

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JULY 03, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-182 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Anti-Corruption Bureau raid on BDO

JAMMU, Jul 3 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday conducted raid at the Greater Kailash house of BDO Dachchan Parveen Sharma. More details awaited.

### Earthquake Of Magnitude 4.4 Hits Leh In Ladakh

LEH, Jul 3 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 on the richer scale hit Leh in Ladakh on Wednesday, said the National Center for Seismology (NCS).

According to the NCS, the epicentre of the earthquake was located at Latitude 36.10 North, Longitude 74.81 East, at a depth of 150 kilometres.

The earthquake hit Leh on Wednesday at 8:12 a.m.

EQ of M: 4.4, On: 03/07/2024 08:12:59 IST, Lat: 36.10 N, Long: 74.81 E, Depth: 150 Km, Location: Leh, Ladakh.

### Masjid, several houses damaged in massive fire in Srinagar's Eidgah

SRINAGAR, Jul 3 (Agencies): A masjid and several houses were damaged in a massive fire that broke out in the Umer Colony area of Srinagar's Eidgah, officials said.

An official said that fire broke out in Umer Colony area today morning and soon after fire tenders reached to the spot.

He said by the time fire tenders reached, a local Masjid and several houses were damaged, while efforts are on to douse off the flames.

Further details area awaited.

### CUK students hold protest over fee hike

SRINAGAR, Jul 3 (Agencies): Amidst scorching heat, students at Central University of Kashmir staged a protest on Tuesday against the recent hike in semester fees. The protesting students blocked all access points to the main campus, halting academic and administrative activities.

The protest rocked

## Hathras stampede: Death toll rises to 121, number of injured at 28



HATHRAS (Uttar Pradesh), Jul 3 (Agencies): The death toll in the stampede incident which occurred in the Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday has gone up to 121. Around 28 people have

sustained injuries in the incident, the Office of Relief Commissioner said on Wednesday.

According to officials, Of the 28 injured, six people are undergoing treatment at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College

in Aligarh; six people are admitted at Deen Dayal Hospital in Aligarh; nine people are under treatment at Bagla Hospital in Hathras; one at Agra SN Medical College while six are undergoing treatment at Etah Medi-

cal College in Hathras.

Uttar Pradesh police have launched a search operation at Ram Kutir Charitable Trust in Mainpuri district in search of Narayan Saakar Hari also known as Bhole Baba, the preacher of the 'Satsang' in Hathras, where the stampede incident occurred on Tuesday claiming lives of over hundred people and leaving dozens of others injured.

The preacher however remains untraceable. "We did not find Baba ji inside the campus. He is not here," Deputy SP Sunil Kumar said earlier. Uttar Pradesh Police have filed an FIR against

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## Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on maiden visit to J&K



JAMMU, Jul 3 (Agencies): Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi arrived here on Wednesday on his maiden visit to J&K after taking over as the country's COAS.

After arriving here General Dwivedi immediately flew to Poonch district.

"The COAS visited the Brigade headquarters in

Poonch where he interacted with the field commanders about the latest situation on the Line of Control (LoC) and the hinterland with emphasis on the continuing anti-militancy operations in Poonch and Rajouri district in light of the terror incidents in Poonch, Rajouri and adjacent district," said officials here.

"After interacting with the field commanders, General Dwivedi will visit the forward posts to take first-hand stock of the security situation. The COAS will fly back to Jammu later today," officials said.

For General Upendra Dwivedi coming to J&K is like

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## IG BSF reviews operational readiness of force for Amarnath Yatra

SRINAGAR, Jul 3 (Agencies): Inspector General, Kashmir Frontier, Border Security Force (BSF) Ashok Yadav reviewed on Wednesday the operational readiness of the Force, deployed along the Pahalgam axis in south Kashmir for the Amarnath Yatra.

The 52-day Amarnath Yatra began on Saturday on the twin tracks of the Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the Baltal route in Ganderbal district. Officials said in the first four days, over 74,000 pilgrims paid obeisance

at the cave shrine, which houses the naturally formed ice-lingam.

A thick security blanket has been thrown across Kashmir to secure pilgrims during the Amarnath Yatra. Besides thousands of police and central armed police force (CAPF) men, the Army has been deployed on the outer parameters and higher reaches along the Yatra route for the safety of pilgrims.

A BSF spokesman said IG BSF inspected the security and surveillance grid to

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## Amarnath Yatra 2024 | Over 5,700 pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Shrine



JAMMU, Jul 3 (Agencies): A fresh batch of more than 5,700 pilgrims left for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas from here on Wednesday, officials said.

More than 74,000 pil-

grims have paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre high cave shrine till Tuesday evening and over 2,500 on-the-spot registrations of devotees were done on Tuesday, they said.

The sixth batch of

5,725 pilgrims left in 256 vehicles for the twin basecamps of Baltal and Pahalgam at 3.05 am and were escorted by security vehicles, they said.

While 3,211 pilgrims

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## Kashmir sizzles, Srinagar sees 2nd hottest July day in decade

SRINAGAR, Jul 3 (Agencies): Sweltering weather conditions showed no signs of abating in Jammu and Kashmir as Srinagar recorded the 2nd warmest day in July at 34.6°C on Tuesday, officials said.

In last ten years, a meteorological department official said that it was on July 18, 2021 (35.0°C) when mercury surpassed today's temperature in Srinagar. The highest ever hottest July day has been recorded on 15th of the month in 1973, he added.

Meanwhile, he said,

Qazigund recorded a maximum temperature of 34.0°C, Pahalgam 29.1°C, Kokernag 33.4°C, Kupwara 34.6°C, Gulmarg 33.4°C and Jammu 37.2°C.

He said "hot and humid" was likely to continue till July 3 even as there is possibility of spell of rain and thunder shower at scattered places of Jammu Division towards late night or early morning and spell of rain/thunder shower at few places of Kashmir Valley.

On July 4, he said,

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# MBA MOTORS

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## Jammu Kashmir Shia Body Boycotts Administration Meetings on Muharram

SRINAGAR, Jul 3 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Shia Association, led by Molvi Imran Reza Ansari, to Boycott Government Meetings for Muharram

All Jammu and Kashmir Shia Association, led by Molvi Imran Reza Ansari, has announced its decision to boycott all government meetings related to the upcoming month of Muharram.

"With six days left for Muharram to start, the Lieutenant Governor wakes up and holds a high-level meeting to facilitate. God, it seems he has a magic trick to make arrangements. Janab LG Sb please take care of SANJY, we can take care of Muharram 2024

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## EDITORIAL

## Centralized Registration System portal

The Centralized Registration System (CRS) portal is a pivotal platform established by the Indian government to streamline and simplify the process of registration for companies under various labor laws. This initiative aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and compliance in the realm of business operations across the country.

The CRS portal serves as a unified platform where employers can register their establishments under multiple labor laws simultaneously. It was launched to replace the earlier system where businesses had to register separately under different acts like the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Professional Tax, and more.

Single Window Registration: One of the primary features of the CRS portal is its capability to facilitate single window registration. Businesses can register once and comply with various labor laws without the need for separate registrations under different authorities.

The portal is designed to be user-friendly, with intuitive navigation and comprehensive guidance to assist employers through the registration process. It minimizes the complexity associated with multiple registrations and reduces bureaucratic hurdles.

CRS integrates registrations under key labor laws such as EPFO, ESIC, Professional Tax, and others mandated by respective state governments. This integration simplifies compliance for businesses operating in multiple states.

Employers can submit their registration applications online through the CRS portal. The system facilitates quick processing of applications, reducing the time taken for registration approval compared to traditional methods.

Businesses are required to upload necessary documents such as PAN card, Aadhaar card, address proof, and other relevant documents during the registration process. The portal verifies these documents electronically, ensuring accuracy and authenticity.

The portal provides real-time tracking of application status. Employers can monitor the progress of their registration applications and receive updates on approvals or any additional requirements.

CRS offers a compliance dashboard where registered entities can view and manage their compliance status under various labor laws. This feature helps in maintaining adherence to regulatory requirements and avoiding penalties.

By eliminating the need for multiple registrations, CRS saves time and reduces administrative costs for businesses.

The centralized system promotes better compliance with labor laws, fostering a business environment based on transparency and accountability.

CRS supports government initiatives aimed at promoting ease of doing business and formalization of the economy.

The portal is accessible online, allowing businesses to register and comply with labor laws from anywhere, promoting digital inclusion and ease of access.

The CRS portal represents a significant step towards digital transformation and regulatory reform in India's business landscape. Moving forward, continuous updates and enhancements to the portal are expected to further streamline registration processes and enhance user experience. The integration of additional labor laws and functionalities may expand the scope and utility of CRS, benefiting a broader spectrum of businesses across the country.

In conclusion, the CRS portal stands as a cornerstone of the government's efforts to simplify regulatory compliance and promote a conducive environment for business growth. Its role in facilitating unified registration under multiple labor laws underscores its importance in fostering economic development and regulatory efficiency in India.

## Yogi picks a new chief secy: Is it show of defiance against Centre?

By: Dilip Cherian

Putting speculations to rest, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath appointed Manoj Kumar Singh as the new chief secretary of the state. He took over from Durga Shanker Mishra, who was not granted a fourth extension beyond June 30.

For a while, there was widespread speculation in Lucknow about the possibility of another extension for Mr Mishra. Sources told DKB that the state government had sent a proposal to the Centre seeking an extension for Mr Mishra beyond June 30. However, the Centre indicated that no such proposal had reached Raisina Hill, effectively ruling out any further extension for Mr Mishra.

Notably, when Mr Mishra met with Union home minister Amit Shah in mid-June, a former Union secretary from Uttar Pradesh suggested it marked the end of Mr Mishra's tenure as Uttar Pradesh's chief secretary. Certainly, the political landscape in Uttar Pradesh has become increasingly fluid following poor results for the ruling party in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Mr Mishra's unex-

pected meeting with Amit Shah had fuelled rumours that he might stay on, by securing another extension as chief secretary. That was not to be. But with Manoj Singh's appointment, Yogi has signalled to the Centre that he will continue to run the state government in his own chosen way.

Extended tenures of key babus signal stability

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to keep some of his old team while bringing in fresh faces into his Cabinet is all about continuity and stability. This can be seen in the makeup of his Cabinet and the choices his government has been making lately. One big move was extending Tapan Kumar Deka's time as director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for another year beyond June 30, 2024. This shows that the NDA administration really trusts Mr Modi's leadership and experience. To make this happen, the government even relaxed some rules, which may raise concerns in some quarters. But when national security is such a high priority, it won't be questioned much.

Another similar move was extending Bharat Lal's tenure as secretary general of the

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Serving in the rank and pay of secretary to the Government of India on a contract basis, Lal's extension beyond June 30, 2024, ensures the NHRC continues to benefit from his extensive experience and dedication.

These extensions are part of a bigger strategy to value seasoned babus who have proven their capabilities and earned Modi's trust. The NDA government seems to be all about stability and sticking with policies that work. Keeping experienced leaders in critical roles aims to ensure a smooth transition and continued progress.

Lucky Ali alleges land grab by Rohini Sindhuri

Popular singer Lucky Ali's recent allegations against IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri and her family have kicked up a storm. Ali claims that Ms Sindhuri and her family have misused government resources and snatched his farmland in Yelahanka's Kanchenahalli area. This is a big deal and has got everyone talking.

Ali hasn't kept these claims to himself. He's gone public, filing a complaint with the Karnataka Lokayukta Police. He says that Ms Sindhuri, her husband Sudhir Reddy, and

her brother-in-law Madhusudan Reddy, have illegally grabbed his land, using their clout to escape it.

Sources say that this isn't the first time Ali has brought this issue up. A few years ago, he accused the local police of taking Ms Sindhuri's side and asked higher-ups to step in, claiming there was a 'land mafia' conspiracy. These recurring accusations point to a long-standing and troubling dispute.

At its core, this is about more than just land. It's about the misuse of power and the integrity of public officials. If Ali's allegations are true, a senior IAS officer used her position for personal gain, which is a major breach of trust. The alleged involvement of the local police makes things even messier.

Rohini Sindhuri's past controversies add another twist to this saga. She was previously involved in a public spat with IPS officer D. Roopa, which led to both officers being removed from their posts. The episode was covered extensively in this column. This history makes the current allegations even more concerning and highlights the need to look closely at her actions.

## Biggest challenges for colleges in the Age of Generative Artificial intelligence

By: Vijay GarG

One of the biggest challenges for colleges in the age of Generative AI (GenAI) is maintaining academic integrity. Concerns have spiralled since ChatGPT exploded, particularly around assessing students and verifying learning. Indian students have embraced GenAI. In a new survey by Deloitte, an overwhelming 93% said they actively use GenAI tools to save time and develop new skills. The GenAI revolution has come at a time of broader transformation in Indian higher education. Classrooms across India are turning hybrid. The University Grants Commission's provision of 40% of credits, which institutions can offer through appropriate online courses in any category, has opened up new possibilities.

By integrating for-credit online content from global experts, colleges are dynamically upgrading curricula with the latest skills. As students learn online and increasingly engage with AI, maintaining academic integrity will be critical to steer authentic learning and ensure the credibility of online credentials.

Rethink assessments

Several Indian colleges have discouraged or banned the use of ChatGPT. The worry is that, if GenAI can complete their work, students will spend less time learning course content, both online and in

physical classrooms. Educators are already struggling to evaluate whether a student's deliverable was crafted from their own thought process, or generated through AI. The challenge in this era will be to ensure authentic assessment of learning. Do grades represent a student's skills? Do student outcomes reflect effort and mastery of course material?

That Assessments gauge a student's thought process would be one way to check this. Traditionally this has been challenging, since live viva exams require significant educator resources. GenAI offers a scalable Socratic approach to detect authenticity through GenAI-powered viva-style exams. Just as an examiner poses questions to a student in the classroom, GenAI can conduct comprehensive verbal exams and generate custom follow-up questions to evaluate comprehension and reasoning.

AI solutions can also strengthen academic integrity across other dimensions. One area is ascertaining if learners are putting in the effort to master course content. By locking grade-bearing activities, institutions can ensure students don't skip ahead, but progress as they master every one of the modules in the class. AI can enable such self-paced learning that promotes authentic learning habits, with assessments that support mastery goals. Aids

like proctoring and lockdown browsers can help maintain exam integrity by blocking unauthorised resources and detecting unauthorised assistance during high-stakes exams. Setting time and attempt limits can be utilised to control exam attempts, to ensure fairness, discourage trial and error, and limit access to outside resources. GenAI also gives faculty new tools to scale assessment creation and grading. AI-assisted assessments save time. Think of a customised multiple-choice test created in minutes and integrated into assignments. GenAI can be used to create question banks for robust testing. AI-assisted grading will give teachers the cues they need to make informed decisions, with scores suggestions and feedback based on assignment analysis.

Evolving pedagogy

The implications of GenAI go far beyond plagiarism or students cheating. In the future, GenAI will be central to job skills, given the technology's capability to augment human work. Educators will need to include effective teaching and assessment methods to encourage skills for an AI future. When the World Economic Forum asked companies what skills they would need in the next five years, "teaching workers to exploit AI and big data" came out on top. Institutions will need to consider how students can be supported for the AI age,

while committing to ethical practices and fostering a culture of academic integrity. GenAI can be used to practice future skills like critical thinking, problem solving and communication. As a learning aid, tools like ChatGPT can tutor students, enabling interactive, tailored learning. With responsible use, the benefits can be enormous. UNESCO's guidance suggests an approach where the use of GenAI tools should make learning or research more effective than a no-tech or other alternative approach. It cautions, "If not used purposefully to facilitate higher-order thinking or creativity, GenAI tools tend to encourage plagiarism or shallow 'stochastic parroting' outputs." Evolving pedagogy will need to focus on the development of new assessment methods and strategies that serve a higher purpose, deter misconduct, and verify learning. By fostering an academic environment underpinned by honesty, trust, fairness, and responsibility, colleges can ensure academic integrity runs throughout the learning process. The healthy learning habits developed on campus will continue to serve graduates in the workplace as well.

*(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)*



## Actor Abhay Verma talks about how shooting for his latest movie, *Munjya*, was an experience worth cherishing

In the world of Indian cinema, where dreams meet celluloid and talent is a rare gem, Abhay Verma emerges as a promising new face. From his humble beginnings to his recent stint in the much-talked-about movie *Munjya*, Abhay's journey reflects passion, perseverance and a pursuit of artistic excellence.

"Everything for me has started with the first beautiful process called auditioning. There are some films where once you audition for them, you feel there is something special. And I felt this will be a film where experiments were going to happen," Abhay talks about his entry into *Munjya*. It's a film that marked several firsts, including his debut as the lead in a theatrical film. "In the Hindi film industry, this was the

first time we got a character straight out of CGI. So, this was a trendsetter film from where I have started my theatrical journey, and it was one-of-a-kind."

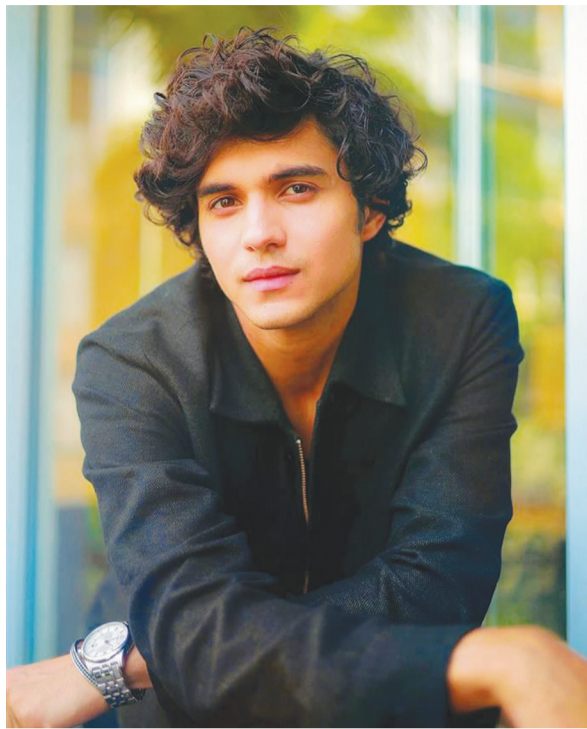
**Artistic passion**  
Playing the lead role in *Munjya* was a milestone for Abhay, who reflects on the support and validation he received from Maddock Films, the production house behind the project. Navigating the uncertainties of the film industry, Abhay shares his philosophy on focusing more on the process than the outcome. "If you think of the result, you divert from the purest intent of just entertaining people," he observes, highlighting the delicate balance between artistic passion and commercial success.

Reflecting on his co-stars in *Munjya*, Abhay

speaks warmly of the camaraderie and support he received on the sets. "I had a great time working with Mona (Singh) ma'am, Sharvari (Wagh), Suhas Joshi ji and Ajay Purkar. Working together, we created a family-like atmosphere on the sets," he recalls fondly.

Abhay's journey into acting began with humble aspirations in his hometown of Panipat, Haryana. "I dreamt of becoming an actor 13 years ago, it all started with watching the annual Ram Leela performances," he recalls. Despite pursuing a degree in BBA as per societal expectations, his heart was always set on the silver screen.

Challenges in Mumbai  
Moving to Mumbai in 2018 wasn't so rosy. "At the initial stage, this city



can really scare you. It doesn't accept everyone and you are kind of living in a matchbox." But, thankfully, Abhay's transition was supported by his elder brother,

who had already paved his way in the television industry. "If you have a roof over your head in Mumbai on the first day, it's a luxury," he acknowledges, reflect-

ing on the challenges faced by newcomers in the city of dreams. "When an actor gives his best to a project and that's not received well, it can be quite crushing. The highs in this city are very high and the lows very low. The love and validation constitute those special moments, but it's a very expensive city to live in for any newcomer. Also, uncertainty is a constant companion, it must be so for every artiste, big and small, because the search begins after every project."

From playing a transgender in *Safed* to a terrorist in *Family Man* and a patriotic character in *Ae Watan Mere Watan*, Abhay's choices showcase his willingness to push boundaries and explore varied characters. "My mother and brother told me not to

do *Safed* so early in my career. They were really concerned but I told myself if I could represent a sidelined community through my work, then I will not step back from doing my bit in uplifting them."

And that movie took him to a platform like the Cannes Film Festival, which didn't mean glitz and glamour for this young actor, but a responsibility. "When I went to Cannes, it was about representing my country and that was a big thing for me," he says, cherishing the global recognition his work has garnered.

**Organic approach**  
There has been no formal training, Abhay's approach to acting is organic and life is the teacher. "I couldn't have afforded those acting schools; I don't come from a background

where I could pay in lakhs to take classes. Whatever acting I know, it is the result of observing and learning from people and life."

Now, his dream is to work with, "Filmmakers like Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Imtiaz Ali, Sujoy Gosh, Anurag Basu... I am really inspired by these visionaries and can't wait to get a chance to be a part of their projects."

Looking ahead, Abhay remains grounded, driven by a genuine love for his craft rather than the lure of fame or fortune. "While there's inspiration in the story of every big star, I want to remain true to myself. My journey is mine, and I love my success and failures. The motivation is not money or fame, but to entertain," he signs off.

## Nawazuddin Siddiqui says he is the 'ugliest actor' in Bollywood

Nawazuddin Siddiqui is considered one of the best actors in the industry working today, having acted in films like *The Lunchbox*, *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Kahaani* and *Sacred Games*. However, the actor also faced a lot of discrimination in the industry based on his looks. In a new interview with News18, Nawazuddin shared that he considers himself to be the 'ugliest actor' - physically - in the film industry' today and told why.

What Nawazuddin said  
In the interview, Nawaz said, "Pata nahi shakalo se humari nafrat kyun hai kuch logon ko. Kyunki shakal hee aisi hai - itne badsurat hai humlog. Humein bhi lagta hai jab apne aap ko aaine mein dekhte hai. Hum bhi bolte hai apne aap ko 'kyun aa gaye film industry mein itne gande shakal leke?' (I don't know why some people hate the way we look. Maybe it's because we're just that ugly. Even I feel it when I look at myself in the mirror. I question why I came into the film industry with such a bad appearance).

'Kyun ki main shuru se yeh sab sunte aa raha hoon'

He went on to say, "I'm the ugliest actor - physically - in the film industry. Main toh yeh maanta hoon. Kyun ki



main shuru se yeh sab sunte aa raha hoon aur abhi maanne bhi laga hoon (I have been hearing it for so long that I've started to believe it. I have no complaints about the film industry). Nawazuddin also added that he is grateful for the opportunities that he has received for playing a variety of characters in his career.

Nawazuddin was last seen in *Haddi*, which was released on OTT platform Zee5. His most recent release is *Rautu Ka Raaz*, which also released on Zee5 on June 28. Directed by Anand Surapur, the mystery drama also stars Atul Tiwari, Rajesh Kumar, and Narayani Shastri.

## Rashmika Mandanna explains her mother tongue: 'How beautiful it sounds'

Actor Rashmika Mandanna shared her roots with her fans in a recent video. She took to Instagram to share a reel, speaking in her mother tongue, Kodava Takk from Karnataka. "To all the kodavas out there.. this is for you! Always grateful," she wrote, sharing the video.

'Kodagu is where I was brought up'

While some fans could recognise what language she was speaking in, some also sharing their love for the Coorgi language, most couldn't understand what she was saying.

Sharing the reel on her Instagram stories, Rashmika explained further and wrote, "For all those who are asking what I am saying here or what language am I speaking..this is my mother tongue - it's



called Kodava Takk.. Kodagu is where I was born and brought up in. I've been speaking kodava takk all my life... and this is how beautiful it sounds..And so as to what I am saying..you'll only know if you know the language or if you have a Kodava friend."

A week ago Rashmika attended a childhood friend's wedding and shared pictures of her dressed in traditional Kodagu style. She wrote, "Kodagu is where my heart and my history is at...Me and my girls who I grew up with. @yathra\_dechamma..it's your wedding and we didn't get a picture with you as you were busy but here's me wishing you a lifetime of happiness and good health with your partner..God!! How I miss home!"  
Upcoming work

Rashmika currently has 6 announced projects that are yet to be released.

She will reprise her role as Srivalli in *Sukumar's Pushpa 2: The Rule* with Allu Arjun playing *Pushpa Raj* and Fahadh Faasil playing *Bhanwar Singh Shekawat*. She is also starring in *Sekhar Kammula's* bi-lingual film *Kubera* with Dhannush and Nagarjuna.

Apart from that, Rashmika will also star in projects titled *Rainbow* and *The Girlfriend*.

In Hindi, Rashmika will star with Vicky Kaushal in *Chaava* and Salman Khan in *Sikandar*.

She debuted in Hindi with the 2022 film *Goodbye* with Amitabh Bachchan and was last seen in the 2023 *Sandeep Reddy Vanga*-directorial *Animal* with Ranbir Kapoor.

## Tabu: Ajay Devgn always wanted to be a director, not an actor

Actor Tabu, who will soon be seen in *'Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha'* with Ajay Devgn, spoke to news agency about her bond with Devgn, her experience of working on the film and more in this exclusive conversation.

Actors Tabu and Ajay Devgn is an onscreen pair that has an instant appeal. With their upcoming release *Auron Mein Kaha Dum Tha*, the two have clocked a total of ten films together. In an exclusive chat with agency, Tabu opened up about her chemistry with the actor-director, how Devgn wanted to be a filmmaker and not an actor and her experience of shooting for the film.

Tabu and Ajay Devgn have known each other since they were teenagers. Tabu spoke about their relationship and said, "He was like this only. He has not changed a lot except that he got married and he has children now. He was always very passionate about cinema. He wanted to be a director. He never wanted to be an actor. He used to make these short films. So I remember him like that. So I think the ease



and the comfort I have with him is because I've known him much before we both got into acting. That is the basis of our relationship."

Tabu narrated how she met Ajay and became

friends in the first place, "I have known Ajay since we were like 12 or 13. He is my brother's childhood friend. So we kind of grew up together. I don't know him through films. I think that's why

the equation is different. I don't have this equation with most of the male co-stars that I've worked with except him. Because I know him from a different time, it's a different relationship."

The actor also stated that she respects Ajay a lot: "I think because of his personality, he does not demand you to be somebody else. So that's a very good quality that he has. In particular, I think, with me, he is completely unconditional. He is completely indulgent and he never stops working with me. Like, I know that many times it happens that whenever I have issues with a producer or a filmmaker or whatever, they will call Ajay and say, 'You talk to her. She is not shooting or promoting the film.'"

"But the one thing I must acknowledge about him is that he never ever tries to come in the way of my decisions or tries to influence me. He respects my space," Tabu signed off.

Earlier slated for a July 5 release, *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha* will now release at a later date.

## Vivian Dsena set to make his OTT debut



It's been over a year since Vivian Dsena was seen on screen, but the actor informs that soon he will be making his OTT debut. "There are talks going on for a web show, I have done mock shoot for it. It's going to be my debut for OTT. We still have to start shooting, and we will do that post monsoons," he shares.

Dsena's last show was *Udaariyaan* in 2023, and

ever since his marriage in 2022, he has been traveling back and forth between Mumbai and Bahrain for work as his wife and daughter stay there. Ask him how he manages it, and he says, "Who am I working for? Once you have a family, you do all that you can for them. I have this special connection with (comedian-actor) Zakir Khan and he once said, 'never blame

your parents for what they did, because they must have done their best'. And I love that. My family can of course travel to Mumbai when they want and even my father travel to Bahrain sometimes. With so much technology around, it isn't difficult. And it's just 3.5-4 hours flight to Bahrain from Mumbai."

The 36-year-old has been a part of the industry since 2008 and feels happy that in a time when "shows are going off air in two to three months, my shortest show has run for 10-11 months." Ask the actor if he ever felt attracted to the land of Bollywood in these 16 years in the industry and he says, "I never had a Bollywood dream, I am sorry. At the beginning of my career, even before people knew who I am, my mother told me that if God gives you a position at a certain place, give your best every time at the same position. Don't try to wander around into a position where you have to start from scratch."

## PM Modi vows tough action in NEET row, slams Opposition for politicising issue

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised stringent action against those involved in the NEET paper leak and those who play with the future of the country's youth.**

NEW DELHI, Jul 3 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, assured strict action in the NEET paper leak incident, stating that those responsible will not be spared by the government. He accused opposition parties of playing politics with the future of the country's youth.

"The President mentioned the paper leak in her speech. I expect the entire house to rise above politics and discuss the issue. Unfortunately, it's being politicised, which is concerning for the country's future," PM Modi remarked while responding to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in the Upper House.

He asserted, "I assure the youth of our country, this gov-



ernment will not spare those who cheat and scam you".

"Action is being taken to hold accountable those who jeopardise the future of our youth," he added, emphasising, "We have enacted strict laws and are strengthening the entire

system".

He assured that the government is committed to creating an environment where students can focus on their studies without worrying about examinations.

The Opposition has been

demanding a detailed discussion on the NEET issue in Parliament. Both houses witnessed multiple disruptions as the INDIA bloc pressed for an immediate discussion. On Monday, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha urged the Speaker to allocate a day after the Motion of Thanks debate to discuss NEET.

The NEET-UG examination for medical courses has been marred by allegations of irregularities, including paper leaks, prompting protests and a CBI investigation. The head of the National Testing Agency has been removed. An expert panel is currently reviewing the agency and seeking reform suggestions. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear several pleas on July 8.

## India's Solar Observatory Aditya-L1 Completes Halo Orbit: ISRO

NEW DELHI, Jul 3 (Agencies): Aditya-L1 spacecraft, known as India's solar observatory, has completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), announced mission officials at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The Aditya-L1 was launched to low earth orbit (LEO) on September 2, last year by the Indian rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle - XL (PSLV-XL) variant. Sun-Earth L1 is the point where the gravitational pull of two large bodies -- Sun and Earth -- will be equal and hence the spacecraft will not gravitate towards any one of them. The spacecraft was

inserted in its targeted halo orbit on January 6, early this year.

To complete a revolution around the L1 point, "Aditya-L1 spacecraft took 178 days", the ISRO said.

During its travel in the halo orbit, the spacecraft underwent various perturbing forces that worked to depart from the targeted orbit.

To maintain the orbit, the spacecraft had to undergo two station-keeping maneuvers on February 22 and June 7.

On Tuesday, the spacecraft conducted its third station-keeping maneuver. And now it has "continued into the second halo orbit path around L1", the space agency said.

"This journey of Aditya L1 around Sun-Earth

L1 Lagrangian point involves modeling of complex dynamics.

The understanding of various perturbing forces acting on the spacecraft helped in determining the trajectory accurately and planning precise orbit maneuvers," the ISRO said.

The third maneuver also validates the state-of-the-art flight dynamics software developed in-house at URSC-ISRO for the Aditya-L1 missions.

Aditya-L1, dedicated to the study of the Sun, carries seven payloads. It will observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the Sun's outermost layers (the corona) using electromagnetic, particle, and magnetic field detectors.

## Excise 'scam': Delhi High Court agrees to hear Arvind Kejriwal's bail plea on Friday

NEW DELHI, Jul 3 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Wednesday said it would hear on July 5 Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea seeking bail in the corruption case registered by the CBI in connection with the alleged excise policy scam.

The counsel for Kejriwal mentioned the matter for urgent listing before a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela which said it would be heard on Friday. Advocate Rajat Bhargava, appearing for Kejriwal, asserted that the applicant was taken into illegal custody without following the due procedure of law and he has filed a bail plea.

As the counsel insisted on fixing the plea for hearing on Thursday, Justice Manmohan said, "Let the learned judge go through the papers. We will have it day after." The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener was arrested by the CBI on June 26 from Tihar Jail, where he is still lodged in judicial custody in a connected money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

He has already challenged his arrest in the CBI case and the plea is pending before the high court. The court had



issued notice and asked the CBI to file its reply while listing it for arguments on July 17.

Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED on March 21, was granted bail by the trial court in the money laundering case on June 20. However, the trial court's order was stayed by the high court.

The excise policy was scrapped in 2022 after the Delhi lieutenant governor ordered a CBI probe into alleged irregularities and corruption involving its formulation and execution.

According to the CBI and ED, irregularities were committed while modifying the excise policy and undue favours extended to the licence holders.

## Drugs, Raw Materials Worth 327 Crore Seized In Inter-State Crackdown; 15 Arrested

THANE, Jul 3 (Agencies): Police on Wednesday claimed to have busted a drug racket spread across four states with the arrest of 15 persons and seizure of mephedrone and raw materials valued at 327.69 crore over the last two months.

The mega operation was conducted in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Gujarat since May during which several premises were raided and drug manufacturing units unearthed, Mira Bhayander-Vasai Virar Police Commissioner Madhukar Pandey said at a press conference.

Raw materials of 300 crore were seized from a drug manufacturing unit in UP, he said.

Four firearms and several live cartridges were also seized from an

accused in Maharashtra's Palghar district, the official said.

The arrested include eight from UP, three each from Maharashtra and Telangana and one from Gujarat, as per the police.

Giving details of the operation, Mr Pandey said that on May 15, the crime branch officials arrested two persons during checking at Chena Gaon in Maharashtra's Thane district and seized 1 kg of MD (mephedrone) valued at 2 crore from them.

A case under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered against the two, hailing from Vasai in neighbouring Palghar district.

During interrogation, one of the accused led the police to a factory at

Narsapur in Telangana, the official said.

The police raided the unit and seized 103 gms of MD valued at 20.60 lakh and 25 kg of raw materials worth 25 crore.

On May 17, the police arrested from there two persons who were involved in manufacturing the drug, the official said.

Following their interrogation, the police arrested one person from Varanasi in UP, and another man from Goregaon in Mumbai from whom 71.10 gm of MD valued at 14.38 lakh was seized, he said.

Further interrogation of the accused led the police to catch a person from his house at Padgha in Thane and seizure of accessories of 53,710 used for the manufacture of drugs and chemicals, the offi-

cial said.

During the probe, the police got a tip that a man from Mumbai, who is yet to be caught, transferred funds required for the manufacture of drugs and sale proceeds through a person from Surat in Gujarat, he said.

The police traced that person to Surat and seized 10.84 lakh cash sent to him, the official said.

They learnt some amount was also sent through angadias (traditional courier service).

The police traced two angadias to Bhendi Bazar in Mumbai and seized from them 6,80,200 sent to them, he said.

Subsequently, the police turned focus towards Jaunpur in UP where some of the

accused were running a mephedrone manufacturing factory.

They seized from the unit 300 kg of raw material kept in drums and valued 300 crore and arrested three persons on June 25, the official said.

Three other persons involved in the crime were arrested from Lucknow on June 26, he said.

The accused also informed police about another person who was arrested from Nalla Sopara in Palghar on Monday.

The police seized three pistols, one revolver and 33 live cartridges from his possession, the official said.

A probe was on to find out if more persons were involved in the mega racket, the police said.

## Another Bridge Collapses In Bihar, 7th Such Incident In 15 Days

SIWAN, Jul 3 (Agencies): In a troubling trend for Bihar, a portion of a bridge over Gandaki river in Siwan district collapsed on Wednesday morning, marking the seventh such incident in the state within the past 15 days.

The small bridge, situated in the district's Deoria block, connects several villages with Mahrajganj.

No casualties have been reported so far. This is the second incident of bridge collapse in Siwan in the last 11 days.

Deputy Development Commissioner Mukesh Kumar said the exact cause is under investigation. Senior officials from the block have already reached the



site, he added.

"A portion of a bridge in Deoria block collapsed this morning. The exact cause is not known so far. Senior officials of the block have reached the spot and I am also going there," he added.

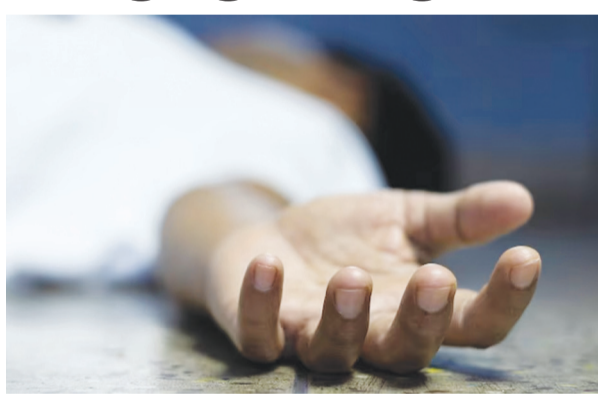
"The incident took place around 5 am. As per initial information, the bridge was constructed in 1982-83. Repair work was going on the bridge for the last few days," Kumar added.

Villagers suggested that heavy rainfall over the preceding days may have contributed to the collapse, with a surge in Gandaki river potentially weakening the bridge's structure.

This incident follows another bridge collapse in Siwan just 11 days ago, underscoring growing concerns over the state of infrastructure in Bihar. On June 22, a portion of a bridge collapsed in Darounda area.

Similar incidents have been reported in districts like Madhubani, Araria, East Champaran, and Kishanganj recently, prompting the Bihar government to set up a high-level committee to investigate these occurrences.

## Elderly man dies after train hits him in Hyderabad, body found hanging on engine



HYDERABAD, Jul 3 (Agencies): An unidentified elderly man died after he was hit by a train on the city outskirts and his body was found hanging on the

loco of an empty rake, Government Railway Police (GRP) said on Wednesday.

The incident happened on Tuesday between Bibinagar and

Ghatkesar and some local TV channels showed a purported video in which the man's body was seen hanging on a moving loco.

The victim was aged about 65-70 years, an Investigation Official of the GRP, who visited the scene, said, adding he was hit by an empty rake while he was "trespassing" railway track and died on the spot.

A case was registered at RPS Secunderabad. Further investigation, including to identify the person, was on.

## India-Mongolia joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' begins in Meghalaya

KOLKATA, Jul 3 (Agencies): The 16th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' between the armies of India and Mongolia commenced in Meghalaya's Umroi today.

The exercise, slated to be conducted until July 16, aims to bolster joint military capabilities for counter-urgency operations in semi-urban or mountainous areas.

Represented by 45 personnel from a battalion of 'Sikkim Scouts'

along with personnel from other arms and services, the Indian contingent joins hands with the Mongolian counterpart from the 150 Quick Reaction Force Battalion.

The last exercise between the two armies was conducted in July 2023.

His Excellency Dambajavyn Ganbold, Ambassador of Mongolia to India, and Major General Prasanna Joshi, the General Officer Commanding 51 Sub



Area of the Indian Army, attended the opening ceremony of the exer-

cise, named 'Nomadic Elephant'. "The exercise will

focus on operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain.

Tactical drills during the exercise include Response to a Terrorist

Action, Establishment of a Joint Command Post, Establishment of an Intelligence and Surveillance Centre, Securing of a Helipad/Landing Site, Small Team Insertion and Extraction, Special Heliborne Operations, Cordon & Search Operations, besides Employment of Drones and Counter Drone Systems, amongst others," reads the official statement issued by the Union Defence Ministry. Major General Gyan-

byamba Sunrev, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Mongolia, and Lieutenant General Zubin A Minwalla, General Officer Commanding 33 Corps of the Indian Army, will attend the closing ceremony on July 16, 2024.

Exercise Nomadic Elephant will enable both countries to share their best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for joint operations.

# Who are the main players in the UK's upcoming national election?

**Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives are widely expected to lose to the main opposition party, the left-of-center Labour, after 14 years in power under five different prime ministers.**

LONDON, Jul 3 (Agencies): Millions of voters in Britain are going to the polls Thursday to choose a new House of Commons and a new government.

Voters will elect 650 lawmakers representing as many constituencies, or local areas, and the leader of the party that returns the most lawmakers will become prime minister.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives are widely expected to lose to the main opposition party, the left-of-center Labour, after 14 years in power under five different prime ministers.

The Conservatives and Labour traditionally dominate British politics under the U.K.'s "first past the post" electoral system, which makes it difficult for smaller parties to win representation in Parliament.

But also in the running are the Liberal Democrats, Reform UK, the Scottish National Party and the Greens, among others.

Here's a look at the parties, who's leading them and what they are promising:

**CONSERVATIVES**  
Who's their leader? Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Sunak, 44, came to power in October 2022 when he inherited a Conservative Party and an economy in turmoil after Liz Truss's short-lived premiership. The Oxford graduate and former Goldman Sachs hedge fund manager is Britain's first leader of color and the first Hindu to become prime minister. Sunak has stressed he is the man who steered the ship, but critics say he lacks political judgement and is out of touch with ordinary voters.

How many seats did they win in the last election? 365

What are they promising?

Delivering a stron-



ger economy and cutting taxes by some 17 billion pounds per year. Increasing public health spending above inflation, and boosting defense spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030. The party says this will be paid for by savings on tax evasion and slashing welfare spending. The party also pledges to cap immigration numbers and remove some asylum-seekers to Rwanda.

**LABOUR**  
Who's their leader? Keir Starmer.

The 61-year-old lawyer, a former chief prosecutor for England and Wales, is the current favorite to be Britain's next leader. A centrist and pragmatist, Starmer has worked hard to steer his party away from the more overtly socialist policies of former leader Jeremy Corbyn and quelled internal divisions. Critics call him unexciting and unambitious, but Labour has surged in popularity under his leadership.

How many seats did they win in the last election? 202

What are they promising? Promoting "wealth creation," encouraging investment and improving Britain's infrastructure like railways under a 10-year infrastructure strategy. Setting up a state-owned clean power company to boost energy security, paid for by a wind-fall tax on oil and gas giants. Taxing private

schools to pay for thousands of new teachers in state schools. Cutting record-high public health waiting times.

**LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**  
Who's their leader? Ed Davey.

Davey, 58, was first elected to Parliament in 1997. The former economics researcher served as the government's energy and climate change secretary under an uneasy Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition from 2012 to 2015. Davey became leader of the left-of-center Lib Dems in 2019 and was not a household name until this election, when he made headlines with multiple zany stunts — including bungee-jumping to urge voters to take "a leap of faith."

How many seats did they win in the last election? 11

What are they promising? Improving Britain's overstretched health and social care systems, including introducing free nursing care at home. Investing in renewable energy and home insulation. Clamping down on sewage-dumping water companies. Lowering the voting age to 16. Rejoining the European Union's single market.

**REFORM UK**  
Who's their leader? Nigel Farage.

Farage, a political firebrand who takes pride in being the disruptor in British politics, has posed a serious

headache to the Conservatives since he announced he is running in the election. The 60-year-old populist has long divided opinion with his anti-migrant rhetoric and Euroskeptical stance. A key proponent of Brexit, Farage is capturing many disillusioned Conservative voters with his promises to cut immigration and focus on "British values."

Farage previously ran for Parliament seven times but never won.

How many seats did they win in the last election? None — though the party gained its first lawmaker this year when ex-Conservative Party deputy chair Lee Anderson defected to Reform.

What are they promising? Freezing all "non-essential immigration" and barring international students from bringing their dependents with them. Leaving the European Convention on Human Rights so that asylum-seekers can be deported without interventions from rights courts. Scrapping "net zero" goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to bring down energy bills.

**SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (SNP)**  
Who's their leader? John Swinney.

Swinney, 60, became the SNP's third leader in just over a year in May. The politician has sought to bring stability to the party, which has been in turmoil since Scotland's

long-serving First Minister Nicola Sturgeon abruptly stepped down last year during a campaign finance investigation that eventually led to criminal charges against her husband. Swinney has long served the party; he joined its ranks at 15 years old, and previously led the party from 2000 to 2004.

How many seats did they win in the last election? 48

What are they promising? Swinney has said that if his party wins a majority of seats in Scotland he will try to open Scottish independence negotiations with the London-based U.K. government. He wants to rejoin the European Union and the European single market. He also called for boosting public health funding, scrapping the U.K.'s Scotland-based nuclear deterrent, and an immediate cease-fire in Gaza.

## Over 2 lakh to be affected by fresh Israeli evacuation orders in Gaza: Report

GAZA, Jul 3 (Agencies): Israel has issued new evacuation orders in Gaza's Khan Younis area as it carries out its renewed attacks in southern Gaza.

The order comes as fierce fighting has trapped Palestinians in Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip and in the Shujayea neighborhood in Gaza City in the north.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), as many as 250,000 people are expected to face displacement following the Israeli orders. The UN agency assisting Palestine refugees, UNRWA, has stated that "chaos and panic" are spreading in southern Gaza following the orders.

Displaced families returned to the deserted city of Khan Younis as Israeli attacks moved into Rafah, near Egypt.

In a post on X, UNRWA said, "Just weeks after people were forced to return to a devastated Khan Younis, Israeli authorities have issued new evacuation orders for the area. Yet again, families face forced displacement. We estimate 250,000 people will have to flee.



Even though nowhere is safe in #Gaza."

Speaking on the issue, a UNRWA officer said that heavy shelling by Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) has continued "in the north, middle and south areas of the Gaza Strip ... no place is safe. Already on the ground, we are seeing families move away from this area. There is more chaos and panic spreading on the ground."

"But it is becoming almost impossible for the UN to provide any kind of response due to the Israeli imposed siege ... and now further displacement orders that once again impact our access to

the Kerem Shalom border crossing to receive aid," UNRWA Senior Communications Officer Louise Wateridge said.

Israel launched its offensive operations in Gaza after Hamas' October 7 attack last year which claimed the lives of over 1,200 people, mostly civilians. In the attack, the Israeli terrorists also kidnapped about 250 people.

Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 37,900 people in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

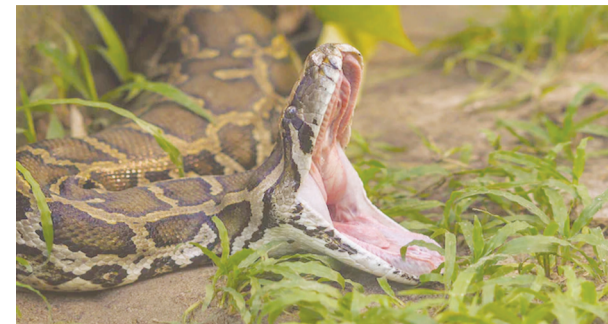
## Pak court acquits ex-PM Imran Khan in protest case related to Toshakhana scam

ISLAMABAD, Jul 3 (Agencies): A Pakistani court on Wednesday acquitted former prime minister Imran Khan and several senior party colleagues in a case registered against them for protesting against the jailed premier's disqualification by the election commission in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Other leaders who have been exonerated in the case by the district and sessions court here are Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Sheikh Rasheed, Asad Qaiser, Shehryar Afridi, Faisal Javed, Raja Khurram Nawaz and Ali Nawaz Awan.

Judicial Magistrate Yasir Mehmood pronounced the verdict, which was reserved last week on the petitions seeking acquittal, during the hearing on Wednesday, agency reported.

The case was registered against the



MAKASSAR, Jul 3 (Agencies): A woman was found dead inside the belly of a snake after it swallowed her whole in central Indonesia, police said Wednesday, the second python killing in the province in a month.

Siriati, 36, had gone missing after she left her house Tuesday morning to buy medicine for her sick child, police said, prompting relatives to launch a search.

Her husband Adiansa, 30, found her

slippers and pants on the ground about 500 metres (yards) from their house in Siteba village, South Sulawesi province.

"Shortly after that, he spotted a snake, about 10 metres from the path. The snake was still alive," local police chief Idul, who like many Indonesians has one name, told agency.

Village secretary Iyang told agency that Adiansa became suspicious after he noticed the python's "very large" belly. He called the villagers to

help cut open its stomach, where they found her body.

Such incidents are considered extremely rare, but several people have been swallowed by pythons in recent years.

A woman was found dead last month inside the belly of a reticulated python in another district of South Sulawesi.

Last year residents in the province killed an eight-metre python, which was found strangling and eating one of the farmers in a village.

A 54-year-old woman was found dead in 2018 inside a seven-metre python in Southeast Sulawesi's Muna town.

The year before, a farmer in West Sulawesi went missing before being found being swallowed by a four-metre python at a palm oil plantation.

## Vice-President Kamala Harris has a better chance of retaining White House than Biden, says CNN poll

WASHINGTON, Jul 3 (Agencies): US Vice-President Kamala Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, has a better chance of retaining the White House in the November presidential polls than her boss President Joe Biden has, according to a latest CNN poll.

The approval rating of Biden, 81, has plummeted after his dismal debate performance in Atlanta last week against his predecessor Donald Trump.

Since the debate, there has been increasing voices in the ruling Democratic party for Biden to step down and let someone else run the race for the crucial November 5 presidential elections.

According to the CNN poll conducted by SRS, Trump is ahead of Biden by six points.

The poll also finds Harris within striking distance of Trump in a hypothetical matchup: 47 per cent of registered voters support Trump, 45 per cent Harris, a result within the margin of error that suggests there is no clear leader under such a scenario.

"Harris' slightly stronger showing against Trump rests at least in part on broader support from women (50% of female voters back Harris over Trump vs. 44% for Biden against Trump) and independents (43% Harris vs. 34% Biden)," the polls said.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre refrained to give a direct comment on the polls.

"I'm constrained to speaking directly to your poll and I get it and I hear the



question. I got to be mindful, that is something for the campaign as you started saying, what the campaign has laid out their argument of the case. That is something for them to take up and that is something for them to answer," she told reporters when asked about it.

"What I can speak to is the president's record. What I can speak to, what he's been able to accomplish and the things that he's been able to do and get done is actually in line with majority of Americans. And I think that's important too, to note. And again, I will say with age comes wisdom and experience and that's certainly something that the president brings," she said.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama leads Trump by a whopping 11 points in an Ipsos poll—50 per cent to 39 per cent — though her office told NBC News in March she would not be running for president this year.



71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Khan and other politicians at Aabpara Police Station for protesting against the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Toshakhana corruption verdict in 2022, which disqualified him from holding office for a limited time.

The Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign dignitaries.

The Toshakhana issue

over the sale of state gifts received by the former cricketer-turned-politician became a major issue in national politics after the ECP disqualified Khan for making false statements and incorrect declaration.

Khan had earlier contended that recent amendments to the Elections Act 2017 limit the ECP's jurisdiction in deciding the qualification or disqualification of a member based on a court conviction.

He had accused the ECP of acting with unlawful zeal and haste to exclude him from the February 8 general

elections rather than ensuring fair and free elections.

On August 5 last year, Khan was sentenced to three years in imprisonment and fined Rs 100,000 in the Toshakhana corruption case, a conviction later suspended by the Islamabad High Court.

Khan has been facing a slew of charges ranging from corruption to terrorism since his removal as the premier in 2022.

The PTI founder has been in jail since last August and was convicted in some cases ahead of a nationwide election earlier this year.

He is also fighting dozens of other cases. The only hurdle keeping him behind bars is the iddat or the un-Islamic marriage case, whose proceedings are underway, and the judge expects the case to be wrapped up within this month, according to the agency report.







## 'It's coming home': T20 World Cup champions Team India set to land in Delhi on Thursday

**Just hours after their T20 WC win, Men in Blue were forced to stay confined inside their hotel rooms as the hurricane made landfall in Barbados on Sunday**

BRIDGETOWN, Jul 3 (Agencies): The ICC T20 World Cup winning team, which was stranded in Barbados due to airport shut down in Barbados owing to Hurricane Beryl, is now poised to return to India on Thursday morning.

The Rohit Sharma-led team is expected to land in Delhi tomorrow. Ahead of their departure, the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) posted a video of the World Cup Trophy that India bagged with their win against South Africa. "It's coming home", posted BCCI alongside the video.

The special chartered flight arranged by BCCI secretary Jay Shah will also be carrying members of Indian media who went to cover the tournament but got



stranded due to the hurricane.

Just hours after their T20 WC win, Men in Blue were forced to stay confined inside their hotel rooms as the hurricane made landfall in Barbados on Sunday and a curfew was imposed for the safety of people. Electricity and water supply were also

affected. In the final match of the tournament, India won the toss and opted to bat first. After being reduced to 34/3, a counter-attacking partnership between Virat (76) and Axar Patel (47 in 31 balls, with one four and four sixes) of 72 runs restored India's position in the game. A 57-run

stand between Virat and Shivam Dube (27 in 16 balls, with three fours and a six) took India to 176/7 in their 20 overs. Keshav Maharaj (2/23) and Anrich Nortje (2/26) were the top bowlers for SA. Marco Jansen and Aiden Markram took a wicket each. In the run chase of 177 runs, Proteas was

reduced to 12/2 and then a 58-run partnership between Quinton de Kock (39 in 31 balls, with four boundaries and a six) and Tristan Stubbs (31 in 21 balls, with three fours and a six) brought back SA into the game. A half-century by Heinrich Klaassen (52 in 27 balls, with two fours and five sixes) threatened to take the game away from India. However, Arshdeep Singh (2/18), Jasprit Bumrah (2/20) and Hardik (3/20) made a fine comeback in death overs, keeping SA to 169/8 in their 20 overs. Virat secured the 'Player of the Match' for his performance. Now, by securing their first ICC title since the Champions Trophy in 2013, India has ended their ICC trophy drought.

## So much talk of Suryakumar Yadav's final T20 catch, India's Harleen Deol did it first in 2021



CHANDIGARH, Jul 3 (Agencies): Without doubt, Suryakumar Yadav's match-winning catch in the T20 World Cup 2024 final was breathtaking, but Harleen Deol did it better in 2021.

Doel--in a match against England --had left commentators speechless and fans in awe as it wasn't just a catch, but a statement about the evolving standards of women's

cricket. As old footage of Deol's catch resurfaced, cricket enthusiasts celebrating Suryakumar Yadav's match-winning catch were quick to draw comparisons.

Yadav's catch, a key moment in India's nail-biting victory over South Africa, has been hailed as one of the greatest in World Cup history, but if we go back to July 2021, Doel, too, was a stunner and had displayed great

fielding that deserves all the limelight.

In 2021, during the T20 international against England, Harleen Deol, caught a catch, which was even more spectacular than Yadav's recent stunner.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, too, had then congratulated Harleen Deol on the 'phenomenal' catch.

After a powerful hit from England's Nat Sciver, Deol leapt at the long-off boundary, caught the ball mid-air, her perfect presence of mind helped her carry her over the rope and then tossed the ball up, crossed the boundary, and dived back in to take the catch.

"So much talk of Surya Kumar Yadav's catch. Let us see our Harleen Deol in T20 against England!," wrote one user on X.

## Neeraj Chopra offers Paris Diamond League snub clarification: Wasn't part of my calendar

NEW DELHI, Jul 3 (Agencies): India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has opened about his Paris Diamond League snub and said the event wasn't part of his competition calendar this year and he is focusing on getting ready for the upcoming Olympics in Paris. Neeraj will be looking to defend his crown during the Olympics this year and had taken part in the Doha Diamond League, the Federation Cup back home and the Paavo Nurmi Games.

It was reported that Neeraj had withdrawn from the Paris Diamond League as he wanted to focus on his health and now the star javelin thrower has offered clarification. In a tweet he posted on his official X account, Neeraj said that he didn't actually 'withdraw' from the event as it wasn't part of his calendar this season.

"Hello, everyone. Just to clarify: the #ParisDL wasn't part of my com-



petition calendar this season, so I haven't 'withdrawn' from it. I'm focusing on getting ready for the Olympic Games. Thanks for your understanding and support, and wishing all the athletes competing all the best!" said Neeraj in the tweet.

Neeraj to address adductor issue after Olympics

Neeraj had commented on his adductor issues earlier in the year and said he would be looking to address the matter after the Olympics is done.

"Every year I have some problems with my adductor, maybe after the Olympics I am going to talk to different doctors." Chopra, however, expressed the desire to compete in more competitions this season.

"Initially I wanted to compete more this season, but it was not possible due to my niggles," he added.

Neeraj had finished 2nd in the Doha Diamond League earlier this year before getting gold in the Federation Cup and Paavo Nurmi Games.

## 'Thanks Rohit for that call in November': Rahul Dravid reveals how India skipper stopped him from quitting after ODI WC heartbreak

BRIDGETOWN, Jul 3 (Agencies): Had he not received a phone call from India skipper Rohit Sharma, requesting him to continue after the ODI World Cup final defeat, Rahul Dravid wouldn't have been a part of history, the outgoing head coach revealed in his farewell speech to the team after it was crowned T20 world champion here.

Dravid's tenure had ended with the ODI World Cup after India lost to Australia in the final despite a 10-match winning run, but the coaching staff got an extension till the end of the T20 World Cup that concluded on Saturday last.

While Dravid has not reapplied for the role after India's second T20 World Cup win, he mentioned Rohit's role in urging him to continue as the coach during his speech in the Kensington Oval dressing room after the team's seven-run win in the final against South Africa on Saturday.

"Ro, thank you very much for making that call to me November and asking to continue," Dravid said in a video shared by BCCI.

"I think it's been such a privilege and a pleasure to work with



each and everyone of you, but Ro, also thanks for the time... there is a lot of time we have to chat, we have to discuss, we have to agree, we have to disagree at times, but thank you so very much," Dravid said as Rohit laughed.

Dravid praised the players for putting up collectively solid performances through the tournament and urged them to celebrate the achievement as much as they would like.

"All of you will remember these moments. We always say, it is not about the runs, it is not about the wickets, you never remember your career but you remember moments like this, so let's really enjoy," Dravid said. "I could not be more proud of

since the time you were kids, for you to be here in the dressing room," Dravid said.

"Today, your parents, your wives, your children, your brother, your coaches, so many people have made so many sacrifices and worked so hard with you for you to enjoy this memory in this moment... really, really proud to have being a part of this memory with you guys," he continued.

Usually articulate, Dravid admitted he was falling short of words but praised the team for their respect towards the outgoing coaching staff.

"I'm not usually short of words but on a day like today, for me to be part of this, I could not be more grateful for the respect, for the kindness, for the effort that each and everyone of you are shown to me, to my coaching staff to my support staff," he conceded.

Dravid also praised the BCCI officials and others for their work behind the scenes.

"Behind a great team, there is also a successful organisation and we have to acknowledge the work of BCCI and people behind the scenes for the work they have done," he added.

## My name is Khan: Haryana's Parvej, the new sensation in US

CHANDIGARH, Jul 3 (Agencies): The excitement of the evening events had faded into the sultry night and the floodlit stadium had all but emptied out. Standing near the exit, Parvej Khan was getting ready to leave when he was asked for selfies by a few of the remaining spectators. Parvej, having just received his gold medal, agreed hesitantly. The 19-year-old, who won the 1,500 metres final in Panchkula last week for his first National Inter-State Championship title, is still getting used to the extra attention.

Though it was his first competition in India in almost a year, Khan's popularity had preceded him thanks to his exploits in the USA.

Khan, who is studying in Florida on scholarship, had a busy spring season on the collegiate circuit, including a gold at the SEC Outdoor

Track & Field Championships in May.

The video of his incredible kick down the final stretch, with his long hair flowing back and his necklace held between his teeth, has only added to his growing legend.

Khan had already made history in March, becoming the first Indian track athlete to compete in the NCAA Division I Indoor Championships, finishing seventh in the mile short track final.

Khan's journey — from Haryana's hinterland to rubbing shoulders with Olympians in the USA — seems to have come straight out of a story-book.

"Growing up in a village in Haryana, I had never imagined I would one day be studying in America and training with Olympians medalists," said Khan, who belongs to Chahalika in Nuh district.

Khan, whose father is a small-scale farmer,



started running in his preteens mainly to prepare for the army recruitment test. But he took to racing like a fish to water, beating boys five years older than him in village races. In search of better facilities, a 13-year-old Khan moved to Delhi, where

he lived with his uncle and trained at the JLN Stadium. A year later, he shifted to the SAI centre in Bhopal. After an impressive run on the junior circuit, Khan won his first senior gold in 2021, which helped him get recruited by the Indian Navy.

The National Games gold in 2022 earned him a spot in the national camp. It was during one of the Indian contingent's training stints at the Olympics training centre in Colorado that his career took an unexpected turn.

On the advice of a social media friend, a foreign athlete studying in the USA, Khan applied and got admission into the University of Florida in Gainesville, also earning a sports scholarship.

"It was difficult in the beginning because of the language barrier. With my training and studies, which I cannot afford to ignore, I have a very busy routine. I got a bit overwhelmed at the start. But things have settled down. I have made friends, I am getting better at my studies and most importantly I am improving on the track," he said.

Last month, Khan

improved his personal best to 3 minutes, 36.21 seconds.

Though he comfortably won the final in Panchkula, his timing (3:42.95) was far from his best.

"I arrived in India just three days before the race. It was nice and cool in America but very humid here, so I couldn't do my best," he said.

But Khan is focussing on his long-term targets. "I will return to the US in August. Till then I will most likely train in Bhopal. My university coach will send me the training programme," he said. "I am targeting next year's Asian Championships, and then obviously bigger events like the Asian Games and the Olympics. But I just want to focus on my training at this point," he said.

Khan also has Jinson Johnson's national record of 3:35.24 in his crosshairs. "My target is 3:30 and I am working hard towards it," he said.

## Men's hockey team must avoid PC bug: Viren Rasquinha



MUMBAI, Jul 3 (Agencies): Former captain Viren Rasquinha believes the Indian men's hockey team has to do away with its habit of conceding unnecessary penalty corners if it desires to finish on the podium in the upcoming Paris Olympics.

India, who won a bronze in the Tokyo Olympics, are placed in a tough Pool B alongside defending champions Belgium, Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and Ireland.

"In the Australia series as well as the last few FIH Pro League matches they've just been conceding far too many penalty corners," Rasquinha said during a panel discussion organised by the Sports Journalists Association of Mumbai here.

Rasquinha said head coach Craig Fulton has got the team he wanted. "I'm happy that he has got the team of his choice. Especially in hockey, where unlike cricket, there are less stats to back you up, it's important to get a team of your choice," he said.

# Rahul got 'Gandhi' surname in adoption but he doesn't know Sacrifices of Hindus for India: Braham Jyot

### Top News Report

JAMMU, July 3: Braham Jyot Satti, Senior leader BJP and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir, issued a press statement and lashed out at Rahul Gandhi (Opposition leader) for his anti-Hindu statement in Parliament.

He said Rahul Gandhi got 'Gandhi' surname in adoption because his grandmother and former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi was daughter of Pandit Jawa-

harlal Nehru and she got 'Gandhi' surname in adoption by Mahatma Gandhi.

He said in parliament Rahul Gandhi while leading the opposition said that Hindus are violent, liar etc which is unacceptable and non-tolerable at all and it is not the first time when Congress Party disrespected Hindus and their always issued unnecessary statements to target Hindus.

They did the same for many times in the past also even 1975 Rahul's grandmother imposed

unnecessary emergency throughout nation for the sake of her chair.

He said Hindus are very much tolerant than any other. They were Hindus who sacrificed their lives while fighting against Mughals.

They were Hindus who sacrificed their lands, emotions and made another nation (Pakistan) 1947.

They were Hindus who lost their provinces and rights during the emergency in 1975. They were Hindus were forced

to migrate from Kashmir overnight 1989.

He said Rahul Gandhi is immature frustrated person because the congress party is being rejected by the public of India for the 3rd consecutive time. Rahul thinks 99 out of 543 is a big number this shows his immaturity.

He said people gave a mandate to the BJP for the 3rd consecutive time because of its successful public schemes and for making our Nation strong.

He said PM Narendra Modi led government is

working for segments of society and there is huge number of highly beneficial schemes which are running by Government just for needy people.

He said nation's first ideology of BJP is best and it works in the nation's interest and prominent citizens are joining hands with BJP which is highly appreciable.

He said under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi India is achieving new heights at International level.

# Amir to address students of Jammu Region in Reasi, Doda, Shopian, Rajouri, Poonch

### Top News Report



JAMMU, July 3: A press conference was held by Aryans Group of Colleges, Chandigarh today in Jammu and announced scholarship worth Rs. 18 crore for 18th Batch academic session. A delegation of Aryans Group visited Jammu for awareness sessions led by Dr. Anshu Kataria Chairman, Aryans. The Group is going to organise scholarship mela in Jammu Region in various places including Reyasi, Doda, Rajouri, Shopian, Poonch etc from 4th July - 7th July.

Amir Hussain Lone, Captain, Para Cricket Team, JK & Brand Ambassador, Aryans will also accompany this tour and will address all students.

-22288 (Er. Mudasir), or log on to www.aryans.edu. in for more information.

"I am really happy to be a part of Aryans Group of Colleges, Near Chandigarh who is also known as Mini Kashmir of Punjab I am well aware that out of 3500 students, more than 2000 students from Jammu & Kashmir are studying in Aryans. I felt elated when Aryans Group offered me to be a brand ambassador. It is my pleasure now that I will be connected with JK youth outside Jammu & Kashmir, too". This was said by Captain, Para Cricket Team, JK, Amir Husain thanking Aryans Team. Amir is in lime light because of his friendship with God of Cricket Sachin Tendulkar. Not only this, the richest Indian business house Adani Group has also tweeted and appreciated the hard work & dedication of Amir for Cricket.

Er. Rayees Ahmed; Er. Mudasir Sheikh; Er. Shahid Lone, Aryans Admission Coordinator, Jammu & Kashmir Region said that Aryans Group was established in

2007, running 8 different colleges situated behind Chitkara University, Near Rajpura on Chandigarh patiala highway Since last 17 years group is delivering education in Chandigarh region and offering various courses including Engineering, Law, Nursing, Pharmacy, Paramedical, Physiotherapy, Management, Education etc.

It is to be mentioned God of Cricket, Sachin Tendulkar has invited Amir Hussain to play first ball of Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) & also introduced him with many Bollywood stars. Sachin went to Kashmir to meet Amir and shared his feeling with him.

Not only this, recently richest group of India i.e. Adani Group has invited him in Ahmedabad and honored him. Virat Kohli, Harbhajan Singh, Navjot Sidhu, Ashish Chopra, Ajay Jadhav have also appreciated his passion for cricket on their social media platforms. The cricketer has a unique playing style. He bowls using his legs and bats using his shoulder and neck.

# Rahul Gandhi should apologize to Hindu Sanatanis: Chandel



### Top News Report

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, July 3: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organized a protest today at the Congress headquarters, gathering a multitude of leaders and dignitaries to express their vehement opposition to what they deemed as anti-Hindu statements made by Rahul Gandhi, the opposition leader from the Congress party.

Among those present were BJP MPs Manoj Tiwari and Bansuri Swaraj, MP Yogendra Chandolia Scheduled Caste Front Scheduled Caste Front President Mohanlal Gehra Front District President Chandrapal Chandel BJP Senior Leader Raju Chandel BJP Leader Sonam Parcha Mahila Morcha State President Richa Pandey Moti Lal Sardar Arvind Singh Lovely Rupesh Mehra Advocate Lajpat Rai and other dignitaries were present. The protest was marked by strong condemnations of Rahul Gandhi's remarks, which were perceived as derogatory

towards Sanatan Dharma (Hinduism).

Mohanlal Gehra, State President of the Scheduled Caste Front, expressed deep dissatisfaction with the Congress party's purported policy of undermining India and its Hindu population.

He emphasized that such attitudes are fundamentally anti-Hindu and called upon Rahul Gandhi to issue a formal apology for his comments.

Chandrapal Chandel, District President, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the widespread dismay among the Hindu community regarding Rahul Gandhi's alleged disparaging remarks.

Chandel demanded that Rahul Gandhi publicly retract his statements and seek forgiveness from the followers of Sanatan Dharma.

Addressing the gathered supporters, BJP senior leader Raju Chandel passionately reiterated the demand for an apology from Rahul Gandhi.

He criticized the Congress leader for ridiculing Sanatan Dharma, a religion widely revered for its peaceful principles both

nationally and globally.

Chandel stressed that Rahul Gandhi's remarks were deeply offensive and called upon him to acknowledge his mistake publicly.

The protest underscored a broader sentiment among BJP leaders and supporters that disrespect towards Sanatan Dharma, especially by influential political figures like Rahul Gandhi, must not go unchallenged.

In conclusion, the BJP protest at the Congress headquarters was a strong show of dissent against what they perceived as an affront to Hindu sentiments by Rahul Gandhi.

The demand for a public apology underscored the seriousness with which BJP leaders viewed the issue, emphasizing their commitment to defending the beliefs and dignity of Sanatan Dharma against perceived attacks.

The event highlighted ongoing tensions and polarizations within Indian politics concerning religious sensitivities and underscored the BJP's stance as a guardian of Hindu interests in the political arena.

# Plantation Drive for beautification of Centre for Organic and Natural Farming conducted at SKUAST-Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, July 3: The mega plantation drive has to be initiated in the coming monsoon at Main Campus, Chatha under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, and with the support of Director Research, Dean FoA, Dean FoH&F, Prof. Mukesh Pandey and expert advice of Prof. R.K. Pandey, a plantation drive was initiated today at the Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Skuast Jammu Chatha. The event marked the beginning of an effort to

beautify the Centre with ornamental trees and shrubs.

Prof. Parshant Bakshi, Head of the Centre, inaugurated the plantation drive by planting a Royal Palm. Prof. R.K. Pandey contributed by planting a Fish Tail Palm. Joining them in this green initiative were Dr. Sudhir Singh, Prof. at CONF, Sadiq Ahmed, Niraj Manhas, FCLAs Vijay Choudhary, Garu Ram, Deepak Kumar, Sunil Kumar, and other staff members, who all actively participated by planting various ornamental spe-

cies in the designated lawn area.

This initiative aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the Centre and promote a greener environment, reflecting the commitment of SKUAST-Jammu towards sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

It is worthwhile to mention that Prof. Bakshi has already planted 12500 fruit plants with his students and well wishers since 2016 under Save Horticulture and keeps on encouraging for planting of fruit plants on Birthday or special day.

# KDP Wing of DPAP appeals Govt not to harass exiled people through notifications

### Top News Report

JAMMU, July 3: In a statement issued by the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of DPAP through its President Sanjay Dhar have appealed the Govt. of India and Govt. of J&K UT not to use its Bureaucracy with issuance of unforseen, unexpected, unjustified orders to harass the Displaced Kashmiri People, and as per the routine applied harassment exercises, just to keep the exiled People engaged, to avoid their becoming united, for seeking their Constitutional rights.

Dhar have categorically appealed the new elected Govt of India to now shun the step motherly behaviour adopted during their last two time ruling tenure with the Kashmiri Exiled people and have demanded to know prepare a comprehensive resettlement and Rehabilitation policy after 34 years of exilement for dignified return of this peace loving community, for the sake of humanity, as now the exiled term has gone beyond the tolerance of displaced people.

Dhar have demanded that the displaced people have been let to loss their

culture, future of our future generations, and the brotherhood of harmony, which is the need of the hour to be restored and have expected that this present re-elected Ruling party of India will beat the record of history by making a concrete resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy of exiled people for return to Valley.

Dhar have requested the President of India, the Chief Justice of India, the Human Rights Commission of India to come to the rescue of the Kashmiri Displaced People Community of J&K and to advise the Govt. of India for initiating a return and Rehabilitation policy of the Community back in Valley, as the Lord Bagwan Ram in the Satya Yug had remained in exile only for 14 years and thus community has been let to remain in exile for 34 years being true patriot Indians, that too by the human Bakhets of Bagwan Ram.

Dhar has sought to do justice with the Community having thousands years of history as Brahmins of Kashyep Reshis Land in Kashmir, so that the ignored Constitutional rights are restored back to the exiled Community.

# GDC Neeli Nallah organizes plantation drive to celebrate Van Mahotsav

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, July 3: To celebrate Van Mahotsav, on Wednesday, Government Degree College (GDC) Neeli Nallah, Udhampur organized Plantation Drive under the theme "Ek Podha Maa Ke Naam" within the college premises under the guidance of Dr. Seema Arora, Principal of the college.

The Principal along with some students, teaching and non-teaching staff of the college took part in the plantation drive with great zeal and enthusiasm.

Principal shared her valuable words with the students as well as the staff and said that an institution should organize such drives to aware the students regarding beautification, cleanliness, safe environment, hygiene, plantation drives, and health in par-

ticular to restore clean environment to save our Mother Earth.

She also motivated the students to plant more and more trees and fight the menace of plastic pollution.

The Convenor of the programme was Dr. Maansi Sharma, Assistant Prof. in Education. Others who participated in the drive were Rajeshwar Singh Jamwal, Karan Magotra and Munish.

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