

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-177 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

J&K Govt reshuffles sheep husbandry department officers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 28: The Agriculture Production Department of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered reassignment of key personnel within the Sheep Husbandry Department.

As per an order, Dr Javed Iqbal is now the Sheep and Wool Development Officer in Kalakote, replacing Dr Deepanjali Verma. Dr Basharat Ahmad has been transferred from Marwah to Banihal, while Dr Zahoor Ahmad Khanday moves from Banihal to Shopian. Dr Qausar Ahmad is assigned to SBF, Daksum Kewa, and Dr Firdous Ahmad Bhat to Khimber, Dachigam. Dr Asif Ali Ganai is now posted in Marwah, taking over from Dr Basharat Ahmad. Dr Umar Majeed, a Lab Officer at SBF, will temporarily manage the duties of SDO Hajin, and Dr Farooq Ahmad will serve as a Geneticist in Kashmir. Additionally, Dr Ishfaq Ahmad, currently at VAS, SBF Balnoi, will now handle the responsibilities of a Sheep and Wool Development Officer in Kalakote.

MeT says possibility of rain, thunder-showers in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jun 28 (Agencies): Weatherman has forecast the possibility rain and thundershower towards late night and early morning in Jammu and Kashmir till June 30.

A meteorological department said that while there is likelihood of light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of Jammu Division towards late night and early morning, light rain is expected at few places of Kashmir Division.

Regarding the forecast from July 1-5, he said, there is likelihood of gradual rise in rainfall intensity from July 2 onwards with possibility of intermittent light to moderate rainfall at many places. Heavy showers at a few places for a brief period can't be ruled out during the period, he said.

"Few places may experience moderate thunderstorm/lightning," he said, adding, "There is possibility of landslides and mudslides at few vulnerable places."

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Lok Sabha adjourns for day amid oppn uproar over NEET

NEW DELHI, Jun 28 (Agencies): The proceedings of the Lok Sabha were adjourned for the day on Friday as the opposition demanded a discussion on the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the medical entrance exam NEET.

When the House reassembled at 12 noon, opposition members continued with their demand for a discussion on matters related to the



National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Speaker Om Birla and Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Kiren Rijju told opposition members that they can discuss the matter during the

course of the Motion of Thanks on the President's address.

Birla said there are certain norms of Parliament that have to be followed and committees have to be formed to which Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said students are not aware of it. They are only demanding justice.

As members from the Congress, TMC and DMK parties stormed the Well, Rijju said it is for

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Amarnath Yatra 2024 | LG Manoj Sinha flags off first batch of pilgrims from Jammu



JAMMU, Jun 28 (Agencies): Amid chants of "Bum Bum Bhole" and "Har Har Mahadev", Jammu and Kashmir

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of 4,603 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims from the Yatri Niwas

base camp in Bhagwati Nagar here on Friday.

The pilgrims left for the twin base camps in Kashmir — north Kashmir's Baltal and south Kashmir's Anantnag — from Jammu amid tight security.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha wished the pilgrims a safe journey.

"May the blessings of Baba Amarnath ji bring peace, happiness and prosperity to everyone's

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DG BSF visits border area of Jammu to access the security situation

JAMMU, Jun 28 (Agencies): The Director General Border Security Force (BSF), Nitin Agrawal, on Friday reviewed the operational readiness of the troops deployed along the International Border in the Jammu Frontier.

As per the official spokesman, DG Agar-



wal reviewed the

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Chamliyal Mela celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir

JAMMU, Jun 28 (Agencies): Thousand of devotees on Thursday thronged the Chamliyal border shrine along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district for an annual fair but there was no traditional exchange of 'shakkar and sharbat' with Pakistan yet again.

Devotees to offer a chaadar at Baba Chamliyal.

The shrine of Baba Dalip Singh Manhas, popularly known as Baba Chamliyal and considered a symbol of India-Pakistan bonhomie in the past, in the Ramgarh sector attracts thousands of devotees every year.

Since June 2018, the shrine has not hosted any delegation from Pakistan after four Border Security Force personnel, including an assistant commandant,



were killed in an unprovoked cross-border firing.

Pakistan Rangers personnel used to take 'Shakkar' (clay) and 'Sharbat' (water) — believed to have healing powers against various skin ailments — from the shrine.

"Earlier, we used to go to the Zero Line and exchanges were held between our civil administration and their civil administration and officials from the BSF and the Pakistan Rangers,"

Temple Management Committee president Billu Chaudhary told reporters.

"However, since 2018, due to the shameful activities that the Pakistanis did wherein four of our officers were martyred, the central government decided that we will celebrate this mela in our area and they will celebrate it in theirs," he added.

The annual fair was celebrated with great religious zeal with thousands of devotees from

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Flash floods hit Thathri Town, Disrupt vehicular traffic

BHADARWAH, Jun 28 (A Agencies): Flash floods triggered by a cloudburst wreaked havoc in the Thathri market of Doda district, early this morning, inundating vast areas along the Batote-Kishtwar National Highway. Fortunately, no injuries or loss of life have been reported so far.

The cloudburst occurred at 3 AM, resulting in massive mudslides that impacted the entire market area of Thathri town, several residential houses on Batote-Kishtwar NH 244, and some parked vehicles which got trapped in the debris.

SDM Thathri Masood Ahmed Bichoo stated, "Although the mudslide caused by the sudden cloudburst was significant, the flash floods struck near the Army gate, a less populated area. While heaps of mud and debris covered the entire market area, there was no major loss, and restoration work began at 4 AM."

"As of now, traffic has been partially restored on the highway, and by this afternoon, all debris will be cleared from the market area," he added.

Notably, on July 20, 2017, a similar cloudburst wreaked havoc in Thathri town, washing away a dozen structures near Jamia Masjid and causing several injuries.

J&K Agriculture department suspends officer, orders inquiry

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 28: The Agriculture Production Department of Jammu and Kashmir has suspended Dr Vikas Gupta, In-Charge Assistant Project Officer overseeing the Joint Director

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

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EDITORIAL

WELCOME
TO PILGRIMS

Jammu, nestled in the northernmost state of Jammu and Kashmir, is not just a geographical region but a cultural and spiritual haven for pilgrims from around the world. Known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich heritage, and diverse religious sites, Jammu offers a unique blend of tranquility and spiritual vibrancy that attracts pilgrims seeking solace and divine blessings.

At the heart of Jammu's spiritual allure lies its revered temples and shrines. Among the most prominent is the Vaishno Devi Temple, nestled in the Trikuta Mountains. This sacred abode of Goddess Vaishno Devi draws millions of devotees annually who undertake the arduous trek to seek her blessings. The journey, often beginning at Katra, is more than a physical pilgrimage; it is a profound spiritual odyssey marked by unwavering faith and devotion.

Another significant pilgrimage site is the Raghunath Temple, dedicated to Lord Rama. This temple complex, with its stunning architecture and serene ambiance, stands as a testament to the region's deep-rooted religious heritage. Pilgrims flock here to pay homage and participate in religious ceremonies that celebrate the divine.

Beyond its religious significance, Jammu boasts a rich cultural tapestry woven from centuries of diverse influences. The annual Mela Kheer Bhawani, held at the Kheer Bhawani Temple near Srinagar, exemplifies this cultural richness. Devotees gather to offer prayers to the Goddess Ragnya Devi, highlighting the harmony between different communities and their shared reverence for the divine.

Jammu's cultural vibrancy extends to its festivals, where traditions come alive in colorful celebrations. The Jammu Mahotsav, an annual extravaganza showcasing the region's art, music, and cuisine, invites visitors to immerse themselves in the local culture. From traditional folk dances like Rouf and Bhand Pather to sumptuous dishes such as Rogan Josh and Dum Aloo, every aspect of Jammu's cultural heritage is on display during this vibrant festival.

Jammu's allure is not confined to its spiritual and cultural facets; it is also blessed with breathtaking natural beauty. The picturesque landscapes of Patnitop, with its lush meadows and panoramic views of the Himalayas, offer a perfect retreat for pilgrims seeking moments of serenity amidst nature's grandeur. The shimmering waters of Mansar Lake, considered sacred by Hindus, provide a tranquil setting for reflection and rejuvenation.

For adventure enthusiasts, Jammu offers thrilling opportunities such as trekking in the Pir Panjal Range or exploring the rugged terrain of Baderwah Valley. These experiences not only exhilarate the senses but also deepen the connection between pilgrims and the pristine environment that surrounds them.

Jammu's hospitality is as warm as its climate, welcoming pilgrims with open arms and ensuring their comfort throughout their stay. From budget-friendly accommodations in Katra to luxurious resorts overlooking the Tawi River, there is a range of options to suit every pilgrim's needs and preferences.

Accessibility to Jammu has been greatly enhanced with improved transportation infrastructure. The Jammu Tawi Railway Station connects the region to major cities across India, facilitating seamless travel for pilgrims. The expansion of the Jammu Airport has further boosted connectivity, making it easier for international pilgrims to embark on their spiritual journey to this sacred land.

As Jammu continues to evolve, it remains steadfast in preserving its cultural and religious heritage while embracing modernity. Efforts to conserve ancient temples and historical sites ensure that future generations can continue to experience the spiritual legacy of this timeless region. At the same time, initiatives promoting sustainable tourism aim to protect Jammu's natural environment and promote responsible travel practices among pilgrims and visitors alike.

In essence, Jammu stands as a testament to India's rich tapestry of spirituality, culture, and natural beauty. Whether embarking on a pilgrimage to seek divine blessings or exploring its vibrant cultural mosaic, every visitor to Jammu is greeted with a sense of awe and reverence. As pilgrims traverse its sacred sites and immerse themselves in its cultural traditions, they discover not only the serenity of spiritual enlightenment but also the warmth of its people and the timeless allure.

Women rise in IFS, but gender parity is still distant

By: Dilip Cherian

The presence of women in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) increased by 6.6 per cent to the current 37.8 per cent in the period 2014-2022. Remarkably, between 2018 and 2020, the percentage of female recruits in the IFS surpassed 40 per cent. Observers note that the IFS generally has a higher percentage of women compared to other services like the IAS and IPS.

While this is undeniable progress, a lot more needs to be done to attain gender parity in the diplomatic corps. Historically, women in the IFS faced numerous challenges, such as being excluded from challenging postings and needing government approval to marry, unlike their male counterparts. Pioneers like C.B. Muthamma fought against these discriminatory practices in 1979, leading to improvements by the 1980s.

Despite these advancements, the IFS remains a relatively small service, an anomaly in the context of India's self-image as a rising force. Over the years, foreign affairs mavens have called for tripling the number of recruits to address the gender gap and strengthen India's global presence. Historically, increasing the number of recruits has led to a higher proportion of women joining the service, as seen in 2015, when 17 women were inducted.

Currently, women head only eight Indian diplomatic missions and none in major capitals. This is a notable decline from 2008, when women led over 25 missions, including key locations. Today, only one of the seven top-level positions in the ministry of external affairs (MEA) is held by a woman.

To achieve true gender parity in the IFS, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar will have to address the structural and cultural barriers to ensure equal opportunities for women's advancement and leadership. A more inclusive and representative diplomatic corps will better reflect the values and strengths of a modern India on the world stage.

Rapid-fire appointments, private secretaries named for Union ministers

The NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi isn't wasting any time. With the new Union Ministers settling into their roles, the Centre is quickly appointing private secretaries to assist them. In the first wave of appointments, private secretaries for Union ministers like Nitin Gadkari, Manohar Lal Khattar, Giriraj Singh and Hardeep Singh Puri were announced. The private secretaries are Shinde Deepak Arjun, Rassal Dwivedi, Raman Kumar, and B. Vijay Datta, drawn from the 2010, 2011 and 2012 batches of the IAS. Interestingly, these appointments happened without much

input from the ministers themselves, particularly in Mr Gadkari's case.

Subsequently, in the second round, six officers were named as private secretaries to Union ministers. They include Anirudha Sravan Pulipaka of Karnataka cadre as private secretary to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

What's driving this hurry? The urgency is due to the 100-day action plan for ministries and departments crafted by bureaucrats and Niti Aayog officials at Mr Modi's directive, even before the elections were announced. Plans needing legislative approval or funding will be spotlighted in the upcoming Budget, set to be presented next month. The government is clearly on a mission to hit the ground running, and these swift appointments are just the beginning.

Gujarat babus show the way: Bribe now, pay later

In a generous and touching nod to "ease of doing business", Gujarat officials are now accepting bribes on an EMI basis to reduce the burden on their victims. Yes, you read that right. These considerate babus have probably taken a leaf from the banking systems, allowing citizens to pay bribes in easy instalments.

Gone are the days of scraping together lump sums for bribes. Need to pay a bribe but can't afford it all at once? No problem! Now, you can spread the cost over several

months. For example, earlier this year, someone involved in a state GST bogus billing scam faced a Rs 21 lakh bribery demand. Thankfully, an EMI plan was available — Rs 2 lakh per month for nine months. Similarly, a cyber-crime unit officer reportedly demanded Rs 10 lakh but accepted four instalments instead.

The trend is spreading, sources have informed DKB. In Surat, a deputy sarpanch and a taluka panchayat member demanded Rs 85,000 from a villager to level his farm. But considering the villager's financial state, they kindly offered an EMI option — Rs 35,000 down payment and the rest in three instalments.

In a more dramatic episode, two cops fled with Rs 4 lakh, the first instalment of a Rs 10 lakh bribe they demanded from a resident of Sabarkantha district. They couldn't wait for the rest!

Senior police officials admit that this practice is gaining popularity, with at least 10 such cases reported this year alone. But now the rest of the nation is getting to learn about the hitherto hidden aspects of the fabled Gujarat model. Other states may even be inspired to adopt it! But don't forget to tip your hat to Gujarat where it began and thank your stars that you need not empty your pockets all at once; just be prepared for a monthly deduction instead.

How Parental Support Matters In Cracking Toughest Examinations, JEE, NEET

By: Vijay GarG

Cracking entrance exams like the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) poses a formidable challenge for lakhs of aspirants striving to realise their educational ambitions. These exams serve as gateways to premier engineering and medical colleges across India. Achieving success in these examinations necessitates thorough preparation, expert guidance, and robust familial and peer support. An optimal study environment, supplemented by top-tier tutoring and coaching from experienced educators, is indispensable.

Above all, parental involvement plays a pivotal role in ensuring success. Without their unwavering support, conquering these rigorous exams becomes an uphill task. Parental encouragement significantly impacts a student's overall performance and well-being, shielding them from undue stress and enabling them to pursue their aspirations with confidence.

Preparation for exams like JEE and NEET often induces considerable stress. Students

must grasp intricate concepts, solve complex problems, and consistently excel in mock exams. This pressure can lead to anxiety and burnout, underscoring the critical role parents play beyond financial support.

Emotional Support: A Foundation For Success

Encouragement and motivation:

Parents play a pivotal role in maintaining their children's motivation. Regular words of encouragement, celebrating small achievements, and valuing effort over outcomes can significantly boost morale.

Creating a supportive environment:

A nurturing home environment devoid of undue pressure or unrealistic expectations enables students to concentrate effectively. Open communication channels allow children to discuss their concerns and challenges freely.

Stress management:

Encouraging healthy habits such as regular breaks, physical activity, and sufficient sleep is essential. Introducing stress-relief techniques like mindfulness, meditation, or engaging hobbies helps in maintaining balance and reducing anxiety.

Practical Support: Facilitating Journey

Resource Provision:

In addition to emotional backing, practical assistance such as access to quality study materials and enrollment in reputable coaching institutes is indispensable.

Time Management:

Parents can aid in crafting a balanced schedule including study sessions, leisure activities, and adequate rest periods. Maintaining this equilibrium is crucial for preventing burnout and sustaining consistent performance.

Regular conversation:

Periodic discussions about progress, challenges, and adjustments to study plans are vital. These conversations should foster understanding and support rather than scrutiny.

Building resilience and coping mechanisms

Handling setbacks:

Encouraging children to see failures as opportunities for growth fosters resilience essential for long-term success.

Emphasising effort and improvement:

By highlighting effort and progress rather than fixating solely on results, parents help alleviate the fear of failure,

promoting a positive and productive study environment.

Seeking professional guidance:

Recognising signs of severe stress or depression prompts parents to seek professional counselling. Prioritising mental health ensures students can navigate challenges effectively.

"The journey toward cracking JEE and NEET is as much about mental strength as it is about intellectual capability. Parental support, encompassing emotional encouragement, practical assistance, and resilience-building, forms the bedrock of a student's success. By being a pillar of strength and a source of unwavering support, parents can significantly alleviate the burdens of this demanding journey, helping their children not just succeed in exams but also emerge as well-rounded individuals ready to tackle future challenges."

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

IIT Jammu's Startup SAP Aerospace wins DRDO's Dare to Dream 4.0 Innovation Contest

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 28: IIT Jammu's deep-tech startup, SAP Aerospace, led by Dr. Shanmugas K.P., and graduates, Ayush Divyansh, and Preetam Jamod has emerged victorious in the open category of DRDO's TDF Dare to Dream 4.0 Innovation Contest. This prestigious win marks a significant milestone for SAP Aerospace and their groundbreaking work in the field of combat drone technology.



with innovative solutions, providing them with the crucial resources needed to advance their technologies.

SAP Aerospace's win is a testament to its cutting-edge aero-engine technology, specifically engineered for Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs). Dr. Shanmugas K.P. and his team at SAP Aerospace are at the forefront of developing next-generation aero engines, with the potential to revolutionize the capabilities and functionalities of combat drones. Their innovative engine solutions promise to enhance

the performance, efficiency, and operational capabilities of UCAVs, paving the way for a new era in unmanned aerial combat.

"We are honored and thrilled to have won the DRDO's Dare to Dream 4.0 Innovation Contest," said Dr. Shanmugas K.P., Founder of SAP Aerospace.

He added, "This achievement is a validation of our team's hard work and dedication to developing state-of-the-art aero engines for combat drones. The support and resources from DRDO will be instrumental in bringing our revolutionary engine technology to

fruition."

The victory in the Dare to Dream 4.0 Innovation Contest propels SAP Aerospace into the spotlight as a leading innovator in aero-engine technology. With this win, the company is well-positioned to accelerate the development of their next-generation engine solutions, bringing their vision of advanced combat drones closer to reality.

Recently, the team had the honor to demonstrate the technology to the Prime minister, Narendra Modi, during an event organized by JKEDI at Srinagar.

Several houses, vehicles damaged by flash floods in Thathri

Top News Report

BHADERWAH, June 28: Several houses and vehicles got damaged after a massive Mudslide triggered by flash flood due to Cloudburst entered residential area in Thathri Town of Doda on Friday early morning.

Batote-Doda-Kishtwar National Highway 244 also got also blocked due to Mudslide and slush on the highway. However men and machinery has been deployed to restore the highway.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh, a team of officers com-

prising ADC Doda, SDM Thathri along with Tehsildar Thathri immediately reached to the spot to take stock of the situation.

Locals alleged that it's second incident in last 2 years and despite repeated pleas to Administration, nothing has been done so far.

DC Doda Harvinder Singh said that highway has been restored for single lane and administration is trying to get it fully restored at the earliest.

DC Doda said, "Fortunately there is no loss of life in this incident but the houses of some people

have been partially damaged and whatever loss is caused will be compensated and a team has been sent to the spot.

"PMGSY and R&B Department has also pressed their men and machinery to restore other link roads as well," DC added, saying that reportedly 2 houses are damaged in the incident, however water and mud has entered other houses as well and some vehicles also came under the debris.

"Every possible help will be provided to the people as teams are there to access the loss" DC informed.

P. Sudhakar visits Tirupati Balaji temple, participates in Abhishek ceremony

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 28: Several dignitaries from the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and other officials visited the Tirupati Balaji temple in Jammu to participate in the special abhishek ceremony dedicated to Lord Venkateswara.

Among them were P. Sudhakar, Executive Engineer of TTD, and Deputy Executive Engineer Anandaram. Also present were RC Subramanyam, who serves as the Superintendent of the temple, and Sailaja.

The occasion was marked by a ritualistic abhishek, a ceremonial bathing of the deity, which is performed every Friday in reverence to Lord Venkateswara.

P. Sudhakar conveyed his happiness and pride at the establishment of the Tirupati Balaji temple in Jammu. He emphasized that the presence of the temple allows people in Jammu to experience the rich cultural heritage of South India, describing the experience as spiritually uplifting and heavenly.



Sudhakar took the opportunity to encourage more devotees and visitors to frequent the temple and participate in its rituals.

During the visit, RC Subramanyam, the temple's Superintendent, addressed the need for enhanced accessibility to the temple. He appealed to the transport commissioner to consider initiating a dedicated bus service to facilitate easier travel for devotees.

Additionally, Subra-

manyam proposed the introduction of a Bharat Darshan bus service, aimed at promoting the temple among tourists and showcasing its cultural significance.

The event was attended by other notable dignitaries, including Sai Krishna, who serves as the Temple Inspector, Ramesh Babu, Pandit Amit Shukla (a Veda Pandit), and Ravi Teja, alongside several other pandits and community members.

Their presence underscored the communal importance and spiritual significance of the Tirupati Balaji temple in Jammu, highlighting its role as a center for cultural exchange and spiritual devotion.

The visit concluded with prayers for the well-being and prosperity of the country, reflecting the temple's broader impact on the community and its dedication to fostering spiritual tourism in the region.

Bukhari extends condolences to party colleague

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, June 28: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Friday, extended condolences to his party colleague from Chanapora constituency, Mohammad Ashraf Dar, over the death of his paternal uncle, Ghulam Ahmad Bhat.

Bhat, a resident of Rawalpota Srinagar, passed away today after a brief illness.

In his condolence message, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "My deepest condolences to my colleague Mohammad Ashraf Dar on the passing of his paternal uncle, Ghulam Ahmad Bhat Sahib. May the Almighty Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace."

"In this time of grief, I stand in solidarity with the bereaved. May Allah give them strength to endure this profound loss," he added.

Army conducts medical patrol at Sabji Upper

Top News Report

RAJOURI, June 28: Medical patrol plays a crucial role in remote inaccessible areas of south of Pir Panjal region by providing essential health care services to underserved communities particularly those residing in far-flung areas. Indian Army at Sabji (Upper) conducted patrols in conjunction with area domination patrols especially for Gujjar and

Bakarwal communities.

These patrols aim to provide essential medical assistance and health-care services to remote areas where access is limited.

The initiative underscores the army's commitment to the welfare of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, ensuring that no one is left behind in receiving crucial medical attention while migrating to their summer locations.

Army conducts summer classes, distributes stationery to children at Suinar



Top News Report

POONCH, June 28: Indian Army conducted summer classes and distributed 'Books and Stationery' to the under privileged students, primarily hailing from Gujjar & Bakarwal Community.

The assistance was also extended to chil-

dren of those families who migrate with Deras to higher reaches of Pir Panjal and also to those even it was distributed to the children of villages with bare minimum educational facilities. The aim of the initiative was to spread awareness towards compulsory education for all children in the society, which will lead to overall development of the community.

The project also enabled the Indian Army reach out to the remote area residents and provide them with basic educational amenities to the under privileged children. A total of 22 students & locals benefitted with the said initiative.

NOTICE

I, Arnav Seth S/o Devinder Seth R/o H no. 8A, Sec-7, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu am transferee of Plot No. 455B, Sec-7, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu and I have applied for conversion of lease hold right to freehold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

FROM PAGE 1

Lok Sabha adjourns for day amid oppn uproar over NEET

the first time that the opposition is seen demanding a discussion on an issue before the House takes up the Motion of Thanks on the President's address.

"I assure the opposition we will answer any issue that you raise during the Motion of Thanks discussion," Rijju said.

As members continued with sloganeering, Birla said the people have elected members to this House so that they can raise and discuss issues, and not disrupt the proceedings.

"There is a difference between protest on the road and protest inside the House... You (Opposition) don't want House to run? You don't want to discuss NEET during Motion of Thanks discussion?" Birla said.

As the House continued to see uproar, Birla adjourned the proceedings till Monday. Amid din, TMC member S K Nurul Islam took oath as a Lok Sabha member

When the House met in morning, opposition members were on their feet seeking the acceptance of an adjournment motion to suspend all business and discuss matters related to NEET.

However, the Speaker said he would first take up the obituary references to 13 former members, including ex-Lok Sabha speaker and ex-Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi.

When the obituary references were over, the opposition members were on their feet again.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said the NEET issue is a very important issue for the whole country and they want a dedicated discussion in the House on the matter. Hence, the adjournment motion should be accepted, he said.

However, Birla said he could not allow it as the House was about to take up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on Thursday.

"You can raise all matters in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's

address. You will get enough time. But I can't allow you to raise any other issue during the debate on the Motion of Thanks. It was already decided and mentioned in the bulletin too," he said.

Amarnath Yatra 2024 | LG Manoj Sinha flags off first batch of pilgrims from Jammu

life," he said.

The 52-day pilgrimage will begin from the twin tracks — the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-km Baital route in Ganderbal — on Saturday and conclude on August 19.

The pilgrims left in a cavalcade of 231 vehicles. They were escorted by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel. From the twin basecamps in Kashmir, they will undertake an arduous journey to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the south Kashmir Himalayas, a senior official said.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims undertake the pilgrimage every year to one of the most revered Hindu shrines. Comprehensive arrangements, including three-tier security, area dominations, elaborate route deployment and checkpoints, have been made to ensure a smooth yatra.

"Traffic restrictions will be imposed on various routes from June 28 to August 19, with daily advisories issued to minimise inconvenience," the official said.

According to reports, more than 3.50 lakh people have registered for this year's yatra. As many as 125 community kitchens (langars) have been set up along the two routes to the cave shrine and are supported by over 6,000 volunteers.

DG BSF visits border area of Jammu to access the security situation

operational readiness of the BSF troops deployed at Samba border area. He received detailed briefing from the Sector

Commander and Battalion Commandants. The DG BSF, who arrived here Thursday on a two-day, interacted with the jawans, commending their dedication and professionalism.

The IG BSF Jammu, DK Boora, gave a comprehensive presentation to the DG covering crucial aspects of border security and BSF's strategies for maintaining domination along the Jammu IB, said the spokesman.

Jharkhand HC grants bail to Ex-CM Hemant Soren in money laundering case

offence, referring to cases against ED officers in the SC/ST police station.

The order was passed by the single bench of Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay.

Arguments from both Soren's defence team and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had concluded, following which the court had reserved its order.

Soren had sought an expedited hearing from the high court.

His legal representative senior advocate Meenakshi Arora had earlier argued that Soren had been unfairly targeted in what she described as a politically motivated and fabricated case.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, also representing Soren, had argued strongly for the former chief minister's bail, contending that he was falsely implicated in a criminal case by the ED.

The ED, opposing Soren's bail plea, alleged that he misused his position as the chief minister to unlawfully acquire 8.86 acres in Bargain anchal in the state capital.

The ED counsel, while opposing the bail application of Soren, had earlier said the witnesses, who were examined by the federal agency, had confirmed the ex-CM's involvement in the illegal land deal.

The agency had claimed that during the probe, Soren's media consultant Abhishek Prasad admitted that the former CM instructed him to manipulate official records to change the ownership details of the plot.

The ED also claimed that the original owner of the land, Raj Kumar Pahan, had

tried to lodge a complaint when his land was being usurped, but it was never acted upon.

On the contrary, a boundary wall was constructed around the plot and a caretaker was appointed to stay on the land, the agency said.

The central agency said it conducted an independent survey of the land parcel and questioned caretaker Santosh Munda, who allegedly said that the plot belonged to Hemant Soren.

The ED also quizzed architect Vinod Kumar and claimed that the proposed plan for construction of a banquet hall was recovered from his mobile phone and the location and dimension of the land matched with the Bargain plot, Raju had said.

Soren had been summoned multiple times by the ED before being questioned at his residence and subsequently arrested on January 31.

Chamliyal Mela celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir

within the Union Territory and outside seeking the blessings of Baba Chamliyal, a shrine official said.

The festivities began early morning with devotees arriving at the shrine to pay their respects and receive blessings. The fair, held in Chamliyal village has long been a significant religious and cultural event in the region.

According to Chaudhary, the fair is also held in Pakistan.

Chetan Kumar, a priest at the shrine, said, "Baba ji was bathed and clothed. We did puja, archana, and arti, following which, Prasad bhog was offered. Around 3,000 people who have come from outside stayed here overnight".

In anticipation of the large turnout, the district administration, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Samba Abhishek Sharma, made extensive preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of the mela, officials said.

Arrangements included enhanced medical facilities, traffic regulation, drinking

water provisions, additional bus services, and robust security measures to manage the heavy influx of devotees, they said.

J&K Agriculture department suspends officer, orders inquiry

Farms Kashmir. As per an order, Shafiqat Iqbal, Special Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department, has been appointed as the Inquiry Officer, and Dr Mohd Amin Dar, Deputy Director (Central) Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir, as the Presenting Officer to conduct an inquiry against the officer. It has been further directed that the inquiry officer shall submit his report, with recommendations, within 15 days.

MeT says possibility of rain, thundershowers in J&K

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 19.6°C against 18.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.5°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 15.4°C against 15.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 11.4°C against 9.7°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.5°C for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 17.8°C against 16.9°C and it was 2.6°C below normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 15.8°C, same as on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.5°C for the place, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 14.2°C against 12.5°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 0.6°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 27.7°C and it was above normal by 1.4°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 19.8°C, Batote 19.5°C and Baderwah 17.4°C, he said.

BLSKS concludes 3 days special awareness campaign on drug abuse

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 28: To continue the Special awareness Campaign on drug abuse, and to promote the traditional culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan concluded 3 days campaign in close coordination with Directorate of Social welfare department Jammu & Kashmir Govt., and Sangam Tru Art Production presented its 438th Friday Series Musical Play "Nashe Kola Bacho" on drug abuse at Janipur, Jammu. The Program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Sh.V.K.Magotra, former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. Among the Guest of Honor present were Dr.Anju Kumari Dogra, Govt. Health Department Jammu & Dr.Tara Singh Charak, Former Deputy Director, Health Department J&K Government. Among the Guest of Honors, & Mr. Mukesh Singh Senior Media Person. The 3 days commemorated as well with sole aim of rejuvenating the traditional, Primitive Folk, Art, Culture of J&K Region in particular and Indian nation in general awareness items. The Specially items prepared on the theme "Nasha Nai



Kario Munde Kureio", "Bacho Bacho Tobacco Kola Bacho", "Nai Pee Shraban", "Bari Kharab Chutki", "Dil Layi Gya, Nukkad, Skits, Songs and Dances were presented to aware the masses. The Chief Guest said to raise awareness among people all over the world about how drug abuse can impact an individual's life, and how to get the heal that they need. Drugs and Crime uses the commemorative day to highlight the dangers of drug use and their illegal trade and provides educational material to teachers and public officials all over the world to help spread the message about the extreme cultural and economic harm the trade in drugs is still doing across the globe and lauded the efforts of the organizers in making such awareness programmes color-

ful and effective. During the campaign BLSKS also presented 2 programs in Jammu District Blocks were Kot Bhalwal & Sangrampur Marh which was concluded on today. In addition to the above program the artist of BLSKS also presented awareness songs on Drug abuse. The Programme was recorded and uploaded online on Social Media to aware the masses. Welcome speech was given by Dr.M.L.Dogra, Chairman, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan said the theme of the importance of understanding that effective drug policies need to be grounded on science, research, compassion, and full respect for human rights. Drugs are substances that change a person's mental or physical state. They can affect

the way your brain works, how you feel and behave, your understanding and your senses. This makes them unpredictable and dangerous, especially for young people. The effects of drugs are different for each person and drug. Tobacco use in so interwoven in our society that untiring efforts are required to successfully controlled this epidemic. Mr. Dogra also said the NGO's and Media can pledge to no longer depict tobacco or cigarette use. I have no Doubt in many mind that together we can win this battle and make a historical difference for this we need to play our role with highest sense and call of duty.let us today resolve to do this attain the goal of drug free and health world. He also appealed to the audience especially children to be the eyes and ears of the

nation and pledged to put maximum efforts to make J&K State free from Menace of Drug addiction. Dr. Anju Dogra, said in her address stressed for extracting the maximum attention of the masses especially addicted population who suffered from the use of tobacco & tobacco products, alcohol and Liquor and other such habit forming agents i.e. Cocaine, Morphine, Heroin, etc, he also said drug abuse can make you sick cause depression, personality and thought disorder. This day is utilized to instill a feeling of responsibility in individuals all around the world, particularly children and teens. It affects almost all of our member countries, undermining political and economic stability, ruining the lives of individuals and damaging communities. The singers, musician, actors and students of music and computer institute who participated in the musical concert were Usha Raina, Sh.M.C.Kotwal, K K Joshi, Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, Zulekha Bano, Sant Dass, Naiya Digra, Renu Bala and many others presented enthralled performances. At last of the programme Deepak Kumar Dogra presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

Record turnout in LS polls result of people's frustration, anger against misrule, miseries: Rattan Lal



Top News Report

HIRANAGAR June 28: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of J&K National Conference Jammu has criticized BJP government's ongoing misgovernance and misrule in Jammu and Kashmir, attributing the record turnout in the Lok Sabha polls to the frustration and disillusionment of the Kashmiri people with the present administration. The senior NC leader was speaking during a day-long convention of JKNC workers and functionaries of District Kathua (Rural) at Hiranagar. The Convention was organized under the Chairmanship of District President Kathua Rural Sham Narian Mehta. Reacting strongly over the wrong narrative run by the BJP leadership with regard to highest turnout in J&K, Rattan Lal Gupta said that there is no region in J&K which is not confronting the effects of misrule of the BJP-led government. He categorically highlighted the number of challenges faced by the people of Kashmir under the incumbent government. "The unprecedented turnout in the recent Lok Sabha elections is a clear and unequivocal message from the people of Kashmir," he said, adding that it is a manifestation of their deep-seated frustration with the mismanagement, recruitment scams and relentless neglect by the central dispensation. He particularly highlighted the gap between the local administration and the people alleging that there is no one to listen to their plight as their aspirations have been unheard with those sitting at helm preferring

monologue rather than satiating hopes and demands of the people. He said that the alarming situation is contributing significantly to the deterioration of educational standards and the future prospects of students. HE said that for the last ten years, J&K's schools have been grappling with a severe shortage of teachers nearly to 30 per cent, and yet, there has been no effort to recruit and fill these crucial positions. The condition of the health department is also appalling as the same is also facing acute staff crunch with people sitting at helm showing extreme level of indifference and apathy in the matter. He said that contrary to BJP leadership's rhetoric, the terrorism has increased manifold in Jammu regions. Rattan Lal Gupta said that only NC can bail out the people from the current morass created by the present government in power. He said that NC knows the pulse of the people as it has a brilliant track record of providing all the amenities necessary for the public welfare, and therefore people should come forward during the forthcoming polls to once again bring NC to power with thumping majority to ensure J&K regains pristine glory and become prosperous and peaceful again. Earlier at the beginning of meeting, Sham Narian, NC District President Hiranagar highlighted the hardships being faced by people on account of acute shortage of potable water, mismanaged healthcare facilities, and erratic power supply besides government dilly-dallying policy on settlement of compensation cases. He also said that

there is fear among the people after the frequent terror strikes. Babu Rampal, Central Zone President and former Minister, alleged that the BJP government is facing a policy deficit with regard to uplifting the weaker sections of the society. He said that existing policies are inadequate and fail to address the pressing needs of marginalized communities, leaving them without proper support or opportunities for improvement. He emphasized the need for more comprehensive and effective measures to ensure the well-being and development of these vulnerable groups. Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC asked party workers to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to ensure a decisive mandate to NC in the forthcoming Assembly polls as the same was a prerequisite for the welfare of the people of J&K. Addressing the convention Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone asked the workers to work unitedly to develop a connection with the people as it was paramount to win the polls and ensure that J&K gets the best dispensation under the aegis of NC leadership. Others who participated include Sager Chand Former M.L.A, Abdul Gani Teli, Sham Lal Mehra, Dharam Pal Kundal, Janak Raj, Prem Verma, Amar Singh, Raj Kumar Sharma, Ashu Rajpur, Sohan Singh, Dwarkanath Khajuria, Jagjeet Singh Adv, Dr. Y.P Singh, Prem nath logi, Master Balbir and others.

Army organizes amity meeting at Kala Bhatt

Top News Report

RAJOURI, June 28: Army conducted an Amity Meeting on Friday with Sarpanch, Panch, Nambardar, Chowkidar and other locals of the village Kala Bhatt. The meeting was aimed at engaging various local leaders and villagers with Indian Army towards the spirit of 'Oneness towards National Cause'. Various measures to build confidence and

strengthen coordination between Awam and Army were discussed. In addition, the locals were also made aware of the prevailing security situation in the area. Indian Army also enquired about their general well-being and took note of their grievances for further actions. The meeting was highly appreciated by the local leaders and further enhanced the nation-building image of the Indian Army.

Large devotees throng at Lakhdara Peer Ziyarat

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 28: The Annual Bhandara of Lakhdara Peer was organized in a grand manner at his ziyarat in Krishna Nagar here today, where a large number of devotees hailing from different corners participated and took blessings of the revered Peer. The Bhandara was held under the supervision of Sewadar Pawan Kumar. R.L.Kaith said, Lakhdara Peer, a 12th-century Sufi saint of the Punjab region, was known for his generosity. When his father-in-law, who was the ruler of Multan, gave his daughter's dowry, Sarwar



distributed it among the needy. Mughal emperors also used to send gifts to him which he used to donate to the poor. Kaith further said that

Lakhdara Peer protects his devotees from any evil spirit or unfortunate incident and also fulfills any desire that a person may have.

Army installs, distributes Solar Lights to Gujjar & Bakarwals in Bharak

Top News Report

REASI, June 28: Households in remote Bharakh village in Reasi lacks access to electric grid and are deprived of electricity. 'Solar Street Lights' is the ultimate solution for such remote area. Due to the simplicity, these solar lights can be installed even in harsh climatic conditions.

Indian Army with an aim of improving the living conditions of the remote village of Bharakhhas installed 'Solar Lights'. The locals acknowledged the role of Indian Army in establishing lasting peace in the region besides lauding the efforts made by Indian Army in fulfilling the aspirations of these under developed villages.

BSNL launches Yatra SIM for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 28: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched a special Yatra Plan. BSNL offers a free SIM card with a recharge of just Rs.196, exclusively for pilgrims. This prepaid connection offers a range of benefits, including Unlimited Voice and Data for 10 days. BSNL ensures highspeed 4G connectivity along the entire route, including the toughest terrains of the yatra. The Yatra SIM card can be purchased from various tourist reception centers in Jammu and Kashmir, including Lakhampur, Base Camp Bhagwati Nagar Jammu, Chanderkot,

Baltal, Pahalgam base Camps and other important locations BSNL has upgraded its network infrastructure to provide seamless 4G connectivity, ensuring uninterrupted communication and high-speed data access throughout the yatra up to the Holy cave. Saurabh Tayagi, CGMT, BSNL J&K Circle said, "We are committed to providing reliable and affordable communication services to the pilgrims during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. With our 4G network, pilgrims can stay connected with their loved ones, access important information, and share their experiences on social media in real-time, even in the most remote areas.



J&K LG Manoj Sinha Flag off the First Batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Pilgrims from Base Camp Bhagwati Nagar Jammu. Pic by AMAN SHARMA

Rohit Sharma, spinners guide India to third T20 World Cup final

England lost five wickets at the halfway stage and never recovered to be all out for 103 in 16.4 overs

GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), Jun 28 (Agencies): Skipper Rohit Sharma's grace was matched by the might of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav as India exorcised the ghosts of 2022 by handing defending champions England a 68-run thrashing to enter the final of the T20 World Cup here. Rohit thus became the first Indian captain to lead the country in three ICC global finals in a space of 12 months -- 2023 World Test Championship, 2023 ODI World Cup and now the T20 World Cup.

The Indian skipper, who has always received flak for not scoring on big days, contributed an invaluable 57 off 39 balls on a track where the ball consistently kept low, as India posted 171 for 7 in 20 overs.

Credit should also be given to Suryakumar Yadav for his 47 off 36 balls and Hardik Pandya for his two mighty sixes in a 13-ball-23. Ravindra Jadeja (17) and



Axar Patel (10) also chipped in with useful contributions.

In reply, England lost five wickets at the halfway stage and never recovered to be all out for 103 in 16.4 overs.

Axar (3/23 in 4 overs) and Kuldeep Yadav (3/19 in 4 overs) shared the spoils with the ball. The redoubtable Jasprit Bumrah (2/12 in 2.4 overs) did his bit with a classic slow off-cutter that

saw the back of the dangerous Phil Salt.

The 2007 champions will meet South Africa in the final in Barbados on Saturday.

In 2022, India were pummeled by 10 wickets in the semi-final at Adelaide after England had restricted them to a similar total. But the conditions at Providence Stadium made batting difficult. The master tactician Rohit

read the pitch's riot act even before the start and knew that facing Kuldeep and Axar on this track was going to be a very difficult task.

On a track where the balls kept low, all one needed was to bowl wicket-to-wicket and Axar did exactly that, forcing Jos Buttler to play an indiscreet reverse sweep while Jonny Bairstow and Moeen Ali were fooled by the pace of the deliveries.

At the other end, Kuldeep also varied his pace with a deceptive loop and deliveries that turned sharply into the batters, making their life difficult. The fielding was also brilliant.

Brief Scores: India 171 for 7 in 20 overs (Rohit Sharma 57, Suryakumar Yadav 47, Hardik Pandya 23, Chris Jordan 3/37, Adil Rashid 1/25, Jofra Archer 1/33, Reece Topley 1/25, Sam Curran 1/25) England 103 in 16.4 overs (Axar Patel 3/23, Kuldeep Yadav 3/19, Jasprit Bumrah 2/12).

Javelin thrower DP Manu caught in dope net?



NEW DELHI, Jun 28 (Agencies): Javelin thrower DP Manu's chances of participating at the Paris Olympics have dimmed after he was served with a provisional suspension. Manu was in the running to be the third Indian javelin thrower, after reigning Olympics champion Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Jena, for participation in the Games via the world ranking quota.

Manu, who is currently ranked 15, was a sure shot but the suspension has cast a big doubt on his participation.

A source in the Sports Authority of India (SAI) confirmed that he has been caught up in the dope net. "It is confirmed that he has been served a notice although it is not clear whether it is a notice of charge or over some other violation," the source added.

His name had featured in the initial list for the National Championships in Panchkula but is missing from the updated start list.

Incidentally, Manu holds the meet record with a throw of 84.35 metres in 2022.

Meanwhile, his coach Kashinath had a different take on his ward giving the event a miss, saying Manu is currently nursing an injury.

"Manu has a slight injury in the back which he picked up recently. It is not serious but we did not want to risk it and that is why he is not there in Panchkula for this meet," the Army coach said. "He is currently in ASI (Army Sports Institute) Pune but we never had to rush him back as he is comfortably placed in the race to qualify so the decision to not participate was taken," he added.

Haryana's Kiran Pahal qualifies for Olympics

PANCHKULA, Jun 28 (Agencies): Kiran Pahal choked up mid-sentence as her eyes welled up. Standing near the finish line as the floodlights started to come on, the tall Haryana athlete quickly wiped off the tears.

For a young athlete who had just qualified for the Olympics, Kiran had an understated demeanour. Her lips broke into a gentle smile every time she was reminded of her achievement.

The 23-year-old clocked 50.92 seconds in the semifinals of the National Inter-State Athletics Championships here to qualify for the Paris Olympics in the women's 400 metres, the qualifying mark being 50.95 seconds. She is the first Indian to qualify for the Olympics in the women's 400m since Nirmal Sheoran competed in the 2016 Games. Kiran also became only the second Indian woman to clock sub-51 seconds, finishing just outside Hima Das's national record of 50.79 seconds.

Underneath the joy, though, there was a constant reminder of the hardships of an ordinary athlete in India. "The last couple of years have been tough," said Kiran. "I have struggled with numerous injuries. Funding has been a major issue. I have been managing on my own but I am in desperate need of sponsors," added Kiran, who belongs to Gumar village in Sonapat. What finally broke Kiran's resolve and led to the rare overflow of emotions was the memory of her father, who died two years ago after a prolonged illness. "My father died two years ago... It has been difficult for the family," she said, wiping off the tears.

The death of her father, who was a munshi at a Tehsil court, has added extra burden of supporting her home maker mother and sister. Employed as a clerk in the Railways for the last three years, Kiran has been managing "just



about". "I was not able to compete much in the last two years because of the injuries and fund crunch," said Kiran, who won gold in the National Inter-State Championships in 2022, with her fastest timing of 52.34 seconds coming in the semifinals.

Having returned to serious competition recently, Kiran was notably surprised by what she had achieved. "I am a little surprised but at the same time I know I have worked hard for it," said Kiran, who has been training at a private academy in Rohtak for the last two years.

After being a part of the national camp for six years, Kiran left in 2022 because she felt she wasn't getting the proper attention she needed. Since then, she has been training under former sprinter Ashish Singh Chhikara, who works with "eight serious trainees" at his centre. "I believe in athlete specific training programs. That is how I have trained Kiran, keeping in mind her body type, strengths and weaknesses," he said.

"When she came to me, she was running above 52 seconds. I am happy that she has qualified for the Olympics but she could have done better. My target was 50 seconds flat. Now, we have to plan for the Olympics and hopefully she can do her best in Paris," he added.

Cristiano Ronaldo, Kylian Mbappe And Harry Kane Eye Return To Form In Euro 2024 Round Of 16

The Euro 2024 Round of 16 kicks off with Switzerland vs Italy on June 29. Hosts Germany face Denmark later that day.

BERLIN, Jun 28 (Agencies): With exciting football and vibrant fans lighting up cities across Germany, Euro 2024 has thrilled even though the European game's biggest stars have failed to take the tournament by storm. Between injury struggles, shaky form and bad luck, many of football's leading lights have underwhelmed in the group phase. Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo, playing at a record sixth Euros, is yet to strike in three appearances -- if he manages to, the 39-year-old will become the oldest ever goalscorer at the tournament.

Arguably the best player in the world, Kylian Mbappe is only off the mark for France with a penalty against Poland in a disappointing 1-1 draw that resulted in the favourites finishing second in Group D.

Mbappe spurned a golden opportunity against Austria, missing a draw against the Netherlands with a broken nose before returning with a mask in Les



Bleus' third outing.

"He's hungry to play and the game would have done him some good," said France coach Didier Deschamps, hopeful the forward will quickly find his devastating best with a last 16 clash against Belgium beckoning.

Poland's talisman Robert Lewandowski could not feature in their opening defeat against the Netherlands because of a thigh problem. The Barcelona striker and his country were eliminated as he was ineffective when he came off the bench against Austria, before he netted a penalty in the France draw.

England duo Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane scored from open play

against Serbia and Denmark respectively but have vastly under-performed after thriving at Real Madrid and Bayern Munich this season.

England coach Gareth Southgate hooked Kane in a drab 1-1 draw against Denmark, but the subsequent 0-0 against Slovenia was even more dull.

"Not every player is going to star in every game," said Southgate afterwards.

France's Antoine Griezmann and England's Phil Foden have also fired blanks after strong seasons for Atletico Madrid and Manchester City.

"Sometimes (Griezmann's) generosity means he doesn't have as clear a head as he should have," said Des-

champs, who benched the midfielder in the final group match.

Belgium's all-time top scorer Romelu Lukaku is also without a goal, albeit not for want of trying, having had three disallowed by VAR as his team slunk through in second from Group E.

Veteran Luka Modric, 38, usually a key figure in Croatia's frequently impressive exploits, did score against Italy but only after missing a penalty and struggling in the first two matches, with his country eventually eliminated.

Own goals galore Remarkably there have been seven own goals, making up 26 percent of the 27 inadvertently netted in the competition's history.

Even the players who have shone thus far have largely been surprises for one reason or another.

N'Golo Kante is proving key for France despite moving a year ago to play in Saudi Arabia, while talented youngster Jamal Musiala has been hosts Germany's leading light ahead of veteran stars

Toni Kroos, Ilkay Gundogan and Kai Havertz.

Target man Niclas Fullkrug has scored twice for Germany like Musiala, while Slovakia's Ivan Schranz and Romania's Razvan Marin also have a pair of goals to their name.

Netherlands forward Cody Gakpo finished neatly for his second goal in a 3-2 defeat by Austria, in a performance their coach Ronald Koeman labelled "appalling".

The tournament's current top scorer is debutants Georgia's Georges Mikautadze with three goals, two of those from the penalty spot.

Spain qualified top of Group B with a game to spare and have arguably been the team of the tournament so far, but two of their key players have been unlikely candidates in Fabian Ruiz and Marc Cucurella.

With 15 matches still to play before one of the 16 remaining sides is crowned champions in Berlin on July 14, fans are still waiting for the tournament's star names to join the party.

Marauding India up against resolute South Africa in epic T20 World Cup finale

BRIDGETOWN, Jun 28 (Agencies): A firm grip on emotions will be crucial when the formidable Indian team, desperate to end its lengthy title drought, makes another attempt at getting the monkey off its back against a South African side, which is unfamiliar with the winning feeling, in the T20 World Cup final here on Saturday.

India's campaign in the tournament has been remarkably similar to the one in the ODI World Cup at home last year where they breezed into the final only to be bettered by Australia on the big stage.

They are unbeaten here too and have been the best of the tournament by far. More importantly, they don't have the battle-hardened Australia in their way of an elusive trophy this time around.

South Africa, whose only triumph in ICC events came way back in the Champions Trophy (then named ICC Knock-Out Trophy) in 1998, head into the final with hopes and dreams of their own.

Labelled chokers for the better of their international cricket journey, the Proteas will be determined to shed that dubious tag for good at the Kensington Oval.

For some of their players, who list IPL titles as their biggest achievement, a World Cup trophy in their hands will be the ulti-

mate prize.

If one went by the mood seen among fans and experts after India's rout of England in the semifinal in Guyana, Rohit Sharma and his men are the overwhelming favourites.

It is a fair observation considering the make up of India's squad and the conditions in the Caribbean.

They would be expected to wipe off the heartbreak of November 19, 2023 when over a lakh fans in Ahmedabad were silenced by Pat Cummins' Australia in the all-important final. "I know India have had their issues in the ICC finals for a long time but I just don't see South Africa posing a challenge. India have been the best team of the tournament so far and man to man South Africa are a weaker side," a World Cup winning former captain told PTI on the flight from Guyana to Barbados.

It would also be a perfect send-off for outgoing coach Rahul Dravid, who was crestfallen man in the Caribbean back in the 2007 ODI World Cup as India captain after the team's early exit but is on the cusp of a remarkable farewell as coach.

The way India, who are in their first T20 World Cup final in 10 years, have adapted to conditions in the competition has gone a long way in securing the final berth.



The team management has been crystal clear about its plans for the event. They utilised three specialist pacers before the untested pitches in New York before bringing trump card Kuldeep Yadav into play on the spin friendly surfaces in the Caribbean.

India are certain to stick to the same playing eleven but would be hoping two of its key players to deliver in the winner-takes-all contest. Superstar Virat Kohli has had a quiet tournament, something that was not expected after his prolific season in the preceding IPL. However, on pitches where hitting through the line has been a challenge, the former Indian captain has not been able to dominate the bowlers despite clear attempts to do so.

"He is saving it for the final," said his opening partner and skipper Rohit Sharma, backing an undisputed great of the game who could be playing his last

innings in the T20 showpiece.

Rohit, on the contrary, has shown the way to other batters in the side and his innings will hold massive importance in the final. The captain would also like to see Shivam Dube excel in the high pressure game, having given middling returns in the tournament so far. His battles against spinners Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi could make a big impact.

On the bowling front, India have nothing to worry about with both pacers and spinners performing their roles to perfection. Arriving here right after the semi-final against England leaves them with only a day to recover, which has been the case since the start of Super 8s campaign at this very ground.

South Africa, on the other hand, got an extra day between the final and will be training on Friday.

Unlike India, they have nothing to lose as they have never been part of a World Cup final before but after a resounding win over Afghanistan in Trinidad, the Proteas are smelling the taste of victory. They would be expecting runs from the opening pair of Quinton de Kock and Reeza Hendricks, especially the wicket-keeper who can put serious pressure on the opposition when

on song. Skipper Aiden Markram could not fire against the bigger teams in the Super 8s and is due for a big one.

Heinrich Klaasen, one of the most destructive hitters in the game, too needs runs and for that, he will have to negotiate the spin threat in the middle overs.

South Africa's pace department has been on fire but it remains to be seen what kind of impact it can have in a day game here. Shamsi and Maharaj are effective but Indian batters will not be wary of them.

There is a high chance of rain on Saturday but the ICC has kept a reserve day for the all-important fixture.

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

South Africa: Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Aiden Markram (c), Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje, Tabraiz Shamsi, Otneil Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Bjorn Fortuin, Ryan Rickelton.

JYF questions silence of Vice-Chancellor over prevailing mess in DDE

JYF FLAYS ANTI STUDENTS POLICIES OF JU

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 28: Jammu Youth Forum (JYF) condemned the policies of the Jammu University saying that professors in the Directorate of Distance and Online Education do not take classes themselves and this work is additionally taken from contractual lecturers.

Addressing the press conference, Rishu Sharma President of the University said that in the Directorate of Distance Education for the last

many years the Professors do not take undergraduate classes except only one PG class. He added that only the names of professors are shown in the time table but classes are taken virtually by the Scholars.

He further said that instead of professors, entire work of teaching is given to the Contractual teachers and the one who does not agree to the dictates of a Professor is fired for next year Contractual engagement as teacher. A few years ago, a campus dean's

meeting was held in which a decision was taken that there will be a contractual lecture for 1000 students, he revealed, adding that lakhs of rupees are being spent every year on contractual appointments. If PCP is not compulsory, then why are contractual teachers appointed, he pointed out, saying that Contractual teachers are required in some regular Departments.

He asked why should the Directorate of Distance and Online Education be favored by the

teaching wing incharge Dr Neeraj Sharma.

He further said that in the Directorate of Distance and Online Education, the Director is appointed from an outside department and all the professors put pressure on the Director to get their wrongdoings done. In order to save his chair, the Director gets influenced by those professors.

He further said that just as there are two permanent Professors in English, one Professor in Hindi, one professor

in Political Science and similarly in other subjects also, there are professors. But in spite of that the contractual appointments are made. He asked why the teaching wing headed by Neeraj Sharma does not streamline the system in terms of requirement of teachers Vis a Vis teaching workload in DDE.

The University President has appealed to the Financial Advisor and VC JU to get all this investigated and those misusing money should be punished.

District Admin Ramban extends warm reception to pilgrims for SANJY-2024

Top News Report

RAMBAN, June 28: The District Administration Ramban welcomed the first batch of Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims ON Friday.

Deputy Commissioner Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, DIG DKR Range, Shridhar Patil, SSP Ramban Anuj Kumar, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR S. Harpal Singh, and other concerned officers were present at the occasion.

The welcoming ceremony was graced by the presence of notable dignitaries, including DDC Member Renuka Katoch, and activists from various religious and social organizations. Their involvement highlighted the

significance of the event and underscored the collaborative spirit of the community in ensuring the success and safety of the Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner, along with other dignitaries, extended a heartfelt welcome to the pilgrims and interacted with them to gather first-hand information about the facilities at the Langars and Yatri Niwas set up at Chanderkote, Lamber in Banihal and other designated locations along side Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in the district of Ramban.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the district administration has made comprehensive

arrangements for the stay and security of the pilgrims. He mentioned that provisions for boarding and lodging have been put in place in case of any halt in the yatra, and round-the-clock emergency medical facilities have been arranged, along with the establishment of helplines.

Meanwhile, DIG Shridhar Patil reviewed the arrangements for the security and other facilities like sanitation, water, electricity, fire safety, and healthcare being provided to the pilgrims. He asked the concerned officers to ensure all basic and essential facilities are available for the convenience and safety of the pilgrims.

Sham Lal appeals for enhanced security measures for Amarnath Yatra Pilgrims

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 28: Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman of the Anti Crime Bureau (NGO), has called on the Jammu and Kashmir Government to implement comprehensive measures to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims participating in the Amarnath Yatra.

In a press statement issued today, Gupta emphasized the significance of the Amarnath Yatra as a major spiritual and cultural event that draws thousands of devotees from across India. Gupta underscored the critical responsibility of the government to create a secure environment for the pilgrims, enabling them to undertake their journey with peace of mind.

"The Amarnath Yatra is not just a pilgrimage; it is a profound spiritual experience for countless devotees. Ensuring their safety and security should be of paramount importance," Gupta stated.

He urged the J&K Government to deploy adequate security personnel, enhance surveillance measures, and ensure



the maintenance of all essential facilities along the yatra route.

Highlighting the economic impact of the yatra on the local community, Gupta noted that a safe and successful pilgrimage season supports the livelihoods of many residents in the region.

"The Amarnath Yatra contributes significantly to the local economy, benefiting traders, hoteliers, and transport operators among others. A secure yatra ensures that these economic activities continue without disruption," he added.

Gupta called for coordinated efforts between various government agencies, including the police, healthcare services, and disaster management teams, to provide comprehensive support to the pilgrims.

He stressed the need for

a multifaceted approach to security and safety, involving all stakeholders to make the pilgrimage a smooth and safe experience.

"The cooperation of all stakeholders is essential to make the Amarnath Yatra a safe and memorable experience for all pilgrims. Let us work together to uphold the sanctity and spirit of this revered pilgrimage," Gupta urged.

He also appealed to the public to cooperate with security protocols and report any suspicious activities to the authorities.

Gupta reiterated the importance of the Amarnath Yatra not only as a spiritual journey but also as a vital component of the local economy.

He emphasized the need for vigilance and proactive measures to ensure the well-being of the pilgrims and the success of the pilgrimage season. His call to action aims to inspire collective efforts to safeguard the spiritual and economic interests tied to the Amarnath Yatra, making it a cherished and secure event for all participants.

Dr. Amir Rashid welcomes commencement of Amarnath Yatra

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 28: Dr. Amir Rashid Wani, a renowned peace socio-political activist and the CEO of Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust, extends a warm welcome to the commencement of the Amarnath Yatra, one of the most significant annual pilgrimages for Hindus.

This sacred journey to the Amarnath cave, dedicated to Lord Shiva and nestled in the Himalayas, holds profound spiritual importance for devotees.

Dr. Wani emphasized the meticulous security arrangements and provisions in place to ensure the safety and comfort of all pilgrims. The collaborative efforts of various agencies underscore the commitment to creating a safe and serene environment for this revered pilgrimage.

In his address, Dr. Wani highlighted the pivotal role of the Amarnath Yatra in promoting spiritual tourism and fostering communal harmony in the region. He stated, "The Amarnath Yatra



is not only a journey of faith but also a symbol of the unity and diversity that defines our nation. It brings together people from different walks of life, reinforcing the spirit of brotherhood and mutual respect."

The Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that promote peace, cultural exchange, and communal harmony. Dr. Wani's heartfelt welcome to the pilgrims reflects the Trust's ongoing commitment to these values.

Dr. Wani concluded by wishing all the pilgrims a safe and fulfilling journey, filled with spiritual enrichment and memorable experiences. "May this yatra bring peace, blessings, and a sense of togetherness to all," he added.

DGP J&K decorates nine 09 SPOs to rank of constable

Top News Report

KATHUA, June 28: DGP J&K Police, R R Swain on Friday decorated nine SPOs with the rank of Constable in a ceremonial function at DPL Kathua in presence of their family members and prominent citizens of District Kathua.

Recognising their bravery and fearlessness to eliminate the enemy, these SPOs have been converted to Constables on operational grounds during the Saida Sohal, Hiranagar encounter in which two Pakistan based terrorists were successfully eliminated.

The DGP J&K Police said, "The courage

and professionalism exhibited by these police personnel during the encounter was exemplary even when they were temporary members of J&K Police. These promotions are a testament to their valour and dedication. Now as these Police personnel became the permanent members of J&K Police, this will encourage the Kathua Police especially SOG Kathua & SPOs and boost their morale during such operations and encountering ANEs and other hardcore criminals."

Furthermore, he also congratulated the family members of valiant heroes and wished the bright future for the newly inducted constables.

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Rampaul calls for strengthening Party

Only NC capable of mitigating public suffering: Former Minister

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 28: Slamming present UT Rule for pushing J&K into dark era, former Minister and Zonal President JKNC, Babu Rampaul said that everybody is unhappy and restless under the present regime and eagerly waiting for conduct of Assembly elections to elect a popular government.

During the meeting Babu Rampaul deliberated in detail the various aspects imperative to strengthen the party at the grass root level. He said, "National Conference is the only party which believes in secularism and can fight for the rights of the downtrodden class of the society. Party has taken many historic decisions in the past for the welfare of the marginalized sections of the society."

"From Sher-E-Kashmir to Dr. Farooq Abdullah and jenab Omar Abdullah it has served the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir with utmost honesty and dedication", Rampaul added.

Former Minister further



said that the last election was held in 2014 in Jammu and Kashmir and since then no election has been conducted depriving people of their constitutional and democratic rights. He said that India was called as mother of democracy but keeping people without elections for long is the murder of democracy and urged upon the Centre to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir without any delay.

He further said that no democracy can survive without elections as popular government is the soul and people are its body. "The elections in Jammu and Kashmir had been conducted in

the worst situations in the past and one cannot digest the excuse of the Centre that the situation is not conducive for elections", he added.

Also speaking, Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary said that BJP snatched statehood from people of J&K and deprived them of elected government and now we are being subjected to heavy taxation in different forms, he said and added that nobody listens to the people and they are made subservient to bureaucrats.

He also said that the incumbent Govt has proved to be an utter failure on all fronts and people are waiting for the

elections when they will show the incumbent Govt the door.

He urged the youth, retirees and the women to play an active role in the upcoming polls and vote for peace, progress, identity with dignity and to ensure democracy survives at any cost.

Dr Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC, severely criticized the present dispensation and said that BJP robbed everything from people of J&K.

He said that after August 5, 2019, the situation has grown from bad to worse to jeopardize the living of people by first imposing property

tax, smart meters installation and prepaid meters with inflated power bills coming in thousands but the administration is not ready to pay heed to the grievances of people.

He further said that when the NC government will come to power, we will reverse all the anti-public steps taken by the present dispensation and work for the convenience of the people.

The others who spoke on the occasion include Rahul Mahajan Zonal Vice-President, Arun Paul Singh Working President NCSU, Rajinder Singh, and others.

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