Ahmed Mir Financial Secretary Muzaffar Ahmed Dar, Coordinator Muhammad Saleem, Joint Secretary Bashir Ahmed Pader, Spokesperson Bashir Ahmed Mir Executive Member Saleem Niyazi, Mohan Singh, Mohinder Goswami, Nitin Kalyan, Raman Kumar Sharma, Jalli Sheikh, Provincial President Kashmir Hamidullah Trumbo, Province President Jammu Sanjeet Sharma, Ab Qayoom Mir, Shafeeqa Shaheen, Mehrajuddin.

Similarly in General Council, besides Executive Council, following portfolio holders will come under the umbrella

of General Council; Vice President Kashmir Javed Ahmed Khan, Provincial Vice President Jammu Rafiqat Malik, Provincial Coordinator Haji Irshad, Provincial Secretary Nazir Ahmed Khan Organizer Abdul Qayoom Mir, Press Secretary Bilal Ahmad, Provincial Secretary Jammu Rifat Husain Malik, Province Joint Secretary Hilal Ahmad, District President Anantnag Muzaffar Ahmad, District President Shopian Gulzar Ahmad, District president Pulwama Irfan Nazir, District President Srinagar Ghulam Muhi-din, District President Ganderbal Gulzar Ahmad, District President Baramulla Tahir Ahmed Sofi, District President Bandipora Bashir Ahmed Mir, District President Kupwara Mehrajuddin Zargar, District President Ramban Mohd Nassir ul haq bhat, District President Reasi Rail Singh, District President Kishtwar Imtiaz ul Haq, District President Rajouri Surjit Kumar, District President Kathua Dr. Sanjay Sharma, District President Poonch Amarjit Singh, Ajay Sharma Udhampur, Rajiv Chanda.

MKWT organizes drawing and speech competition on International Day Against Drug Abuse



Top News Report

BUDGAM, June 27: Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust (MKWT) organized a drawing and speech competition at Budgam in observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse. Students from various schools participated enthusiastically in the event, showcasing their creativity and oratory skills.

The Chairman of the Trust, Dr. Amir Rashid Wani addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of steering clear of drug abuse and encouraging the youth of Kashmir to save lives by avoiding drugs.

His message was a heartfelt appeal to young

people to make positive life choices and contribute to a drug-free society.

The event saw the presence of other members of the Trust, including District President Budgam Irfan Ahmad Paul and District Vice President Aadhit Mush-taq and District Coordinator Ishfaq Yousuf and District spokesperson Bashir Ahmad Bhat and other members.

To honour the efforts and talents of the participating students, Trust facilitated them with appreciation certificates. The trust remains committed to its mission of promoting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle among the youth of Kashmir.

Saroori urges LG to address neglect in Kishtwar District



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, June 27: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Vice Chairman, Ghulam Mohammad Saroori, has issued an ardent appeal to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to address the persistent neglect in the Kishtwar district.

In a recent meeting with several deputations in Chatroo, Saroori highlighted critical issues plaguing the district, particularly the urgent need for the construction of a cancer hospital and improved road connectivity.

Saroori emphasized the pressing need for the construction of a cancer hospital, which was sanctioned in 2014.

Despite the approval, no progress has been made over the past decade. The absence of this vital healthcare facility continues to put the lives of countless residents at risk, forcing them to travel long distances for treatment.

Saroori urged the LG to start the work on Cancer hospital construction to

provide much-needed medical services to the district's population.

During his visit to Chatroo, Saroori met with local deputations who apprised him of the day-to-day problems faced by the general masses. One of the primary concerns raised was the lack of road connectivity in the region. Saroori alleged that despite the central government's promises, not an inch of new link roads has been constructed in Kishtwar district over the past ten years.

He stressed the importance of connecting villages with populations of 250 or more, citing specific areas in desperate need of road infrastructure.

These include Batwari to Sheeri, Sigdi to Pahalgam, Kuchal to Niccha, Kuchal to Basha, Keshwan to Jungna Balna, Balana to Nazla, Thal to Kwath, Dhnoothe to Mori and Sharekh to Burdhar and others.

Saroori highlighted that while the government is focusing on the development of highways, it must not overlook the essential

infrastructure needs of rural and far-flung areas. He underscored that road connectivity is a fundamental right for these communities, crucial for their development and access to basic amenities.

He demanded and requested the LG to visit Kishtwar personally to witness the issues first-hand. He believes that a direct visit from the LG would provide a clearer understanding of the district's challenges and prompt immediate action. The visit would also serve as a reassurance to the local population that their concerns are being taken seriously at the highest levels of governance.

In his address, Saroori expressed his disappointment with the current state of affairs, stating that the government must fulfil its promises to the people of Kishtwar.

He reiterated that the development of road infrastructure and the establishment of the cancer hospital are not just necessities but the rights of the district's residents.

Saroori's impassioned plea reflects the broader sentiment of the Kishtwar community, which has long awaited the fulfilment of these critical infrastructure projects.

The call for the LG's intervention is a call for justice, development, and the upliftment of a region that has been left behind for far too long.

Rouble Nagi Art Foundation donates 100 benches to GGHSS Rainawari



Top News Report

RAINAWARI, June 27: In a heartwarming gesture of generosity and commitment to education and Art, Rouble Nagi, a renowned social activist and the founder of the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation, distributed 100 benches to the students of Govt. Girl's Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) in Rainawari, Srinagar.

This initiative, timed to coincide with her upcoming birthday, symbolizes her dedication to enhancing educational infrastructure and supporting young learners.

The distribution drive took place on June 27, 2024, in the presence of school authorities, students, and members of the local community. The new benches, which will significantly improve the learning environment for the students, were received with great enthusiasm and gratitude.

Rouble Nagi, known for her extensive work in the fields of education, art, and social welfare, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of providing quality educational facilities to all children.

She remarked, "Educa-

tion is the cornerstone of a progressive society. By providing these benches, we hope to create a more comfortable and conducive learning environment for the young girls of Rainawari. This is just a small gift from my side to celebrate my birthday with these wonderful children who are the future of our nation."

The principal of the school expressed heartfelt thanks to Nagi and highlighted the positive impact this contribution will have on the students' daily school experience.

"This generous donation by Smt. Rouble Nagi will greatly enhance the comfort and focus of our students, enabling them to engage better in their studies. We are deeply grateful for her support and dedication to our school," she said.

The Rouble Nagi Art Foundation has been actively involved in various philanthropic activities across the country, focusing on education, skill development, and community upliftment. This bench distribution drive is another step in their ongoing efforts to support underprivileged communities and promote educational development in the valley of Kashmir.

Ten Day Aryans Scholarship Mela Kick starts in Kashmir Region

Top News Report

Jammu, June 27: Chandigarh based Aryans Group of Colleges stated 10 days scholarship mela in JK. The first day the mela was organized in Kulgam & Anantnag, Today, Sahila Fayaz became first student to get admitted in Aryans in D. Pharma Course and got the letter. The Group is going to conduct the scholarship events from 27th June- 7th July in various cities of Jammu & Kashmir.

Er. Mudasar Sheikh, Admission Coordinator, JK while giving more information said that in coming days the drive will be done in various cities of J&K including Shopian (28th June), Pulwama (28th June), Baramulla (29th June) Kupwara (29th June), Budgam (1st July), Ganderbal (1st July), Srinagar (2nd July), Jammu (3rd July), Reasi (4th July), Rajouri (5th July), Poonch (6th July), Shopian (7th July) etc.

Amir Hussain Lone, Brand Ambassador, Aryans said that "I am delighted that I have given scholarship letters to selected students and I wish them best for their higher studies at Aryans.



While visiting Aryans Campus, I was overwhelmed to see majority of Kashmiri students, so it's Mini Kashmir. I have also taken Admission in Aryans. I will be visiting above cities to meet you and I will handover the scholarship letters to deserving students." He said students may also visit Aryans website www.aryans.edu.in.

Er. Jahangir Rashid & Er. Shahid Lone, Faculty, Aryans College of Engineering added that in Aryans Scholarship mela the selected students would get 10%- 100% scholarship on merit cum mean basis. For any admission related queries, students can contact Er. Mudasar Ahmad (8427022288), Er. Rayees

Ahmad (8054899888), Er. Jahangir Rashid (8054699888), Er. Shahid Lone (8054499888).

It is to be mentioned that, established in 2007, Aryans campus is located on Chandigarh-Pattiala highway, near Chandigarh and has lush green 20 acres pollution free campus and has become the destination for JK students. Aryans Group has been serving the educational and intellectual interests of the youth in a commendable manner. The Group is running Engineering College, Law College, Pharmacy College, Management College, Business School, Education College, and Nursing College, Faculty of Physiotherapy & Paramedical etc.

Raman Suri welcomes Shri Amarnath ji Yatris, wishes them safe pilgrimage

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: Welcoming Shri Amarnath ji bound Yatris to Jammu and Kashmir for annual pilgrimage and wishing them safe journey on day one, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri hailed the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administration for making elaborate arrangements on both routes.

He also hailed the union government and Border Roads Organization (BRO) for widening the track to the cave shrine, thus making it much safer for the pilgrims.

The BJP leader said that today, when the first batch of pilgrims has set on to their journey, people across Jammu and Kashmir are jubilant and welcome them all to have a comfortable stay and a safe yatra. Raman Suri also welcomed the group of pilgrims that has come from Bangladesh to have Darshan of the Shri

Amarnath ji cave shrine, located at an altitude of about 13,000 feet from sea level, in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

This is a matter of pride for Jammu and Kashmir to host this batch of pilgrims coming from our neighbouring country Bangladesh, he said, adding that elaborate security measures are in place for the safety and security of all yatris.

He said, the UT administration and the Union Government led by PM Narendra Modi have left no stone unturned and have built massive infrastructure for the comfortable stay of yatris enroute to Shri Amarnath ji Cave Shrine.

Urging pilgrims to follow the government guidelines for their own safety and health concerns, Raman Suri said that the health department has also been geared up by the administration to provide better medical facilities to the yatris.

He said, right from reg-

istration to health check-ups, to what to carry and what not, everything has been set right by the government, and the pilgrims must use this advisory for their own convenience and safety. This, he said, will help them avoid any botheration.

Raman Suri further said, the LG administration has made elaborate stay arrangements for pilgrims at Saraswati Dham besides multiple other locations, which the yatris can utilise. He said, this annual yatra brings with it sanctity, religious fervour, enthusiasm and spirit of patriotism and oneness besides good economic boost for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He added, right from Jammu to the Cave shrine of Shri Amarnath Ji, pilgrims also enjoy their stay at different locations and bring with them a cultural extravaganza and economy, that is highly appreciated and looked at with respect and faith.

Firoze of Farzi and Karnail Singh of Chandu Champion — Is Bhuvan Arora getting trapped in 'friend's zone'? This Delhi boy, who is making a splash in the entertainment industry, does not think so

Sheran di quam Punjabi... make that artistic too. As we keep discovering, rediscovering Punjabi actors yet another Punjabi, Bhuvan Arora, delights us with his portrayal of an endearing Sikh character in Chandu Champion. Delhi boy Bhuvan may not have any roots in Punjab, but as they say 'you can never take out Punjab from a Punjabi'. Essaying Karnail Singh in Kabir Khan's sports biopic was 'fun' for it was the first time he was getting to play 'little bit of what I know', and the barrier of language was least of his concerns.

Interestingly, his character was not conceived as a Sikh. Rather it was

his beard, which he had grown for Sepoy Vikram Singh's part in the upcoming Tamil film Amaran, that firmed up Kabir's decision to cast him as a Sikh. Bhuvan whose breakout performance in Farzi made most of us wake up to his immense talent does not agree that he is getting trapped in 'friend's zone'. He says, "I believe you have to be typecast before you break the mould. Firoze of Farzi and Karnail Singh of Chandu Champion, heroes' 'friends in need...' are as different as chalk and cheese." While working with celebrity directors Raj and DK in Farzi and now Kabir Khan of Chandu Champion has been

'touch wood' experiences, but these 'masters of their craft' too, he shares, 'are markedly different in their directorial approaches'. While The Family Man and Farzi director-duo allows actors to thrive on 'surprise me' moments, Kabir sir expects them to confine all improvisations to workshops and rehearsals, and not for the final take. Since both prestige productions also had these two superstars Shahid Kapur and Kartik Aaryan on board, does the bromance we saw on screen translate on the sets too. First things first, he does not see them as stars, only as co-actors for, 'that is how the FTII trained me'.



Word of praise Talking of his hallowed alma mater, which is having its big moment in glory what with Payal Kapadia's historic Cannes win, he agrees that FTII graduates are taken more seriously, may be with a touch of respect too. "But at the end of the day the hustle is the same." So what is it about the Film and Training Institute of India that it consistently continues to churn out some brilliant actors? He laughs, "Hamari chakki ka aata hi alag hai." Seriously, he opines, "Apart from providing us a window into world cinema, the cultural exposure is tremendous. Even if one were to not attend classes,

one would emerge a better version of oneself. Frankly, we eat, breathe and talk cinema. People in FTII are not humans but walking-talking energies and lot of energy exchange happens." But he doesn't proclaim that FTII is the only way to imbibe acting as many like Manoj Bajpayee are not from any institute, yet phenomenal actors.

No fixed formula As for Bhuvan's process of acting, well it's not linear for sure. He says, "There are multiple ways to get into your part, past experiences, an animal or music; anything can be a trigger. There is no one fixed/reductive formula." In an industry where 'everybody has an opinion on

acting' and unwanted advice comes aplenty, his key to happiness is the golden Punjabi state of satiation, saanu ki.

He may not have grown in Punjab, but is as Punjabi as it gets. Everybody's favourite Diljit Dosanjh is certainly his too as the song Lover tops his playlist. Though he is adept in speaking Punjabi and would love to work in Pollywood, he would not care to limit himself to any region or language. Like a true blue Punjabi, world is his playing field. Punjabiyan di shaan wakhri... with more than one series Dupahiya, Tatkaal, Fissadi and action war biopic Amaran lined up, he is set to shine some more and soar higher.

Telugu superstar Nagarjuna meets specially-abled fan who was pushed by his bodyguard in viral video

Nagarjuna on Wednesday met the differently-abled fan, two days after he was criticised for the way the man was mishandled by the Telugu superstar's bodyguard.

In a new video, shared by the official X page of celebrity photographer Viral Bhayani, Nagarjuna is seen making his way to the Mumbai airport when the fan, a cafe staff, approaches him once again.

Nagarjuna is seen hugging the man, who apologises to him but the actor says, "It's not your fault. Hamara galti hai (It is my fault)."

Bhayani had also posted the original video that saw the fan being shoved aside by Nagarjuna's bodyguard as the actor walked on.

It showed the actor walking out of an airport accompanied by his security detail and his "Kubera" co-star Dhannush.

The fan tried to come close to Nagarjuna but was pushed by his bodyguard, making him stumble and almost fall. The bodyguard, however, helped him up.

After a social media furore, Nagar-



juna apologised for the incident and said he was unaware about what had happened.

"This just came to my notice... this shouldn't have happened!! I apologise to the gentleman and will take necessary precautions that it will not happen in the future!!" Nagarjuna wrote on Sunday as he shared the video on his X account.

Nawazuddin says society should learn from Bollywood how to respect all religions

Nawazuddin Siddiqui says he has never been discriminated against on religious lines in Bollywood. Appearing on the podcast Unplugged, Nawazuddin said the rest of society should learn from Bollywood how to respect all religions. He quoted the example of Anupam Kher and his A Wednesday co-star Naseeruddin Shah and the mutual respect between the two.

What Nawazuddin said "The rest of society should learn from Bollywood... Do you know that Anupam Kher respects Naseeruddin Shah a lot as far as acting is concerned?," Nawazuddin said.

"I'm a part of this industry. My country is beautiful. The love and respect I get here, I



wouldn't get anywhere else. I'm overjoyed to be among common people

because of the love they shower on me, regardless of their own back-

ground. You wouldn't see this anywhere else in the world. I've travelled to the interiors of our country; I don't know what they show in the news, but the people of our country are beautiful, they're innocent," he added.

Ratna Pathak Shah's recent statement

Veteran actor Ratna Pathak Shah also weighed in on this topic in an interview with agency. On being asked how she and her husband Naseeruddin continue to work with Paresh Rawal and Anupam Kher despite conflicting political ideologies, she said, "We all grew up at a time when two people can be friends, but can also have different ideologies. You're right in your place, I'm right in

mine. There's dialogue, discussion, and even disagreement, but that doesn't cause a rift in interpersonal relations. This is a more recent trend. This is neither our country's culture nor I've seen anything like this before. I've been born in a home where my father was from an RSS family and my mom was from a Communist family. There was constant debate and arguments at our home, still we all lived together happily. I know that disagreement with an opinion doesn't mean dislike of a person. This is a very new phenomenon, that if you don't agree with me then you should be cancelled. This isn't our culture, at least it's not my culture, nor of anyone I know."

Cancer-stricken Shannen Doherty reveals why she thinks men wouldn't date her: 'Hard for somebody like me'

Shannen Doherty has said that she is hesitant to start dating again as she battles stage 4 cancer. However, she wonders if men would want to date her because she has an "expiration date."

"Listen, I think it's hard for somebody like me, in my personal opinion, because it's hard to go into dating someone when you know that they might have an expiration date," she told Kelly Ripa on an episode of Ripa's podcast Let's Talk Off Camera.

Doherty claimed that "most men" struggle to handle "death and illness," even more than women. "I think that I'm a very hard sell," she said.

"I'm a little self-conscious"

"It's more companionship than anything else. Anyway, I'm a little self-conscious, because I have so many scars from surgery that it's like, how do you explain that 'No, that isn't from giving birth, that's from reconstruction surgery,"

Doherty added.

Doherty also said that the surgeries after she was diagnosed with cancer have made her "very insecure." Doherty has been battling cancer since 2015, but she went into remission in 2017. However, three years later, the cancer returned. It spread to her brain and bones by 2023.

The Beverly Hills, 90210 alum has been candid about her health struggles over the years. In an episode of her podcast in April, she said, "My priority at the moment is my mom. I know it's going to be hard on her if I pass away before her. Because it's going to be so hard on her, I want other things to be a lot easier. I don't want her to have a bunch of stuff to deal with. I don't want her to have four storage units filled with furniture."

In April 2023, Doherty filed for divorce from her estranged husband Kurt Iswarienko after being married for 11 years.



Paris Hilton recounts being sexually abused, dragged by staff at Utah school

Taking the stand during a House committee session on Wednesday, Paris Hilton, a famous social figure and businesswoman, shared her personal stories regarding her time in the foster care system. Her emotional yet powerful testimony aimed to convince Congress to improve the lives of children in foster care. Hilton described the abuse she allegedly suffered at a Utah boarding school for troubled teens, including sexual assault, physical restraint, and forced medication.

Paris Hilton recalls child abuse during Congress testimony

"When I was 16 years old, I was ripped from my bed in the middle of the night and transported across state lines to the first of four youth residential treatment facilities." Paris Hilton, the household name famous for her candour, stripped away her usual glitz and glamour for a raw and emotional testimony on Capitol Hill.

"These programs promised healing, growth and support but instead did not allow me to speak, move freely or even look out a window



for two years," Hilton, never one to back down from a challenge, courageously shared a troubling period from her youth at Provo Canyon School. Her voice trembled as she detailed the alleged abuse she suffered — "physical restraint, forced medication, and even sexual assault," at the hands of the very staff entrusted with her well-being.

Paris Hilton opens up about being sexually abused at Utah school "I was force-fed medications and sexually abused by the staff. I

was violently restrained and dragged down hallways, stripped naked and thrown into solitary confinement," the star continued delivering a stark warning of the grim truth experienced by many children in the U.S. foster care system, calling on Congress to intervene.

The Hilton heiress, however, didn't blame her parents, Rick Hilton and Kathy Hilton, for sending her to the 'troubled teen' school, recounting that they were "deceived" and "manipulated." In the

past few years, the 43-year-old socialite has frequently advocated and testified rigorously in state legislatures and on Capitol Hill in support of a law meant to protect children from this 'inhumane money-making industry.'

Paris Hilton's voice for reform isn't new. In 2020, her documentary "This Is Paris" on YouTube exposed the alleged abuses she endured at Provo Canyon School. This wasn't merely a tale of her own experiences; she went on to lead protests calling for the school to shut down. Now, a mother of two young children (son Phoenix and daughter London), Hilton continues her advocacy, urging Congress to address the needs of often-overlooked foster and adopted youth.

According to PageSix, several other former students of the school also supported Hilton's claims, describing the treatment these children endure as "criminal." Hilton continued, "It has caused me severe post-traumatic stress disorder and trauma that will affect me for the rest of my life."

India world's 3rd largest domestic aviation market; increase in flights benefitted small cities: President

In her address to the joint sitting of Parliament, Murmu said the country has grown at an average rate of 8 per cent annually from 2021 to 2024.

NEW DELHI, Jun 27 (Agencies): India is the world's third largest domestic aviation market and the increase in flight routes in the last 10 years has benefitted Tier 2 and 3 cities, President Droupadi Murmu said on Thursday.

In her address to the joint sitting of Parliament, Murmu said the country has grown at an average rate of 8 per cent annually from 2021 to 2024.

She emphasised that in 10 years, India has risen to become the 5th largest economy from the 11th position.

"India is the world's third largest domestic aviation market," she said, adding that in April 2014, there were only 209 airline routes, which increased to 605 by April 2024.

"This increase in the aviation routes has directly benefitted Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities," she noted.

Air traffic demand is on the rise and airlines are expanding their fleet to fly more people,



while the number of airports are also increasing.

During the January-May 2024 period, domestic airlines carried 661.42 lakh passengers, as against 636.07 lakh during the year-ago period, according to the latest official data.

The President also said the government has decided to conduct feasibility studies for bullet train corridors in the country's north, south and east.

Highlighting infrastructure development in the country, which according to her, has emerged as the new face of a changing India, Murmu said, "My Government has decided to conduct feasibility studies for bullet train corridors in the North, South and East of the country."

She also mentioned the ongoing high-speed rail project between Ahmedabad and Mumbai in the western part of

the country.

"Work on the High-Speed Rail Ecosystem between Ahmedabad and Mumbai is also progressing at a rapid pace," Murmu said.

The 508-km Ahmedabad-Mumbai high-speed corridor is the first in the country on which a bullet train will run at 320 kmph speed covering the whole distance in just 2 hours and 7 minutes with limited stops at Surat, Vadodara and Ahmedabad.

The National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited, which is constructing the project, has announced the projected completion of its first phase between Surat and Bilimora by August 2026.

Speaking on the government's efforts to make India's public transport system one of the best in the world, she said, "In 10 years, Metro has reached 21 cities. Work is going on in many schemes such as Vande Metro."

"INDIA Bloc Hates Tamil Culture": Yogi Adityanath On 'Sengol' Row



NEW DELHI, Jun 27 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today slammed the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the opposition INDIA bloc for their remarks on the 'Sengol', accusing them of disrespecting Indian history and Tamil culture. Mr Adityanath's comments come in response to a growing political controversy ignited by Samajwadi Party MP RK Chaudhary's critical remarks about the presence of the 'Sengol' in Parliament.

"Samajwadi Party has no respect for Indian history or culture. The remarks of their top leaders on the 'Sengol' are condemnable and indicate their ignorance. It also shows INDI Alliance's hatred to Tamil culture in particular. The 'Sengol' is India's pride and it is a matter of honour that Hon. PM Shri @narendramodi ji accorded it the highest respect in the Parliament," Mr Adityanath wrote on X.

The controversy began when Mr Chaudhary questioned the appropriateness of the 'Sengol',

which he dubbed as a symbol of monarchy, being installed in Parliament. He argued that the Constitution, not a relic of royal authority, should be the primary symbol in India's legislative body.

"The Constitution is the symbol of democracy. The BJP government, under PM Modi, installed the 'Sengol' in Parliament. 'Sengol' means 'Raj-Dand' or 'Raja ka Danda'. After ending the princely order, the country became independent. Will the country be run by 'Raja ka danda' or the Constitution? I demand that 'Sengol' be removed from Parliament to save the Constitution," said Chaudhary.

On May 28, last year, PM Modi installed the Sengol in the Lok Sabha chamber, next to the Speaker's chair in the new Parliament building. This 'Sengol' was previously accepted by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, on the night of August 14, 1947. The 'Sengol' is about five feet long, adorned with precious stones, and has a golden orb at the top. Its

name comes from the Tamil word "Semmai," which means righteousness. The installation was seen as a tribute to India's rich cultural heritage and a symbolic gesture of continuity between India's past and present governance.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav defended Mr Chaudhary, suggesting his remarks were intended as a reminder for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to uphold democratic principles. "When the 'Sengol' was installed, the PM bowed before it. He might have forgotten this while taking the oath. Maybe our MP's remark was to remind him of that," Mr Yadav stated.

Adding to the chorus of criticism, Congress MP Manickam Tagore endorsed Mr Chaudhary's demand, accusing the government of creating unnecessary drama during the Parliament's inauguration.

The BJP swiftly condemned the opposition's stance. "The Samajwadi Party opposes 'Sengol' in Parliament, calling it 'Raja ka Dand'. If it was so, why did Jawaharlal Nehru accept it? This shows their mindset. They attack Ramcharitmanas and now 'Sengol'. Does DMK support this insult? They must clarify," BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said.

BJP Chief JP Nadda Appointed Leader Of The House In Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI, Jun 27 (Agencies): BJP chief and Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda was appointed Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha today, the first day of the 264th session of the Upper House.

"Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has been appointed as the Leader of the House in the Council of States," Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar announced, amid thumping of desks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also present

in the House when the announcement was made.

The BJP had earlier decided to appoint Mr Nadda as the leader of the House and the same was conveyed to the Rajya Sabha.



Delhi water minister Atishi discharged from hospital

NEW DELHI, Jun 27 (Agencies): Delhi Water Minister Atishi was on Thursday morning discharged from the LNJP Hospital where she was admitted after her health deteriorated during a hunger strike against the water scarcity in the city.

The minister was discharged from the hospital at 10.30 am, said a hospital official.

The AAP leader was sitting on an indefinite hunger strike demanding the BJP-ruled Haryana release Delhi's due share of water. She was admitted to the hospital in the wee hours of Tuesday after her blood sugar fell following the hunger strike for five days.

She was admitted to the hospital's Intensive Care Unit initially



and later shifted to the normal ward after her condition improved.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and CPM leader Vrinda Karat met Atishi at the hospital on Wednesday.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and CPM leader Vrinda Karat met Atishi at the hospital on Wednesday.

AAP MPs protest against Arvind Kejriwal's arrest; to raise matter within INDIA bloc

Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI as his plea for seeking bail in the alleged liquor scam was to be heard by the Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, Jun 27 (Agencies): MPs of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday protested outside Parliament against the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying "it was a gross misuse of investigating agencies".

Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI as his plea for seeking bail in the alleged liquor scam was to be heard by the Supreme Court.

Earlier, AAP MPs – in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha – boycotted the



President's address.

The protesting MPs said, "We have full respect for the President but the address is written by the government.

That is why we are not attending it."

AAP MP from Sangrur Gurmeet Singh Meeta Hayer said the Modi government talks big

about democracy and the Constitution but in reality, the Constitution and democracy are being crushed in the country.

Hayer said talks are going on with leaders of the INDIA bloc and Kejriwal's arrest will be discussed with them and their support sought.

He said investigating agencies are being openly misused.

"This is dangerous for democracy. Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI in a hurry when he had every possibility of getting bail from the Supreme Court," said Meeta Hayer, adding, "This is a big example of dictatorship."

Hawkers in Bengal given a month clear encroachments, Mamata Banerjee forms panel

In the meeting, Chief Minister Banerjee issued a one-month notice to hawkers to clear the footpath and the parts of the roads they have encroached on.

KOLKATA, Jun 27 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee chaired an emergency meeting on Thursday over the eviction of hawkers from footpaths and illegal encroachment on government land across the state. In the meeting, Chief Minister Banerjee issued a one-month notice to hawkers to clear the footpath and the parts of the roads they have encroached on.

She formed a committee to conduct a survey regarding this issue of the hawker's encroachment and submit a report to her office within 15 days.

"I have no right to take away anyone's source of income or render anyone unemployed. Millions run their families by hawking. There will be no eviction for one month. During this period, the hawkers have to clear footpaths," the Trinamool Congress



chief was quoted as saying by news agency in its report.

She came down heavily on the political leaders and police officers over their alleged involvement in the encroachment of footpaths and roads.

She said that action will be taken against the alleged officials if they are found guilty.

"If an entire road is encroached upon, our councillors are also responsible for it. They think they are getting monthly donations. This cannot be allowed. Why aren't they satisfied with what they have? The greed of the police and political lead-

ers has increased. They allow hawkers and then remove them with bulldozers. I follow the policy to stop it at the beginning. In any area where this happens, the councillor will be arrested," she said.

"Why should we blame the hawkers? It's our fault. Why are we not erecting a building in the New Market area? The hawkers will be shifted there," Banerjee stated.

Clarifying that the aim is not to "bulldoze shops," Mamata Banerjee said that the TMC government will identify "hawking zones" across the state, and construct buildings to accommodate the hawkers.

"Stalls should be made following fire norms. Each stall will have an identity number. Each hawker will get one stall," Mamata added.

CBI makes first arrests in NEET-UG paper leak case, one earlier confessed on TV



NEW DELHI, Jun 27 (Agencies): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday made its first arrests in the NEET-UG paper leak case in Bihar, arresting two individuals from Patna, identified as Manish Prakash and Ashutosh.

Manish Prakash, with the help of Ashutosh, had allegedly accommodated candidates at a boys' hostel, associated with the Learn Play School in Bihar's Patna

on May 4, a day before the NEET exam where they were given leaked papers and answer keys, sources said.

The school was allegedly booked for a night where the leaked question paper was later found, partially burnt.

The two accused were arrested after being quizzed by CBI officials.

The CBI registered FIR in connection with allegations of irregularities in NEET-UG 2024 on Sunday, a day after the

ministry handed over the probe to the central agency. The demand for a CBI probe was raised by a section of protesting students.

The CBI is investigating six cases related to the NEET paper leak. Of the six cases, one each is from Bihar, Gujarat, and Maharashtra, while three are from Rajasthan.

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

This year's examination was conducted on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad. Over 23 lakh candidates appeared for the test.

North Korea says it tested a new multi-warhead missile; South Korea says it's covering up a failure

South Korea quickly dismisses the claim as deception to cover up a failed launch

SEOUL, Jun 27 (Agencies): North Korea said on Thursday it had successfully tested a multi-warhead missile in the first known launch of a developmental weapon coveted by leader Kim Jong Un to overwhelm US and South Korean missile defences.

South Korea quickly dismissed the claim as deception to cover up a failed launch.

North Korea's state media said the launch on Wednesday tested the separation and guidance control of individual mobile warheads to ensure the capability of the Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicles.

It said the separated warheads "were guided correctly to the three coordinate targets" and a decoy that separated from the missile was verified by radar.

If confirmed, it would be North Korea's first public launch event related to the development of a multi-warhead missile, though at a preliminary stage.

South Korea's military said later on Thursday that a joint



analysis by South Korean and US authorities assessed that the North Korean missile launch failed.

Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon told reporters that the separation of warheads in MIRV tests happens in descending stages but the North Korean missile exploded in the initial stage of its flight.

He said North Korean photos of the launch showed a weapon similar to a liquid-fuel Hwasong-17 ICBM that the country

test-fired in March 2023.

The South Korean military's earlier assessment on Wednesday was that a suspected solid-fuelled hypersonic missile was launched and exploded off the North's east coast, scattering fragments in the water.

It said it detected more smoke than normal launches, suggesting a possible combustion issue caused by an engine fault.

A multi-warhead missile was among the high-tech weapons systems Kim cited on his wish list during a ruling party meet-

ing in early 2021, along with spy satellites, solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons and submarine-launched nuclear missiles.

North Korea has since performed a series of tests to develop such weapons systems.

"I had been anticipating a MIRV test for some time now, as this was one of the last remaining items on Kim Jong Un's modernisation wish list from the 8th Party Congress back in January 2021," said Ankit Panda, a senior analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Panda said Wednesday's test appeared to be an initial evaluation of some of the key sub-systems to develop a workable MIRV.

He expects successive tests of the technology to follow, leading up to a launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile on a lofted trajectory. Panda said it appeared that "South Korea misinterpreted the nature of this test initially".

2 dead, 1 missing and dozens injured in Russia after a passenger train derailment



MOSCOW, Jun 27 (Agencies): A passenger train derailment in northern Russia killed at least two people, and left one other person missing, a state-run railway company said Thursday.

The 14-carriage train derailed in Russia's northern republic of Komi on Wednesday night, Russian Railways said in a statement, with nine carriages coming off the tracks. Up to 50 people

were injured, Russia's news agency Interfax reported, citing emergency officials.

The train, carrying 232 passengers, was headed to the southern city of Novorossiysk from Vorkuta, a coal mining town in the north of Komi, Russian Railways said. It said that heavy rainfall, which washed out parts of the track, was the likely cause of the derailment.

Russian Railways has

promised to pay 2 million rubles (just under \$22,900) to the families of each of those killed in the derailment on top of the 2.025 million-ruble (about \$23,100) insurance payout they will get. The injured who were hospitalized will get 1 million rubles (about \$11,400) each, and those who sought outpatient medical assistance will receive 500,000 rubles (about \$5,700), the company said.

China calls on scientists of all nations to study lunar samples, but notes obstacle with the US

BANGKOK, Jun 27 (Agencies): China's space officials said Thursday they welcomed scientists from around the world to apply to study the lunar rock samples that the Chang'e 6 probe brought back to Earth in a historic mission, but noted there were limits to that cooperation, specifically with the United States.

Officials said at a televised news conference in Beijing meant to introduce the mission's achievements that any cooperation with the U.S. would be hinged on removing an American law that bans direct bilateral cooperation with NASA.

"The source of the obstacle in US-China aerospace cooperation is still in the Wolf Amendment," said Bian Zhigang, vice chair of the China National Space Administration. "If the U.S. truly wants to hope to begin regular aerospace cooperation, I think they should take the appropriate measures to remove the obstacle."

The Wolf Amendment was enacted in 2011 and prevents direct U.S.-Chinese bilateral cooperation except in cases where the FBI can certify that there is no national security risk to sharing information with the Chinese side in the course of work.

Still, China could cooperate with scientists of other countries. It worked with the European Space Agency, France, Italy and Pakistan in the Chang'e 6 mission.

"China welcomes scientists from all countries to apply according to the processes and share in the benefits," said Liu Yunfeng, director of the international cooperation office of the China National Space Administration.

Meanwhile, little information about the global first achieved Tuesday was announced. Chinese officials declined to reveal how many samples they actu-

ally gathered or any preliminary findings.

"I'm afraid this matter will not be revealed until tomorrow, so I hope everyone can wait patiently for another day," Chang'e 6 chief designer Hu Hao said at the news conference.

On Monday, Chinese scientists said that they anticipate the returned samples will include 2.5 million-year-old volcanic rock and other material that scientists hope will answer questions about geographic differences on the moon's two sides. The mission had aimed to gather two kilograms (more than four pounds) of material.

The near side of the moon is what is seen from Earth, and the far side faces outer space. The far side is also known to have mountains and impact craters and is much more difficult to reach.

The probe's journey to the far side of the moon was historic in that it was the first time a probe had successfully taken off and brought back samples from the far side directly. Previous samples thought to be from the far side of the moon are from meteorites found on Earth.

The probe had landed in the moon's South Pole-Aitken Basin, an impact crater created more than 4 billion years ago. The samples scientists are expecting will likely come from different layers of the basin, which will bear traces of the different geological events across its long chronology, such as when the moon was younger and had an active inside that could produce volcanic rock.

Officials did announce some future plans, with a planned Chang'e 7 probe to explore resources on the moon's South Pole. Further down the line, they have planned Tianwen-3 for around 2030 to carry out a Mars sample return mission and a Tianwen-4 Jupiter exploration mission.

Climate Change And Thinning Ice Exposes Bodies Of Mountaineers On Everest

KATHMANDU, Jun 27 (Agencies): On Everest's sacred slopes, climate change is thinning snow and ice, increasingly exposing the bodies of hundreds of mountaineers who died chasing their dream to summit the world's highest mountain.

Among those scaling the soaring Himalayan mountain this year was a team not aiming for the 8,849-metre (29,032-foot) peak, but risking their own lives to bring some of the corpses down.

Five as yet unnamed frozen bodies were retrieved -- including one that was just skeletal remains -- as part of Nepal's mountain clean-up campaign on Everest and adjoining peaks Lhotse and Nuptse.

It is a grim, tough and dangerous task.

Rescuers took hours to chip away the ice with axes, with the team sometimes using boiling water to release its frozen grip.

"Because of the effects of global warming, (the bodies and trash) are becoming more visible as the snow cover thins," said Aditya Karki, a major in Nepal's army, who led the team of 12 military personnel and 18 climbers.

More than 300 people have perished on the mountain since expeditions started in the 1920s, eight this season alone.

Many bodies remain. Some are hidden by snow or swallowed down deep crevasses.

Others, still in their colourful climbing gear, have become landmarks en route to the summit.

Nicknames include "Green Boots" and "Sleeping Beauty". "Death zone"



"There is a psychological effect," Karki told agency.

"People believe that they are entering a divine space when they climb mountains, but if they see dead bodies on the way up, it can have a negative effect."

Many are inside the "death zone", where thin air and low oxygen levels raise the risk of altitude sickness.

Climbers must have insurance, but any rescue or recovery mission is fraught with danger.

One body, encased in ice up to its torso, took the climbers 11 hours to free.

The team had to use hot water to loosen it, prising it out with their axes.

"It is extremely difficult," said Tshiring Jangbu Sherpa, who led the body retrieval expedition. "Getting the body out is one part, bringing it down is another challenge."

Sherpa said some of the bodies still appeared almost as they had at the moment of death -- dressed in full gear, along with their crampons and harnesses.

One seemed untouched, only missing a glove.

The retrieval of corpses at high

altitudes is a controversial topic for the climbing community.

It costs thousands of dollars, and up to eight rescuers are needed for each body.

A body can weigh over 100 kilograms (220 pounds), and at high altitudes, a person's ability to carry heavy loads is severely affected.

"Turn into a graveyard" But Karki said the rescue effort was necessary.

"We have to bring them back as much as possible," he said. "If we keep leaving them behind, our mountains will turn into a graveyard."

Bodies are often wrapped in a bag then put on a plastic sled to drag down.

Sherpa said that bringing one body down from close to Lhotse's 8,516 metre peak -- the world's fourth-highest mountain -- had been among the hardest challenges so far.

"The body was frozen with hands and legs spread," he said.

"We had to carry it down to Camp Three as it was, and only then could it be moved to be put in a sled to be dragged."

Rakesh Gurung, from Nepal's tourism department, said two bodies had been preliminarily identified and authorities were awaiting "detailed tests" for the final confirmation.

The retrieved bodies are now in the capital Kathmandu, with those not identified likely to be eventually cremated.

Missing mountaineers Despite the recovery efforts, the mountain still holds its secrets.

The body of George Mallory, the British climber who went missing during a 1924 attempt on the summit, was only found in 1999.

His climbing partner, Andrew Irvine, has never been found -- nor has their camera, which could provide evidence of a successful summit that would rewrite mountaineering history.

The clean-up campaign, with a budget of over \$600,000, also employed 171 Nepali guides and porters to bring back 11 tonnes of rubbish.

Fluorescent tents, discarded climbing equipment, empty gas canisters and even human excreta litter the well-trodden route to the summit.

"The mountains have given us mountaineers so many opportunities," Sherpa said.

"I feel that we have to give back to them, we have to remove the trash and bodies to clean the mountains."

Today, expeditions are under pressure to remove the waste that they create, but historic rubbish remains.

"This year's trash might be brought back by the mountaineers," said Karki. "But who will bring the old ones?"

Free From Prison, Julian Assange Plans To "Rediscover Life", Enjoy Freedom

CANBERRA, Jun 27 (Agencies): WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is "rediscovering" life as he tastes freedom in Australia after a five-year stretch in a London high-security prison, his wife said Thursday.

The 52-year-old landed in Canberra the night before, hours after pleading guilty in a US Pacific island court to a single count of revealing military secrets.

Under a plea deal, he was sentenced to time already served and allowed to walk free, ending a 14-year legal struggle with the US Department of Justice.

But the jail time has taken a toll.

Assange did not attend a news conference after he touched down, with his wife near tears as she pleaded for family privacy and time for him to recuperate.

"He's just savouring freedom for the first time in 14 years. He needs time to rest and recover. And he is just rediscovering normal life. And he needs space to do that," Stella Assange told reporters Thursday.

"Julian plans to swim in the ocean every day. He plans to sleep in a real bed. He plans to taste real food. And he plans to enjoy his freedom."

'Jumping on the sofa' The WikiLeaks publisher had yet to see his

two children, who were staying elsewhere and asleep when his plane landed, she said.

Stella Assange said she sent her husband a video on the day of his US court hearing showing their children "jumping on the sofa" at the prospect of their father's return.

Assange spent more than five years in London's Belmarsh prison fighting extradition to the United States on charges under the 1917 Espionage Act.

He had already lived for seven years in Ecuador's London embassy to escape extradition to Sweden over sexual assault charges,



which were eventually dropped.

The couple have not had time to discuss how their lives will play out since his release, said Stella, who met Assange while he was still in the Ecuadorian embassy and married him in the London

prison.

Assange's legal team argues that the US Justice Department's legal pursuit of their client will have a chilling effect on journalism.

They have called for US President Joe Biden to grant him a pardon following his plea deal

in Saipan, capital of the US territory of Northern Mariana Islands.

"The president of the United States has absolute pardon power. President Biden or any subsequent president can, and in my mind should, issue a pardon to Julian Assange," said his US trial lawyer Barry Pollack.

People put in 'danger'

Stella Assange said her husband had pleaded "guilty to committing journalism -- this case criminalises journalism".

Assange had published hundreds of thousands of confidential US documents on the WikiLeaks whistleblowing website from 2010.

He became a hero to free speech campaigners but a villain to those who thought he had endangered US security and intelligence sources.

The Australian citizen was indicted by a US federal grand jury in 2019 on 18 counts stemming from WikiLeaks' publication of a trove of national security documents.

The material he released through WikiLeaks included video showing civilians being killed by fire from a US helicopter gunship in Iraq in 2007. The victims included a photographer and a driver from agency.

On Wednesday, the US State Department renewed its allegation that he put people at risk. "The documents they published gave identifying information of individuals who were in contact with the State Department," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters in Washington.

"That included opposition leaders, human rights activists around the world -- whose positions were put in some danger."

The US Justice Department has banned Assange from returning to the United States without permission.

South Africa defeat Afghanistan by 9 wickets, enter maiden T20 World Cup final

They will face the winners of the second semifinal between India and England in the title clash, but the Afghans will go home with their heads held high after a stirring run in the tournament

TAROUBA (TRINIDAD), Jun 27 (Agencies): South Africa exorcised their agonising semi-final jinx through an exceptional spell of pace bowling as they walloped an emotionally drained Afghanistan by nine wickets to enter their first-ever T20 World Cup final here.

They will face the winners of the second semifinal between India and England in the title clash, but the Afghans will go home with their heads held high after a stirring run in the tournament.

Marco Jansen (3/16), Kagiso Rabada (2/14) and Anrich Nortje (2/7) ripped the soul out of the Afghanistan top-order while bundling them out for a paltry 56 in just 11.5 overs after being invited to bowl.

Despite the early departure of Quinton de Kock, bowled through the gate by impressive pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi, the Proteas had little trouble in reaching 60 for one in 8.5 overs.

Reeza Hendricks (29 not out), who put up his highest score in this event, and skipper Aiden Markram (23 not out) navigated them safely to the shores of victory as they have finally freed themselves from the painful tag of chokers in global events.

Afghanistan have given their everything to reach the World



Cup semifinal, and in the crucial clash they were left with no energy, and produced a nothing effort that belied their toughness until now.

It affected their batting as they looked unusually edgy against the South African pacers, who summoned a spell from hell.

They reduced the Afghans to 28 for five inside the Powerplay and there was no coming back from that depth as they crashed to their lowest total in a T20 International.

Their 56 was also the lowest total in a T20 World Cup semi-final clash.

Once reduced to 28 for six, Afghanistan could not even offer a smidgeon of fight as their dream of reaching a maiden

World Cup final was squashed even before it began.

While the South Africa pacers were on the money, the Afghan batters, too, should cope some blame for being edgy on a pitch that hid no evils apart from those deliveries that kicked up from a length.

Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz was the first to perish, chasing Jansen's delivery outside the off-stump to give Reeza Hendricks an easy catch at slip.

The dismissal of in-form Gurbaz seemed to inject doses of panic in the Afghanistan lineup, and Gulbadin Naib was consumed by a lovely in-coming delivery by Jansen.

But the next two dismissals were a combination of bowler's

brilliance and batters' irrationality.

Ibrahim Zadran, on whom a lot was riding for the Afghans, did not move his feet at all against a Rabada delivery that came back a bit. There was enough room for the ball to sneak past the bat and pad to rattle Zadran's leg-stump.

Three balls later in the fourth over, Mohammad Nabi's dismissal was along similar lines and the only difference was that Rabada disturbed the off-stump this time.

Nortje joined the party with the scalp of Azmatullah Omarzai, whose slash found Tristan Stubbs in the deep.

Gurbaz, Zadran and Omarzai have been the leading run-makers for Afghanistan in this ICC showpiece, but on the crucial day all they could manage was a paltry 12 runs between them.

Skipper Rashid Khan, who could have made some valuable runs, chose to expose all his stumps to Nortje to see the one close to his legs getting cartwheeled across the field.

Leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3/6) applied the coupe de grace on Afghanistan batting line with two wickets in one over, jettisoning Karim Jannat and Noor Ahmad.

Kapil Dev set for new innings, dons PGTI president's cap



NEW DELHI, Jun 27 (Agencies): Some say Kapil Dev is the greatest of all time (GOAT) of Indian cricket. He even pipped Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar for the Indian Cricketer of the Century award by Wisden in 2002.

While his greatness among Indian fans was never in question, the 1983 World Cup winning cricket captain Kapil Dev has added another chapter to his glorious career. The former all-rounder, who has a decent handicap in golf and regularly takes part in amateur events, has now been unanimously elected as the new president of the

Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).

This appointment has not come out of the blue for the 1983 World Cup winning captain as he has already been a vice-president and board member of the body for the past three years and has a better understanding of how the body works.

Kapil Dev had been sounded out to take over as the new chief a few months ago and the appointment was made formal after he was voted unanimously at a board meeting.

"It is an honour to become the president of the PGTI, an organisation with which I have

now been associated for quite a few years. It is a players' body, and I am great friends with all of them and with whom I often play. And now it is the sport where I spend most of my time," Kapil Dev said in a statement.

"I have been a vice-president and I am on the board, so it is an honour to be chosen by players to be the president. I promise to do my best, as I always have. What gives me even greater pleasure is that I will be able to spend more time with the sport," he said.

It is learnt that the new chief already has plans to bring a few prestigious tour events to India, work for which has already started.

PGTI CEO Uttam Singh Mundy said Kapil Dev's appointment would help the body scale greater heights.

"We are honoured to have Indian sports icon Kapil Dev take over as the PGTI president. We are confident that the PGTI will scale greater heights under Kapil Dev's astute leadership as his name has been synonymous with excellence in sports. We wish Kapil Dev all the success," he said.

T20 World Cup: India look to beat knockout stage nerves, eye revenge against defending champions England in semis

GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), Jun 27 (Agencies): With a refreshingly aggressive batting approach, India would look to avoid the knockout stage jitters plaguing them for over a decade when they take on defending champions England in the semifinals of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

The last time these two teams met at this stage, it turned out to be a no contest as England outplayed an outdated India in the 2022 edition's semifinal.

However, India have finally been able to shed their conservative approach at the top of the order since that 10-wicket hammering in Adelaide and have become the team to beat in this competition.

On paper, Rohit Sharma and his men look the stronger bunch for the conditions expected at the Providence Stadium and look primed for revenge.

The spinners have enjoyed bowling here since the opening game and the likes of India's Kuldeep Yadav and England's Adil Rashid would be itching to flaunt their skills in the knockout fixture.

Spinners are not the only ones who will come into play, the pacers too have got success at the venue with Afghanistan speedster Fazalhaq Farooqi producing a match-winning spell against New Zealand at the start of the competition.

Interestingly, no match has been staged here since June 8 when the West Indies breezed past Uganda in a day game, giving the curators extra time to prepare a suitable pitch for the high-profile game.

India were clinical in the Super 8 stage but the extreme pressure of



a semi-final tends to produce unforced errors.

At the top of the order, India will be hoping for runs from the bat of Virat Kohli, who has had an underwhelming tournament by his high standards.

On the contrary, his opening partner and skipper Rohit has set the benchmark for other batters when it comes to fearless cricket.

His blazing 41-ball 92 against Australia is the sort of knock that won't be easily forgotten for some time to come.

For both Rohit and Kohli, it is probably their last shot at winning the T20 world title in India colours and the two would be desperate to leave a mark.

Rohit has already made it clear that he intends to go ballistic in the powerplays without a care for personal milestones, which was evident in the game against Australia.

Shivam Dube has not batted as per expectations in the middle-order and it will be interesting to see how he fares against wily leg-spinner Rashid.

India are likely to go unchanged into the game, even though they have Yuzvendra Chahal in the squad who can come in handy against England's right-handers including Phil Salt, Jos Buttler, Harry Brook and

handers. Liam Livingstone, who bowls both leg and off spin, too can bowl his full quota of overs like he did against USA the other night.

Rashid's four overs can also prove decisive in the all-important fixture.

In his first high-profile event since returning from injury, pacer Jofra Archer has done well in the seven games so far and would be backing himself to trouble Rohit and Kohli with the new ball.

Having taken a hat-trick in the last game, the confidence of Chris Jordan too will be sky high.

"Obviously, when we left England a few weeks ago, we left to come and obviously try and defend the title. There's been a few bumps in the road along the way, but I think you kind of described them as good bumps because they've really narrowed down our focus and really made our direction really clear," said Jordan after the win over USA.

There is also a likelihood of rain impacting the game with chances of showers in the lead up to the semi-final and also on match day.

Squads:

India: Rohit Sharma ©, Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj.

England: Jos Buttler ©, Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, Mark Wood.

Hockey coach Craig Fulton goes for all-rounders in Paris squad



CHANDIGARH, Jun 27 (Agencies): Craig Fulton's team selection for the Paris Olympics has sprung no real surprises. Even with all his experimentation over the last few months, Fulton's vision for the team — and the players he wanted to fulfil that goal — was pretty evident.

There was a bit of mystery surrounding some of Fulton's decisions earlier this year — like when he used Manpreet Singh, who has played in the central midfield his whole career.

However, in the team's recent Pro League games in Europe, Fulton cut down on drastic experimentation and a sense of normalcy returned to India's tactical approach, shedding light on the South African's vision.

"Our focus has been on building a cohesive team that can adapt to different playing styles and situations, and I believe we have achieved that," Fulton said.

India midfielder Jarmanpreet Singh said last month that Fulton "makes us play different structures and styles". "We change according to the situation during a match but it is also about using different strategies against different teams," Jarmanpreet said.

Intent on bringing fluidity into India's playing style, Fulton has shown a preference for all-rounders who can fulfil multiple roles while playing across different lines.

In the latest Pro League matches, it was common for players to rotate between positions as the rolling substitutions came into play.

Central midfielders such as Manpreet and Hardik Singh were seen man-marking or in the sweeper's role in deep defence.

When India had possession, Manpreet and Hardik altered between playmakers from the back, linkmen in the midfield and driving forwards further up the field.

Then there are Gurbaz and Shamsheer, who apart from being used as defensive midfielders, playmaking forwards and goal poachers were assigned man-marking duties in key defensive areas. That is probably why Rajkumar Pal has got the nod over a more one-dimensional Nilakanta Sharma in the midfield.

In Fulton's defence-first approach, strikers have also had to retreat to man the flanks around the semi-circle. But he also prefers defenders with the skill-set to attack. Sanjay is

a case in point. Despite his inexperience — having played just 35 international games — the young defender has been included in the team, while drag-flicking option Jugraj Singh has missed out.

Sanjay was impressive on the overlap along the right flank, a role that Jarmanpreet has played to perfection over the last couple of years. Fulton's position rotation gives the team more than one option in a particular role. The intention is to ensure that there is no performance drop when a particular player is substituted.

This is not a new concept — all-rounders are the driving force in the fast-paced modern game. India, though, have struggled to adapt with the times. Despite a few experiments over the years, India have found little success in developing all-rounders, mainly due to the limited tactical and technical capabilities of the players.

The current team is still a work in progress. Trying to play a more complex game means that the team is taking longer to adapt. There is still confusion about the changing roles, leading to mix-ups and lapses. Fulton would be confident about fine-tuning his team's game

in the final training camp before the Olympics.

More importantly, though, Fulton, who is known for his positivity, will need to work on the team's mentality going into the biggest event in sports. More than the tactical issues, the varying levels in intensity during India's Pro League games should be a greater worry for the coach. Being a predominantly counterattacking team, it is crucial for India to stay switched on while defending, be proactive with their press and win the 50-50 balls.

It was the lack of discipline and mental strength that led to India's sharp decline from winning the Olympics medal to finishing ninth at the World Cup in less than two years' time. Having worked with the team for over a year, Fulton would be hoping to see India's never-say-die spirit, which got the team the Tokyo bronze, in Paris.

Olympics Squad
PR Sreejesh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Sumit, Sanjay, Rajkumar Pal, Shamsheer Singh, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh.

Reserve athletes: Nilakanta Sharma, Jugraj Singh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak.

Fourth Games
Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and midfielder Manpreet Singh are set for their fourth Olympics appearance while skipper Harmanpreet Singh is bracing up for his third Games. Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Rajkumar Pal, Abhishek and Sukhjeet Singh will make their Games debut.

GDCW Kathua launches campaign against "Use of Drugs and Tobacco"

Top News Report

KATHUA, June 27: The Drug De-Addiction/ Psychological Counselling Cell of Govt. Degree College for Women, Kathua on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which comes every year on 26th June launched signature Campaign against "Use of Drugs and Tobacco" aimed at making India a tobacco and drug-free nation among children. The event was organised under the able guidance of Dr. Savi Behl esteemed Principal of the college. She said this day was established by the United Nations in 1987, this day serves as a global reminder of the urgent need to combat



the pervasive issues of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, is very important with respect to global perspective. She emphasized on organizing such events on regular basis. During the opening remarks, Dr Renu Gupta, Convener of Drug De-addiction/ Psychological cell said that this day plays a key role in raising awareness among people about The theme of World Drug Day 2024

which is "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention" The theme of 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. The day also emphasizes a thorough comprehension of the social, economic, and

health consequences of drug use.

Dr. Ajay Sanotra, member of the Drug De-Addiction /Psychological Counselling Cell highlighted the significance of World Drug Day 2024 which lies in its ability to raise awareness about the severe consequences of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. These issues not only destroy lives but also disrupt communities, fuel crime, and weaken economies. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), around 269 million people worldwide used drugs in 2018, and the numbers have continued to rise. The anti-drug day highlights the global commitment needed to address these challenges through education, sup-

port, and rehabilitation.

Moreover, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking underscores the necessity of international cooperation. Drug trafficking is a transnational issue that requires a coordinated response from governments, organizations, and individuals. The whole event was supervised by Dr Renu Gupta, Convener of Drug De-addiction/ Psychological cell. Dr. Rachna Devi, Dr. Surekha Rani, Dr Syed Nasir Ali Shah were present during the event and played a vital role in making a event successful. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Surekha Rani, member of the Drug De-addiction/ Psychological cell.

Ten-Day Workshop on Kathak Techniques in Bollywood Choreography concludes at IMFA



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: The ten-day workshop on Kathak techniques used in Bollywood choreography, organized by the Kathak Department, Institute of Music & Fine Arts (IMFA), University of Jammu, concluded with a grand valedictory function. The event featured four distinguished guests, Deepak Kumar, Director of Rangyug; Retd. session Judge, Suresh Sharma; Music Director and Composer Pankaj Pardhan and RJ Juhi Mohan from 92.7 Big FM. The valedictory function showcased a special video highlighting the journey and achievements of all participants who enrolled in the workshop, an experiment unique in its approach.

Dr. Priya Dutta, Head of the Music Department, was highly praised for her efforts, as students gained a deep understanding of Kathak in a short period. Dr. Priya Dutta delivered the welcome address, while Rajkumar Sharma handled the compering and vote of thanks.

The workshop, which began ten days ago, was inaugurated by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu. Speaking at the inauguration, Prof. Rai commended the Kathak Department for organizing a workshop on such a significant theme. He emphasized the importance of Music & Fine Arts in the New Education Policy (NEP) and highlighted the vital role of Kathak techniques in

Bollywood, particularly in classical films.

Director Rangyug Deepak Kumar congratulated Dr. Priya Dutta for taking such an initiative to train the young generation about our traditional dance form through new ideas. Suresh Sharma appreciated the efforts and congratulated both the candidates and their parents for connecting with Kathak. Pankaj Pardhan, speaking on the occasion, emphasized the need for such workshops to be organized regularly for the promotion of Kathak dance. RJ Juhi Mohan congratulated the whole team for their initiative.

The show concluded with a vote of thanks. Members present on the occasion were Shivani Kapoor and Vijay Kumar.

Bhan urges PM Modi to plan 'Gharwapsi' of KPs living in exile for 35 years

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: In the Executive meeting of KPSG, on Thursday Ashok Bhan, chairman Kashmir (Policy & Strategy) Group and a distinguished fellow United Services Institute (USI), has urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to talk about the reversal of KP exile and prioritise their 'Gharwapsi' at least in his third term and truthfully live upto his commitments besides accomplish the Constitutional and moral duty in this behalf.



out physical presence of Kashmiri Pandits is incomplete is the Valley's overwhelming sentiment," Bhan said.

"Don't fail Kashmir and KPs in your coalition term Prime Minister". There is already a public perception "Modi 1:0 and Modi 2:0 failed on this humanitarian issue" Bhan urged. In the historical and social context of the Kashmir Valley, the scars of past conflicts weigh heavily upon its people. The fallout from the 1947 turmoil and the prolonged insurgency has resulted in the displacement of indigenous religious minorities and the senseless loss of innocent lives at the hands of non-state actors and militant groups, Bhan

said adding that the people are victims of the 1947 conflict and the lingering aftermath of the armed insurgency that led to the displacement of the entire indigenous religious minority and the killing of innocent civilians by non-state actors, brutalised anti-people groups and other actors. Recognizing the urgency of addressing this plight, the Kashmir Policy and Strategy Group has tirelessly advocated for dialogue and societal healing, emphasizing the imperative of fostering peace, justice, and inclusivity in the region.

Bhan hoped that now that Statehood is being restored to Jammu & Kashmir and elections to the State assembly are round the corner in November 2024, it is expected that the festering issue of Gharwapsi of the native population of about seven lakh people living in exiled across the Country and abroad Modi in collation 3:0 shall announce the government's decision of a planned & structured gharwapsi module for exiled KPs.

GDC Thathri organises seminar cum awareness programme on Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Top News Report

THATHRI, June 27: Literary Committee GDC Thathri organised a seminar cum awareness programme on the theme Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The whole event was organised under the guidance and patronage of College Principal Dr Javid Iqbal. The principal in his address highlighted the utmost importance to spread awareness among the people especially youth against the different forms of drugs and illegal trafficking. Dr Javid Iqbal also encouraged the students to enlighten the illiterate and ignorant masses by informing them about various rehabilitation centers to cope up with these intoxicants. Prof Sudesh Kumar, HoD Pol Science from GDC Doda was also invited for a guest lecture. Prof Kumar elaborated the consequences of this



menace of drug intoxication and cited certain examples from day to day life affected due to drugs.

People from Civil Society Thathri also participated in the event and showed full support to uproot such a disease from the society. Faculty members from different departments viz, EVS, Urdu, Economics and Dogri were present in the event. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Prof Deepak Raj, HoD English who also appreciated the efforts of everyone in making this event a success.

2 days program on 'Say no to drugs' ends in Bishnah



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: Team Saada Chowk recently hosted a two-day 'Say No to Drugs' campaign with an aim to eradicate the drug menace from society.

Hosted in Bishnah Town, the event was organized by Anirudh Sharma (Nippu) Chairman of the Team Saada Chowk in collaboration with the Nations Development Association (NDA) affiliated NYKS under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

They shared insights into the consequences of drug addiction and the legal implications of drug trafficking.

Anirudh Sharma (Nippu) expressed gratitude for the active participation of Bishnah Town role in eradicating the drug menace.

Manik Sharma President Team Saada Chowk briefed about their roles and responsibilities to prevent the youth from drug addiction.

Sushil Singh Charak Founder cum Chief Functionary NDA shared various reasons for people resorting to drugs viz peer pressure, relief from stress, increase energy, recreational purpose and status in the society etc.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Manik Sharma Tanish sharma, Tarun Sharma, Rajat, Varun Jandail, Arjun Sharma, Rajesh Sharma, Dhruv Sharma, Rohit, Rishan, Vansh, Rameshwar, Rahil and many others.

Border people of Bishnah suffering for want of water & electricity: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 27: The Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), leader, Ram Pal Khajuria, in a press statement issued here, has expressed great resentment for acute, shortage of water in main Ranbir canal from Pendi Chakra in Pandori D-15, Arnia to Chack Shibu D-9 from Namdpur to Bishnah Karnail Tar, during paddy planting, which is not possible without water.

The erratic & irregular power cuts have further compounded the miseries of farmers during cropping paddy by interrupting working of water pumps.

Ram Paul Khajuria has informed that un-scheduled long power cuts in Bishnah area, leading to non-running of water pumps of the farmers have aggravated hardships of farmers coupled with dry Ranbir Canal

channels.

Khajuria has urged upon the Divisional Commissioner Jammu and other concerned authorities to look into the matter compassionately and personally to mitigate the sufferings of farmers failing which they will be constrained to come on roads and the responsibility of which will solely lie on the shoulders of administration, the release said.

He further expressed wonder as to how Delhi Government led by Kejriwal, having no source to generate a single unit of electricity, is providing free uninterrupted power to the public up to 200 units. But the present dispensation here in J&K, instead of meeting the requirement of local population is providing around 80% of power to the Northern grid for distribution among northern states out of around

2250 Mega watts of electricity through Salal, Baghliar & Dul-Hasti Mega power projects of Jammu region showing utter bankruptcy of sensitivity, sincerity and judicial wisdom the release said.

The release have cautioned the public of J&K to read between the lines and be prepared to throw away the anti farmer, anti-poor and anti-labour government at the helm of affairs.

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