

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

Dakota Johnson slams Hollywood remakes, says its all a mess



NATIONAL

| 7

Modernisation of police force began in UP after BJP came to power in 2017: Amit Shah

INTERNATIONAL

| 8

If attacked, full strength of US forces will come down on you, Trump warns Iran



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BRIEFLY

Ten people injured in road mishap at Bijbhera in South Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): At least ten people were injured when a Taveera vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident near the NHW Fruit Mandi in Jalblipora area of Bijbhera in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Sunday.

The vehicle, bearing registration number JK14B-9328, hit a road divider near the National Highway Fruit Mandi, resulting in injuries to all ten passengers on board.

"The injured were immediately shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Bijbhera. Seven among them were later referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for specialised treatment, while the remaining three were discharged after receiving first aid. The injured have been identified as Sanjay Kumar (30) son of Sri Biree Singh, resident of New Delhi; Benu (33) wife of Sanjay Kumar, resident of Agra, Uttar Pradesh; Ajay (22) son of Dharminder, resident of Faridabad; Ifat (23) wife of Ajay Kumar, also from Faridabad; Dharminder (48) son of Ram Dass, resident of Faridabad; Anjali (17) daughter of Dharminder, resident of Faridabad; and Durgash Devi (47) wife of Dharmendra Kumar, resident of Faridabad, Haryana," officials said.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident.

Two minor siblings feared drowned in Chenab river in Doda

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Two minor siblings are feared drowned after they slipped into the swollen Chenab river in Doda district, officials said on Sunday, as a major rescue operation is underway to retrieve their bodies.

The boys, hailing from Nepli village, were playing cricket near the river bank when the ball fell in the river on Saturday evening, the officials said, quoting eye-witnesses.

Abbar Ahmad (12) was the first to fall into the river while trying to retrieve the ball and his younger brother Asrar Ahmad (10) was also

■ Turn to page 9

Helicopter crashes near Kedarnath Shrine, All seven on board killed

RUDRAPRAYAG (U'Khand), Jun 15 (Agencies): A helicopter crashed near the Kedarnath shrine in Uttarakhand amid poor visibility early Sunday, killing all seven on board.

Rudraprayag District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said that the accident took place above the forests of Gaurikund.

Five pilgrims, the pilot and an employee of the Badrinath-Kedarnath temple committee were among those killed.

The helicopter took off from Kedarnath for Guptkashi around 5:30 am and crashed soon after. The crash site is located nearly 5 km above Gaurikund known as Gauri Mai Khark.

Sources said the chopper belonging to Aryan Aviation Pvt Ltd crashed between Gaurikund and Trijuginarayan in Kedarghati and caught fire.

Rajwar said zero visibility caused by bad weather apparently led to the crash and added that rescue and relief teams have been dispatched to the spot.



District Tourism Development Officer and Nodal officer for Heli Service Rahul Chaubey said information about the helicopter going missing was received early this morning and a search was launched immediately.

The deceased hailed from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Those on board the helicopter included Shradhdha Rajkumar Jaiswal (35) from Maharashtra, Kashi (2) from Maharashtra, Rajkumar Suresh Jaiswal (41) from Gujarat, Vikram Singh Rawat from Uttarakhand, Vinood Devi (66) from Uttar Pradesh, Tushti Singh (19) from Uttar Pradesh and the pilot Capt Rajveer Singh Chauhan.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said in a post on X that the State Disaster Response Force and other agencies are engaged in relief and rescue operations.

The chopper crash comes days after an Air India flight to London crashed in Ahmedabad, killing 241 people on board and several others on the ground.

Earlier, on May 8, a helicopter going to Gangotri Dham crashed

in Uttarkashi district in which six people were killed.

On June 7, a helicopter going to Kedarnath had to make an emergency landing on the road due to a technical fault soon after take-off in which the pilot was injured but the five devotees on board were rescued safely.

In the wake of the latest crash, Dhami issued strict instructions for helicopter operations in the state.

The chief minister said a strict SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) should be prepared for the operation of heli services in the state, in which a complete check of the technical condition of the helicopter should be made mandatory. Weather status should also be checked before heli operations.

The chief secretary has been directed to constitute a committee of technical experts, which will prepare the SOP after thoroughly reviewing all technical and safety aspects of

■ Turn to page 9

Tourism in Pahalgam limping back to normalcy



PAHALGAM, Jun 15 (Agencies): Nearly two months after the deadly terror attack here left 26 persons dead, the tourism trade in this south Kashmir resort is limping back to normalcy as locals and a "trickle" from Punjab have started visiting the valley of shepherds after the Eid holidays.

A significant number of Kashmiris from other parts of the valley made their way to Pahalgam on the third day of the Eid, much to the delight of people associated with the tourist trade in this resort, which is 100 kilometres from Srinagar.

"We have been visiting Pahalgam every year irrespective of whether there has been a rush of tourists or not. So, it was no different this year. However, we did feel pampered this time," Nabeel Bhat, a youngster from Srinagar said.

Bhat was referring to "special attention" showered on the tourists by the locals of Pahalgam and the rock bottom prices for most services.

The tourism trade came to a standstill in most of Kashmir after the April 22 terror attack on tourists at Baisaran, a meadow six kilometres from here, in which 26 persons — 25 tourists

and a local service provider — were killed.

The incident led to air skirmishes between India and Pakistan while cross border shelling took a toll of people along the Line of Control (LoC).

"The service providers this time are more affable towards locals... It was not the case in the previous years when a large number of tourists used to flock to this place," said Aleena Jan, a resident of Srinagar's Civil Lines area.

Most of the local tourists were happy that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had

■ Turn to page 9

Continuous upgrade of GMC services; Govt's prime concern: Chief Secretary



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today had a detailed review of the critical infrastructure and services being provided across the associated hospitals of medical colleges besides assessing the status of faculty and

courses offered in each of these colleges.

The Chief Secretary, while chairing a meeting held in this regard, thoroughly analysed the progress achieved in introduction of specialisation courses (MD/MS, DM/MCH and DNB), increase of 50 MBBS

■ Turn to page 9

Durga Nagar chain snatching case solved, Two accused held: Police

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police have cracked the recent chain snatching case in Durga Nagar, recovering a gold chain worth lakhs and arresting two accused involved in the crime.

The incident took place on June 4 when two helmet-wearing men on a scooter snatched a gold chain from a woman

waiting near a school bus stop.

The accused brandished a sharp-edged weapon to threaten the victim before fleeing. To avoid detection, they had removed the scooter's number plate. The vehicle was later found abandoned in Janipur.

Following the incident,

■ Turn to page 9

Anti-Terror raids underway in Poonch

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Sunday conducted anti-terror raids at multiple places in the border district of Poonch, officials said. Jammu food guide

The raids are underway at eight locations in Soujian and adjoining areas, the officials said.

They said police launched the simultaneous raids as part of a crackdown to dismantle terror infrastructure and thwart attempts by Pakistan-based terrorists to use their contacts for motivating gullible youth to carry out subversive activities.

Earlier this month, police conducted similar raids at over five dozen places in the border district against Over Ground Workers (OGWs).

Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Rajouri

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Alert troops of the Army foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Sunday, while searches are underway after suspicious movement was

■ Turn to page 9

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TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Mrs. Sohniee Lata (Kaki)**, w/o Roshan Lal Dhar originally from Bumhama, Kupwara, A/P Flat No 15, Block 30, Lane 7, Jagti Nagrota, Jammu on 07/06/2025.

Tenth Day Kriya & Assembly will be performed on 16/06/2025 at Muthi Ghat near Director Education office, Jammu at 8 AM. **Mourning** after 10th Day Kriya will be observed at Community Hall, Lane 05, Jagti Nagrota.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Roshan Lal (Husband)
Akhilesh Dhar (Son)
Kashi Nath Dhar (Brother-in-law)
Brother in law & Sister in law
Smt. and Sh. Krishan Lal Dhar
Smt. and Sh. Vinod Kumar Dhar
Smt. and Sh. Sunil Kumar
Smt. Phoola Raina (Sister in law)
Sh. Suraj Prakash Pandita (Brother in law)
Smt. Chuni Ji Pandita (Bua)
Deeply Missed by:
Ankit, Meenu, Archit, Hardick, Manika, Meisha, Prakriti.
Dhar's, Raina's, Pandita's, Bhat's

Contact: 9419223118, 7006342843



**Mrs. Sohniee Lata
(Kaki)**

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad and untimely demise of **Smt. Dimpy Dhar Bhat**, wife of Sh. Lalit Kumar Bhat. Originally from Fatehpura Anantnag and presently residing at Flat No. 205, Mahagun Apartments, Shalimar Garden Ext-1, opposite Hyundai showroom, Wazirabad Road, Ghaziabad, UP

The **Tenth Day Kriya** for our dearly departed Smt. Dimpy Dhar will be observed on Monday, June 16, 2025, at Murad Nagar Ghat at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY

Sh. Lalit Kumar Bhat - Husband (Mob: 9560697780)

Osheen Bhat - Daughter

Tanishka Bhat - Daughter

Smt. Mohan Rani - Mother-in-law

Sh. Sanjay Bhat & Minakshi Bhat (Mob: 7011998340)

Smt. Basanti Bhat & Sh. Suneel Bhat (Mob: 9723450223)

Samast Bhat Parivaar



**SMT. DIMPY DHAR
BHAT**

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief, we inform that **Mrs. Jyoti Baloria W/o Kuldeep Baloria** left us for her heavenly abode on 7th June.

Tenth Day will be performed on Monday 16th June, 2025 at 10:00 AM. **Kriya** on 19th June, 2025 at 11:00 AM at our residence H.No. 156-B, Ram Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Kuldeep Baloria - Husband
Manik Baloria - Son
Sonam Baloria - Daughter
Harnam Baloria - Father-in-law
Surishta Devi - Mother-in-law
Anoop Singh - Brother-in-law
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Anita & Joginder Jamwal
Niece & Nephew
Sonal & Omesh Baloria

Ph.No: 9086816250, 9596429607



MRS. JYOTI BALORIA

MOURNING/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Dura Mota Kundu** W/o Late Sh. Sampat Prakash Smt. Dura Mota Kundu originally resident of Kralyar Rainawari Srinagar, at present H.No. 240, Sector-2 Upper Roop Nagar Jammu. The Mourning will be held at H.No. 240, Sector-2 Upper Roop Nagar Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held at Muthi Ghat on 18-06-2025 at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**SONS & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW:**

Er. Lenin Kundu & Shivarchana Kundu
Er. Ravinder Kundu & Sandhya Kundu

DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW:

Smt. Superna & Sh. Sanjay Pandita

BROTHER-IN-LAWS & SISTER-IN-LAWS

Sh. S.P. Kundu & Smt. Asha Ji Kundu

Sh. Kamlesh Kundu

Sh. Vijay Kundu & Usha Ji Kundu

Smt. Asha Kundu

SISTER-IN-LAW & BROTHER-IN-LAW:

Smt. Raj Dulari Wali

Smt. Bimia & Sh. Manmohan Koul

Smt. Dary & Sh. Raja Ji Munshi

GRAND CHILDREN: Bhaghirathi, Ravanti & Tejashri, Samartha

(Samast Kundu Pariwar)
9419191102, 9419149720, 9419287429



Smt. Dura Mota Kundu

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Somawati (Chanda)** W/o Late Sh. Mahashwar Nath Bhat originally from Fatehpura (Bongam) Anantnag, Kashmir who left for heavenly abode on 11/6/2025.

Address: H.No. 89 B, Lane B, Sector 2, Durga Nagar, Jammu.

Tenth Day shall be performed on 20/6/2025 at Muthi Ghat, Jammu from 7 AM to 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. & Sh. Rattan Lal Bhat - Son

Smt. & Sh. Triloki Nath Bhat - Son

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. & Sh. Hari Krishan Pandit

Smt. & Sh. Maharaj Krishan Raina

Phone No.: 9796265894, 9419200729, 9419216019, 8899453009

Malun Side Mourning will be held at above address.



Smt. Somawati (Chanda)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Laxmi Narayan Koul S/o Late Sh Shyam Lal Koul**, R/o Dembi Niwas, I - 638, Alpha- 2, Greater Noida on 9-6-2025. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 18-06-2025 (Wednesday) Muradnagar Gang Nehar at 7:00 AM

Assembly will be performed at our residence Greater Noida at 11:00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt Krishna Koul (Sister-in-law)

Brother

Sh. Kishen Koul

Sister and Brother-in -Law

Smt Girja Dhar & Sh Kewal Krishan Dhar

Son & Daughter-in-law

Dr Pawan Koul & Ambika Koul

Daughters & Son-in- Laws
Poonam & Rajesh Harker
Shamita & Rahul Koul (Dembi)
Shalini & Dheeraj Malla
Sheweta & Vishal Raina
Kanchan & Kshitij Dhar
Kamakshi & Mayank Wangnoo &
Samast Pariwar
Koul, Dembi, Malla, Raina,
Harker, Wangoo & Dhar



**Sh. Laxmi Narayan
Koul**

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Late Smt. Ajit Kumari W/o Lt. Sh. V. K. Majotra**, Resident of 313, Shastri Nagar, Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 6th June 2025.

10th Day/Satsang: Sunday, 15th June 2025 at 10:00 AM -12:00 at Durga Mandir Rampura Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

Kriya:

Wednesday, 18th June 2025 at 12:30 PM at our home 313 Shastri Nagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN :**Daughters-in-law & Sons**

Smt. Aruna Majotra & Lt. Sh. Suresh Majotra

Smt. Jyoti Majotra & Sh. Rajeev Majotra

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Anita Kumari & Ch. Kamal Singh Chouhan

Smt. Manju Kotwal & Adv. Rajesh Kotwal

Smt. Sushma Choudhary & Lt. Sh. Anil Choudhary

Grand Children:

Taniya, Monica, Akash, Shagun, Rajveer

Contact No.: 9906093736, 9596669555



Late Smt. Ajit Kumari

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Dimpy Ji D/o Sh Prem Nath Dhar of Zainapora Kashmir & W/o Sh Lalit Kumar Bhat** of Fatehpura Anantnag Kashmir at her residence i.e. Flat No 205 Mahagun Apartment Shalimar Garden Ext-1 opposite Hyundai Showroom Wazirabad Road Ghaziabad U.P. on 07-06-25.

10TH DAY KRIYA to be done on 16th June (Monday).

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Mohan Rani W/o Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat

Sh. Sanjay Bhat & Minakshi Bhat (Mob: 7011998340)

Smt. Basanti Bhat & Sh. Suneel Bhat (9723450223)



SMT DIMPY JI

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Brijinder Sharma (Lovelu)** S/o Sh. Isher Dass Sharma and Smt. Sudesh Sharma R/o Kathua who left for heavenly abode on 6-06-2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 15-06-2025 (Sunday) at 9am & **KRIYA** will be performed on 16-06-2025 (Monday) at 10am

Venue- Ward No 13, Shastri Nagar, Kathua.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Father & Mother)

Shri Isher Dass Sharma & Smt. Sudesh Sharma

Smt. Ramni Sharma- Wife

Ira & Jatin Chhabra - Daughter & Son- in - law

Jia Sharma - Daughter

Shri Chander Shekhar Sharma & Smt. Subhlata Sharma- Brother & Sister- in - law

Shri Rajinder Sharma & Smt. Anuradha Sharma -Brother & Sister - in - law

Shri Pawan Sharma & Smt. Rita Sharma -Brother & Sister-in-law

Shri Pritam Kumar Padha & Smt. Kamla Sharma - Father- in - law & Mother- in - law

Dr. Vikas Paha & Dr. Renu Sharma - Brother- in-law & Sister-in-law

MOBILE NO - 8082348781, 7006325930, 9419224220



**Late Shri B.K. Sharma
(1969-2025)**

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Smt. Suman W/o Sh. Meia Dutt Sharma R/o 192 New Plot Sarwal**.

Tenth Day will be performed on 15-06-2025 (Sunday) at 10:30 am at our residence Thalora (Khuga) Tehsil Majalta, District Udhampur.

Kriya will be performed on 16-06-2025 (Monday) at 12:00 noon at VPO Thalora Tehsil Majalta District Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Meia Dutt Sharma- Husband

Manav Pandotra- Son

Mansi Sharma - Daughter

Kush Chadda - Son in law



Late Smt. Suman

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Ravi Ji Koul S/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Koul** presently residing at C1-801, Summer Palms, Sector-86, Faridabad and originally from Dregaam, Budgam Kashmir.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Chola Handwar, Murad Nagar, at 7:00 AM (Sunday) 22 June, 2025.

Assembly will take place at our residence C1-801, Summer Palms, Faridabad at 12:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Jyoti Koul (Wife) - 7780865960

Sahil Koul (Son) - 6005951197

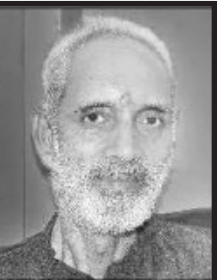
(Brother & Bhabhi)

Sh. Bhushan Lal Koul & Smt. Swam Lata Koul - 9958553189

Sh. Raj Nath Koul (Brother) - 8803140138

Sh. Ashok Ji Koul & Smt. Sunita Koul (Brother & Bhabhi) - 97960 11428

Smt. Rahni Bhan (Sister) - 9910253637



Sh. Ravi Ji Koul

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Parneshwari Dhar W/o Lt. Sh. Prem Nath Dhar R/o Y.K. Pora Qazgund**, presently at H.No. 71/C Om Nagar Udhaywala Bhoji Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 7-06-2025.

10th Day Kriya for the departed soul will be held on 16-06-2025 (Monday) at 9 A.M. at Muthi Ghat (near Director School of Education)

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Sh. Shakti Lal Dhar and Sushma Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Smt. Parna Hangoo and Sh. M.K. Hangoo (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt. Kiran Pandita and Sh. Navneet Pandita (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt. Preeti Dhar and Sh. D.N. Dhar (Sister-in-law)

Sh. Brij Lal Dhar and Venu Ji Dhar (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law)

Sh. Bhushan Lal Dhar and Asha Ji Dhar (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law)

Smt. Phoola Saproo and Sh. P.K. Saproo (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Sh. Avtar Krishan Dhar and Smt. Ashi Ji Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Rajinder Dhar (Son)

Sh. Rakesh Dhar and Smt. Reshi Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Smt. Renu Pandita and Sh. Rajesh Pandita (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt. Sangola Dhar and Sh. Sanjay Dhar (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt. Anila Razdan and Sh. Sanjay Razdan (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Grand Children - Ronit Khosla, Rajat, Satyan, Rohan, Shivi, Aksh, Ayash, Riya, Anshu

Mob. :- 9419505615, 9022363909



Smt. Parneshwari Dhar

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Chaman Lal** Originally a resident of Hawanand Chawalgarh, presently residing at H. No. 368-A, Sector 3, Gangyal, Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 8th June 2025.

Mourning is being observed at our residence: B3-1303, Puranki Rumah Baki, Bhayandarpada, Thane - 400615.

10th Day Kriya will be held on Tuesday, 17th June 2025 at 8:00 AM

at Garmukh Ghat, Thane.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Dazee Bhat - Wife | 9716855443

Mr. Vishal Bhat & Mrs. Sapna Bhat - Son & Daughter-in-law | 9797814412

Ms. Deepika Bhat - Daughter

Brothers & Sisters-in-law:

Late Sh. Bharat Bhushan & Smt. Urmila Bhat

Sh. Maharaj Krishan & Smt. Sanjota Bhat

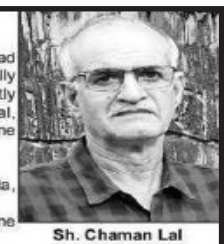
Sh. P.K. Bhat & Smt. Indu Bala

Sisters & Brothers-in-law:

Late Sh. R.L. Kaur & Smt. Raj Dulari

Sh. Bhushan Lal Bhat & Smt. Usha Bhat

Sh. Ratan Lal Bhat & Smt. Gita Bhat



**Sh. Chaman Lal
(JANU BHAIYA)**

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we wish to inform you of the sad demise of **Sh. Mahesh Kumar Raina** who left for his heavenly abode on Saturday, 7 June 2025.

TENTH DAY 16 June, 2025 (Monday) at Panch Mandir Trikuta Nagar, Sec-5 at 10 AM.

KRIYA 17 June, 2025 (Tuesday) at our residence at 12 PM 5/6 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

UTHALA 21 June, 2025 (Saturday) at Panch Mandir from 5 PM to 6 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Thoran Raina- Wife

Son & Daughter-in-law

Dr. Vishal Raina & Dr. Shalini Raina

Sh. Pankaj Raina & Dr. Namita Raina

Brother & Sister-in-law

Lt. Sh. Mukund Ram Raina & Lt. Smt. Vaishno Devi

Sh. Mohan Lal Raina & Smt. Meena Raina

Sh. Harish Chander Raina

Sh. Sudesh Raina & Lt. Smt. Neeru Sharma

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Lajya Devi & Lt. Sh. G.L. Sharma

Over 1,000 cyclists participate in “Cyclothon, Pedal for Peace” in Srinagar

Massive public response reflects commitment to peace in Jammu & Kashmir: Satish Sharma



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: In a landmark public event that radiated the spirit of peace, fitness and togetherness, the “Cyclothon – Pedal for Peace” was held today in Srinagar, attracting over 1,000 cyclists from diverse age groups and backgrounds.

The event was flagged off by the Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, from the lush

greens of the Police Golf Course, concluding at the Astro Turf Ground TRC, amid cheers, enthusiasm and a festive atmosphere.

Being organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, the event was a vibrant part of the Government's mission to promote communal harmony, youth engagement and a culture of fitness across the region.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma said

“This cyclothon is more than just a sporting event but it is a symbolic journey towards a peaceful and united Jammu & Kashmir. It reflects the resilience and potential of our youth.

Through events like this, we aim to channel their energy into constructive, nation-building activities.”

“This event has reaffirmed our belief that the youth of Jammu & Kashmir are eager for positive engagement and want to be part of a peaceful and progressive journey”, the Minister maintained.

The Sports Minister said that organising the cyclothon was the idea of President JK Sports Council, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who himself is an avid sports and fit person.

The event also symbolizes peaceful environs of Jammu and Kashmir, he added. He further

announced that such community-oriented and youth-driven events will now be held weekly in various parts of the Union Territory to ensure sustained engagement and outreach.

The event witnessed the presence of key public representatives and administrative officials who lent their full support to the initiative.

Among the dignitaries were Legislators Farooq Shah, Dr. Shafi, Tanveer Sadiq, Ehsan Paradesi and Mushtaq Guru, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul, Qazi Irfan, RTO Kashmir were also present.

Senior officials from the Sports Council, Traffic Police, Health Services and local administration also attended the event.

The participants ranged from young

school and college students, amateur cyclists, sports clubs and professional athletes; all united under a common cause: pedaling for a better tomorrow.

The route, carefully curated through Srinagar's scenic lanes, was lined with support staff and volunteers ensuring the safety, hydration and morale of the cyclists throughout.

The Minister, later, distributed free cycles among the eldest and youngest participants.

Pertinently, the Cyclothon–Pedal for Peace marks the beginning of a calendar of events curated by the J&K Sports Council that will include marathons, yoga camps, sports tournaments, awareness drives and fitness workshops, aimed at building community spirit, health awareness and societal resilience.

NIA chargesheets three accused in Punjab grenade attack case with links to Khalistani Terrorists

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has charge sheeted three accused in the 2024 case relating to a grenade attack at a police post in Punjab's SBS Nagar district that has been traced to a major conspiracy by the banned Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) terror outfit, officials said on Sunday.

Yugpreet Singh alias Yuvi Nihung, Jaskaran Singh alias Shah and Harjot Singh alias Jot Hundal, all hailing from Rahon village in SBS Nagar, have been charged under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosive Substances Act and other related provisions in the charge sheet filed on Saturday before a court in Mohali, Punjab, they said.

The NIA has also launched investigations against KZF chief and designated individual terrorist Ranjit Singh alias Neeta, the outfit's member operative Jagjit Singh Lahiri alias Jagga alias Jagga Miapur alias Hari Singh (currently in the UK), and other unidentified terror operatives, the officials said.

The agency, which took over the case from Punjab Police in March this year, has found that Jagga had recruited Yug-

preet Singh through an acquaintance in the UK, according to an official statement.

Along with other KZF terrorists and operatives, Jagga had radicalised Yugpreet and “handled him via encrypted messaging applications”, it said.

Jagga had also provided Yugpreet over Rs 4.36 lakh of terror funds through a complex chain of Canada-based entities, who have also been identified and examined, said the statement issued by the NIA.

“Yugpreet had, in turn, recruited the other two chargesheeted accused and the trio had carried out the attack at Police Post Asron during the night between 1st and 2nd December 2024,” it said. The three accused had been provided the grenade by their foreign-based handlers earlier in November 2024, the probe agency said.

The NIA is continuing with its investigation in the case, as part of its efforts to destroy KFZ's attempts to carry out terror attacks at law enforcement establishments and sensitive installations, as well as targeted killings in the state of Punjab, the statement said.

Control Room established in Srinagar for parents of students studying in Iran

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): In view of the current situation in the Middle East, the Divisional Administration has established a dedicated Control Room at the DC Office Srinagar to assist families of students studying in Iran.

Parents and guardians can contact the Control Room to share details of their wards through the following:

Landline Numbers:
0194-2483651
0194-2457543
0194-2457552
WhatsApp Numbers:
+91-9103998355
The administration

urges all concerned families to stay connected and make use of these helplines.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH
E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 64/2025-2026

Dated: 13.06.2025

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N.Ry. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:

S. Tender N. No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1 62255134	Air Brake Set (Twin Pipe) For BVCN Wagon Consisting of 70 Items as per attached Annexure-I RDSO Spec. No. 02 ABR-02 And 04 ABR-02 With Latest Amendments (Drg. WD-15009-S-14 A&S or latest & WD-15009-S-15 Alt. 8 or latest)	480 Sets	14.07.25
2 62255133	Boiler assembly with Boiler web Stiffener (Except Item 4 & 5) as per Drg No. BVCN 805A,B,C,D,E,F & (RDSO Alt- Nil or latest (Ref. RDSO Drg. No. WD-17039-S-05 Item 5 & 10 Alt-1 or latest) Qty-04 Nos./lot.	240 Sets	10.07.25

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

1779/25

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



EAM Urged to facilitate safe evacuation of J&K students from Iran

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Sunday asked External Affairs Minister A Jaishankar to make arrangements for evacuation of students of the Union Territory from Iran as Tel Aviv-Tehran conflict intensified. Jammu food guide

In an X post, JKPCC president Tariq Hameed Karra wrote, “Urgent action needed by @

DrSJaishankar to evacuate J&K students studying in Iran amid escalating tensions and volatile situation. Prioritise their safety, provide comprehensive support, and ensure their swift, secure return home.” The opposition Peoples Democratic Party has urged the stranded students from Jammu and Kashmir to contact Indian embassy in Tehran. PDP leader Iltija Mufti posted on X,

“For Kashmiri students stranded in Iran, please leave a WhatsApp message or call on these Indian Embassy (@India_in_Iran) numbers +98 9128109115 and +98 9128109109. In case you can't get through, please tag us (@jkdpd, @YouthJK-PDP) on your tweets.”

Hundreds of students from Jammu and Kashmir are pursuing professional courses — mainly medicine — in various Iranian universities.

Notorious drug peddler booked under PIT-NDPS act in Miran Sahib

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): In a strong move against drug trafficking, Jammu and Kashmir Police booked a notorious drug peddler from the Miran Sahib area under the PIT-NDPS Act and lodged him in District Jail Udhampur.

The accused has been identified as Manpreet Singh alias Sartaj of Ward Number 2, Simbal Camp, Miran Sahib.

Police said multiple FIRs under the NDPS Act were already registered against him.

Despite being arrested several times, he con-

tinued to supply drugs to local youth in the area, they said.

As such, police said, a dossier under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act was prepared and forwarded to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, who issued the detention order.

Jammu and Kashmir Police said the accused had repeatedly secured bail in earlier cases but continued to engage in the drug trade for illegal profits.

“His detention is

aimed at preventing further involvement in such criminal activities,” they said.

BOPEE conducts Common Entrance Test for GNM-Lateral Entry Courses-2025

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (JK BOPEE) today conducted the Common Entrance Test (CET) for GNM-Lateral Entry Courses-2025 for the Academic Session 2025-26 at Jammu and Srinagar Centres.

The test was conducted at Amar Singh College in Kashmir Division and Government College for Women, Gandhinagar in Jammu Division, where in 646 candidates appeared in this examination.

To ensure smooth conduct of the Entrance Test, adequate arrangements had been established in collaboration with the respective college administrations and law enforcement agencies under the guidance of Professor Minu Mahajan, Chairperson, J&K BOPEE. The process was conducted under the diligent supervision of competent JKBOP-EE staff members and the staff from the respective colleges.

The Chairperson along with Members, Secretary, Controller of Examinations and officials of J&K BOPEE have actively monitored the conduct of the said Common Entrance Test at Srinagar and Jammu. He thanked the District Administra-

tion, IGP Jammu/Kashmir for deploying police personnel, members of monitoring squad, Principal, staff members of the respective Colleges for their support during the smooth conduct of the said Entrance Test.

JMC carries out demolition drive against insanitary huts in Sainik Colony



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 15: On the directions of Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, and in a determined step towards promoting public health and hygiene, the Enforcement and Sanitation Team of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), led by Deputy Commissioner (South), JMC, Lal Chand and Health Officer, JMC, Dr. Vinod Sharma today conducted a demolition drive at various plots in Sainik Colony.

The drive targeted sanitary huts lacking proper toilet facilities, which posed a serious threat to public health and

environmental cleanliness. During the operation, a total of 10 insanitary huts were demolished.

The officers stated that similar drives will be carried out in other sectors of Sainik Colony in the coming days to maintain sanitation standards and discourage the development of unhygienic structures, in line with Open Defecation Free (ODF) objectives.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation reiterates its commitment to building a clean, healthy, and ODF-compliant city, and appeals to the general public to cooperate in upholding sanitation norms for the collective well-being of all.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE HORTICULTURE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OFFICER

GolePulI Talab-Tillo, Jammu (E-mail Id:-hipojam@gmail.com)

Advisory for Fruit Growers:

Measures to Protect Orchards During Heat Wave Conditions

In view of the prevailing heat wave conditions, fruit growers of the Jammu Division are advised to adopt the following cultural and protective measures for safeguarding their fruit plants and ensuring better orchard management:

1. **Timely Harvesting:** Harvest mature fruits promptly and store them in shaded, well-ventilated areas to protect them from heat and humidity-related damage.

2. **Minimize Stressful Operations:** Avoid heavy weeding, pruning, and pesticide spraying during peak heat wave periods to reduce additional stress on the plants.

3. **Scheduled Irrigation:** Irrigate orchards lightly during early morning or late evening hours to minimize water loss due to high evaporation and to help maintain plant turgidity.

4. **Nutrient Management:** Foliar application of multi-nutrients—particularly those containing **Calcium** and **Boron**—is recommended to prevent sunburn, nutrient deficiency symptoms, and other physiological disorders.

5. **Mulching:** Apply mulch around the base of trees using local grasses or black alkathene sheets to retain soil moisture and reduce soil temperature.

6. **Shade Protection:** Use shade nets or straw coverings to protect nursery stock and young/vulnerable fruit plants from direct sun exposure.

7. **Trunk Protection:** Apply a whitewash mixture (hydrated lime + copper sulphate + water) to tree trunks to protect them from sunburn and related heat injuries.

Fruit growers are urged to follow these measures diligently to mitigate the adverse effects of extreme temperatures on their orchards and to maintain plant health and productivity.

DIP/J-2182/25

Horticulture Information & Publication Officer, Jammu

EDITORIAL

Saviour of Kashmir

Brigadier Rajinder Singh, fondly remembered as the “Saviour of Kashmir,” played a pivotal role in the defense of Jammu and Kashmir during the critical days of the 1947 invasion by Pakistani tribal raiders. His heroic stand against overwhelming odds not only saved the princely state from an immediate fall but also laid the foundation for its accession to India. Born on 14 June 1899 in Bagoona village of Samba district in Jammu, Rajinder Singh was a member of a respected Dogra Rajput family. He joined the Jammu and Kashmir State Forces and rose through the ranks with determination, discipline, and loyalty. By October 1947, he was serving as the Chief of Staff of the Jammu and Kashmir Army under Maharaja Hari Singh. The turning point in his life—and in the history of Jammu and Kashmir—came in October 1947 when tribal invaders, supported by Pakistan, launched a sudden and aggressive attack on the princely state with the aim of capturing Srinagar and integrating Kashmir with Pakistan by force. On 22 October 1947, the invaders crossed into the state, plundering and killing as they moved rapidly toward the capital. Maharaja Hari Singh, caught off-guard, sought urgent military assistance from India. But before Indian forces could legally intervene, a formal Instrument of Accession had to be signed. Time was running out. At this moment of crisis, Brigadier Rajinder Singh was summoned. On 22 October, the Maharaja issued a direct command: “Save the state till the last man and last bullet.” Without hesitation, Brigadier Singh assembled a small contingent of just around 150 soldiers and moved toward Uri to halt the advancing raiders. Despite being heavily outnumbered and ill-equipped compared to the enemy, Brigadier Singh and his men displayed unmatched courage and strategic brilliance. Over the next four days, they fought valiantly, destroying bridges and blocking roads to delay the enemy’s advance. His small force managed to hold the attackers at bay long enough to allow the Maharaja to sign the Instrument of Accession with India on 26 October 1947. This permitted Indian troops to be airlifted to Srinagar on 27 October, thereby saving the Valley from falling into enemy hands. Brigadier Rajinder Singh made the supreme sacrifice on 26 October 1947 near Buniyar in Baramulla district. He was killed in action, fighting courageously until his last breath, in line with the Maharaja’s order. His bravery, tactical acumen, and selfless devotion ensured the safety of countless lives and the political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India. In recognition of his gallantry, Brigadier Rajinder Singh was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, India’s second-highest wartime gallantry award. He was the **first officer of the Indian Army (post-Independence)** to receive this honor. Today, Brigadier Rajinder Singh’s legacy lives on. Statues, memorials, and schools across Jammu and Kashmir commemorate his name. The bridge over the Tawi River in Jammu is named after him as “Brigadier Rajinder Singh Bridge,” serving as a daily reminder of his valor. His story is a symbol of sacrifice, patriotism, and duty that continues to inspire generations of Indians, especially in the armed forces. His actions not only protected a territory but also preserved the unity and sovereignty of the nation during one of its most fragile moments. Brigadier Rajinder Singh remains a towering figure in Indian military history—a true son of the soil and a legendary hero whose sacrifice continues to echo in the valleys he died protecting.

Father’s Day, Tribute to Father from his son on Father’s Day

By: Omkar Dattatray

Father's day is annually celebrated on 15th June with great enthusiasm and respect and devotion to fathers on this special day which is dedicated to fathers. Father's day is a day set aside for honouring one's father ,as well as fatherhood, parental bonds, and the influence of father's in society. Father's day complements similar celebrations honouring family members, such as Mothers Day and in some countries, siblings' day and Grandparents Day. The day is held on various dates across the world and different regions maintain their own traditions of honouring fatherhood. Father's day is observed by more than 112 countries in the world .It is observed and celebrated worldwide on June 15 and on this day sons honour fathers and fatherhood. Father's day is not an original custom of India but is rather followed by the influence of the western world. It is observed on the third Sunday of June. I take this auspicious occasion to pay my tributes to my great father whom I remember even today after more than 15 years of his passing away. My father Pt. Badri Nath Koul S/O Late Laxman Koul was born on 23rd October 1923 in village Hanand Chowalgam Of then Tehsil Kulgam in a respectable family of Kashmiri Pandits and his father was working as Patwari in revenue department. Early education of my beloved father who was my darling was in

the local government high school Kulgam and there he went to DAV School Srinagar for pursuing his matriculation and passed matric examination in 1942. My father moved to Srinagar for pursuing education and there he resided with his relations called Dhars who were his relations from his fathers side as his fathers sister was married there. After passing matriculation examination, he took admission in Amar Singh collage Srinagar and passed intermediate examination in year April 1944 from Punjab university. He had the distinction of being the first graduate of his village and thus commanded much respect from the people. He never indulged in corrupt practices and was my inspiration and role model. Then my father passed BA examination in the year 1946 also from Punjab university with good marks. He was a voracious reader and took much interest in reading books, journals, newspapers and religious texts. He got employed in Health and Jails department as Tehvidar as health and Jails department was one department. After some time he was posted in health department as a clerk and was later on after many years promoted as head clerk. Most part of his service he remained posted either in district hospital Anantnag or DMO office Anantnag and later retired as a head clerk in year 1978. My father was a man of simple living and high thinking and he performed his government job with selflessly and with dedication and I always saw him doing paper work in his office unmindful of what is happening

outside. He was the firm believer in the doctrine of work is worship. He was honest to the core and exhorted other to be honest in dealings and he never showed undue favour with any employee during his stay as clerk and Head clerk in the health department. My father was very punctual and honest in his dealings. He never made a show of his educational qualification as graduation mattered most in those olden days. He learnt typing from Lahor in the undivided India and was compelled to come back to Jammu and Kashmir as Kabalyee raid commenced. During his official carrier he also worked for few years in Jammu and thus has first hand experience of living in hot and humid climate of Jammu and thus was reluctant to buy a plot in Jammu as the department offered him a plot at government rates but he declined. But later in the early 1990 he along with his family was forced to migrate to Jammu where he had already in 1986 purchased a pot of ten marlas in Gole Gujral Jammu where we are presently residing and we owe this plot of land and everything else I have to him and his blessings. My father being a highly educated man was very much interested in my education and gave me a good education and it was because of his financial and other support that I pursued masters in commerce subject and got employed in school education department. It was my dear father who got the application form filled in Kashmir university for my M com as I was away on a collage tour then when my result of BA

class was announced. I owe everything to my great father including my education and later job. Had I got no support from my father as well as my mother I would have been an illiterate. I owe my education , job and every else thing to my father. My father was a truly religious man and was always busy morning and evening in worship of God. It is said of him that he was worshipping Parthishur of sliver throughout his life and propitiated Shiva at the river and as his age advanced he donated his shivling to some one. He was a religious man through and through and all paths and stautras were memorised by him orally and he used to recited Bhagwad Gita, Ramayana and studied Mahabharatha. He took great pleasure and interest in reading religious scriptures and narrated stories from Mahabharatha , Ramayana and other religious texts to his family and I have learned Mahamnapar, Bhawni Shastranam and other staturas from my dear father. Alas, my father passed away at his Jammu residence after a very brief illness on 17 of May 2010 at the age of 87 years coinciding with Yashakchourm . It was a big loss to me and my family. May his soul rest in peace.

(The author is a columnist, social KP activist & Freelancer)

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

By: Virender Kumar Gupta

(Former KAS Officer & President Association for Welfare of Senior Citizens)

‘World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)’ is commemorated on June 15th and is an annual international UN observance day on the same date each year. It is an official United Nations International Day acknowledging the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue. Initially, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (nominated as 15 June), was launched by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) in 2006. Later on, vide its resolution A/RES/66/127 adopted in 2011, the United Nations General Assembly recognised it as a United Nations Day. Since 2006, people all over the world have honoured this day to raise the visibility of elder abuse by organising events to promote services that can help increase seniors’ safety and well-being. It is the only day in the year when the world is expected to stand up against the abuse and sufferings perpetrated on a number of our elderly associates – parents and grandparents in particular. It is aimed to provide an occasion for the people to arouse a better perception of abuse and neglect of older persons by cultivating awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. Thus, WEAAD is observed each year to promote a better understanding of the challenge, as also to provide an opportunity to the societies around the world to stand together against the abuse, mistreatment and neglect of older people.

Reliable available statistics world over reveal that:

- Virtually, 1 in 6 persons with age 60 years or above suffered certain type of abuse in society settings.
- Elder abuse is particularly on the rise in various ill managed institutions, such as long-term Elder Care Centres, Nursing Homes and certain other similar establishments with inadequate and/or unqualified supervisory workforce.
- Elders indeed faced worst kind of abuse, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Elder abuse is expected to multiply, as various countries experience rapid growth in aging population. World population aged 60 and older is expected to be more than double from 900 million in 2015 to nearly 2 billion in 2050.

Likewise, India-specific data on the subject unveil that as per Census 2011, the total population of Senior Citizens (people aged 60 years and above) is 10.38 crore, of which the population of males and females are 5.11 crore and 5.27 crore respectively. The share of senior citizens in the total population as per Census 2011 is 8.57%. Again as per the May 2006 Report of the “Technical Group on Population Projections”, constituted by the National Commission on Population, published by the Office of the Registrar General of India, the share senior citizens in the total population is expected to increase to 12.40% in 2026. Indeed, with a visible global trend of growing population of elderly people, owing to increase in longevity on account of improved medical facilities and other positive developments, abuse of the elderly is a snowballing and grave dilemma that not only affects health but violates human rights of this category of human race. Hence, it is imperative to foster awareness of it with a view to prevent it whenever and wherever feasible to the possible extent. Elder abuse is a single or repeated act, or failure to act, within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which results in harm or distress to an older person. It is not limited to physical violence, but encompasses emotional, financial and psychological blackmail. All types of elder abuse/violence including physical, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse; financial and material abuse; abandonment; neglect; and serious denial of dignity and respect, is certainly a violation of human rights. Elderly people are human and deserve the same dignity and respect as people of all other age groups. Elderly people are mostly at a risk of being abused and generally unable to defend themselves

or get help, as fear and infirmity can be major barriers to seeking or getting such help. In particular, elderly people with inadequate earnings, mainly those belonging to rural areas are quite susceptible, with many of them experiencing, prejudice, and health problems. They sporadically suffer ill-treatment as well, which is detrimental to them. At times, spotting and challenging abuse in the elderly is not easy; some are isolated having outlived family and friends. Similarly, elders are abused in institutions where abuse is not spotted or is covered up, and in some cases the elderly are not given due attention by authorities in abuse matters.

While there is no singular definition for elder abuse — some are based on age, vulnerability, or determined by state statutes or tribal codes. However, the Elder Justice Roadmap — a document developed by the US Department of Justice with support from the Department of Health and Human Services — offers one definition, which states; “Elder abuse is —

- Physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity,
- That occurs in any setting (e.g., home, community, or facility),
- Either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and/or when an older person is targeted based on age or disability.”

Elder abuse is a problem that exists in both developing and developed countries yet is typically underreported globally. Although the extent of elder mistreatment is unknown, its social and moral significance is obvious. As such, it demands a global multifaceted response, one which focuses on protecting the rights of older persons. Unfortunately, abuse occurs in every demographic and can happen to any older adult — a family member, a neighbour, even you. Older adults without family or friends nearby and people with disabilities, memory problems, or dementia may be more susceptible to abuse. Maltreatment or exploitation most often affects those who depend on others for help with activities of everyday life — including bathing, dressing, and taking medicine. While cases of elder abuse appear to have been on the rise during the pandemic, it is commonly understood that many cases never come to light. One study has estimated that only one in 24 cases of abuse are reported. It is noted that generally, the adult abuse takes place at the hands of a caregiver including a close relative or other trusted person; a few generic type of abuses are listed and briefly explained below;

- i. Physical abuse: It may comprise illness, injury, functional impairment, or death resulting from the deliberate use of violent behaviour; for instance beating, hitting, or any type of hostility.
- ii. Neglect: Any act which leads to failure to meet an older adult’s basic need; such as food, water, housing, clothing, sanitation, etc.
- iii. Wilful deprivation/Emotional or psychological abuse: It signifies standing in the way of an older adult, the required medication, medical care, shelter, a therapeutic device, or other physical assistance by way of verbal or nonverbal conduct that causes anguish, anxiety, or suffering, involving humiliation, threats, or harassment, and exposing that person to the risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm.
- iv. Confinement: It includes confining or isolating an elder person, unless so required for medical reasons.
- v. Financial abuse: It may comprise upon unlawful, unauthorized, or inappropriate use of money, benefits, property, or assets for the benefit of somebody other than the older adult.

Nevertheless, most common modes of elder abuse may be summed up as; • lack of respect and oral abuse, • silent behaviour (not talking to them) • disregarding their daily necessities • disallowing/denying proper food • ignoring/denying medical support • financial cheating • physical and emotional violence. And strangely enough, persons responsible for such abuses include children, other family members, and spouses — as well as staff at nursing homes, assisted living, and other similar facilities.

Similar to such other events, the UNO announces every year a ‘theme’ for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day as well. Themes for the past few years are replicated hereunder;

- Year 2018: “Moving From Awareness to Action Through a Human Rights-Based Approach.”
- Year 2019: “Access to Justice: Legal, Social and Economic Services for Older Victims of Sexual, Physical and Social Crimes.”
- Year 2020: “Lifting Up Voices.”
- Year 2021: “Access to Justice.”
- Year 2022: “Combating Elder Abuse.”
- Year 2023: “Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age – Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses.”
- Year 2024: “Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergences.”

By the time the write-up is being sent to the media house for publication, the United Nations has not announced the official theme for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025. However, organizations like the AEAAC and others have already started developing resources and materials based on the concept of “Grow the Conversation ... Recognise the Signs, Reduce the Risks.” This theme encourages community-wide discussion and action to prevent and address all forms of abuse against older people. The tagline for WEAAD 2025 is “Wise Up, Rise Up against Elder Abuse,” emphasizing the importance of community involvement and support for older adults. This suggests that the focus will likely continue to be on increasing awareness, prompting dialogue, and empowering people to take action to prevent abuse.

While many countries have adopted multipronged measures to achieve the goals as envisaged under the U N Charter on the subject; our country, in particular the U T of Jammu and Kashmir seems to lag behind. So far, there is a singular provision in the Maintenance and Welfare of Senior Citizens Act, 2007 in the form of section 24, which stipulates that any person who is having care or protection of any senior citizen intentionally abandons a senior citizen shall be liable for punishment of imprisonment up to three months or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees. Undoubtedly, the provision may prove as a deterrent to many, but much more is required to be done. ‘Elder Justice Roadmap’ – the document cited earlier too in this writ up, identifies certain top priorities critical to understanding and reducing elder abuse and to promoting health, independence, and justice for older adults. These priorities are:

- Awareness: Increase public awareness of elder abuse, a multi-faceted problem that requires a holistic, well-coordinated response in services, education, policy, and research.
- Brain health: Conduct research and enhance focus on cognitive (in) capacity and mental health – critical factors both for victims and perpetrators.
- Caregiving: Provide better support and training for the tens of millions of paid and unpaid caregivers who play a critical role in preventing elder abuse.
- Economics: Quantify the costs of elder abuse, which is an often entwined cost to victims, families and society.
- Resources: Strategically invest more resources in services, education, research, and expanding knowledge to reduce elder abuse.

It would be quite pertinent to duplicate hereunder certain popular quotes relating to the topic:

- “We have a responsibility to protect our elders from abuse and ensure that they are treated with respect and dignity.” – Ted Deutch.
- “Seniors are especially vulnerable to abuse, neglect and self-neglect. Reach out and show your care.” – Unknown.
- “Abuse can take a variety of forms, but the elderly are frequently the victims. On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, let’s attempt to change this horrifying situation.” – Unknown.
- “On the eve of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, let’s all do what we can to raise awareness about elder abuse.” – Unknown.
- “One cannot conceive of a world with-

out the presence and wisdom of the elderly. On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, let us all appreciate the senior’s presence.” – Unknown.

- “Since the beginning of time, the only thing that has periodically shaken the world is unity. Therefore, let us unite once more to save the elders from their atrocities.” – Unknown.
- “Abuse can cause severe psychological distress at any age, but particularly in old age. On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, they’ll need us to stand together.” – Unknown.
- “The injustice against the elderly has sapped their resolve to continue fighting. Therefore, let us all fight for them on this World Elder Abuse Day.” – Unknown.
- “On this World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, let us all commit to taking extra care of our elders and providing them with the affection and care they deserve.” – Unknown.
- “No one deserves to be mistreated simply because they are elderly and frail. We must raise our voices against this.” – Unknown.
- The ability to exist with dignity is a fundamental human right. People should not be denied it because they are elderly. – Unknown.

In concluding the write-up, it may be briefly reiterated that UN mandates the member Nations to recognise the problem of elderly abuse, to create policies that foster respect for elders and provide them very conducive environment to continue to be productive citizens. WEAAD symbolises the one day in the year when the world must vehemently voice its opposition to elder abuse — a human rights violation — and take a resolve to initiate effective steps to boost the perception of the self-respect of older persons and their right to live free of scare and force. Among others, the foremost objectives include gathering stakeholders, including Governments, caregivers, and senior citizens, to discuss how to combat elder abuse, increase reporting, and develop elder-friendly policies. Additionally, the public, the press & media can run events which highlight the danger of elder abuse, what is needed to be done to prevent any act of elder abuse and what to do if it is spotted. Moreover, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Local Bodies and local Newspapers may be well advised to organise a ‘Arts, Essay or Debate Competition/Contest by motivating students of local Colleges/Higher Secondary Schools on the themes like: “Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?” At the same time, on our part, we can all help prevent violence against older adults by:

- Listening to older adults to comprehend their challenges and provide support.
- Educating yourself and others about how to recognize and report abuse.
- Learning how the signs of abuse differ from the normal aging process.
- Calling in on older adults who may have few friends and family members.
- Encouraging or assisting persons (caregivers or older adults) who have problems with drugs or alcohol in getting help.

Last but not least, let us reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of older persons, ensuring that no elder person is deprived of self-respecting and comfortable old age. Simultaneously, it may be important to underline that if you are experiencing elder abuse or you notice someone (an elderly person) facing elder abuse; immediately call “14567” (Elder-line) -- a dedicated Toll-Free number or the local Police. Association for Welfare of Senior Citizens Jammu would also be ready to extend helping hand to Senior Citizens facing abuse to the possible extent as and when any such instance comes/is brought to its notice. Nonetheless, there is need to have a ‘Community Legal Service’ that can represent older people experiencing elder abuse in particular.

Contributed by:

Virender Kumar Gupta: Former JKAS Officer, presently President Association for Welfare of Senior Citizens Jammu (a registered NGO -- pioneer in the service of Senior Citizens in Jammu & Kashmir).

Sahib Bandgi Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj delivers spiritual discourse in Akhnoor

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, June 15: In a spiritually uplifting event held in Akhnoor, Jammu, the revered Sadguru of Sahib Bandgi, Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, addressed the gathered devotees with profound insights into the nature of the soul, the universe, and divine truths hidden within scriptures.

During his sermon, Sadguru Ji emphasized that scriptures contain subtle hints pointing to the existence of a Supreme Power. He elaborated that the soul is eternal, without a beginning or end, and cannot be destroyed by any means—whether by time, place, or condition. He said, “There is no creator of the soul, nor is there anyone who can destroy it. Yet, the question remains—where did it come from?” Comparing the soul to drops of water emerging from a stream, he explained that while the soul is a part of the Supreme Soul, it remains undivided and immortal, leading many to refer



to the soul as divine in it.

Sadguru Ji further explained that Satyalok, the fourth and purest world, free of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego, has been described only by Sahib. “You may have heard about Triloki—the three worlds governed by Yama—but Satyalok stands apart.

It is untouched by the influence of Kaal Niranjana, the force responsible for worldly desires

and suffering,” he said.

He also explained how negative forces—lust, anger, greed, and ego—exist subtly within human beings and often overpower them. Drawing a comparison with spirits and ghostly possession, he said that while many such incidents are exaggerated or fake, there are rare real instances.

“These energies act like controlling forces, just like a ghost

controlling a body, compelling humans to act out of character,” he stated.

In the second half of his sermon, Sadguru Ji invoked the wisdom of Hanuman Ji, highlighting his humility, strength, and righteous conduct. He praised Hanuman Ji’s approach of first attempting to reform evildoers like Ravana and Meghnath with knowledge and understanding before resorting to battle. “Even when Ravana insulted him, Hanuman Ji remained calm and advised him to return Sita Ji and seek forgiveness from Lord Ram. Only when attacked did he respond with force.”

Sadguru Ji concluded with a powerful message: the soul is inherently free and unattached, but it is being bound by the deceptive powers of Kaal Niranjana, particularly through the mind. He urged devotees to recognize the eternal, indestructible nature of the soul and break free from worldly attachments and illusions.

Preparations begin in Kathua for International Yoga Day celebration



Top News Report

KATHUA, June 15: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Kathua, in collaboration with the District Administration Kathua, is gearing up to celebrate International Yoga Day on June 21 at the Sports Stadium, Kathua. This event aims to promote physical and mental well-being through the ancient practice of yoga and will witness participation

from various sections of society.

As a preparatory initiative for the mega celebration, the department has scheduled a series of yoga sessions from June 17 to 20. On June 17, yoga sessions will be held in public parks and community centres to promote community involvement, encouraging local residents to actively participate. From June 18 to 20, morning assembly yoga sessions will be con-

ducted in educational institutions involving students and teaching staff, thereby promoting yoga awareness among the youth.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Kathua invites all individuals to participate in these sessions and the main event on June 21. Collective participation will ensure the success of the event and reinforce the significance of yoga in daily life.

Delegation of JKTF meets with Dy CM Surinder Choudhary



Top News Report

RAJOURI, June 15: A delegation of the Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) Affiliated with All India secondary Teachers federation (AISTF) led by UT Sr Vice Chairman Mohd Mahroof Choudhary, met with Deputy Chief Minister Surrender Choudhary at Rajouri and submitted a 17-points memorandum.

The key issues highlighted include expediting the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) process for teachers to Masters, especially in Jammu province, and pending confirmations for Headmasters, Lecturers,

ZEOs, and Principals.

The delegation emphasized the need for immediate DPCs to fill vacancies, rationalization of teaching staff, development of a comprehensive transfer policy for ReT teachers, implementation of a structured promotion policy, repatriation of teachers engaged in non-teaching roles, streamlining of the Midday Meal scheme, introduction of an E-Filing system, alignment of teacher grades with counterparts in UTs, updating of seniority lists, regularization of left out ReTs, enhancement of honorarium and job policy for AAYs, and clearance of GP funds Bill liability. The Deputy

Chief Minister assured the delegation that all issues would be sorted out on a priority basis.

The Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum appreciates the Deputy Chief Minister’s willingness to listen to the concerns of teachers and assures him of its cooperation in resolving these issues.

The forum’s State President, Sheikh Mohd Ashraf, hopes that the assurance given by the Deputy Chief Minister will be translated into action, and the long-pending issues of teachers will be resolved soon.

The delegation consisted of Dr. Gurnam Singh, Moninder Kumar Sudan, Pooran Singh, and others.

Farhan Kitab expresses gratitude to key supporters for recognizing Mercury Times team’s efforts



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, June 15: Farhan Kitab, a prominent figure in local community initiatives, has publicly expressed his heartfelt thanks to several individuals and organizations for their support and recognition of the Mercury Times team’s dedicated work.

The acknowledgment highlights the collaborative spirit and commitment to positive change in the region.

In a recent statement, Farhan Kitab extended his gratitude to Dr. Tou-seef, Kashmir Concern, Red Drop, Bilees Ara—known as the “Blood Woman of Kashmir”—and Shabir Ahmad, referred to as the “Blood Man of Kashmir,” for appreciating the efforts and contributions of the Mercury Times team.

He also thanked Kawa Kaiser for his continuous support.

“The recognition from such respected members of our community is truly inspiring,” said

Farhan Kitab. “Their encouragement motivates us to continue our mission of delivering impactful stories and fostering awareness on critical issues affecting Kashmir.”

The Mercury Times team has been actively involved in reporting on social, health, and humanitarian concerns within the region, aiming to bring light to stories that often go unheard.

The support from these key figures and organizations not only validates their hard work but also strengthens their resolve to serve the community with integrity and dedication.

Farhan Kitab’s acknowledgment underscores the importance of collaboration between journalists, activists, and community leaders in driving meaningful change. The collective efforts of all involved demonstrate a shared commitment to addressing pressing challenges and promoting hope across Kashmir.

Dimple distributes sweets on tamdey, appeals support for Amarnath Yatra



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 15: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, along with a large number of traders, people, women, girls, and children, distributed sweets and cold water on the eve of the Hindu festival “Tamdey.”

Addressing the gathering, Sunil Dimple appealed to Amarnath Yatra pilgrims from all states to visit Jammu and Kashmir in large numbers for the pilgrimage. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are eagerly awaiting the arrival of pilgrims, and

the government has made elaborate security arrangements.

Dimple urged the people of the Jammu region from all districts, especially during this 45-degree summer heat, to organize Sha-beels and Langars for tourists along all Amarnath Yatra routes, for the pilgrims, and for travelers on the roads.

He also appealed to the government to stop power cuts and ensure proper water supply during the Amarnath Yatra.

Dimple expressed shock over the Kedarnath Char Dham heli-

copter crash tragedy, which claimed seven lives.

He also expressed solidarity with the families of those who lost their lives in the Ahmedabad air crash and the Kedarnath helicopter crash.

He said the sweets and cold water were distributed for the peace of the departed souls who died in the helicopter and airplane crashes.

Other prominent persons present included Rinku Sharma, Sanjay Begra, Sunita Devi, Suman Sharma, Poonam Devi, Janu, and many others.

J&K EJAC Gool holds monthly meeting



Top News Report

GOOL, June 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Gool held its monthly meeting at Gool under the leadership of Sub Divisional President Jalil Ahmed Sheikh, discussing key issues affecting employees in the region.

The committee emphasized the need for prompt action on several pressing matters, including clearance of pending General Provident Fund (GPF) bills to alleviate financial hardship for

employees, regularization of daily wages to provide job security and stability, revision of job policies and increase in honorariums for AAYAs in Schools, Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, and cooks, restoration of the old pension scheme in favour of employees appointed after 2010, and implementation of minimum wage acts for daily wagers. The committee urged the authorities to take immediate steps to resolve these issues and address the concerns of employees in the region.

The Committee urged

the Provincial President EJAC Sheikh Mohd Ashraf to put up all these issues with the government. The meeting was attended by block presidents of affiliated units of EJAC, including Trsool Singh, Javed Ahmad, Irfan Shan, Zahida Begum, Alfaz Sharief, Altaf Manhas, Shahnawaz Hussain, Rukhsana Bano, Zahida Bano, Fozia Bano, Maneera Begum, Babil Devi, Kusoom Begum, Zaitoon Begum, Mehnaz Bano, Yaseem Bano, Shahroz Bano, Rafiq Bano, and Zahida Kouser.

Declare summer vacation in schools in view of heatwave: Civil Societies

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, June 15: In light of the rising mercury across the winter zones of Jammu and Kashmir, various civil society groups and socio-political leaders have urged the government to immediately declare summer vacations in these regions.

Despite soaring temperatures exceeding 35°C in many areas including Doda and parts of Chenab Valley, no formal announcement has yet been made for school closures in winter zone districts, unlike the 40 days vacations already granted in the summer zones starting June 7.

Prominent Socio-Political leader Mast Nath Yogi criticized the state administration for what he termed as “step-motherly treatment” of the winter zone regions.

“The Honourable Education Minister Sakina Itu had earlier stated that if temperatures rise in the winter zones, the government would consider vacations. Unfortunately, no action has been taken so far,” Yogi added.

Youth Action Committee (YAC) Chairman Naseer Mahboob echoed similar sentiments stating that the government school infrastructure in the region is ill-equipped to handle such extreme weather. “Many

schools still lack basic amenities such as fans and adequate classroom buildings. With the Chenab region touching 37°C in Doda, 35 to 37 in Thathri and 36 to 39°C in Ramban areas, it is irresponsible to keep schools open. We appeal to LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and declare summer vacations without further delay,” Mahboob demanded.

Zaffar Salim Butt a parent and a resident of Shan Bagh of Additional District Bhadarwah highlighted the difficulties faced by children who commute long distances in the scorching heat. “Innocent children are suffering

due to this heatwave and it is becoming increasingly unsafe for them to attend school,” Butt said, urging the authorities to prioritize student health and act swiftly. Civil society members collectively demanded urgent administrative intervention to mitigate the risks faced by school-going children amid the ongoing heatwave.

Meanwhile, Minister for Education Govt of Jammu and Kashmir Sakina Itoo in her reaction said that an immediate decision would be taken for Summer Vacations in Kashmir and Winter Zone areas of Jammu division shortly.

Dharmendra suggested Big B for Sholay, convinced Ramesh Sippy he'd be perfect

Veteran actor Dharmendra recently reminisced the time when he recommended Amitabh Bachchan to director Ramesh Sippy for the iconic film 'Sholay' (1975).

Dharmendra, while recalling the casting of Jai for 'Sholay' mentioned that though he is not vocal about it, he did recommend Bachchan's name to Sippy.

In an interview with agency, he said, "It has already been mentioned. Yes, I recommended him... Mai to kehna nahi maine unko (Amitabh Bachchan) role dilaya.. (I never claimed that I got him the role of Jai.) Ye mujhe milne aate the Amitabh sahab (Mr Amitabh used to come to meet me).

To maine Ramesh Sippy ji ko kaha yeh naya ladka hai uski awaaz se to lagta hai bahut acha kaam karega...unki jo



andar se chahna thi...jo khud se pyar karne ki khoobsurati thi vo achi lagi...(I told Ramesh Sippy that this new boy seems promising because of his voice...he had an inner desire...the beautiful quality to love himself, that impressed me)," Dharmendra added.

The legendary icon further said, "Maine kaha inko lelo (So

I told him to take him)."

While praising the cult classic, Dharmendra said, "Yeh film mere khyayal se sadiyon ke liye ban gayi hai (This film will be there for centuries)."

'Sholay' is the story about a village called Ramgarh, where retired police chief Thakur Baldev Singh (Sanjeev Kumar) plots to bring down the notorious

bandit Gabbar Singh (Amjad Khan).

He hires two criminals, Jai (Amitabh Bachchan) and Veeru (Dharmendra) to eliminate Gabbar.

Dharmendra gained popularity in the mid-1960s for films, such as 'Ayee Milan Ki Bela' (1964), Bandini (1963), Phool Aur Patthar and Aaye Din Bahar Ke.

He was last seen in Shahid Kapoor-Kriti Sanon's 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya' (2024).

Dharmendra also featured in Karan Johar's romantic-drama 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani' (2023) with Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt.

He will next be seen in Sriram Raghavan's 'Ikkis' along with Agastya Nanda. The film is slated to hit the big screens on October 2, 2025.

Aamir Khan reveals why Dangal didn't release in Pakistan



Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan's Dangal is the highest-grossing Indian film, having earned ₹2,000 crore at the global box office. A significant portion of the film's earnings came from its release in China. During his appearance on Rajat Sharma's Aap Ki Adalat, Aamir revealed that he had rejected the film's release in Pakistan after their censor board demanded the removal of the Indian flag and national anthem.

Aamir Khan recalls why he rejected Dangal's release in Pakistan. Aamir explained that, historically, the censor board restricted filmmakers from directly referring to certain countries. They were instructed to use terms like "neighbouring country" instead. He pointed out that his film Sarfaro-

sh was the first Indian film to openly mention both Pakistan and ISIS. Despite initial concerns from director John Mathew Matthan that the censor board would reject it, Aamir was confident they could justify the inclusion.

He further addressed why Dangal was not released in Pakistan and said, "After Sarfaroosh, I got a lot of negative comments from Pakistan about what we were showing about them. When Dangal came into theatres, Disney was one of the producers, and they presented the film. They said that we have got a reaction from Pakistan's censor board and they have asked us, 'Geeta Phogat ke jeetne par jo tiranga upar jaata hai aur humara rashtra gaan bajta hai, toh aap yeh dono nikal dijiye or

we'll not pass the film' (remove the Indian tricolour and national anthem that comes after Geeta Phogat's win or we'll not pass the film)."

Aamir added, "So I told Disney in just one second that our film will not release in Pakistan. So they said, our business will be affected, and we will suffer a loss. I said, Jo humse kahega humara Indian flag nikal do aur humara national anthem nikal do, unse mujhe matlab hi nahi hai (Anyone who tells us to remove our Indian flag and national anthem — I have nothing to do with them). I don't want that business."

About Dangal

The biographical sports drama, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, featured Aamir as Mahavir Singh Phogat, an amateur wrestler who trains his daughters Geeta Phogat and Babita Kumari Phogat to become India's first world-class female wrestlers. Fatima Sana Shaikh and Sanya Malhotra portrayed the adult versions of the Phogat sisters, while Zaira Wasim and Suhani Bhatnagar played their younger versions. Sakshi Tanwar played their mother. The film collected ₹387 crore in India and ₹2,070.3 crore worldwide at the box office.

Meanwhile, Aamir is now gearing up for the release of his upcoming film Sitaare Zameen Par, a spiritual sequel to his 2007 hit Taare Zameen Par. The film also stars Genelia D'Souza in the lead role and is scheduled to release in theatres on 21 June.

Kylie Minogue cancels four concerts in Europe due to illness; apologizes to fans

Singer Kylie Minogue has cancelled four of her upcoming shows due to illness. The Australian pop icon recently performed in the UK as part of her Tension Tour, her first in seven years. In a post on social media, Kylie Minogue said that she was cancelling four upcoming shows in Europe due to laryngitis, which had led to inflammation of her vocal chords. The pop star was supposed to perform next in Berlin.

In a post on X and Instagram, Kylie Minogue wrote that the shows would be rescheduled as soon as possible and advised her fans to hold on to their concert tickets.

The Padam Padamsinger wrote that she had tried to recover quickly for the next concert on Monday but it would still take her some time to recover enough to perform on stage. "I'm so, SO sorry! I have no choice but to postpone the shows in Berlin, Lodz, Kaunas and Tallinn as scheduled," Kylie added.

The Australian pop singer's ongoing tour follows the success of 2023 track Padam Padam. Following the European leg of her tour, Minogue plans to hold concerts in Mexico and South America.

Kylie Minogue had recently performed for four nights at London's

O2 Arena. According to Billboard, she became the first female performer to join the prestigious '21 Club' at the venue after staging 21 or more sold-out shows at the O2. The actor and songwriter first performed at the venue in 2008.

Minogue dropped a post on Instagram to celebrate the momentous occasion, expressing her delight at joining a select group of performers, including Prince.

This was another feat for Minogue, coming on the heels of a star in her honor at the Melbourne Park sporting complex in February. Apart from that, she also starred in the Netflix detective comedy, The Resi-



dence, portraying herself. The plot revolves around a murder at the

White House that occurs just as Minogue is performing at the venue.

Dakota Johnson slams Hollywood remakes, says its all a mess

Actor Dakota Johnson expressed her views on the risk-averse nature of Hollywood. While criticising the remake culture, she reflected on the creative compromises and the audience's reaction to repetitive content.

In an interview with Hot Ones for their YouTube channel during her 'Materialists' press tour, the actor said, "I think it's hard when creative decisions are made by committee, and it's hard when creative decisions are made by people who don't even really watch movies or know anything about them, and that tends to be what's occurring a lot."

She also emphasised the remake addiction and said, "When something does well, studios want to keep that going so they remake the same things, but humans don't want that."

"They want fresh, they want to feel new things, experience new things, see new things, so I don't know, I guess it's all just a bit of a mess right now, isn't it," she added.

The '50 Shades of Grey' actor also highlighted the failure of her superhero film 'Madame Web' (2024), which earned merely US dollar 43 million at the domestic box office and an 11 per cent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.



During her interview, Johnson said that she "tried" and "failed" to be a superhero.

Since, the box office debacle of 'Madame Web', the actor has been vocal about it in most of her media interactions.

In an interview with Los Angeles Times, she said, "It wasn't my fault." "There's this thing that happens now where a lot of creative decisions are made by committee. Or made by people who don't have a creative bone in their body. And it's really hard to make art that way. Or to make something entertaining that way," Johnson went on.

The actor further said, "I think unfortunately,

with 'Madame Web', it started out as something and turned into something else. And I was just sort of along for the ride at that point. But that happens. Bigger budget movies fail all the time." Johnson was recently seen in 'Materialists' with Pedro Pascal and Chris Evans.

Agency, in its review for 'Materialists' wrote, "The prettiness of the film, and a brilliant Pascal in it, make 'Materialists' a one-time watch. Oh, and there are no sizzling intimate scenes to elevate the romance. A Mr Darcy-style ('Pride and Prejudice') monologue from Evans? Yes. But a drool-worthy Noah-and-Allie ('The Notebook') kiss? Not quite."

Jonita Gandhi says industry people thought 'firang hai toh easy hai'

Canadian singer Jonita Gandhi, best known for hits like The Breakup Song (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil) and Lagdi Hai Thaa (Simran), recently opened up about facing harassment and stereotyping after moving to India. In a candid chat with Hauterfly, she revealed how her foreign background led some people to assume she was "easy."

Jonita Gandhi on perception of her background

Speaking about the early days of her career in India, Jonita shared, "I think in the first couple of weeks when I came to India, I got a message. I'm not going to name the composer. I just wanted to meet for networking, and at that time, one or two of my YouTube covers had already gone viral—that's why he knew who I was and how I looked, and so he was interested. I was chilling with my mum and he said, 'Hey, do you wanna catch up?' I said, 'Yeah, I'm with my mum right now, tell us where to come.' He said, 'Oops.' He wanted me to come alone. People thought because main bahar ki hoon (because I am and foreigner), I'm a little extra down. They



thought, 'Oh, she's cute, she's a foreigner. Firang hai toh easy hai (She's a foreigner so, she's easy).' That used to come up a lot—but not for too long."

Jonita recalls facing social harassment. Jonita also spoke about being harassed on social media. "Some things are kind of

traumatic. On Instagram, you can check your mentions, and I'd see that I'd been added to someone's Close Friends stories. Then I'm seeing it's a d**k pic. It has a watermark with their thing and my photo in the background. It's disgusting. It's harassment. But I keep ignoring such things."

Jonita was born into a Punjabi family from Delhi, but her family emigrated to Brampton, Canada, when she was nine months old, and she was raised there. At the age of 16, Jonita applied for Canadian Idol but was rejected. Following this, she began posting YouTube covers from her bedroom, and several of her renditions of Bollywood songs—like Pani Da Rang, Tujhko Jo Paaya, Tum Hi Ho and others—quickly gained popularity.

Jonita then got the opportunity to perform alongside Sonu Nigam on tour and eventually began her playback singing career with Chennai Express. She went on to collaborate with music composers like AR Rahman, Pritam, and Vishal Shekhar, delivering multiple chartbusters and firmly establishing herself in the Indian music industry.

Bipasha Basu calls out body-shaming trolls: They do not define me



Actor Bipasha Basu slammed body-shaming trolls, calling them "deeply disturbing reflections of the society towards women".

Basu penned a lengthy note in the comment section of the video, which had glimpses of how her appearance has been trolled after she gained post-pregnancy weight.

The actor, known for her work in projects such as "Raaz", "Omkaara" and "Dhoom 2", said she is a confident woman who isn't bothered by such comments.

"Hope the human race does not remain so shallow and so low forever... and they encourage and applaud women for the million roles they play each day. I am a super confident woman with a very evolved loving partner and family. Memes and trolls do not define me ever... nor did they make me who I am," Basu wrote in the caption.

The "Humshakals" actor added such remarks can be hurtful to others.

"But these are deeply disturbing reflections of the society towards women. Another woman in my place could be deeply affected and scarred with the viciousness...Anyways if we have more strong voices and atleast women understanding and applauding women for who they are then women will rise higher and higher :) We are unstoppable ladies," she said.

Basu began dating Karan Singh Grover in 2014, after meeting him on the set of their film "Alone". They tied the knot in April 2016.

The duo welcomed their daughter Devi in 2022. Basu most recently appeared in the crime thriller series "Dangerous", which also featured Grover.

PM leaves for 3-nation tour: “thank nations backing fight against terrorism”

PM Modi said following the G7 Summit, he will visit Croatia and hold meetings with President Zoran Milanovic and Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic.

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the upcoming G7 Summit in Canada will provide space for exchanging views on pressing global issues and the priorities of the Global South, as he left for a three-nation tour.

In his departure statement ahead of his three-nation tour, PM Modi said he looks forward to engaging with leaders from partner countries during the summit at Kananaskis, which he is attending at the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The three-nation tour is also an opportunity to thank partner countries for their steady



fast support to India in its fight against cross-border terrorism and to galvanise global understanding on tackling terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, he added.

The prime minister said he will visit Cyprus on June 15-16 at the invitation of President Nikos Christodoulides.

“Cyprus is a close friend and an important partner in the

Mediterranean region and the EU. The visit provides an opportunity to build upon the historical bonds and expand our ties in the areas of trade, investment, security, technology and promote people-to-people exchanges,” he said.

PM Modi said following the G7 Summit, he will visit Croatia and hold meetings with President Zoran Milanovic and Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic.

India and Croatia enjoy centuries-old close cultural links, he said. As the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Croatia, it will open new avenues for bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest, PM Modi added.

Modernisation of police force began in UP after BJP came to power in 2017: Amit Shah



LUCKNOW, Jun 15 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that while modernisation of India's police forces began nationwide under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Uttar Pradesh's efforts in this regard commenced only in 2017 after the formation of a BJP government under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

“The Centre's reforms were not visible in Uttar Pradesh from 2014 to 2017,” Shah said after distributing job letters

to the newly-recruited constables of Uttar Pradesh Police at a ceremony held here.

Shah also said that India will be a global leader by 2047, with Uttar Pradesh playing a crucial role.

The home minister was accompanied by Yogi Adityanath, and Deputy Chief Ministers Brajesh Pathak and Keshav Prasad Maurya, among other senior officials.

The event marked the biggest-ever direct recruitment drive for civil police constables in the history of the state police, the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement.

Under the ‘Civil Police Direct Recruitment’ drive, as many as 48,196 male and 12,048 female candidates have been selected by the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board.

Rajnath Singh likely to visit China for SCO defence meet, first since Galwan clash

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to visit Qingdao, China, later this month to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting. China is hosting the summit this year and has extended an invitation to Singh for the same. This will be Rajnath Singh's first visit to China after the 2020 Galwan clash.

The visit would mark the first Indian ministerial-level engagement in China since both countries reached an agreement in October 2024 to resume patrolling and withdraw troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

India and China have been engaging in dia-



logue to ease tensions along the border and improve bilateral relations. Singh last met China's Defence Minister, Admiral Dong Jun, during the ADMM-Plus summit in Laos, which was their first interaction following the disengagement understanding.

The potential visit comes amid ongoing diplomatic efforts to normalise ties between the two countries. These include possible talks on reviving the Kailash

Mansarovar Yatra, re-establishing air connectivity, resuming the exchange of hydrological data, and facilitating visa and people-to-people exchanges.

India has also reiterated its support for China's SCO presidency. This was underscored during recent discussions in Delhi between Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong.

PM has energy for foreign trips, can he not summon 'empathy' for visiting Manipur: Cong

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his three-nation tour, the Congress on Sunday said he has all the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm — ‘3 Es’ — for such visits and asked can he not summon up a 4th E — empathy — for going to Manipur “where the people's suffering continues unabated”.

The opposition party also said this is Modi's 35th trip abroad since May 2023 and it was “pathetic of the PM to treat Manipur in this awful manner”.

“The Prime Minister leaves for Cyprus, Canada, and Croatia this morning. There was a time when he boasted about his knowledge of algebra by spouting the (a+b)^2 equation as applicable to India and Canada. But things went horribly wrong thereafter,” Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

“When it appeared that Canada was dragging its feet on the invite to India, Mr. Modi's drum beaters proclaimed that he would not go even if invited. But like always, he stands exposed,” Ramesh claimed.

The Canadian prime minister has said that India has been invited to the G7 Summit along with a number of other non-G7 countries because India is the fifth largest econ-



omy in the world, Ramesh pointed out.

“Perhaps Mr. Modi can remind him that according to the Niti Aayog CEO, India became the world's third largest economy on May 24, 2025,” the Congress leader said.

“This is Mr. Modi's 35th trip abroad since May 2023. He has all the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm—the 3 Es— for such visits. But can he not summon up a 4th E— empathy— for going to Manipur where the people's distress, agony and suffering continues unabated?” Ramesh said.

“He has met with NOBODY from the state, let alone political leaders, since May 3, 2023. Pathetic of the PM to treat Manipur in this awful manner,” Ramesh added.

The Congress leader also shared a video clip of the PM from 2015 in which he is heard giving a mathematical analogy to demon-

strate the relationship between the two countries.

The Congress has been attacking the prime minister for not visiting Manipur besides slamming the Centre for its handling of the situation in the ethnic strife-torn northeastern state.

More than 220 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

Prime Minister Modi on Sunday morning embarked on a three-nation tour during which he will take part in the G7 Summit in Canada, and visit Cyprus and Croatia to shore up India's bilateral cooperation with these two countries.

Modi will first be in Cyprus at the invitation of the country's president, Nikos Christodoulides.

In the second leg of his visit, Prime Minister Modi will travel to Kananaskis in Canada on June 16-17 to participate in the G7 Summit at the invitation of Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney.

In the final leg of his tour, Modi will undertake an official visit to Croatia on June 18 at the invitation of the prime minister of the European country, Andrej Plenkovic.

Hyderabad couple charred to death as high-tension wire falls

HYDERABAD, Jun 15 (Agencies): A couple was burnt alive when a high-tension electricity wire fell on them in Hyderabad on Sunday.

The accident occurred on the Sagar Ring Road near the Chintalakunta area in L.B. Nagar. According to police, the wire snapped and fell on a man and a woman sleeping on the footpath in front of a temple.

Police believe that the two were beggars. The bodies were shifted to Osmania General Hospital for autopsy.

A case was registered at the L.B. Nagar Police

Station of Rachakonda Commissionerate.

Senior officials of the electricity department visited the spot and began an investigation into the incident.

Meanwhile, in a tragic incident in Sangareddy district, a woman died in front of her husband and children after a private bus knocked down the two-wheeler they were riding.

The accident occurred in Patancheru near Hyderabad when the family of four was returning home after shopping. According to police, software engineer Pawan, along with



his wife Sharavani and daughters Deepaswi and Yashaswi, were returning from a shopping mall.

A bus hit the two-wheeler from the rear side near the Outer Ring Road crossroads. All four fell down from the

scooty. Sharavani (34) came under the wheels of the bus and died in front of her husband and children, who escaped with minor injuries.

The body was shifted to the hospital for autopsy. Police registered a case and took up further

investigation.

In another incident in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district, two workers died in a wall collapse. The incident occurred in Ramavaram village in Gantyada mandal. The bodies were identified as Chinna Rao and Yerri Babu. According to police, the workers were demolishing the wall when debris fell on them, resulting in their deaths.

The bodies were shifted to a government hospital for autopsy. Police registered a case and took up an investigation.

6 houses collapse in UP's Mathura during excavation work, several feared trapped



MATHURA, Jun 15 (Agencies): At least six houses collapsed during excavation work in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura on Sunday, triggering fears that several people may be trapped under the debris, officials said. The incident took place near the Maya Teela area in Shahganj.

The incident occurred during ongoing digging activity, which is suspected to

have destabilised the foundations of nearby residential structures.

Preliminary inputs suggest that six houses came down in quick succession, leading to chaos in the densely populated locality.

Rescue and relief operations are underway, with teams from the local administration, fire department, and police deployed at the site. Efforts are on to clear the rubble and locate those trapped.

Officials have yet to confirm the exact reason behind the building collapse and the number of casualties or injuries.

“We received information that in the Masani Police Station area, buildings have collapsed. The debris is being cleared currently. A team of the Municipal Corporation is present at the spot with JCB... We are investigating how many people are stuck in the debris,” CO City, Bhushan Verma said while speaking to news agency.

5 killed in collision between ambulance, pick-up van in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi

AMETHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): An ambulance rammed into a pick-up vehicle on the Purvanchal Expressway in Amethi district on Sunday, killing five persons, a police official said.

The accident took place when the ambulance was carrying a body from Haryana to Bihar.

Five people travelling in the ambulance died in the collision, while one person was seriously injured. The injured has been admitted to the district hospital, SHO of Bazar Shukul police station Abhinesh Kumar said.

The injured has been identified as Shambhu Rai of Samastipur



district of Bihar.

According to the police, the deceased have been identified as Rajkumar Sharma alias Satish

Sharma, Ravi Sharma and Phoolo Sharma, residents of Samastipur district of Bihar, besides Sarfaraz and Abid (both drivers), who are residents of Haryana.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shailendra Kumar Singh said the ambulance was going from Haryana to Samastipur in Bihar with the body of Ashok Sharma, a resident of Rambhadrapur of Samastipur. There were two drivers and four family members in the ambulance.

The Additional SP said the ambulance hit the pickup from behind. The bodies of the deceased have been sent for postmortem.

BSF jawan kills senior after heated argument at camp in West Bengal



NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, Jun 15 (Agencies): A BSF jawan allegedly

shot dead his senior following an argument at a camp in West Bengal's Murshidabad, officials said Sunday.

The incident took place around 10:30 pm on Saturday at the Border Security Force (BSF) camp in Dhuliyani in the said district. Constable Shivam Kumar Mishra shot dead his senior Head Constable Ratan Singh Shekhawat after a heated argument. The accused constable has been apprehended, officials said.

The two troops were stationed in a BSF unit that was deployed in the area following the recent communal clashes in Murshidabad, they said. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the BSF and the exact reasons behind the incident are being ascertained, officials said.

Shekhawat, 56, joined the BSF in 1989 and was posted in the 119 battalion of the force. He hailed from Jaipur in Rajasthan. The accused also belonged to the same battalion.

Israel targets Iran's Defence Ministry headquarters as Tehran unleashes deadly missile strike

DUBAI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Israel launched an expanded assault on Iran on Sunday, targeting its energy industry and Defence Ministry headquarters, while Tehran unleashed a fresh barrage of deadly strikes.

The simultaneous attacks represented the latest burst of violence since a surprise offensive by Israel two days earlier aimed at decimating Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

New explosions boomed across Tehran as Iranian missiles entered Israel's skies in attacks that Israeli emergency officials said caused deaths around the country, including four in an apartment building in the Galilee region. A strike in central Israel killed an 80-year-old woman, a 69-year-old woman and a 10-year-old boy, officials said.

Casualty figures weren't immediately available in Iran, where Israel targeted its Defence Ministry headquarters in Tehran as well as sites that it alleged were associated with the country's nuclear programme. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard



claimed that Iranian missiles targeted fuel production facilities for Israeli fighter jets, something not acknowledged by Israel.

Amid the continued conflict, planned negotiations between Iran and the United States over Tehran's nuclear programme were cancelled, throwing into question when and how an end to the fighting could come.

Israel's ongoing strikes across Iran have left the country's surviving leadership with the dif-

ficult decision of whether to plunge deeper into conflict with Israel's more powerful forces or seek a diplomatic route.

In Israel, at least 10 people were killed in Iranian strikes overnight and into Sunday, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service, bringing the country's total death toll to 13.

Iran's top diplomat said on Sunday that if Israeli attacks on his country stop, "our responses

will also stop." Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made the comment before diplomats in Tehran, his first public appearance since the Israeli strikes began on Friday. "If the aggression stops, our responses will also stop," Araghchi said. There was no immediate reaction from Israel, which had been continuing strikes Sunday across Iran.

World leaders have made urgent calls to deescalate and avoid an all-out war. The attack on nuclear sites set a "dangerous precedent," China's foreign minister said. The region is already on edge as Israel makes a new push to eliminate the Iranian-backed militant group Hamas in Gaza after 20 months of fighting.

The Indian Embassy in Iran has issued emergency contact details and advised Indians here to remain vigilant, avoid unnecessary movements and observe safety protocols following the launch of Israel's strikes on the country. "The emergency contact details of the Embassy: +98 9128109115; +98 9128109109," the Indian Embassy in Iran posted on X.

If attacked, full strength of US forces will come down on you, Trump warns Iran



WASHINGTON, Jun 15 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Sunday warned Iran against any retaliation on US assets, saying, "If we are attacked in any way, shape or form by Iran, the full strength and might of the US armed forces will come down on you at levels never seen before."

Trump's remarks came as Israel targeted Iran's defence ministry headquarters in Tehran and struck a natural gas processing unit linked to South Pars gas field in Iran's Bushehr Province on Saturday.

Saying that the US had no role to play in Israel's overnight attacks on Iran, Trump, on his Truth Social platform, claimed that he can "easily get a deal done between Iran and Israel and end this conflict." On Sunday, Iran cancelled the sixth round of nuclear talks between

Tehran and Washington DC.

At least four people were killed and over 100 injured in the Israeli coastal city of Bat Yam after an overnight Iranian missile attack, the city's mayor said on Sunday morning, as rescue operations continued.

Waves of Iranian attacks began on Saturday and continued throughout the night and early morning.

Israel's ambulance service said at least seven people were killed in total across the country overnight, including a 10-year-old boy and a woman in her 20s, and more than 140 were injured in multiple attacks. It was unclear how many buildings were hit overnight.

One of the deadliest strikes occurred in Tehran, where an Israeli missile hit a residential high-rise, killing at least 60 people, including 29 children, according to Iranian authorities. In a separate earlier strike near a home in northern Israel, three women were reported dead and ten others injured.

In response, Tehran unleashed a fresh barrage of missiles on Israel. Iranian missiles entered Israel's skies in an attack that Israeli emergency officials said killed four people in an apartment building in the Galilee region.

'Your life is at risk': Israeli military warns Iranians to evacuate homes

TEL AVIV, Jun 15 (Agencies): The Israel Defence Forces' Farsi language social media account tweeted its first message to Iranians, warning them to evacuate their homes on Sunday morning.

The Press Service of Israel has learned that the measure is intended to increase pressure on Tehran in addition to avoiding collateral damage to civilians.

"Defence Minister Yisrael Katz's directive to evacuate residents in Tehran is part of a pre-approved plan to exert pressure on the regime by evacuating the population - in response to the shooting on the Israeli home front," a security source told TPS-IL.

The IDF's Farsi account instructed Iranians, "All persons who are currently or in the near future present in or around military weapons production factories and their support institutions should immediately leave these areas and



not return until further notice."

The tweet added, "Your presence next to this infrastructure puts your life at risk."

Katz said in a statement, "The IDF will attack the sites and continue to peel the skin of the Iranian snake in Tehran and everywhere else from nuclear capabilities and weapons systems. The Iranian dictator is turning Tehran into Beirut and the residents of Tehran into hostages for the survival of his regime."

Israel launched pre-emptive strikes against Iranian nuclear sites on Friday, citing intelligence

that Tehran had reached "a point of no return" in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. According to Israeli defence officials, Iran has developed the capacity to rapidly enrich uranium and assemble nuclear bombs, with sufficient fissile material for up to 15 weapons.

Israeli intelligence also exposed a covert program to complete all components of a nuclear device. The strikes mark a dramatic escalation in what officials describe as a broader Iranian strategy combining nuclear development, missile proliferation, and proxy warfare aimed at Israel's destruction.

18 Pakistani pilgrims die during Hajj 2025: Ministry of Religious Affairs

ISLAMABAD, Jun 15 (Agencies): The Ministry of Religious Affairs said that 18 Pakistani pilgrims lost their lives during the Hajj 2025 pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, agency reported

According to the ministry, the deceased included 10 men and eight women, mostly elderly individuals who died due to heart attacks and other health issues.

All the deceased pil-

grims were buried in Jannatul Baqi. Notably, this year's death toll is significantly lower compared to 2024, when 35 Pakistani pilgrims died during the Hajj, as per agency.

The Hajj 2025 saw a massive gathering of 1,673,230 pilgrims from around the world, including 1,506,576 international pilgrims from 171 countries.

According to Saudi

Arabia records, 166,654 domestic pilgrims participated Hajj this year, creating one of the most balanced gender ratios in Hajj history, with 877,841 men and 795,389 women.

Saudi officials applied comprehensive cooling strategies following last year's tragic 1,301 death toll due to intense temperatures reaching 51.8°C (125°F).

According to agency,

precautions included widened darkened areas, cooling stations, and medical teams to ensure the pilgrims' safety.

Strict controls on unauthorised pilgrims also helped reduce crowd density and enhance security at holy sites.

The end of the Hajj coincides with the beginning of Eid al Adha, an annual feasting holiday marked by the slaughter

of an animal, typically a goat, sheep, cow, bull or camel.

According to the General Authority for Statistics, most pilgrims arrived by air (1,435,017), while 66,465 came by land and 5,094 by sea.

As the Hajj 2025 repatriation process begins, authorities are dedicated to enabling a safe and efficient return for all pilgrims.

Maintaining peace in Strait, not only Taiwan's responsibility, but for democracies worldwide, says official

TAIPEI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Taiwan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chen Ming-chi, underlined the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, which is not only Taiwan's responsibility, but also an important priority for democracies worldwide.

Speaking at the GLOBSEC forum in Prague, Chen highlighted the lessons learned from Ukraine's experience, noting that international agreements alone are insufficient to guarantee security.

Chen Ming-chi attended an annual forum by GLOBSEC, a think tank based in Bratislava, and gave a speech on the panel titled: "Taiwan: The Global Imperative for Stability," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

When asked how the Ukraine experience affected Taiwan's approach to national secu-

urity, self-defence and survival, Chen used a quote often attributed to Mark Twain, saying that "history doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme."

Chen pointed out that the Budapest Memorandum, which guaranteed Ukraine's independence and sovereignty, failed to prevent Russia's invasion. Similarly, while providing a framework for relations, the US-Taiwan Relations Act does not guarantee Taiwan's security.

"The lesson we learn is that paper is not enough," he said, referring to the Budapest Memorandum signed in 1994 to guarantee Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and existing borders, and prevent use of force against the nation, and the US' Taiwan Relations Act passed in 1979.

Taiwan's No. 1 priority is boosting its defence budget as President William Lai has

already announced that the nation plans to spend at least 3 per cent of GDP on defence, and it is also reviewing its defence capabilities, he said.

"This is a call to all countries in the free world: If you want peace, you have to prepare for war," he said. "To strengthen yourself and be able to seek peace through strength."

Second, just as Ukraine is facing Russia, a much larger adversary, Taiwan is threatened by China, a larger nation, so Taipei should invest in asymmetric warfare, he said.

Taiwan should cooperate with other countries in drone programs, he added.

Further, Chen Ming-chi stated that the third point, which Taiwan has learned from Ukraine and the Baltic countries, is that it is important to have a whole-of-society resilience program, ranging from energy resilience to reserve mobilisation and civil defence.

Khalistani extremism tarnishing Canada's image and hindering India ties, warns analyst

NEW YORK, Jun 15 (Agencies): New York-based expert on Khalistani terrorism, Puneet Sahani, believes that the Khalistani agitation is severely damaging Canada's international reputation.

In an interview, he warned that violent rhetoric and incidents -- most recently the harassment of Canadian Journalist Mocha Bezirgan in Vancouver -- are making Canada appear like "a Pakistan of the West" and raising fears that the country could become "a future exporter of terrorism."

Sahani urged Ottawa to confront these extremist networks with the same seriousness it applies to other global threats.

The analyst also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to abandon what he described as a "soft approach" toward Sikh radicals abroad. He advocated for tougher legal measures, including banning overseas Khalistan-linked organisations and placing their leaders on international no-fly lists.



Ahead of PM Modi's travel to Canada for the G7 Summit, Sahani warned that the growing influence of Khalistani extremists in Canada may keep New Delhi and Ottawa diplomatically distant for the foreseeable future. He claimed that pro-Khalistan networks now have "deep roots in every order of the Canadian state."

Sahani explained that, unlike the original wave of militants who migrated in the 1980s, today's Khalistan movement is increasingly driven by a new generation of activists, many of whom were born and raised in North America. These individuals, he said, are

"even more radicalised" than their predecessors, despite having little or no lived experience of life in Punjab.

"These organisations are indoctrinating young people who have never lived in India, pumping them with hatred of Bharat and Hindus," he said. "They are essentially bringing a conflict from the sub-continent onto Canadian soil."

Citing public tributes to slain Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Sahani said such gestures are clear signs of radical penetration into mainstream Canadian politics. "They had enough influence to hold a minute of silence in Canada's Parliament," he noted, calling it evidence that sympathisers hold disproportionate sway over political decision-makers.

While acknowledging that most Canadian Sikhs condemn violence, Sahani cautioned that prolonged political pressure from extremist organisations may keep bilateral relations in a deep freeze.

China hikes military incursions in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence said it detected six Chinese Naval vessels operating around its territorial waters as of 6 am (local time) on Sunday.

Contrary to the usual, no Chinese aircraft were detected in this timeframe.

In a post on X, the MND said, " 6 PLAN ships operating around Taiwan were detected as of 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. Illustration of flight path is not provided due to no PLA aircraft operating around Taiwan were detected during this timeframe."

Earlier on Saturday, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence said it detected eight Chinese Naval vessels operating around its territorial waters.

In a post on X, the MND said, "8 PLAN ships operating around



Taiwan were detected as of 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. Illustration of flight path is not provided due to no PLA aircraft operating around Taiwan were detected during this timeframe."

Meanwhile, the US Navy is intensifying its global war game exercises to counter a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan, aiming to make the self-ruled island "a very difficult target to take," US Acting Chief of Naval Operations Admiral James Kilby said during a congressional

testimony on Wednesday.

According to a report by the Taipei Times, Admiral Kilby testified before the US House Armed Services Committee that the US Navy has been conducting regular simulations, primarily at the Naval War College, focused on deterring Beijing's military ambitions in the Indo-Pacific.

"Our focus is on long-range strike capabilities, countering China's command and surveillance systems, terminal ship

defence, contested logistics, and unconventional maritime denial strategies," Kilby said.

He added that the Navy is also experimenting with new technologies in each area, with increased urgency following recent consultations with Indo-Pacific Commander Admiral Samuel Paparo and Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Stephen Koehler.

On whether deploying a USD 13 billion aircraft carrier or autonomous systems would be more effective for Taiwan's defence, Kilby mentioned that drones would be a preferred choice. "If I could put those drones on Taiwan, I'd put them on Taiwan," he said, indicating a shift toward unmanned assets in countering China's expanding military capabilities.

IYA celebrates Int’l Day of Yoga at Rana Rajinder Singh Park

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 15: The Indian Yoga Association (IYA), a nationally renowned body devoted to the promotion of yoga for the past 17 years under the divine guidance of Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji, National Chairman (Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh), and the able leadership of Subodh Tiwari Ji, Secretary General (IYA) and CEO of Kaivalyadhama, Lonavla-Pune, proudly celebrated International Day of Yoga (IDY) at Rana Rajinder Singh Park, Rehari, Jammu.

The event was held under the visionary direction of Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Chairman (J&K) and State Yoga Commissioner.

The serene atmosphere of the park resonated with yogic energy



as a large number of yoga enthusiasts gathered early morning to participate in this meaningful celebration.

Sudha Chander Sharma, Joint Secretary of IYA J&K and President of Jammu District Patanjali Yogpeeth, warmly welcomed the participants and introduced the dignitaries gracing the stage.

The event was presided over by Ashok Gupta, and the Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr.

Shreyansh Kumar Jain.

The highlight of the event was the keynote address by Dr. S. K. Jain, who spoke profoundly on the importance and relevance of yoga in daily life. He emphasized the holistic development of the human being through yoga—encompassing the physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions. He conducted a detailed and engaging yoga session including standing, sitting, and

supine asanas such as Tadasana, Trikonasana, Utkatasana, Hastapadasana, Vajrasana, Bhujangasana, Ustrasana, Makarasana, Paschimottanasana and Shavasana.

Dr. Jain further guided the gathering through various pranayama techniques like Deep Breathing, Anulom Vilom, Sheetali, and Sheetkari, followed by a focused meditation session. He explained the concept, process, and

benefits of meditation, defining it as a tool for cultivating equanimity, reducing stress, anxiety, and insomnia, and enhancing clarity in decision-making.

Ashok Gupta appreciated the inclusion of Laughter Yoga and Clapping Yoga, highlighting their effectiveness in promoting mental well-being and community bonding.

Special coordination for the event was handled by Swati Sharma, with key support from Madhu Sharma, Sushma Jammal, Neha, and Diptee Sharma, who played vital roles in organizing and facilitating the smooth conduct of the program.

The event concluded with a collective pledge to integrate yoga into daily life for better health, harmony, and holistic wellness.

Mehraj Malik’s exit a relief, not a loss: Rajesh Gupta slams ‘Goon MLA’ over misconduct and misogyny

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 15: Senior National Conference (NC) leader Rajesh Gupta has launched a scathing attack on AAP MLA Mehraj Malik following his decision to withdraw support from the NC-led coalition in Jammu and Kashmir. Gupta described Malik's exit as a relief and a much-needed cleansing, rather than a political setback, asserting that the coalition remains firm with 52 MLAs intact.

"Malik's departure spares us the disgrace of being associated with a man whose record reeks of criminality and arrogance," Gupta said. "His presence was a liability, not an asset."

The AAP MLA recently came under public fire after allegedly verbally abusing a lady doctor and a professor at Government Medical College with disturbing threats such as,



"I will drag you. I will strip you naked." Gupta denounced these statements as criminal, misogynistic, and disgraceful, asserting that such behavior is unworthy of any public representative.

Highlighting Malik's troubling legal track record, Gupta pointed to multiple FIRs registered between 2021 and 2024 on charges including criminal intimidation and communal incitement. He criticized the Aam Aadmi Party for endorsing Malik, saying, "This is not just a political failure; it's a moral failure. AAP betrayed its own slogan of clean and ethical politics."

Gupta further accused Malik of consistently bullying officials, particularly targeting women, and described his conduct as more fitting for a street thug than a legislator. "His repeated acts of aggression, arrogance, and crude publicity-seeking show that he is disqualified — morally, ethically, and mentally," Gupta said.

Demanding swift action, Gupta called for Malik's immediate disqualification and urged the Election Commission and other political outfits to draw a clear line against such behavior. "This is not leadership. It is a threat to our democracy and public dignity," he added.

Concluding his statement, Gupta remarked, "Malik's fall from grace is not unfortunate — it's necessary. The people of Doda and the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir deserve better representatives."

Modi Govt’s 11 years of good governance puts India on track to become World’s 3rd largest economy by 2029: Jasrotia

Top News Report

KATHUA, June 15: MLA Jasrotia, Rajiv Jasrotia Sunday claimed that India is firmly on track to become the world's third-largest economy by 2029, crediting 11 years of Narendra Modi's "decisive and corruption-free" governance for triggering an "unstoppable surge" in national development. Addressing a well attended gatherings at Chann Arorian Mandal , Dinga Amb Mandal and Jasrota Mandal organized today to mark the NDA government's 11th anniversary, the senior BJP leader said India has broken free from the era of policy paralysis and dynastic misrule and

is now powered by welfare-led growth, youth-driven innovation, and massive infrastructure transformation.

The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including Dinga Amb Mandal Pradhan Deepak Sharma, Mandal Pradhan Jasrota Balwant Singh, Randeep Singh, Shiv Dev Singh, Sanjay , Surjit Singh, Chain Singh, Dinanath, Ashanand Khajuria, Ex Mandal Pradhan Samar Singh, Gandharb Singh, Maghar Singh, Ravi Abrol, Mukesh, Ankush Sharma, Sethi, Sanjeev, Sarpanch Kewal, Sarpanch Rocky, Balkar Singh, Panch Bikram, Panch Parshotam, Satish and other notable personalities. The

event showcased the PM Modi government's commitment to the development and welfare of Jammu and Kashmir

Jasrotia highlighted the remarkable achievements of the PM Modi government over the past eleven years, with a special focus on milestones achieved in Jammu and Kashmir. Jasrotia emphasized the significant progress made under PM Modi's leadership, particularly in areas such as infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and social welfare. He highlighted the notable achievements in Jammu and Kashmir, including improved connectivity, enhanced security, and increased opportunities for

economic growth. The MLA reiterated the government's commitment to the development of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that the region benefits from the government's initiatives and policies.

In just one decade, over 25 crore Indians have risen above poverty. That's more than the population of most European countries, Jasrotia said. This is the Modi guarantee — delivery with speed, scale and honesty. Highlighting the economic strides under the Modi government, he said India's rise to the fourth-largest global economy is just the beginning. "By 2029, India will be the third-largest economy.

Sankranti celebrations: Shabeel & Bhandara organized at Channi Himmat

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 15: On the eve of Sankranti and Pitru Paksh day, a Shabeel and Bhandara was organized at Channi Himmat, showcasing the spirit of community and togetherness. The event was made possible by the efforts of Harsimar Singh, Arnav Seth, Neeraj Kumar, and the Young Blood Association volunteers. The event demonstrated the power of community service and volunteerism, as the organizers and volunteers came together to serve the community.

The Shabeel and Bhandara celebra-

tion highlighted the importance of preserving cultural heritage and traditions. The Young Blood Association volunteers played a crucial role in making the event a success, showcasing their commitment to social service. The Shabeel and Bhandara event was a testament to the community's spirit and the organizers' dedication to serving others.

Young Blood Association volunteers speaking on the occasion said that Langar is an important tradition of community eating in India that has its roots in the country's rich cultural ethos and religious diversity.

FromPage No: 1

Helicopter crashes near Kedarnath Shrine, All seven on board killed

heli operations.

This committee will ensure that the operation of heli services is completely safe, transparent and as per the prescribed standards, an official statement said.

Dhami has also directed that the high-level committee constituted to investigate helicopter accidents that have taken place in the past in the state will thoroughly investigate every aspect of the earlier heli accidents as well as today's heli crash and submit its report.

This committee will investigate the causes of each incident in depth and identify the guilty persons or institutions and recommend strict action against them.

The chief minister said the importance of heli services in the state is immense for pilgrimage, disaster management and emergency services, hence safety will be given top priority in these.

Tourism in Pahalgam limping back to normalcy

decided to open the parks at Pahalgam, saying it would attract more people to the place.

"There is no better advertisement than word of mouth...The people from various parts of Kashmir started to visit soon after Eid, but the numbers did not increase much as they had no place to sit as all the parks were closed. We hope that it will change now as the LG on Saturday announced that the parks will be opened again," said Mohammad Ishaq, a hut owner.

Ishaq said that a few tourists from other states also returned to Pahalgam over the past 10 days.

"Most of them were budget tourists from Punjab and they were left dejected as they could not explore the beauty of Pahalgam for which it is famous. We had Aaru closed, Betaab Valley closed and no one should expect Baisaran to open anytime soon," he added. Mohammad Ramzan, a ponywalla, said his community was hoping that the trend of increasing tourists visiting Pahalgam will continue.

"Our peak season for earnings has gone....but we hope that more locals (Kashmiris) will visit us over the next few months before the onset of winter. That might offset some of the losses," he added.

Basheer Ahmad, another ponywalla, said they were also hopeful that a large number of pilgrims will come for the Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin from July 3.

"We have a lesser number of pilgrims coming for the Amarnath Yatra via Pahalgam route now. We hope it will change this year," he said.

A hotelier, who wished not to be identified, said the Amarnath Yatra usually does not impact his business.

"The pilgrims stay in the Nunwan base camp, they do not venture out much for shopping and eating out. So that way, I have not attached much hope for getting direct business from the yatra," he said.

The hotelier, however, added that a peaceful and successful yatra will immensely benefit the entire tourism sector of Kashmir as the pilgrims will be "our ambassadors to the rest of India".

Continuous upgrade of GMC services; Govt’s prime concern: Chief Secretary

seats in new medical colleges, status of faculty recruitment and strengthening of the tertiary care services in all the newly established GMCs.

The meeting besides Secretary, H&ME was attended by Director, SKIMS; Principals of GMC, Srinagar, Jammu, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kathua, Doda, Rajouri, Udhampur, Handwara; MD, JKMSCL; Director, Coordination (Medical Colleges); Director Health, Jammu/Kashmir besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the department to continuously endeavour to upgrade their services especially the tertiary care services like critical care, emergency, neurological, cardiac care, cancer care, kidney care and radiology services by these health institutions.

He impressed upon the Principals of the medical colleges to create a timeline on the basis of infrastructure and manpower available to introduce such high-end services in these colleges. He advised them to

dovetail their available resources to meet such requirements along with taking the much needed assistance from SKIMS and GMCs at Jammu and Srinagar.

He stressed on taking swift measures to augment services in the identified critical care services to save lives of the patients by making timely interventions. He impressed upon them to receive the requisite handholding from the SKIMS or GMC Jammu/Srinagar with respect to training of staff besides acquiring the small equipments, necessary consumables to deal with such exigencies.

The Chief Secretary further enquired from each Principal of the medical college about the new specialized courses like MD/MS, DM/MCH, and DNB successfully introduced in their colleges along with the applications made to NMC this year. He called for serious perusal of these applications as per set norms to secure the NMC approval before the next academic year.

As far as the introduction of additional 50 MBBS seats are concerned, the Chief Secretary stressed on securing the requisite faculty. He urged them to fill all the entry level posts of Assistant Professors besides taking steps like hiring of staff on academic arrangement where there are no feasible candidates available to fill higher positions of Professors and Associate Professors through conduction of DPCs.

Dulloo also reviewed status of the functioning of each medical college besides availability of infrastructure in each college and the associated hospital. He also enquired about the completion of critical care infrastructure raised under PM-ABHIM in each of them along with the newly established blocks in associated hospitals of these GMCs.

Secretary, H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, while throwing light on the status and functioning of these colleges, informed the meeting that a total of 391 applications have been submitted to enhance the seat availability for MD/MS, DM/MCH and DNB programs across various medical colleges. He elaborated that these included 234 applications for enhancing MD/MS courses, 129 DNB and 28 applications for introduction of DM/MCH courses across the GMCs.

He added that the approval has been received for two DM Neurology seats and 1 DNB seat each in Cardiology, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery by GMC Srinagar. He added that GMC Handwara has

received approvals for 2 DNB seats in General Surgery and 5 DNB seats in General Medicine, he added.

Additionally, GMC Kathua received approvals in respect of 4 DNB seats in Anaesthesia while as IGGDC Jammu has received permission for starting 3 seats in Public Health Dentistry, the meeting was informed.

Regarding enhancement of additional 50 MBBS seats in new medical colleges, he informed that applications have been submitted by all the nine medical colleges of the UT and a couple of them had been inspected recently while others are waiting for the NMC inspection for approval.

With respect to faculty recruitment in New Medical Colleges, the meeting was informed that the vacant positions of APs had been referred to PSC for filling while those of Associate Professors and Professors are being filled by making promotions wherever feasible and taking candidates on academic arrangement at other locations.

As far as the progress on major infrastructure and development projects is concerned, the meeting was informed that the work on key infrastructure projects is being expedited.

It was further given out that the tendering and work allocation under the PM ABHIM scheme has been completed with work apace on these projects. He also mentioned that the work on all the critical care blocks including 2 100-bedded CCBs and 7 50-bedded CCBs, along with 20 DIPHLs and 236 Block Public Health Units (BPHUs) is in progress.

Durga Nagar chain snatching case solved, Two accused held: Police

SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma formed a dedicated investigation team under the supervision of SDPO Domana, SHO Domana, and In-Charge Police Post Chinore.

The team scanned over 300 CCTV cameras and used technical analysis to identify the accused.

Accordingly, Ajit Sharma of Disco Road, Janipura, and Sahil Khan of Kamini Market, Nagrota, were arrested.

A stolen scooter used in the incident and an auto-rickshaw were seized from their possession, along with the weapon used in the crime. The snatched gold chain was

also recovered.

"The swift arrests and recovery are a result of focused investigation and teamwork. We remain committed to curbing street crimes and ensuring public safety," said SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma.

Police clarified that the accused were taken for recovery and other legal formalities as per procedure.

Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Rajouri

detected on the LoC in Poonch district. Jammu food guide

Officials said that alert troops noticed some suspicious movement on the LoC in the Baratgala area of the Keri sector in Rajouri district.

"After noticing suspicious movement along the LoC, alert troops fired shots at suspected intruders. The intruders were forced to withdraw back into the Pakistani side of the LoC. Subsequently, searches have been started to sanitise the area along the LoC," officials said.

In another anti-terrorist operation, security forces have started searches along the LoC in Poonch district after locals reported seeing some suspicious movement in the area, the officials said here.

The security forces have been aggressively carrying out operations against terrorists, their overground workers (OGWs) and their sympathisers.

Two minor siblings feared drowned in Chenab river in Doda

swept away when he tried to rescue him, the officials said. A major rescue operation was launched by locals, police and SDRF but there was no trace of the boys, the officials said, adding the rescue operation continued till late in the night and was resumed around 6 am on Sunday.

Deputy Commissioner, Doda Harvinder Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda Sandeep Mehta also visited the scene to supervise the rescue operation.

"The boys remained untraced so far but efforts are on to trace them. The water level in Chenab is very high but the SDRF and police are continuing their efforts," Singh said.

He requested parents not to leave their children unattended near the water bodies to avoid any untoward incident.

RSP Developers to invest Rs 600 crore in BTS and institutional space in Gurugram

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Real estate firm RSP Developers will invest Rs 600 crore in built-to-suit (BTS) and institutional space in Gurugram, "strategically" aimed at assisting large Indian and foreign firms in establishing training and R&D facilities across India, providing end-to-end solutions for their real estate needs.

The company aims to create over Rs 1,000 crore in new asset value with this new additional investment commitment of Rs 600 crore over the next 2-3 years.

"Our upcoming planned investments are strategically aimed at assisting large Indian and foreign firms in establishing training and R&D facilities across India, providing end-to-end solutions for their real estate needs," said Satya Priya Yadav, Co-Founder and Group CEO, RSP Developers.

The developer has a portfolio exceeding Rs 2,000 crore in delivered projects and an active development pipeline of over 1.5 million square feet across



strategic locations.

Commenting on the strategy behind the move, RSP Developers' Group CEO further added that the rising trend for biophilic environments, privacy within the office for the employees, recharge areas, and ideation areas as well as excellent interactive areas for formal and informal interactions, is evolving into a necessity, which pushes the

company to provide infrastructure, grabbing the opportunities in Gurugram.

"Our experience in built-to-suit (BTS) customised spaces and willingness to cater to such clients adds to our team's expertise. We are well ensconced to deliver quality projects with specific and unique requirements for global clients," he added. Founded in 1996, RSP Devel-

opers has emerged as a major player in Built-to-Suit (BTS) and institutional real estate.

The company has developed nearly 12 acres of a state-of-the-art hub intended to be exclusively dedicated to corporate innovation, R&D and training, which is now leased by the BMW Group and Air India - resulting in a one-of-a-kind training hub in the world.

The company will focus on areas that include R&D and Training Hubs in NCR, Wellness-oriented campuses with low-density, green architecture, students' accommodations for a new generation of urban learners, Innovation labs and co-learning zones, EV-ready infrastructure and net-zero campuses.

RSP is also making strides in renewable energy, with a 10 MW solar power project underway in Haryana, scalable to 50 MW. It aligns with the firm's sustainability-first ethos, embedded into each stage of design and delivery.

Audi India launches A4 Signature Edition with styling enhancements

The Signature Edition starts at Rs 57.11 lakh (ex-showroom)



CHANDIGARH, Jun 15 (Agencies): Audi, the German luxury car manufacturer, announced the launch of the A4 Signature Edition with exclusive design elements.

The Signature Edition features styling enhancements, including the Audi rings entry LED lamps, exclusive Audi rings decals, and dynamic wheel hub caps. The Audi A4 Sig-

nature Edition starts at Rs 57.11 lakh (ex-showroom).

The Signature Edition will be available in limited units and offers a choice of five exterior colours: Glacier White Metallic, Mythos Black Metallic, Navarra Blue Metallic, Progressive Red Metallic, and Manhattan Grey Metallic.

Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon said, "The Audi A4 has been one of our best-selling sedans, blending performance with elegance. The Signature Edition offers an even more exclusive variant, enhanced by bespoke styling that elevates its premium appeal."

New mRNA vaccine is more effective, less costly to develop: Study

WASHINGTON DC, Jun 15 (Agencies): A new type of mRNA vaccine is more scalable and adaptable to continuously evolving viruses such as SARS-CoV-2 and H5N1, according to a study by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health and the Pennsylvania State University.

The study was published today in npj Vaccines.

Though highly effective at inducing an immune response, current mRNA vaccines, such as those used to prevent COVID-19, present two significant challenges: the high amount of mRNA needed to produce them and the constantly evolving nature of the pathogen.

"The virus changes, moving the goal post, and updating the vaccine takes some time," said senior author Suresh Kuchipudi,

Ph.D., chair of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at Pitt Public Health.

To address these challenges, the researchers created a proof-of-concept COVID-19 vaccine using what's known as a "trans-amplifying" mRNA platform.

In this approach, the mRNA is separated into two fragments -- the antigen sequence and the replicase sequence -- the latter of which can be produced in advance, saving crucial time in the event a new vaccine must be developed urgently and produced at scale.

Additionally, the researchers analysed the spike-protein sequences of all known variants of SARS-CoV-2 for commonalities, rendering what's known as a "consensus spike protein" as the basis for the vaccine's antigen.

In mice, the vac-

cine induced a robust immune response against many strains of SARS-CoV-2.

"This has the potential for more lasting immunity that would not require updating, because the vaccine has the potential to provide broad protection," said Kuchipudi. "Additionally, this format requires an mRNA dose 40 times less than conventional vaccines, so this new approach significantly reduces the overall cost of the vaccine."

The lessons learned from this study could inform more efficient vaccine development for other constantly evolving RNA viruses with pandemic potential, Kuchipudi said.

"We hope to apply the principles of this lower-cost, broad-protection antigen design to pressing challenges like bird flu," added Kuchipudi.

Researchers develop innovative model to study sense of smell: Study

WASHINGTON DC, Jun 15 (Agencies): Using a newly devised, three-dimensional model to study the regeneration of nerve tissue in the nose, researchers at Tufts University School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) and colleagues have discovered that one type of stem cell thought to be dormant may play a more significant role in preserving the sense of smell than originally believed.

Unlike cells in the central nervous system, sensory neurons in the nasal cavity have a remarkable ability to regenerate throughout life despite near-constant exposure to the outside environment.

Viral infections such as COVID-19, exposure to toxins, or even aging itself can diminish their function or the ability of these cells to replicate, which can lead to a partial or complete loss of smell.

The team of researchers devised a new, easy-to-create, three-dimensional olfactory tissue mouse model or organoid to help scientists better study how neurons are continually formed in the nose and why



this process might decline in disease and aging.

Their research, published recently in Cell Reports Methods, uses this mouse model to show how two types of stem cells in the nose, called horizontal basal cells (HBCs) and globose basal cells (GBCs), communicate and support each other to develop new smell-sensing nerve tissue.

"Our research suggests that these two stem cells may be interdependent," says Brian Lin, senior author on the study and a research assistant professor

in the Department of Developmental, Molecular and Chemical Biology.

"One type that we thought was largely dormant -- HBCs -- may actually play a crucial role in supporting the production of new neurons and the repair of damaged tissue," added Lin.

Using this model, the team identified a specific subpopulation of HBCs, marked by their production of the protein KRT5, that actively support the generation of new olfactory neurons.

The researchers observed that these particular HBCs play

a key role in the formation of the organoids, and they found that when these cells were selectively depleted from the organoid cultures, the generation of new neurons was significantly impaired.

These results suggest that these stem cells, once thought to be dormant, are essential players in the regenerative process.

"We also looked at cells from mice of different ages and grew them in the model. We found a decline in the ability of the older mice cells to generate new neurons. We think this is due to a decrease in the GBC population as we age, but we need to do more work to test this hypothesis and if so, develop ways to rejuvenate them," said Lin.

Lin says she was dedicated to developing a model that was easy to create in labs with limited funds and equipment.

The ultimate goal is to use this mouse-tissue model of olfactory sensory neurons as a pathway to developing a human organoid that can be used to screen drugs to treat people whose sense of smell is significantly diminished or gone.

How viruses can help the fight against antibiotic resistance

Phage therapy uses viruses to target bacteria that can help combat antimicrobial resistance. This approach combined with AI could transform infection treatment and environmental health in India.

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Antimicrobial resistance isn't just a silent pandemic — India bears one of the heaviest burdens globally.

While the country continues its search for new antibiotics to combat the crisis, researchers are now turning to naturally-occurring viruses in the environment as a promising tool to attack and kill multi-drug-resistant bacteria.

Karthik Anantharaman, a visiting professor at Wadhvani School of Data Science and AI at IIT Madras, is spearheading such a project in the US by studying the nature of viruses in their natural habitat to attack and kill bacteria, a process called phage therapy.

"One approach is to create more antibiotics but this only postpones the problem. New antibiotics also can lead to new forms of resistance, creating a never-ending

cycle. An alternative and promising solution is phage therapy, which uses viruses called bacteriophages (or simply phages) to kill specific bacteria," Dr. Anantharaman, who is also a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, told IndiaToday.in. FINDING VIRUSES THAT KILL BACTERIA Anantharaman and his team discovered that viruses have yearly cycles and can affect other organisms in the ecosystem.

As part of their study, some viruses were found to carry genes they had taken from the organisms they infected, which helped them carry out important biological functions.

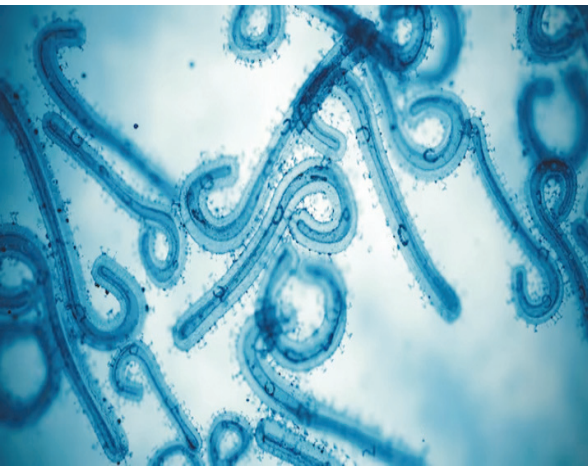
The research team also put together over 1.3 million viral genomes — the largest collection of its kind so far.

"In our lab, we are exploring how phages behave over time. We

conducted a 20-year study of a single lake, using DNA sequencing and artificial intelligence (AI) to track how phage populations changed. By sequencing environmental DNA and using AI tools, we identified over 1.3 million viral genomes. This allowed us to see how viruses shift month to month, season to season, and year to year, and to predict their future behaviour," Dr. Anantharaman said.

While phage therapy might seem like a relatively new concept to Indian populations and even the West who rely heavily on antibiotics, Anantharaman mentioned that the phenomenon of using viruses to kill bacteria has been used in countries like Russia, Poland, Ukraine, and Georgia for decades.

VIRUSES AS ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANER



"Our goal is twofold: to improve human health and environmental health. Just as phages (virus) can target harmful bacteria in the human body, they can also be used to clean polluted ecosystems," University of Wisconsin-Madison professor said.

For example, if a lake turns black or emits a smell like rotten eggs, a sign of hydrogen sulfide produced by bacteria, phages can be used to selectively kill those bacteria and restore the

lake's health.

Despite their promise, phage therapies are currently used only in compassionate cases, where all antibiotics have failed and the patient's condition is critical.

HOW DO PHAGES OR VIRUSES WORK AGAINST BACTERIA?

One major reason phages haven't entered mainstream treatment is that researchers still don't fully understand how they evolve over time.

Consequently, there

are no approved phage-based therapeutic products in India, the US, or Europe.

But phages hold great promise, especially when used in combination with antibiotics.

Here's how it works: when bacteria face antibiotics, they come under stress. Sometimes, this stress causes genetic changes that make them resistant.

But in that process, bacteria may also become vulnerable to phages. So, using both antibiotics and phages together creates a powerful, complementary treatment strategy.

In some cases, antibiotics work where phages don't and vice versa.

"One major advantage of phages is their precision. Unlike antibiotics, which kill both harmful and beneficial bacteria, phages target only one specific strain. If a person is infected with Pseudomonas, the

phage used will kill only Pseudomonas, sparing the rest of the body's microbiome. That's a game-changer for preserving overall health during treatment," Anantharaman explained.

Another surprising fact is that viruses are everywhere - even inside us.

There are 10 to 100 times more viral particles in and on our bodies than human cells.

These include many harmless phages that silently regulate bacterial populations. Phages are found in lakes, rivers, soil, oceans, and even in our intestines and on our skin.

"In our lab, we use AI — both machine learning and deep learning — to rapidly identify phages from environmental samples. This process, which used to take years, now takes just a day. AI allows us to sift through millions of DNA sequences and pinpoint the viruses that

can infect specific harmful bacteria," Anantharaman said.

BARRIERS PERSIST However, awareness remains a major barrier.

The medical community and industry are still focused on antibiotics. There's limited investment in phage therapy, and the necessary research infrastructure hasn't yet been built.

For phage therapy to move forward, government support and academic research are essential.

"Industry isn't currently interested in developing phage-based treatments — it's mostly up to institutions and public funding. But as the threat of antibiotic resistance grows, this is expected to change," Anantharaman opined.

Phage therapy isn't just a scientific curiosity. It could be a major pillar of future medicine — if we choose to invest in it.

Records galore at Lord’s after South Africa lifts maiden ICC title

LONDON, Jun 15 (Agencies): South Africa's first ICC title since 1998, breaking the 28-year-long jinx, a 5-wicket triumph in the World Test Championship final against Australia triggered several records to be topped at the 'Home of Cricket', Lord's.

It has been a year of breaking jinxes across different sports. Bologna lifted the title for the first time in 51 years, while Newcastle United ended the drought after 56 years. Tottenham Hotspur lifted the Europa League for the first time in decades, and Paris Saint-Germain got their hands on the UEFA Champions League for the first time in their history.

In cricket, Royal Challengers Bengaluru's 18-year wait ended after they trounced Punjab Kings to lift their first IPL trophy. Now, South Africa has etched its name in history after ending its ICC trophy drought, which



lasted for 9,722 days.

A 282-run target was the ask from the Proteas to chase down and end their decades-long title hunt. Aiden Markram didn't put a foot wrong and cleared South Africa's route that led to the WTC mace with a swashbuckling 136(207).

The Temba Bavuma-led troops gunned down the 282-run ask from the Baggy Greens, pulling off their fifth-highest chase in Test cricket, with four of those five wins being against Australia. Notably, it is also the second-highest chase at Lord's. South Africa extended its win-

ning streak to eight with another success story, which began against the West Indies last August. This is the second-highest win streak for the Proteas in the format, behind nine successive wins, which they achieved back in 2002-03.

The eight-match win streak is the highest in the World Test Championship history, bettering India and New Zealand, who won seven consecutive fixtures each during the inaugural cycle.

Bavuma continued to flaunt his flawless record as South Africa's Test captain, winning nine and securing one draw. Only England's Percy Chapman (9) has had as many wins as Bavuma in the first 10 fixtures as Test captain. Markram's 136 marked his third ton in the fourth innings, and only former captain Graeme Smith (4) had more for the Proteas in the fourth innings.

An Argentine named Ustari, not Messi, shines for Inter Miami and earns MVP in first CWC game

MIAMI GARDENS (US), Jun 15 (Agencies): An Argentine not named Messi was the MVP for Inter Miami in the Club World Cup. The hero in the tournament opener was goaltender Oscar Ustari.

Ustari made eight saves, including a penalty and goal-line intervention, as Miami played Egypt's Al Ahly to a scoreless draw in the Group A tournament opener. Ustari's save of a header in the 33rd minute was second only to stopping Trezeguet's penalty just before half-time and making sure danger was averted when the ball bounced back to Al Ahly's forward.

The 38-year-old Ustari returned to a World Cup stage in this new Club

World Cup format for the first time since winning the U-20 World Cup in 2005 — with none other than Messi, Inter Miami's captain.

Before joining Inter Miami, Ustari was captain of CF Pachuca, also in the tournament, but faced controversy because Grupo Pachuca also owns Club León, which was removed by FIFA and had its appeal rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Ustari made 124 appearances with the "Tuzos" before playing briefly for Audax Italiano in the first division of Chile. He was signed as a free agent in September 2024 by Inter Miami. He has played 22 games, including eight in the CONCACAF Champions Cup.

What Ustari said

"I don't like to talk about myself. The team did a great job defensively and that is what I most care about."

"I remember being retired and knew that my return would come on a field, so I'm very happy about it (being back)."

"I thought we were superior, that's what I think. The game left me with good feelings, but our next rival is very different."

What Suarez said

"We didn't think their keeper would make so many saves, he was the key player in the game along with Oscar in the first half, but that shows that goalkeepers can earn you points as well." — Luis Suarez, Inter Miami forward.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah congratulates South Africa on its maiden WTC title

LONDON, Jun 15 (Agencies): ICC Chairman Jay Shah congratulated the South Africa team after they defeated Australia in the World Test Championship (WTC) Final, by five wickets to clinch their maiden WTC title at Lord's.

Jay Shah posted on his X handle, "Congratulations to @ProteasMenCSA on winning the @ICC World Test Championship! And a performance for the ages from @aramco Player of the Match Aiden Markram. The @HomeOfCricket Lord's was a fantastic venue, and the huge crowds every day once again showed the interest in Test cricket."

Extending wishes to the Proteas, former Indian skipper Anil Kumble said, "Test cricket at its finest. Congratulations, South Africa! A champion performance in the ICC World Test Championship."

Indian batter Cheteshwar Pujara posted on his X handle, "Congratulations to South Africa on a historic WTC Final victory! A triumph built on resilience, skill, and unwavering determination. Test cricket at its finest."

Former Indian legend Yuvraj Singh also extended wishes to the South

Africa team, saying that the class of 2025 ends a 27-year wait.

"The class of 2025 ends a 27-year wait and lifts the ICC World Test Championship Trophy in style! Huge congrats to the @ProteasMenCSA on a historic win at Lord's. I've always believed there's no greater measure of resilience and character than Test cricket, and South Africa rose to the occasion! #AidenMarkram's century was pure class. @KagisoRabada25 @marcojansen2000 and @NgidiLungi brought relentless intensity, and #TembaBavuma led with calm and courage. A final worthy of the format. Tough luck #Australia! You know it's okay to let go of one trophy #WTC-Final," Singh posted on X.

With this victory, South Africa has laid their hands on their first-ever world title in international cricket. Also, this is their second ICC trophy after the ICC Knock-out 1998.

Also, Australia skipper Pat Cummins' golden run as a captain, which started with the retention of the Ashes series against England and was followed by an incredible WTC mace and 50-over World Cup wins over India, has come to a halt.

“You have to start somewhere”: Surinder Khanna expects India to “do well” in England despite Rohit, Virat’s absence

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Former cricketer Surinder Khanna expects India to "do well" under Shubman Gill's newly established captaincy in the upcoming challenging Test tour of England, which will kick off on June 20 at Headingley.

India is walking towards a new dawn after the batting bigwigs Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli bid adieu to the format last month. Gill was deemed Rohit's successor and crowned the Test captain, with Rishabh Pant serving as his deputy.

Apart from the two acclaimed batting wizards, India will miss the presence of its crafty frontline spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who retired midway through



the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia.

With India slim on experience against fearless England, who have instilled the ideology of 'Bazball' in their style of play, fans and former cricketers have concerns about how the touring party would fare in five Tests.

Surinder acknowledged that India has a young team, considering

where. You have talent, and now you have responsibility. Now it is up to the young team to live up to the expectations of the nation, and they have the potential," Surinder told agency.

"We have seen Gill leading a side in the limited-overs cricket; he is calm. Pant has been out of form, but he plays well in Test cricket. We have Bumrah, (who is) experienced, and one of the finest new ball bowlers in the world. I expect them to do well in England," he added.

The five-match Test series will take place from June 20 to August 4, with matches scheduled at Headingley (Leeds), Edgbaston (Birmingham), Lord's and The Oval (London),

and Old Trafford (Manchester).

India's Test squad for England series: Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav.

England squad for first Test vs India: Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Sam Cook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wk), Ben Stokes (capt), Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes.

“Enough talent to win series”: Clarke feels India is in “safe hands”, picks “X-factor” against England

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Former Australia captain Michael Clarke believes India is in "safe hands" and has "enough talent" to trounce England, but it will all come down to how the young-looking squad will leave a mark in the series on a territory known for being "tough."

India has taken the first steps towards a new era after batting maestros Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli bid farewell to the Test format more than a month before the five-match series kicks off at Headingley on June 20.

Shubman Gill was deemed Rohit's successor and appointed the Test captain, with Rishabh Pant serving as his deputy. Apart from the two batting bigwigs, India will line up without crafty off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who retired midway through the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, and seasoned pacer Mohammed Shami, who wasn't deemed fit to make the cut for the series.

Apart from the absent stars, India will have to devise a blueprint to maximise Jasprit Bumrah's limited availability. India has the option to

exercise the policy of using its pace spearhead just three times in the series. As of now, clouds of uncertainty hover over which three Test Bumrah would be available to play for.

"Well, yes, I do give them a chance, but it's a lot more inexperienced team than the one I expected it to be on a plane to England. Having no Rohit Sharma, no Virat Kohli is huge. Players come, players go, people retire, and the game moves on. So, that does not mean a new captain is the worst thing for India. I'm not saying that. Somebody retires, and that gives somebody else an opportunity," Clarke said while speaking to Boria Majumdar on Revsportz.

"The main thing for me, though, is the Indian bowling attack. So we're all aware that Bumrah(Jasprit) is not going to play five tests. So, which test matches is he going to play? Does he play the first three in a row? You win this series, and the last two will not matter. I don't think that's going to be the case. I think it's going to have to be spaced out because the reason he's not going to play five is for his body,"



he continued.

"And then I also saw no Shami(Mohammed) in the squad as well. I think him missing the Australian series was huge, and if he and a fit Bumrah was in Australia then it would have been a very different series. But then India has huge talent. You know, I think talent-wise, India will always be in safe hands. It's just how soon can some of these players make a mark in this series. Five test matches in England is tough, tough cricket, and they need to be conscious of that," he added.

Despite the limited or nonexistent availability of some stars, India has brought in a couple of new faces to replace experience with talent. Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, and Yashasvi Jaiswal are some players who will take the

field for the first time for India in England while donning the whites.

In the bowling department, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep, and Arshdeep will test English batters with their blistering pace, in addition to Bumrah. Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep is the sole frontline ball-tweaker picked for the five Tests, who, for Clarke, will be the "X-factor".

"It is a very good attack. Look, I think there's enough talent to win the series in the Indian squad. It's just experience. And like I say, I found playing in India and playing in England in Test match cricket are the two hardest things to do. They're the two biggest series, but the other two hardest places to win. England is just one of those places where you need confidence, you need self-belief, and playing

in the conditions and having success there generally gives you that. So, for a lot of these players, it's going to be their first time to play a five-test match series in those conditions. Now, that doesn't mean you can't win. The positive with that is you can play fearless cricket because you don't know what you don't know," he said.

"So you don't have scars, or you don't have fear. So that could be a positive. I love seeing Kuldeep out there. I think he's earned the right to be India's first-pick spinner. I think he's a match-winner. I think he has an X factor. And I think he will be defining. If India wins the series, I think Kuldeep Yadav could be the difference. He's that big a player, in my opinion, in this Indian team," he added.

India's Test squad for England series: Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav.

Australia’s Steve Smith provides injury update, shares his “love-hate” relationship with Lord’s



LONDON, Jun 15 (Agencies): Australia's batting maestro Steve Smith provided an update on the injury he sustained on his finger during their World Test Championship final defeat against South Africa at Lord's.

On the third day of the pulsating contest, Smith was sent to the hospital after he suffered a compound dislocation of his right little finger while fielding in the slip cordon. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma edged the ball towards Smith, who tried to get hold of the opportunity with quick reflexes but eventually fumbled it, hurting his finger during the process.

With Australia's three away Tests against the West Indies on the horizon, there are concerns about the 36-year-old's availability for the tour, scheduled for June 25. Smith addressed the concerns around his latest setback after the initial diagnosis and affirmed that he is still in the race for an appearance in the Caribbean.

"I will be in a splint for eight weeks now, and I may be able to play with it in a couple of weeks. It will depend on my functionality and what I am able to do,

so it was probably the best result I could have hoped for," Smith revealed after Australia's five-wicket loss to the Proteas at Lord's, as quoted from the ICC.

Smith's dropped chance proved too costly for Australia, considering the South African captain was at two. From that moment, Bavuma never looked back and went on to score 66(134) and forge a match-winning partnership with Aiden Markram. During the injury incident, Smith stood close to Bavuma and wore a helmet to deal with the uneven bounce of the Lord's strip.

"I was standing pretty close with the helmet on, and as we saw throughout the game, a lot of nicks went short of first and second slip. The plan was to stand pretty close, and I lost sight of it with the angle that Mitchell Starc was bowling, and it kind of went inside Bavuma's hip," Smith said.

"I didn't quite see it until really late and it kind of dipped on me a little bit late too as well. It was tricky, it didn't go in my hand very well, and fortunately, there is no break there, and it just split the skin and dislocated it, which made me feel pretty ill at that stage," he added.

Smith has developed mixed emotions about the 'Home of Cricket' while taking into account his past exploits. In 2019, Smith was struck on the head by a short-pitched delivery from England tearaway Jofra Archer.

"I have a love/hate relationship with this place now. I have had some good memories here and some not so good ones as well. Getting hit in the head by Jofra (Archer) in 2019 and now having my digit knocked off out here yesterday as well. But it's a wonderful place to play cricket, and I have enjoyed it here, and it was a real good game of cricket again," he said.

Natrang stages hilarious hindi play ‘Shaatir Khiladi’ in Jammu

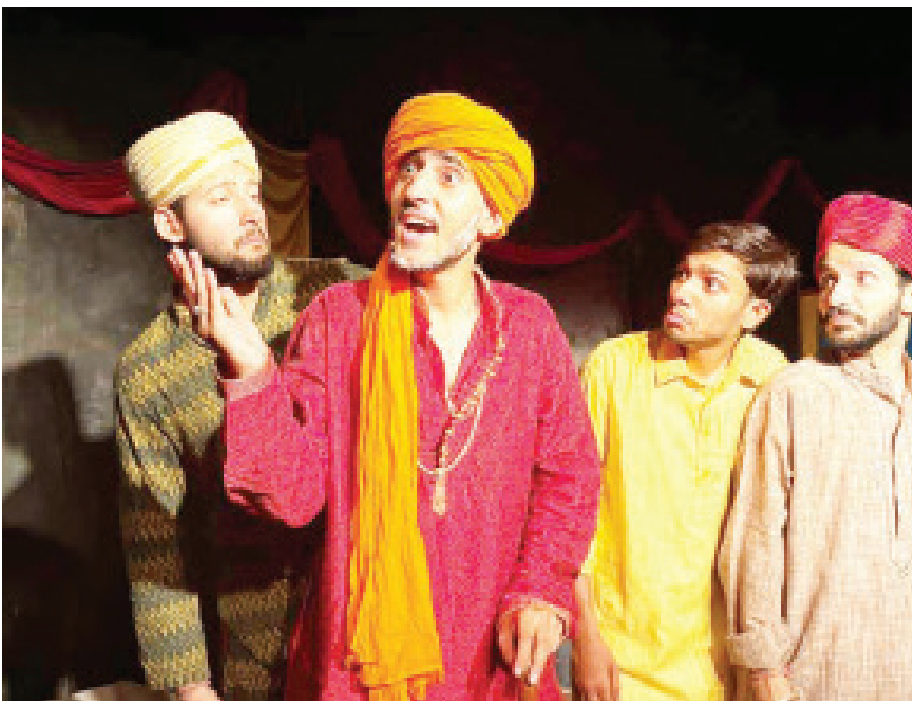
Top News Report

JAMMU, June 15: Natrang Theatre Group presented a rib-tickling performance of the newly staged Hindi play ‘Shaatir Khiladi’, written by Daya Prakash Sinha and ably directed by Neeraj Kant. The play’s instinctive humor and clever storytelling kept the audience thoroughly entertained and often bursting into laughter.

The storyline of Shaatir Khiladi centers around the amusing character of Lala Chadami Lal, who is now married for the fourth time, as his previous three wives have passed away.

His new wife, much younger and fiercely strong-willed, completely dominates him, turning the once-authoritative Lala into a submissive, henpecked husband.

Despite being bullied



at home, Lala tries hard to maintain his image in society as a fearless and dominating man.

To save face in front of his friends, he fabricates tall tales about his superiority over his

wife. However, the truth comes out when his wife throws him out of the house for not fulfilling her demand of buying a specific dress.

Lala pretends to resist her demands in public,

but secretly he mortgages his ring to buy the dress. The twist comes when it is revealed that the ring he gave was fake, leaving his friends both shocked and amused. In the end,

his cunning move reaffirms his title as a true “Shaatir Khiladi” — a sly old champion.

The energetic performance featured Natrang’s young artists Aryan Sharma, Adaksh Bagal, Kushal Bhat, and Kartik Kumar, whose comic timing and expressive acting won hearts.

The lighting for the play was designed and executed by Neeraj Kant, while the event coordination was handled by Mohd. Yaseen.

Perna Sharma gave the on-stage presentations and added to the seamless flow of the show.

With its engaging script, humorous dialogues, and lively performances, Shaatir Khiladi added another feather to Natrang’s cap, leaving the audience in splits and thoroughly entertained.

NEET UG 2025: Jammu’s Harivansh Rai Sudan Secures AIR 930 18 Other Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) Students Also Top Achievers



Top News Report

Jammu, June 15, 2025: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces that 19 of its students from Jammu have become the top scorers in the highly competitive NEET UG 2025 examination. This exceptional performance is a result of the students’ commitment, academic discipline, and the world-class coaching and mentorship provided by AESL. The results were declared yesterday by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Notable students are Harivansh Rai Sudan with AIR 930, Rahul Singh with AIR 1542, Riddhiman Sharma with AIR 2103, Arnab Jandial with AIR 3990, Ayushman Katoch with AIR 8934 among others.

The students were enrolled in AESL’s classroom program, specifically designed to help aspirants tackle NEET — one of the most challenging medical entrance exams in the world. The student attributed their success to the strong academic foundation laid by AESL, their conceptual clarity, and a consistent and disciplined study routine.

“We are extremely thankful to Aakash for guiding us throughout this journey. The structured content, expert teaching, and personal mentoring helped us master complex topics in a short time. Without AESL, this success would not have been possible,” the students shared. Dr. Surendra Chauhan, Regional Director at AESL, congratulated the achievers, saying, “We are immensely proud of our students’ stellar performance in NEET UG 2025. Scoring such good marks is no small feat, especially in an exam that sees participation of students from nationwide. These results showcase not only the students’ hard work and perseverance but also the support from their parents and the committed efforts of our academic team. We wish them continued success in their medical careers.”

NEET is conducted annually by National Testing Agency as a qualifying test for students who wish to pursue undergraduate medical (MBBS), dental (BDS) and AYUSH (BAMS, BUMS, BHMS, etc.) courses in government and private institutions in India and also, for those intending to pursue primary medical qualification abroad.

BJP marks 11 years of transformative governance under PM Modi’s leadership: Kavinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 15: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) celebrated 11 years of impactful governance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a grand event organized as part of the “Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan” in Bahu Mandal, Jammu South. The milestone also coincided with the completion of one year of PM Modi’s third term in office.

Addressing a vibrant gathering of BJP cadres, senior BJP stalwart and former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K Kavinder Gupta lauded the government’s unwavering commitment to welfare-driven governance and inclusive development, which has transformed the lives of millions across India.

Speaking at the event, Kavinder Gupta emphasized that the past 11 years of BJP-led rule have been marked by a steadfast focus on uplifting the poor and ensuring equitable growth. “The essence of our governance has been to empower every citizen, particularly the most marginalized, through schemes designed to enhance their quality of life,” Gupta stated.



He highlighted flagship initiatives such as Ujjwala Yojana, which has provided clean cooking fuel to millions of households; PM Awas Yojana, enabling affordable housing for the underprivileged; Ayushman Bharat, ensuring accessible healthcare; Jan Aushadhi, offering affordable medicines; and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, supporting farmers with direct financial assistance.

“These schemes have given new wings to the hopes and aspirations of Indians, fostering a sense of dignity and opportunity,” he added.

Gupta further remarked, “Every effort in these 11 years has been made with devotion and a spirit of service to ease the lives of citizens. The BJP government, under PM Modi’s visionary

leadership, has worked tirelessly to realize the dream of a Viksit Bharat—a developed India where every citizen thrives.” He credited the success of these initiatives to the government’s focus on transparency, accountability, and people-centric policies. He expressed optimism about India’s trajectory, stating, “With PM Modi’s unwavering commitment to Viksit Bharat (Developed

India) by 2047, we are on track to achieve even greater heights.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan event served as a platform to reaffirm the BJP’s resolve to continue its journey of transformative governance. Kavinder Gupta urged party cadres to spread awareness about the government’s achievements and engage with communities to ensure the benefits of welfare

schemes reach every eligible citizen.

The celebration not only highlighted the milestones achieved over the past 11 years but also set the tone for continued progress toward a prosperous and inclusive India.

The event was attended by prominent BJP leaders, including Rajeev Charak, ex-councillor Ajay Gupta, Rakesh Sangral, Mandal President Surjeet Singh Sonu, Karuna Khatri, Sunny Sangral, Amit Mahajan, Subhash Kumar, Hans Raj, Vivek Patyal, Mukhtyar Singh, Sajan Sharma, Surinder Kumar, Kamlesh Mago, Nitin Thapa, and other dedicated party workers.

Their presence underscored the party’s strong grassroots connection and commitment to public service.

Thousands throng Uttami Devi temple at Kothay Chohala

Top News Report

RS PURA, June 15: A large number of devotees gathered today at the revered Uttami Devi Temple in Kothay Chohala to offer prayers and seek blessings for peace, prosperity, and well-being across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The temple witnessed a huge turnout of worshippers, who came with deep faith in the

divine power of Uttami Devi. Speaking on the occasion, R.L. Kaith expressed that devotees who pay obeisance at the temple are often granted their heartfelt wishes and are protected from the misfortunes of life. Prominent office-bearers of the Uttami Devi Temple Committee, including Honorary Captain Girdhari Lal Kaith and Subedar Bachan Lal (Retd), along with notable community

members such as Honorary Captain Ramesh Kumar, Dharam Chand, Tr Ravi Kaith, Vijay Kumar, Havildar Des Raj (Retd), Tilak Raj, Bawa Ram, Jagdish Raj, and Deepak Jyoti, graced the occasion with their presence.

All attendees partook in the langar and humbly contributed to the ongoing development works of the temple premises, reaffirming their devotion and collective spirit.

ADC Kishtwar reviews progress of PMAY-Urban 2.0 implementation



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, June 15: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal (JKAS), today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana — Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 in the district.

The meeting focused on the construction of pucca houses under the PMAY-U 2.0 scheme and the status of the

ongoing survey for identifying eligible beneficiaries. Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Kishtwar, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal (JKAS), informed the ADC that 239 beneficiaries have been covered in the survey so far.

Emphasizing the importance of timely execution, ADC Kotwal directed the Executive Officer, MC Kishtwar, to expedite the process and ensure the comple-

tion of the remaining survey work within two days.

PMAY-U 2.0 is a flagship initiative of the Government of India under the broader mission of “Housing for All”, aimed at providing affordable housing to the urban poor.

The meeting was attended by CPO Kishtwar Shahnawaz Bali, CEO MC Kishtwar Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, along with other senior officers and concerned staff.

Girls shine in academic results of Aryans College of Law

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 15: Law students of Aryans College of Law, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh, brought laurels to the college in the 9th semester examinations conducted by Aryans under Punjabi University, Patiala.

In BA-LL.B, 9th sem examination, Nishu bagged 1st position with 83.6%, Charanjit Kaur bagged 2nd position with 80% and Hardeep Kaur bagged 3rd position with 78.0% marks.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group congratulated the students and faculty for the hard work. Such excellent results by

the students add more name and fame to the college, added Kataria.

It is to be mentioned that Aryans was the only Law College in the region to be associated with Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. For the first time, Pearson VUE on behalf of Law School Admission Council (LSAC) has made Aryans College of Law the Exam Centre for Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

The score of the test is being used by famous law schools of America & Canada i.e Harvard, Yale, Stanford University, British Columbia, Chicago etc.

Kheerbhawani Mandal KDD holds karyakram for Vikshit Bharat Sankalap Sabha campaign

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 15: Kheerbhawani Mandal KDD organized a large karyakram at Shehnai Palace, Anand Nagar, Bohri, as part of the forthcoming campaign ‘Vikshit Bharat Sankalap Sabha’ to commemorate eleven years of transformative governance under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Senior Leader and Prabhari Ashok Raina, District karyakarta Ravi

Mantoo, Mandal Vice President Priti Raina, Booth Presidents Vinod Pandita, Rattan Lal, Rajni and social activist Bimal Wantoo, Prominent BJP’s Activists: R.L. Kaith, Supporters S Mangat Singh, Reshab Lasotra and many followers attended the karyakram actively.

KDD District President Rajiv Pandita graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his address, Rajiv Pandita called the campaign a tribute to the remarkable jour-

ney of development, governance and public service initiated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji. Mandal Adyakh Naisha Pandita and Anita Ganjoo jointly conducted the proceedings of the karyakram.

All present on the occasion pledged to mobilize the full strength of the Party machinery at the district, Mandal and booth levels for the success of the campaign.

Karyakram concluded with the national anthem and slogans ‘Bharat



Mata Ki Jaya’. Earlier, deep shock and concern was expressed over the Air India flight

crash in Gujarat’s Ahmedabad on Thursday. Two minute silence was observed and it was

prayed to Gracious God to grant eternal peace to the departed souls in Heaven.