



# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## LG interacts with prominent members of PRIs, Civil Society organizations, Trade, Business and Spiritual Leaders

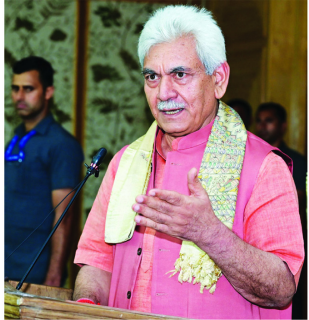
J1NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUNE 25

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the prominent members of PRIs, Civil Society organizations, Trade, Business and Spiritual Leaders and discussed the preparations and arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Lt Governor urged the prominent citizens for active participation of all sections of society in the 62-day long festivity, starting from 1st July.

"We all have one purpose, one idea, our conscience is one, we are devoted to one message of peace, brotherhood, progress and prosperity of J&K," the Lt Governor said.

Society has always welcomed the devotees of Baba Amarnath Ji with open arms and has ensured their needs are taken care of. This is a beautiful example of



peaceful and harmonious co-existence, he added.

"These are our ancient values, our Sanskar and I have seen its expression in collective efforts of the society in the last three years to take J&K UT to new heights of success. We are ready to welcome pil-

grims and hope they will go back to their respective states as brand ambassadors of J&K," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the significant role of members of civil society groups, elected representatives,

and all the stakeholders in bringing the people together on the path of peace, progress and prosperity.

Let us all walk together, let our thoughts and resolve be one, and work together for the progress of the society with one mind and with the spirit of oneness," he said.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra provides social, economic and spiritual opportunity to the people. Under the intellectual leadership of prominent citizens of society, people get a chance to discuss new ideas and reforms, the Lt Governor added.

Every citizen of J&K UT is a stakeholder of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. All the suggestions and inputs are welcomed to make the pilgrimage more memorable for the devotees, he further added.

The meeting also discussed arrangements for the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha

festival and celebration of Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. The Lt Governor informed the prominent citizens that a district-wise review was conducted recently to monitor preparations and ensure all the arrangements for Eid festival.

Sh. Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Dr Darakshin Andrab, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; DDC Chairpersons, civil society members, representatives of various organizations, religious heads, community leaders shared their valuable suggestions and assured support and cooperation to the administration in the peaceful and smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Responding to the demands and issues projected during the interaction, the Lt Governor assured that the appropriate steps will be taken to meet the

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## PM Modi visits Al-Hakim Mosque, Heliopolis War Grave in Cairo

AGENCIES CAIRO, JUN 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday visited Egypt's historic 11th century Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo, restored with the help of India's Dawoodi Bohra community.

On the second day of his state visit to Egypt, Modi was shown around the mosque whose latest restoration was completed about three months ago.

The mosque mainly performs Friday prayers and all five obligatory prayers.

The Prime Minister was seen appreciating the intricate carved inscriptions on the walls and doorways of the mosque which was built in 1012.

Over a thousand years old, al-Hakim is the fourth oldest mosque in Cairo, and the second Fatimid mosque to be built in the city. The mosque covers an area of 13,560 square metres, with the iconic central courtyard occupying 5,000 square metres.

The Bohra community, which is settled in India,



originated from the Fatimids. They renovated the mosque from 1970 onwards and have been maintaining it since then, he said.

"The Prime Minister has a very close attachment to the Bohra community who have also been in Gujarat for many years and it will be an occasion for him to again visit a very important religious site for the Bohra community," India's Ambassador

to Egypt Ajit Gupte earlier said. The historic Mosque has been named after Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, the 16th Fatimid caliph and

is an important religious and cultural site for the Dawoodi Bohra community. The Dawoodi Bohra Muslims are a sect of followers of Islam who adhere to the Fatimi Ismaili Tayyibi school of thought. They are known to have originated from Egypt and later shifted to Yemen, before establishing a presence in India in the 11th century.

Prime Minister Modi has a long-standing and warm relationship with the Dawoodi Bohras even before he became Prime Minister.

## 'Blind Murder case solved, missing turned into Murder, accused arrested'

J1NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 25

In a bizarre incident son along with other accomplices killed his real father, disposed off the dead body and in order to escape from the clutches of Law, cooked a story of missing father.

On dated 30-03-2023 a person namely Dalip Singh S/O Gopi Chand R/O Tote tehsil Bhomag Reasi appeared at Police Station Reasi and lodged a written complaint that his brother namely Paramjeet Singh S/O Gopi Chand R/O Tote went missing from Reasi on 27-03-2023. On this a missing report was lodged at Police Station Reasi and further investigation started by Reasi Police to trace the missing person. During the course of enquiry using human as well as

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## Rains bring slight respite, more showers predicted in J&K: MeT

J1NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUNE 25

Overnight light rains at a few places brought a slight respite from the scorching heat in Kashmir valley on Sunday as the temperature came down a bit.

The Meteorological department predicted generally cloudy with intermittent light to moderate thundershower at many places particularly during late afternoon or evening and early morning hours till June 25 to 28.

It said few places over Jammu Division may receive heavy rainfall with intense showers for a brief period.

There is a possibility of moderate to severe thunder or lightning with strong surface winds at few places during the above period, while light rain or thundershower at few places will occur from June 29 and 30, the MeT

office said. It has also issued advisory of significant increase in water discharges in Rivers, local Nallahs, flood channels due to melting glaciers, snow and rain during June 25-28 which may generate flash flood, mudslide and landslides at places.

Chances of torrential rains at few middle and higher reaches of Jammu Division during June 25 &



26 June, it said.

The erratic weather may cause temporary disruption of Srinagar-Jammu, Srinagar-Leh national highway and other major hilly roads.

All tourists and travellers have been advised to be conscious and updated until June 28, the MeT office said.

Srinagar recorded a low of 19.8 degree

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## Ahead of Amarnath Yatra, ADGP Kashmir chairs joint meeting at PCR Kashmir

J1NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUNE 25



ADGP Kashmir Shri Vijay Kumar chaired a joint meeting with the officers of Police, BSF & CRPF at PCR Control Room Kashmir.

Threadbare discussions were made regarding overall security arrangements to be adopted for safe and smooth conduct of upcoming SANJY-2023.

The meeting was attended by IG BSF Shri Ashok Yadav, DIG CRK Srinagar Shri Sujit Kumar, DIG SKR Shri Rayees Mohammad

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Bhat, DIG CRPF (South Srinagar) Shri Mathew A John, DIG CRPF Panthachowk Shri Pramod Kumar Mehra, DIG CRPF Anantnag range Shri Kulvir Singh Deswal, SSP Srinagar Shri Rakesh Balwal, CO CRPF Shri Harjinder Singh Bhunjal & other officers.

During the meeting, the ADGP Kashmir emphasized the need for a multi-layered security approach, incorporating the expertise and resources of multiple security agencies. Discussions revolved around strengthening the

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## Drones being used for security surveillance ahead of Amarnath Yatra

J1NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 25



Central Reserve Police Force has placed cutting-edge drones with high-resolution cameras including Remote Controlled Improved Explosive Device (RCIED) Jammers along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and its adjacent link roads to keep 24/7 surveillance on the smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra 2023.

"A Hi-Tech system has been put in place by the CRPF notably the Udhampur-based

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## Modi's commitment to democracy redeemed wounds of Emergency

J1NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 25

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to democracy had redeemed the wounds of Emergency, which would always remain a black spot in the history of post-independence India. Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing "Intellectual Sammelan" at the Jammu Club, here.

Quoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the Emergency imposed in 1975 trampled and suppressed democracy, but democracy is in India's DNA and that is why the nation could come out unscathed from that darkest period of post-independence times. India is indeed the Mother of Democracies, he added.



Democracy runs in the Indian and veins of a common spirit, he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, evaluation of 'Dark Period' of the 'Period of Emergency' in India's history is important so that the young generation can understand the meaning and significance of true democracy, its value and the sacrifices given by our seniors to save and sustain it.

Hailing the commitment of leaders and the

common masses in resisting the imposition of emergency, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the leaders of Jan Sangh supported the pro-democracy movement led by Jai Prakash Narain and rose against the draconian measures taken by the government. Jan Sangh followed the Mantra of 'Nation First, Self Last' in true spirit and as a party dissolved itself to join the JP movement, he recalled.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will always be remembered for laying the strong foundation of India's democracy as it was only possible during his period that each breath of democracy reached the last man in the last queue without any discrimination.

Recalling Winston Churchill's words that India won't survive as a democracy even for half a century after gaining free-

dom, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, had Churchill been alive today, he would have regretted his statement seeing India growing as a vibrant democracy under Narendra Modi and leading the world in every sphere. Today India has even left behind Churchill's UK in many spheres including economy, he said.

The world today, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, not only recognises India as a stable democracy but also a force to reckon with. This was evident from PM Modi's visit concluded USA visit, when even the USA visibly accepted India as an equal partner in all the bilateral engagements, he said.

Under PM Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, India's moment has arrived. It's India's decade as India's century, he said.

## PM has ushered new era in J&K, Abdullahs and Muftis danced to the tune of Pakistan: Chugh

J1NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 25

Launching a scathing attack on former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Sunday said that Pakistan-sponsored terrorism flourished in Jammu and Kashmir under their rule following which the J&K economy was derailed and there was no progress and development.

Chugh said that the three families including Gandhis, Muftis and Abdullah plundered Jammu and Kashmir and that terrorism was at its peak during their tenures.



The situation has improved dramatically in J&K after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over and brought the law and order situation under control. A new era has set in in J&K now, he said.

Chugh's comments came in the backdrop of statements made by Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti in a press conference after Opposition parties' meeting in

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## Rajnath Singh to address security conclave in Jammu today

J1NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 25

President, Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday said that Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh to address security conclave here tomorrow.

Rajna here told reporters that the defense minister will address the security conclave in which around 1,500 special invitees, including defence experts and retired Army officers, think tanks, Advocates, Senior Media Journalist and Scholars will be attending.

Rajna said that besides addressing the conclave at Gen Zorawar

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# BJP organizes Intellectual Sammelan to mark Emergency Day

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 25: Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu and Kashmir, organized a meet, the "Intellectual Sammelan" at Jammu Club, in connection with the Emergency Day. It was attended by hundreds of people, mostly intellectuals, educationalists and representatives of prominent political, religious and social organizations.

Ravinder Raina, president, Jammu and Kashmir BJP presided over this sammelan, while Union MoS in PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh were the chief guest. MP Lok Sabha, Jugal Kishore Sharma was special invitee on the occasion.

BJP General Secretary & Incharge Intellectual Sammelans, Vibodh Gupta, assisted by Rakesh Mahajan, Incharge All Cells of BJP and Ved Sharma, Co Incharge All Cells, had made arrangements for the event

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the sammelan, said that it was on this day in 1975, when emergency was imposed in the country to fulfill the political aspira-



tions of the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi. On this day, a black chapter was written in the history of independent India, which is remembered as most unfortunate for a democratic country like India.

"Torture, imprisonment, silencing the voice of free press symbolises all that was emergency, Raina said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, in his address, said that today while marking the 48th anniversary since the emergency was imposed on June 25, 1975, we should not forget the atrocities faced by

the people across the country. The people were deprived of various rights, political activists were jailed in thousands, a reign of terror was seen everywhere and there was no one to listen.

Jugal Kishore Sharma said that the Congress government under Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had murdered democracy and a dictatorial set up was established in the country. Congress should seek apology from the people of the country for the blunders committed by their leaders in the past

just for the sake of power.

Vibodh Gupta, in his address, said that the party has organised this sammelan to educate the present generation about the way Congress used to harass, torture and imprison the innocent citizens for own survival. He said that people are well aware these days and understand well how to teach Congress a lesson for its anti democratic, anti national policies.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Ved Sharma, while vote of thanks was presented by Rakesh Mahajan.

# Emergency was darkest period in democratic history of India: Kavinder

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JUNE 25: The Emergency imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the darkest period in the democratic history of India.

This was stated by Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister while addressing an Intellectual Sammelan at Kathua. Kavinder Gupta, who was the Chief Guest, said oppressive means were brazenly adopted by the then rulers to gag all voices of dissent, including the media. "I was a student of Class X when the Emergency was imposed in the country. Despite being a teenager, I was treated like a criminal and my only fault was that I was associated with the RSS at that time," he said, adding that "like hardcore criminals, we were produced in the court handcuffed."

"I am of the opinion that the Emergency was the darkest period in the history of J&K when the freedom of media was curtailed," he said, adding "Dissent voices were stifled by abusing the state apparatus."

Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had imposed Emergency, which suspended civil rights and elections, on June 25, 1975, and it continued till March 21, 1977. Opposition leaders and some even belonging to the Congress who were seen to be opposing the state of governance were put behind bars.

Kavinder said due to the efforts of lakhs of people, the Emergency was lifted, democracy was restored in India but it remained absent in the Congress. "The interests of one family prevailed over party's interests and national interests. This sorry state of affairs is in today's Congress too!" he added.



While addressing Intellectual Sammelan, Kavinder Gupta emphasized the BJP's commitment to the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir. He discussed various initiatives undertaken by the BJP government for the holistic development of the region. He also highlighted the importance of infrastructure development, education, healthcare, employment generation, and the fight against corruption in last nine years of Modi rule in the country.

Kavinder Gupta stated that the BJP believes in developing Jammu and Kashmir according to the aspirations of the people and not on the basis of any specific ideology. He added that the focus is on creating greater economic opportunities for the people of Jammu and Kashmir so that they can have a better life.

He also asked party workers to remain in public and address their issues. He emphasized the need to connect with people at the grassroots level and said that the BJP's primary

focus should be on the welfare of citizens.

The event was presided over by Gopal Mahajan, District President BJP Kathua, and saw the participation of SK Sharma, IRS Retd., Convener Professional Cell, BJP J&K UT, Mukherjee Sharma, IPS Retd., Convener Education, and Employees Cell, BJP J&K UT, Shiv Dev Singh, District Vice President Kathua, Ragnandan Bablu, DDC member, Rekha Kumari, Prem Nath Dogra, and Ravinder Sharma.

Gopal Mahajan said the Intellectual Sammelan aimed at reaching out to the intellectuals and scholars to inform them about the vision and thought process of the BJP. The event was a part of the Maha Jan Sampark Abhyan Program and was organized by the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit.

"The intellectual Sammelan provided an opportunity for enhanced communication and knowledge-sharing amongst the party members," he added.

# Col Mahan inaugurates Chhinj, Pahari Cultural Mela in Bani

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 25: The three-day-long Chhinj and Pahari Cultural Mela was inaugurated by DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh (Retd) at Bani today.

The event was attended by a large number of dignitaries, including District Judge Simrit Sharma, DDC Member Reeta Thakur, Mela Ram, Naresh Sharma Tehsildar Bani, Darshan Singh Naib Tehsildar Bani, Sarpanch Bani Rakesh Gupta, and thousands of locals, cultural artists, Pawlhwans, shopkeepers, etc.

Upon his arrival in Bani, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) was accorded a warm welcome by local residents and members of Pahari Cultural Mela and Chhinj Committee Bani. He was presented with a traditional Pagri and proceeded in a procession to the local Goddess Kali Mata Temple to pay obeisance and seek blessings for the peaceful conduct of the annual historic event.

The DDC Chairman visited stalls laid by local shop-



keepers and outsiders, met with artists, including those who had come from Himachal and Punjab, and administered an oath on the theme of 'Say no to drug, yes to life' to participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) congratulated the participants, organizing committee, and artists, and appreciated their collective zeal to make this historic event a grand success. He emphasized the promotion

and transformation of culture from one generation to another as a crucial aspect of society's progress. He asserted that cultural growth and economic progress, strategic and defense superiority, and Atmanirbharta must go hand in hand, until the country achieves the status of "Vishwa Guru" by 2047 as envisaged by PM Narendra Modi.

The DDC Chairman also highlighted various devel-

opmental projects coming up in the Bani region, including tourist infrastructure and FDI, and emphasized united efforts and partnerships amongst government machinery, public representatives, and the public to achieve sustainable development goals and the gross well-being of society. On the occasion, the DDC Chairman distributed appreciation letters and trophies to artists and achievers.

# BJP labels every opponent as anti-national: PDP

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 25: Expressing anguish over the dictatorial attitude of the BJP-led Jammu Municipal Corporation to gag dissent voice, People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Sunday regretted that instead of solving day to day problems of the people leaders of Saffron Party shamelessly dubbing elected representatives as anti-nationals.

"What happened during the general house meeting of the Jammu Municipal Corporation is highly condemnable when an elected representative Prof. Yudhvir Singh was dubbed as anti-national for raising peoples' issues during the meeting," said Varinder Singh Sonu, spokesperson of the PDP.

"Jammu city is plunged into unprecedented crises due to non-availability of basic amenities. As a representative of the people, Prof Singh has raised the issue of Property Tax, scarcity of potable water, and breakdown of the power infrastructure in Jammu city," Sonu said and regretted that one of the BJP corporators called Prof. Singh as anti-national for raising such issues.



The Bharatiya Janata Party labels everyone who demands answers for certain questions from the Union government as "anti-national", he said and lambasted the Saffron Party for its failure to address peoples' issues.

"Whoever demands answers, they are being labelled as anti-nationals. This is BJP's style. They keep two or three stamps ready. One is the anti-national stamp", he said.

Varinder Singh Sonu demanded an

unconditional apology from BJP corporator who called corporator Prof Singh as anti-national for raising peoples' issues during the general house meeting.

Others who present in press conference Sh. Sohil Sharma Dist President Jammu Urban, S. Ranbir Singh Manga, Sh. Sunil Bhat President Migrant Wing, Ashok Singh Chib Gen. Sectt. Jammu urban, Parth Sharma and others.

# DFSS take out rally in Samba against unscheduled curtailment of electricity and water

J I NEWS SERVICE



SAMBA, JUN 25: As per the schedule Samba shall witness 6 hour long power cuts in urban areas and even longer power cuts in rural areas. He said that unscheduled power cuts are much more than the scheduled power cuts as the power cuts are of 12 hours.

The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena under the leadership of president Mr ASHOK GUPTA along with

the Senior leader Ramesh Gupta took out a massive rally in main Samba bazar against the curtailment of electricity and water.

The party workers carried table fans and empty buckets resembling the plight of the common man as without electricity they are of no use and for the mere purpose of show.

GUPTA said that summer is at its peak and the people are suffering due to scheduled as well as un-sched-

uled power cuts.

Party president stated that jammu pays a revenue of Rs 2050 crores and Kashmir pays an annual revenue of 1400 crores and still gets more power than jammu. When jammu division is paying a higher share of revenue than why jammu is getting less power. He further stated that if the power supply is less than water is supply is affected adversely. Hands of the chief engineer are tied

as even by paying a higher share of the revenue he is getting less power.

He further stated that 400 crores has been allotted for the Samba region as per the Jal Jeevan Mission but still most of the villages doesn't have the water connections at their home.

"The situation is very bad due to unscheduled power cuts and non-availability of water, Mr GUPTA requested the personal intervention of the LG Governor to provide relief to the public.

The government should start investing in the solar power projects as jammu receives ample amount of sunlight which is carbon free and at a very low cost electricity can be generated by the government.

The party people who were present at the time of protest were Abhishek, Sancheet, Sushil, Amit, Rajkumar, Ram, Akshay, Anil, Satpal, Sandhya and various others were present.

# Unfortunate that sacrifices of our soldiers remained unsung for decades: Raman Suri

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today said that BalidanStambh (Martyrs' Memorial), the foundation of which has been laid by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Pratap Park in the heart of Srinagar, will continue to inspire youth and show them the right path instead of misleading them towards gun culture. The memorial, he said, was much awaited but the previous governments ignored such an important task.

Shah, along with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, laid the foundation stone at the park near Lal Chowk city centre, the commercial hub of Srinagar city. Raman Suri said that the memorial, a project under the Srinagar Smart City, is a tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation. He said, this is unfortunate that for decades together sacrifices of our soldiers remained unsung and governments like those of Congress, NC or PDP ignored this subject and did not honour the martyrs.

Govan Sun further said, the BJP government knows how to honour the martyrs and added that the sacrifices of these soldiers and police officers that resulted in dawning of peace in



Kashmir will never go in vain. With the construction of this memorial at Pratap Park, memories of our brave soldiers who contributed in restoring peace here by laying down their lives will be remembered for ages to come and the memorial will serve the right purpose, he said.

Unlike past, when terrorists like Burhan Wani were made icons, today's youth is much aware and do not look at them as idols, in fact want peace and development. After abrogation of Article 370, youth of Kashmir are indulging into many startups, excelling in competitive exams, contributing in art, culture, and language, bringing in accolades for their institutions and parents in sports and, also doing their best in promoting Kashmir

across the globe. This is the Kashmir that was missing from the scene for ages but the tables have turned and the future of youngsters is secure now. Raman Suri said that Pratap Park, nestled near the bustling Lal Chowk, served as the perfect location for this solemn tribute to the brave souls who had laid down their lives for the nation. He believed that this memorial would serve as an eternal source of inspiration for the youth. In a world often enticed by the allure of a carefree culture, Suri hoped that this monument would guide the impressionable minds towards the right path, steering them away from misguided pursuits. It also symbolizes the beginning of a new era of remembrance and reverence. The memorial will stand as a testament to the indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment of those valiant soldiers who had made the ultimate sacrifice. Their dedication and courage, hitherto unacknowledged, would finally find a voice through this poignant structure which previous governments ignored. The BalidanStambh will not merely be a physical structure but a profound symbol of gratitude and remembrance. Raman Suri emphasized the importance of immortalizing their sacrifice, ensuring that their legacy would be etched into the annals of history for generations to come.

# NC committed to empower women in every sphere of life: Rattan Lal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 25: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC), has affirmed the Party's resolute commitment to empowering women in every sphere of life.

The provincial president was speaking during the day-long convention of women at Birpur in district Samba. The convention was organized under the chairmanship of Rajni Devi, District President Women Wing Samba.

Addressing the party workers, Rattan Lal said that the party has always been at the forefront of the struggle for gender equality, and it remains committed to ensuring that women in Jammu and Kashmir are empowered in every way possible. "Women are an integral part of our society, and it is our duty to empower them in every sphere - be it education, politics, or the economy," he said. Gupta emphasized that women's empowerment is not just a political slogan but a core principle of the NC's ideology. He added that the party's manifesto bears testimony to this fact, as it includes a comprehensive plan to address the challenges faced by women in the state. Gupta criticized the ruling party for their inadequate efforts to uplift women in Indian politics. "The BJP has failed miserably in its promises to bring greater representation to women in Parliament and state assemblies. These empty promises have only shown that the BJP is more



interested in the promotion of its political agenda rather than addressing women's rights," said the Provincial President.

The senior NC leader emphasized that to empower women the first and foremost essential in today's scenario is the implementation of a 33 per cent reservation for women in the highest level of government, i.e. in the Assembly and Parliament. He said that if the Government at the Centre is so much serious about women empowerment then the Women Reservation Bill which is lying before the Parliament should be passed immediately. This would be the first result oriented step towards empowerment of women in letter and spirit. He asserted that National Conference, during its regime in Jammu and Kashmir, had given 50 per cent reservation to women in medical seats with a sole move to empower the women. He emphasized that women have a pivotal role to play in shaping the future of the state. Along with men, they should be

given equal opportunities to contribute to the development of J&K. The National Conference, he said, will continue to work towards empowering women and ensuring that their rights are protected. Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary, JKNC Jammu, called upon all political parties and civil society organizations to come together to support the cause of women's empowerment. He urged them to work towards creating a safe and inclusive society where women can thrive and make equal contributions to the nation's progress. Rajni Devi, District President JKNC Samba Women Wing, in her address, said that true empowerment for women can only be achieved through education, economic independence, and political participation. She asserted that the need for sustained efforts to create a society where every woman is treated with respect and given the opportunity to fulfill her potential. The National Conference is committed to working

towards this goal, and calls upon all stakeholders to join hands in this important endeavor, she added.

Rajni Devi appealed to the women folk of the district to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah for the brighter future of women in Jammu and Kashmir. "We believe that women's participation in politics at all levels is essential for creating a just and equitable society. We will continue to fight for the rights of women, and we urge the BJP government to take swift action to ensure the implementation of the 33 per cent reservation policy for women in Parliament and Assembly," she said.

Prominent among those who were present include Pardeep Bali, Vijay Lochan, Ab Ghani Teli, Sarpanch Bharat Bhushan, Ashok Kumar Attri, Mohinder Singh, Sudagar Gupta District President, Swarn Singh Block President, Bua Ditta Block President, Joginder Kumar, Shehbaz Akhtar, Yashpal District President OBC and Jagga Ram.

# Emergency was the darkest period in history of India: MP Khatana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today launched a scathing attack against Congress during a function here coinciding with the day then Congress government declaring imposition of emergency, the darkest chapter of Indian democracy and politics. He said that BJP under the Prime Minister of Narendra Modi believes in Sabka Saath, Sabka Saath and Sabka Vishwas and not the dictatorship as practised by Cong party.

Addressing an Intellectuals meet held at Tagore Hall, Srinagar as part of 'Nau saal Bemisaal' campaign of BJP, MP Gulam Ali said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi & HM Amit Shah Jammu and Kashmir alongwith whole of India is growing by leaps and bounds on developmental front.

Congress govts gave only slogan of Garibi Hatao while in practice it acted to Garbi Hatao while BJP gov-



ernment is working with a single focus of serving the poor and making benefits of various schemes reach the last man in the row. National Conference, PDP even the separatists considered the people as vote bank or sacrificial lambs and their self seeking policies led to death of more than 40K people.

They educated their children outside the country and kept the children of this place in dark, he said.

There is a vision of Narendra Modi that a Muslim should hold the Quran in one hand and technology in other hand. The previous governments

were involved in scams like 2G, coal etc, but it is the only Modi government who gave 4g, 5g to students who studied online during Covid 19 pandemic.

He said that during BJP rule democratic institutions have been strengthened and grassroots democracy has been allowed to flourish by empowering PRIs and local bodies.

J&K Waqf Chairperson Darakshan Andrabi highlighted the achievements of the BJP government during past nine years. Ex-MLC Surennder Ambaradar, BJP spokesperson Abhijeet Jasrotia also spoke on the occasion.

The programme was organized by S. Avtar Singh in which many intellectuals like advocates, doctors, prominent citizens were present.

# Manjit Singh concerned over delay in holding Assembly Elections



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 25: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today expressed concern over an unruly delay in the holding of Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir that has caused an anxiety among the people.

"The people of J&K were expecting that the Assembly Elections would be announced while addressing the growing concerns of the people from both the regions. The issues of general masses have multiplied for the last several years without an elected Govt," said Manjit Singh addressing a meeting as a part of public outreach programme in Rajpura village in Ramgarh Tehsil of Samba District.

The meeting was organised by District President, Legal Cell Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti. The meeting was attended by Apni Party workers, PRIs, and prominent people who expressed their disappointment with

regard to the unexpected events to delay the restoration of democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing the meeting, S. Manjit Singh expressed disappointment towards the delay in the restoration of democratic systems in Jammu and Kashmir as it has affected the general masses and every section of society.

He said that the failure of the bureaucracy in keeping the pace of development and addressing growing issues of public concern has given rise to the feeling of alienation that has remained unaddressed.

"The hot summers need supply of round the clock electricity in urban and rural areas, but the PDD has not been able to meet the demands. It has been learnt that the PDD has not purchased the required demand of electricity that could be supplied to the consumers who have been charged heavily even after unscheduled power cuts for long hours," he said.

He said that the power cuts have gone up to 12 hours in rural belt and the PDD remained unmovable with regard to the growing concerns of the people regarding unscheduled power cuts in Jammu plains amid soaring temperature.

He said that the power cuts have also affected drinking water supply, and the canal water to the fields.

"The water pumps do not work without electricity. The canal water system does not reach to the talented villages and the fields remain without irrigational facilities especially when there is no electricity," he added.

He also referred to various other developmental issues that were not addressed by the administration.

"If there had been an elected Govt, the issues could be resolved instantly without delay, but the elections seems not suitable for a political party that has lost its ground because of mistrust among the people," he said.

Jammu, Ex-MLA Prem Lal, District President Samba, Raman Thappa, ST wing state president, Saleem Choudhary, State Coordinator SC Wing, Bodh Raj Bhagat, State Coordinator OBC Bhagat Ram, Spokesperson, Khushboo Bhagat, Youth Wing Vice President/Spokesperson, Raqeeb Ahmed Khan, Youth Wing Provincial President Jammu, Vipul Bali, Women Wing Provincial President Jammu, Pavneet Kour, Block President Rajpura, Raman Sharma, Block President Vijaypur, Capt Mohan Lal Sharma, Block President Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary, President Gurdwara Prabhahak Committee, Kulvinder Singh, Lovely Mangol, District President Youth Wing Samba.

Mangat Ram, District Vice President Youth Wing, Sonu Sharma, District Vice President Youth Wing, Naveen Choudhary, District General Secretary, Ramesh Bhagat, Block President Youth Rajpura, Sunny Singh, Block President Vijaypur, Tinku Thappa, Block President, Ramgarh, Amrik Singh, Block President Youth Bari Brahmana, Irshan Choudhary, District President Apni Trade Union, Sunny Sambhal Abinav Gupta District Vice President Youth Wing, Anshuk Dogra, and others were present in the meeting.

# Goswami unanimously elected as President of District Mountaineering Association



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 25: Rakesh Goswami of Shivalki Mountaineering & Adventure Sports Club, Jammu has been unanimously elected as the President of District Mountaineering Association, Jammu in an election meeting held at Press Club Jammu. Sonam Sidharth of Tawi Trekkers J&K was elected as General Secretary

of the Association. Whereas Shavetcha Khajuria of Tawi Trekkers J&K was unanimously elected as Se. Vice President. Naveet Gupta of Snow Trail Mountaineers, Jammu and Sushil Singh, an avid trekker were elected as Vice Presidents of the district association. Shilpa Charak, an international sport climber and mountaineer was also unanimously elected as Joint Secretary while Narinder

Singh, a senior mountaineer was elected as Treasurer of the Association. Five members of the Executive Body which included Sakshi Magotra & Sunil Chakharria, both trained mountaineers; S. Biderpal Singha, a sports teacher and Gaurava, a trekker were also unanimously elected.

Whereas Ram Khajuria, senior Vice President of Mountaineering Association

of J&K, was the Observer Sumit Khajuria, vice President of Mountaineering Association of J&K, was the Returning Officer for the elections. Sonam Sidharth, the newly elected General Secretary who has been the Himalayan Trekking Programmes organised by Tawi Trekkers J&K, while addressing the members thanked them for the trust they had imposed in him and announced that very soon a meeting of the Association shall be held to devise ways and means to give more thrust to adventure activities especially trekking to make trekking a mass movement in Jammu district and to produce more quality mountaineers and champion sport climbers.

# Mehbooba's idea of India is divisive and retrograde retorts: Brig Gupta

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 25: Mehbooba Mufti's new-found love for the Indian Constitution is born out of the political compulsion to remain relevant rather than any change of heart. Mehbooba who is known for having stated that there would be none to lift Tiranga in Kashmir if Article 370 is abrogated and even now insists that she would not contest elections until the Constitution and flag of Jammu & Kashmir is restored and terms abrogation of 370 as an attack on the idea of India, needs to clarify which idea of India is she referring to questioned Brig Anil Gupta, Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party. A profound advocate of separatism, terrorism, radicalization, regional and religious discrimination and a vocal opponent of One Constitution, One Flag, One India and Strong India is apprehensive of the fear of "Kashmirisation" of the entire country if BJP returned to power in 2024. From her rhetoric it is evident that her idea of India is nothing but

"Revenge Politics" to avenge the withdrawal of support to her government by the BJP in June 2018, stated Brig Gupta.

Ironically, the Kashmir politics revolved around the leadership being loyal and full of praise of the Central Government or the ruling party at the Centre when in power and turn hostile to it whenever out of power. Therefore, their idea of India revolves around the "Kursi" and has no relevance to more important national values of unity, equality and Sarv Dhamam Sambhav, retorted Brig Gupta. After 05 August 2019, the BJP government at the Centre which believes in Sarv Dhamam Sambhav has become an anathema for the entire Gupkar Gang including Congress which is the same skewed vision as far as secularism is concerned.

It is has a Gupkar Gang which still talks of Greater Autonomy and Self-Rule and return to 370 and 35A regime, in other words they want a dispensation in JK which is against the soul and spirit of the Indian

Constitution and outside the constitutional framework. Her love for Pakistan flows from the Self-Rule doctrine wherein her party wanted Pakistan to share equal sovereign powers with India in J&K. This is her idea of India, a blueprint for balkanization of India.

What is worrying is that having lost people's confidence in J&K, she is being provided national platform by the desperate opposition to spread this venom laments Brig Gupta. By expressing concern against "Kashmirisation" of the rest of the country, she is trying to sell the idea of balkanization at the national level cautioned the BJP spokesperson.

Mehbooba's idea of India is "a semi-independent Kashmir, governed jointly by Pakistan and India, exploit its Muslim majority character at the expense of Hindus and other minorities which shall remain subjugated to their bondage deprived of their basic rights of equality and co-existence," stated Brig Gupta.

# Modi Govt Placed India top Nations in the World: Koul

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 25: J&K BJP General Secretary Organization Ashok Koul on Sunday said that the historical decisions and reforms taken by Modi government placed India among the top nations in the world. He was Chief Guest in the Intellectuals meet at Tagore Hall Srinagar.

Celebrated nine years of Modi government in the centre, Koul said Modi government had always prioritised inclusive development by focusing on the economic development in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a number of renowned intellectuals Ashok Koul highlighted Prime Minister Modi for the remarkable progress achieved in the past nine years, particularly after the abrogation of Article 370.



Such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education, which has significantly benefited the people of Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Dr Darakshan Andrabi ji Mos/Chairperson J&K waki board, Eng. Gh Ali Khatana, Member Rajya Sabha, Mr Surinder Ambaradar former MLC.

Shri Abhijeet Jasrotia Spokesperson and Social media incharge were present in the meeting. The meeting was organised by S Avtar Singh Trali DDC member and Bjp Sn leader kashmir and a warm welcome address was given by the organizer.

# NCGG successfully trains the 24th batch of civil servants from Maldives

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The 2-week Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for civil servants of Maldives organised in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) concluded on 23rd June, 2023. NCGG has signed MoU with the Government of Maldives to enhance the skills and capabilities of 1,000 civil servants in the field of public administration and governance by 2024. As part of the agreement, NCGG has already imparted training to 685 officers from Maldives. The successful conclusion of the capacity building programme for civil servants of Maldives signifies the convergence of shared values and spirit of collaboration, serving as a testament to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "neighbourhood first" approach.

The valedictory session was presided over by Shri Bharat Lal, Director General, National Centre for Good Governance. With a firm focus on improving the quality of life for citizens, Shri Bharat Lal urged the officers to capitalize on their learnings and translate them into tangible actions that drive positive change and holistic development. By embracing innovative approaches and incorporating lessons gleaned



from the programme, the officers can effectively contribute to elevating the well-being and welfare of the people they serve. Recognizing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's unwavering commitment to ensuring necessities for all citizens, such as housing, cooking gas, education, healthcare, financial services, and skill development, among others, he highlighted the need for officers to emulate these initiatives and make significant strides in enhancing the ease of living. The DG emphasized the importance of working with speed and scale and leaving no stone unturned in their pursuit of efficiently delivering these fundamental amenities.

A well-educated and skilled workforce forms the backbone of a thriving economy, fostering innovation, productivity, and competitiveness in the global arena. Mr. Bharat Lal emphasized

that civil servants hold a unique position of responsibility, as they are instrumental in designing and implementing policies that impact the education sector. He urged them to provide equitable access to education, address gaps in learning opportunities, and foster a holistic approach to skill development. The DG stressed the importance of creating an enabling environment for women through the provision of essential facilities, such as 24-hour water and power supply, and adequate sanitation facilities. Empowering women through the provision of basic amenities not only boosts economic growth but also fosters gender equality. By ensuring their equal participation in economic activities, societies can unlock the full potential of their human capital and drive sustainable growth, he said. He placed significant emphasis on the need for civil servants to harness

the potential of the digital revolution and embrace the latest IT innovations as a means to advance digital governance. The adoption of digital tools and platforms can enable faster decision-making, improved data management, and increased accessibility to government services, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of governance. Recognizing their role as change agents and their deep understanding of local contexts, he expressed confidence in their ability to successfully implement policies and achieve favourable outcomes in their respective domains.

Giving the overview of the programme, Dr. B. S. Bisht, course coordinator said that in the 24th capacity building programme, NCGG shared various initiatives taken in the country, such as changing paradigm of governance, centralised public grievances redressal and monitoring system, India Maldives relations, Aadhar: a tool of good governance, implementation of public policies, women inclusive governance, innovation in public administration, Digital governance and public service delivery, Smart City development, housing to all, leveraging digital technology, best practices from various development schemes, urban governance, low

cost desalination for drinking water, Climate Change, tourism, Jal Jeevan Mission, e-governance and digital India UMANG, leadership, coordination and communication, Mudra Yojana, poverty elimination initiatives, health care governance, digital health and public health behavior, circular economy, skill India, anti-corruption strategies, India's policy towards Indian Ocean region among others.

The participants had the opportunity to engage in visits that were carefully curated to provide them with a comprehensive understanding of a diverse range of developmental projects and institutions. Among the notable visits, the participants had the opportunity to explore the Smart City in Dehradun, Central Information Commission, Pradhanmantri Sanghralaya which enriched their knowledge of the practical aspects of governance.

The 24th CBP was supervised by Dr. B. S. Bisht, course coordinator for Maldives, Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, co-course coordinator and the entire CBP team of NCGG. Their contributions to curriculum development, session coordination, and knowledge dissemination were instrumental in creating a comprehensive and impactful learning experience for the participants.

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department orchestrated a highly successful Chintan Shivir today at New Delhi. Esteemed dignitaries including Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State (I/C) Law and Justice; Dr. Niten Chandra, Law Secretary; Shri S.K.G. Rahate, Current Incharge Secretary Legislative Department; Shri G.S Pannu, President ITAT & B.K Vidhatri, guest speaker for the event, graced the event with their presence.

The Shivir commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp and a ceremonial honour to the distinguished guests. The department launched a short informative video documentary enumerating the significance and achievements of the Ministry of Law & Justice in the various sectors of life and its contribution in the overall growth of India.

Additionally, a Coffee table Book 'DoLA at a Glance: 2022-23' was unveiled during the event, adding to the significance of the occasion. It carries a detailed account of ongoing work and achievements of Year 2022-23 and stands as a testament of employees' relentless efforts and collective success for the participants.



Dr. Niten Chandra, Law Secretary, delivered a warm welcome address, followed by Shri S.K.G. Rahate, Incharge Secretary Legislative Department, who shared his remarks. The keynote speaker of the day, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, addressed the audience and commended the department for hosting the Shivir. He reiterated his dedication to advancing ongoing initiatives and ensuring equitable access to justice for all citizens. Emphasising the need to repeal outdated laws and simplify complex ones, he expressed his commitment to relieving the burden on the courts through these endeavours.

B.K Vidhatri, the esteemed guest speaker, engaged with the attendees and motivated them to step out of their comfort zones, break down silos,

and work together as a cohesive team to achieve their goals, and inculcated a spirit of fight stress and work pressure.

Following the motivational session, presentations were delivered by the representatives of Legal Affairs, Legislative Department, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, and Central Agency Section. These presentations encompassed a comprehensive review of the department's accomplishments thus far and deliberated on the future course of action, aligned with the Prime Minister Shri Modi's vision as India embarks on the Amritkaal of Indian independence to achieve remarkable growth prior to 2047.

An interactive session ensued, enabling the staff members to express their opinions, offer suggestions, and pose questions. Each contribution was given due consideration, fostering meaningful discussions.

Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary and Legal Advisor, concluded the event with a vote of thanks. She extended her heartfelt congratulations to all attendees for the successful completion of the momentous Chintan Shivir and expressed deep gratitude to everyone for their unwavering commitment and dedication.

# Third Infrastructure Working Group Meeting to take place in Rishikesh from June 26-28, 2023

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The third G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting under G20 Indian Presidency is scheduled to take place in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, from 26th to 28th June 2023. Total 63 delegates from G20 member countries,

invitee countries, and international organisations will participate in the meeting to further the discussions on the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda under the Indian G20 Presidency and follow up on the discussions held during the second IWG meeting held in March 2023 in Visakhapatnam.

The G20 Infrastructure Working Group deliberates on various aspects of infrastructure investments, including developing infrastructure as an asset class, promoting quality infrastructure investment, and identifying innovative instruments for mobilizing financial resources for infrastructure investment. The outcomes of the Infrastructure Working Group feed into the G20 Finance Track priorities and promote Infrastructure Development.

In the third IWG meeting, substantive progress will be discussed towards the various workstreams of the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda.

The flagship priority to be discussed in this meeting is "Financing Cities of Tomorrow: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable", along with other priorities.

During the three-day meeting, various official meetings and cultural programmes have been planned for the delegates. In addition

to the formal discussions, the delegates will experience Rishikesh's rich culture and beautiful landscapes. The Presidency has also arranged an excursion for the delegates on the afternoon of 28th June.

On the sidelines of the IWG meetings, two side events have also been planned. On

26th June, the "High-Level Seminar on Roadmap to Sustainable Cities" is being organized in partnership with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The discussions across the three sessions will allow G20 decision-makers to hear key challenges, from climate change to infrastructure resiliency, fast urbanization,

and inclusiveness, along with exploring the role of technology, infratech and digitalization. The delegates will also learn from a unique perspective in launching one of the world's largest and ambitious new city development NUSANTARA in Indonesia. Many international and national experts are joining the discussion.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### LG interacts with...

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh RK Goyal, ACS Home; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amanrajil Shrine Board; Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, senior officials of Police and Civil Administration were also present during the meeting.

### Rains bring slight...

Celsius against 22.4 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 21.5 degree Celsius above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. Srinagar also received 1.2mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours till 0830hours today.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national highway had a low of 17.8 degree Celsius against 20.0 degree Celsius a day ago and it was 2.1 degree Celsius above normal for the gateway of Kashmir.

Tourist hot spot of Pahalgam in south Kashmir settled at 13.1 degree Celsius against 13.3 degree Celsius and it was 2.4 degree Celsius above normal for the valley of shepherds.

Kokernag had a low of 18.1 degree Celsius against 20.0 degree Celsius and it was 2.8 degree Celsius above normal for the picnic spot of south Kashmir while frontier Kashmir district of Kupwara experienced 19.2 degree Celsius against 19.6 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 3.8 degree Celsius above normal.

Gulmarg had a low of 4.6 degree Celsius against 14.4 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 6.8 degree below normal for the famous skiing resort of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the MeT office said.

### Ahead of Amarnath...

existing security infrastructure, enhancing surveillance measures, and augmenting personnel deployment along the pilgrimage route. Various aspects of security, including the threat perception, crowd management, traffic control, and emergency response mechanisms, were thoroughly analyzed and reviewed. Beside "various SOPs related to counter all types of terror attacks, counter drone attacks, natural disasters, L&O situations were revised and modified". ADGP urged the officers to remain vigilant and proactive, keeping abreast of the latest security protocols and intelligence inputs.

ADGP Kashmir directed the officers to enhance security and mitigate potential threats by deploying Anti-Sabotage teams along the Amarnath Yatra route in order to identify and neutralize any possible terror

threat. The officers were also guided to boost the surveillance & threat detection by using advanced drone technology besides, real time aerial surveillance over the pilgrimage route.

Additionally, the meeting addressed the coordination among different agencies involved in the security arrangements. ADGP Kashmir emphasized the significance of seamless collaboration and information sharing to ensure a cohesive and effective security apparatus.

The senior officers present at the meeting shared their insights and recommendations, highlighting the importance of robust communication channels, regular training programs, and real-time monitoring systems.

The ADGP expressed confidence in the capabilities of the security personnel and their commitment to ensuring the safety of the devotees. He urged them to work in close coordination with the local communities and religious leaders to foster a peaceful and secure environment throughout the Amarnath Yatra. As the pilgrimage approaches, ADGP assured the public that every possible measure would be taken to provide a secure and hassle-free experience for the devotees. He also urged the general public to cooperate with the security forces and follow the prescribed guidelines for their own safety.

### Drones being...

137th Battalion, to ensure the safe and orderly progress of the Amarnath Yatra in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory," they said.

"These cutting-edge drones equipped with high-resolution cameras are vigilantly monitoring the National Highway and its accompanying routes," the statement said.

The CRPF's unflinching dedication to protecting pilgrims has prompted them to equip its vehicles stationed on NH-44 with cutting-edge equipment, including Remote Controlled Improvised Explosive Device (RCIED) Jammers.

The 137th Battalion is completely equipped to provide incident-free and flawless conduct during the forthcoming Holy Amarnath Yatra in 2023, according to CRPF sources.

"The CRPF is resolute in keeping a 24-hour watch on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway using their highly developed surveillance equipment, leaving no space for compromise in safety and security," it added.

The 62 Yatra starting on July 1 will kick off from the ancient paths of Nunwan in Pahalgam and Baital in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. (AGENCIES)

### 'Blind Murder case...

Blind spiritual seer rounded up few suspects and it was found that the said person Paramjeet Singh is murdered by his real son and some other accomplices. On this a case FIR No. 133/2023 U/S 302/368/342/109/34 IPC registered at PS Reasi and different teams of the police station formed to trace out the accused persons involved in the murder. After raiding at different location the Police teams from PS Reasi arrested the accused persons namely I. Sushil Chander S/O Sansar Chand R/O Chorakote Teh-Bhomag Dist-Reasi 2.Vikas Thakur S/O Paramjeet Singh R/O Tote Teh-Bhomag 3.Vipin kumar S/O Rattan Lal caste-Bhagar R/O Kotli Manotriah.

During the investigation and interrogation of accused persons namely I. Sushil Chander 2. Vikas Thakur S/O Lt Paramjeet Singh R/O Tote Teh-Bhomag 3.Vipin kumar S/O Rattan Lal caste-Bhagar R/O Kotli Manotriah disclosed that they along with Seeta Ram S/O sansar chand R/O chorakote with common and criminal intention killed Paramjeet Singh on 27-03-2023 and buried the dead body near Serla Bhaga area. After the confession of accused persons a team of PS Reasi headed by SHO Reasi and PSL expert reached at the spot of burial in presence of executive magistrate and start digging the area as shown by the accused persons. After digging the decomposed body of the deceased was recovered from the site.

After doing all the legal formalities the body shifted to Reasi hospital and from there it is further send to GMC Jammu for post-mortem and for further medical opinion by the expert.

The whole operation was led by the teams of PS Reasi headed by Inspector Vijay SHO Reasi and Neeraj Padayar DYSP hqrs Reasi under the supervision of Amit Gupta SSP Reasi.

Sh Amit Gupta SSP Reasi while sharing the detail further said that 03 accused persons arrested so far and further investigation in the case is going on the find the motive behind the murder of Paramjeet Singh, more arrest in the case cannot be ruled out. SSP expressed that such barbaric act done by criminals is rarest of the rare, such criminals are a black spot on our social fabric. He further stressed that investigation shall incorporate each and every evidence to ensure justice is done in this heinous act.

### PM has ushered new...

Patna on June 23. Attacking the three families, Chugh said that on one side they talk about democracy and on the other side they talk about China and Pakistan.

"During their tenure they suppressed people of

Jammu and Kashmir and hindered development. There was no peace and progress. There was only bloodshed, while under PM Modi Jammu and Kashmir has become the centre of tourism activities. Since BJP's rule Jammu and Kashmir has only seen peace, development and progress," he said.

He also said that due to shrinking space for politicians in Jammu and Kashmir, they are now visiting Bihar to address press conferences. "This shows how people of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected them. They don't find any space here to talk about anything," he said.

Chugh said that it is because of pro-people policies of PM Modi that Jammu and Kashmir is seeing a new dawn of development and progress and tourism is flourishing here, while during three families' rule only terrorism flourished.

### Rajnath Singh to...

Singh auditorium on the campus of University of Jammu, Singh will also visit the BJP headquarters at Trikuta Nagar to chair a meeting of senior party leaders to review the prevailing political situation, Raina said.

"Around 1,500 special invitees are attending the security conclave on internal and external security, a non-political event being organized as part of the BJP's ongoing programme to highlight the nine-year achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government," Raina said.

He said the defence minister will brief the gathering of prominent persons about the measures taken by the Modi-led government for strengthening its defence mechanism after coming to power in 2014.

Defence experts, retired decorated army officers, academicians, doctors and think tanks, besides youths, will be attending the conclave which will start at 10.30 am, Raina said.

He said that Singh will discuss the security and other important issues with the participants and also share the strong position of India in defence and other matters concerning the nation's security and safety of the citizens residing along the borders.

The BJP leader said all necessary arrangements have been finalised for the visit of the defence minister.

According to Raina, after addressing the conclave, the minister will chair a meeting of senior BJP leaders at the party headquarters at Trikuta Nagar to review the prevailing political situation and also discuss the organisational matters.

# Ravinder Raina launches Happy Jasrotia's Dogri song 'Sher Dogre'



J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 25:** Video album of Dogri song 'Sher Dogre', composed and sung by prominent singer Happy Jasrotia was released during an impressive gathering of prominent persons, artists and literary personalities, here today at Press Club Jammu.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina along with former ministers Sham Lal Sharma, Dr D K Manyal, Padamshri Mohan Singh Sathia and Zorawar Singh

Jamwal released the video album. Video song 'Sher Dogre' highlights Dogra valour, culture, traditions, history of the Dogra community and has been dedicated to Maharaja Hari Singh. The song throws light on the life history of Dogra martyrs Brig. Rajinder Singh, General Zorawar Singh and others besides highlighting the great reforms initiated by the Dogra rulers. The song has been written by Happy Jasrotia and Gustak Dogra. Music has been given by Sahil Nath while K K Malhotra is the video director and editor. The song is available on Happy Jasrotia youtube channel. Speaking on the occasion, Ravinder Raina highly appreciated Happy Jasrotia for the Dogri song, and said that more and more people should come forward for highlighting the great achievements and patriotism of the Dogra community.

Sham Lal Sharma and D K Manyal said that songs like 'Sher Dogre' should reach every family across the region and be sung prominently in every family function to apprise our next generation about the valour of Dogra community and their rich traditions. Mohan Singh Sathia said that such initiatives require support of the family as well as the community. Chairman, Team Jammu Zorawar Singh stressed the need to effectively project the Dogra culture, Dogri language and Dogra history through collective efforts of artists, litterateur, educationists and others. Prominent among others who were present on the occasion, included renowned singer Sonali Dogra, Nirbhay Sathia, Rashpal Verma, CCB, Chairman Parveen Sharma, Hardeep Mankotia, Sumant Singh Jamwal, Dr. Gopal Parthasarathi, R V S Jasrotia, Y S Jasrotia, Shreyan, Sharang, Sahil and others.

# Will Strive To Get CPI Down To 4%; El Nino A Challenge For Food Inflation: Das

AGENCY



**NEW DELHI:** Governor Shaktikanta Das has said the Reserve Bank will strive to get headline inflation to its 4 per cent target but flagged El Nino as a challenge to its efforts. In an exclusive interview with PTI Bhasha at his office, Das exuded confidence that the economy will grow at 6.5 per cent in FY24, as estimated by the RBI earlier. The central bank's rate hikes by a cumulative 2.50 per cent since May last year, coupled with supply-side measures from the government, have helped get the inflation down to 4.25 per cent in May from a peak of 7.8 per cent in April last year, Das said. "We continue to be watchful on the inflation

front. We expect inflation to be at 5.1 per cent in FY24, and we will continue to strive and get it down to 4 per cent," he added. On the high borrowing costs, Das said interest rates have a direct relation with inflation, and the RBI can cut interest rates if the consumer price inflation cools down to 4 per cent or thereabouts on a durable basis. The governor explained that the Russia-Ukraine war, which led to a shoot-up in the commodity prices,

led to a surge in inflation, but added that crude prices are not a concern from an inflation perspective now as they've come down to \$76-76 a barrel. Food inflation has also come down, Das said, adding that measures like the Food Corporation of India releasing wheat and rice stocks have also helped. Targeted cuts in duties on certain products have also helped, he added. "When asked about the challenges on the inflation

front, Das pointed to 2-3 factors like the volatile international situation due to geopolitics and the monsoon situation domestically. "Although there is an expectation of a normal monsoon, there are concerns around El Nino. We will have to see how serious it is. Other challenges are primarily weather-related events, which can have an impact on food inflation," Das said, adding that "we will have to grapple with these uncertainties." Meanwhile, on the growth front, Das said the RBI has taken all the factors into consideration while arriving at its estimate of a 6.5 per cent expansion in real GDP and is confident of the economy attaining the same rate as other major economies. IMF estimate it to be much lower.

# Shoppers Stop recognised among 'Best Companies To Work For' by 'Great Place To Work India'

J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 25:** Shoppers Stop has been recognized by Great Place To Work India as one among India's Best Companies To Work For. A press release issued by Shoppers Stop, said. The release further stated that Shoppers Stop is committed to providing its employees with a range of opportunities for professional and personal development. We invest in training programs, workshops, and mentoring initiatives to empower its workforce and nurture their skills. By fostering a culture of continuous learning, Shoppers Stop ensures that its employees are equipped with the knowledge and resources to thrive in their roles. In addition to career development, Shoppers Stop recognizes the importance of work-life balance and offers flexible work arrangements, menstrual leaves, employee wellness programs, and initiatives that prioritize mental health. These efforts promote employee well-being, happiness, and job satisfaction, which contribute to the overall positive work environment at Shoppers Stop, the press release added.

Shoppers Stop is committed to providing its employees with a range of opportunities for professional and personal development. We invest in training programs, workshops, and mentoring initiatives to empower its workforce and nurture their skills. By fostering a culture of continuous learning, Shoppers Stop ensures that its employees are equipped with the knowledge and resources to thrive in their roles. In addition to career development, Shoppers Stop recognizes the importance of work-life balance and offers flexible work arrangements, menstrual leaves, employee wellness programs, and initiatives that prioritize mental health. These efforts promote employee well-being, happiness, and job satisfaction, which contribute to the overall positive work environment at Shoppers Stop, the press release added.

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# Modi Govt made every Indian proud by seamless progress: Sham Langar

J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 25:** Senior BJP leader and Convener BJP Trade Cell, J&K, Sham Lal Langar, on Saturday said that the BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi has made every single Indian proud by ensuring unprecedented progress in the country. In a statement issued to media persons, Langar said that prolific economic policies brought in by the Modi Government has helped India to join the elite top group of advanced economies of the world and the journey is still on to enter a slot among first three countries. He said, it is not a small feat that India is among the top economies of the world. He said that this could not have become a reality if Narendra Modi didn't become the Prime Minister of the country. He said that



India under PM Modi's regime has accomplished so much that it has become one of the developed countries of the world with Major achievements carried out in fields like space, defence, health science, education, research, etc. Sham Langar said that India under PM Modi is a changed

entity which is leading in diverse fields and emerged as a super economic power in the region. He said that PM Modi has shown the world the real worth of the country as it supplied vaccine jabs to a number of countries during the recent pandemic COVID-19 and saved millions of lives across the globe. He said that on the basis of records made in different fields, India has become one of the powerful countries and the credit for this feat goes to none other than PM Modi himself as he has taken many bold and unprecedented steps to help India scale new heights. The senior BJP leader sought people's support in all the forthcoming political contests in J&K to ensure continuation of development process in the UT as power to any other party will snarl pace of progress, which should not be the case, in any case.

# Ashok express serious concern over the negligence of far flung villages of Ramban constituency



J I NEWS SERVICE

**RAMBAN, JUN 25:** Ashok Kumar, Former MLA from Ramban took a extensive tour to far flung Shopyal and Balawat village of Ramban Constituency and

Listened to various grievances of the local people. In a statement issued here, Ashok strongly questioned the Secretary School Education J&K regarding the implementation of Primary School Shopyal

which was sanctioned a decade earlier. He said the students have to walk several miles in thick and dense forest and are vulnerable to many ecological threats. Ashok further urged upon the Secretary Health to examine the dilapidated condition of Balawat First Aid Centre and upgrade it to full fledged Primary Health Centre. People are suffering badly due to non availability of basic health amenities in the region. Ashok also demanded Chief Engineer PMGSY to complete the stretch of entire PMGSY road from shopyal to Kriya and further upto Madani with proper drainage along the sloping sides. He also urged the concerned Authorities to repair the damaged road from maitra to Balawat. Former MLA also urged to Director Tourism to develop up this entire region upto Ladbadhar Shakpal devota as it has vast potential in tourism Sector.

# Do Kalakaar, play in Hindi stages at Natrang Studio in its weekly Sunday Theatre series



J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 25:** Do Kalakaar, a play in Hindi written by Bhagwati Charan Verma and directed by Neeraj Kant was staged here today at Natrang Studio in its weekly Sunday Theatre series. Though coated with a thick layer of comedy, the play had a very relevant message to share with the audience which was revealed very artistically. In the play, 'Churamani' and 'Marantand' are two friends, both are artists (one poet and another painter) they had once aspired to rule the Bollywood with their respective creative strengths. The poet had dreamt of becoming the top Hindi film lyricist and the painter had set a goal for him-

self to become the most sought after art director of the tinsel town. But destiny lands them in a situation where both are forced to use their creative energies in creating situations and cookin' stories just to escape the harassment of their landlord who has not been paid the rentals of a dingy room for the last six months. The playwright has beautifully portrayed the tragic fate of the creative people who are expected to create magic and electrifying artistic experience through their unlimited creative energies are shown wasting their creativity just to ensure survival. The play opens at a situation where both the poet and the painter have locked themselves in a room which is being visited by the landlord to collect

the rent from them. The landlord forcefully makes his entry despite all unsuccessful efforts to hold him back are made by them. When caught at the corner both take shelter of their creative mind and start cooking highly logical excuses to impress the landlord so he allows them to continue till they are able to realize their unfulfilled dreams. Both sell him the dreams to extent that the room rented out to them will once become a museum which once hosted the great genius of the world of poetry and painting. Finding the distance beyond measurement between their dreams and the reality, the landlord refuses to buy their arguments and throws them out of the room to face further rejection and dejection of the society. Both the poet and the painter get this realization at this point of the time that despite having a civilization of thousand years at our back this world is not meant for creative people. Shreyar Salaria as 'Churamani', Abhinav Choudhary as 'Marantand', Sumit Bandaral as 'Bulaki Dass', Chirag Anand as 'Ram Nath' and Aadesh Dhar as 'Parmanand' performed their roles very well. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant who also did the sound. The play was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Gopi Sharma.

# Vikramaditya greets people on Sarthal Devi Yatra, commencing from June 26

J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 25:** Vikramaditya Singh, Chairman of Shri Sarthal Devi ji Trust, Kishtwar and former M.L.C., has extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Sarthal Devi Yatra commencing from June 26th. The Annual Yatra at Sarthal Devi Temple is managed by the Shri Sarthal Devi ji Trust, Kishtwar. In a statement issued here today, Vikramaditya Singh said that the Sarthal Devi Yatra is an important event in the cultural and religious calendar of Jammu and Kashmir. He termed this Yatra as a symbol of the rich cultural, religious, and spiritual heritage of the union territory. He



emphasized the need to preserve and promote the cultural and religious heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. The former M.L.C wished all the devotees a safe and auspicious Sarthal Devi Yatra.

He also appreciated the efforts of Vice Chairman, Sanjeev Parihar, Members of the Trust, District Administration Kishtwar, Police and making arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Yatra. Pertinent to mention that the temple of Sarthal Devi Mata is located in Sarthal town of Kishtwar district amidst the mountains of the Pir Panjal range. Sarthal Devi Yatra is an annual pilgrimage, which attracts thousands of devotees from various parts of the state and the neighboring states. The devotees believed that Sarthal Devi is the Hindu Kuldevi residing in Kishtwar and have held her in high reverence.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere - Albert Einstein

JINDRAH IMAGES

Make Gram Nyayalayas non-functional

Despite the tall claims of the government about the empowerment of rural masses in Jammu and Kashmir, there are certain decisions which need to be taken with utmost urgency to ensure that the people get all facilities at their doorsteps. In one of such steps, Gram Nyayalayas—deemed to be a Court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class with both civil and criminal jurisdiction to settle petty disputes at the village level—have remained a distant dream in the Union Territory. This is despite the fact that over 50,000 criminal and civil cases have been pending in the Union Territory for more than five years. These Nyayalayas were notified under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 with an aim of making justice more speedy and affordable for the most underprivileged people in rural areas at their door steps. A total of 20 Gram Nyayalayas—one each in a district—were notified for Jammu and Kashmir but none of them has been made functional in the past one decade. The state and UT governments were responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. As per information made available by State Governments and High Courts, a total of 476 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified so far by 15 States and UTs across the country. Out of these, 257 are operational in 10 States at present. A total of 20 such Nyayalayas were notified to be opened in Jammu and Kashmir, while the number of these Nyayalayas to be opened in Ladakh UT was two, but no Nyayalayas was made functional in both the UTs till date, notwithstanding it provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level. As many as 19,771 civil and 34,212 criminal cases had been pending for more than five years in Jammu and Kashmir. Though the Act does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory, the issues affecting operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas were discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States in 2013. It was decided that the state governments and High Courts should decide the question of setting up Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account the local issues and situation. The Central Government has been encouraging the States and UTs by way of providing financial assistance for opening of Gram Nyayalayas. The establishment of these institutions is a policy decision. These institutions could have easily performed the role of making justice more accessible and affordable for rural people, as envisioned in the Constitution, they could have eased the problem of overcrowding in sub-ordinate and district courts. It would be a great help to the poor people in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The Gram Nyayalayas were envisaged to make justice delivery more accessible and affordable for the people at the grassroots. However, they are yet to take off and this is in spite of the fact that financial assistance is being given by the Centre to operationalize them. The time has come that the government should take tangible measures to ensure that these institutions are made functional without further delay so that the people get justice at their doorsteps.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR DEBT-FREE AGRICULTURE

'WHY DO BANKS TAKE AWAY OUR TRACTOR & MACHINERY OR SEEK TO PUT US IN JAIL? WHY DON'T THEY INSTEAD TAKE OUR CROPS?' SAYS A DISTRAUGHT FARMER.

KHAM KHAN SUAN HAUSING

IT leaves you dumbstruck. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to go in for a 'compromise settlement' with 16,044 fraudsters, crooks and willful defaulters — people who can pay but give a damn — who had collectively defrauded the banks to the tune of

Rs 3.46 lakh crore by the end of December 2022. After a cooling period of 12 months, the defaulters will be eligible for fresh loans.

This comes at a time when banks in Rajasthan have launched an exercise to impound the cultivable land of 19,422 farmers who have defaulted on loan repayments in the past four years.

A year ago, the Punjab State Cooperative Agricultural

Development Bank had planned to issue arrest warrants to speed up the recovery process against 71,000 defaulting farmers. The unpaid amount was Rs 3,200 crore — a fraction of what the willful defaulters collectively owe. The bank had, in fact, served legal notices to 2,000 farmers with landholding exceeding five acres, which the state government subsequently withdrew.

While a majority of the willful defaulters, including a number of crooks who have run away with public money, will get the banks to write off their outstanding amount as part of the 'settlement', defaulting Rajasthan farmers have no such choice. A majority of the farmers will lose their only source of livelihood. With the RBI throwing a 'raksha kavach' around the cronies capitalists, it is only the poor farmers (and defaulters in other categories) who are left to fend for themselves. This shows how the banking system actually helps the rich become richer and the poor to be driven against the wall.

A few months back, a pregnant daughter of a farmer in Jharkhand was moved down by the goons of a non-banking firm under the tractor that they were forcibly trying to drive away with. In the past, there have been reports of auctions of tractors and other machines that are seized by the banks. Not only confiscating the movable property of farmers, but also impounding their arable land and even putting farmers in jail for dishonouring the cheques (that are taken blank from



farmers) are routine tactics. Across the country, such stories abound where high-handedness against the defaulting farmers adds to the agrarian distress, pushing them to survive at the margins.

Non-payment of dues eventually turns out to be a torture for the defaulting farmers. They may have genuine reasons, such as crop failures and a sudden crash in the prices, but for the banking system, even if the defaulting amount is petty, they are an easy target. Much of the farm suicides that happen and the agrarian distress that exists are because of the indebtedness, which are mounting with each passing year.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has often recorded this as the primary reason behind farm suicides and the latest Situational Assessment Survey for Agricultural Households, released in 2021, has worked out that every farmer carries an average debt of Rs 74,121. With nearly 70 per cent of the farmers indebted, the average debt has steadily increased by 57 per cent since 2013.

Knowing that farmers have been denied their rightful income over the decades and considering that not more than 14 per cent of the entire harvest is procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP), for the farmers producing the remaining 86 per cent of the crops, the dis-

trust price they often get does not even cover the cost of production and, thereby, entails great pain, suffering, sorrow and mental distress. And finally, when the farmers fail to repay a bank instalment, even their lands are taken away. Imagine the mental strain the defaulting Rajasthan farmers must be under with the sword of Damocles hanging over their head.

This is the worry of a Karnataka farmer, Echaghatta Siddaveerappa. Hailing from Chitradurga district, he invited me a few days back to visit his village to see how they had found an ingenious solution to the vexed crisis. When a few farmers in his taluka received a bank notice asking them to pay the pending dues before the recovery proceedings were launched, these farmers came up with an innovative idea. Using the Swaminathan Commission's formula to estimate the comprehensive cost of production plus 50 per cent profit, they packed their crop produce (equal to the amount pending against their name) and reached the bank's office. They approached four banks, and asked the banks to accept their pending dues in kind.

"We took a crop loan from the bank. We produced a bountiful harvest. But with market prices remaining low, we are unable to recover even what we had spent. In that case, how do the banks expect us to

pay back in time?" an anguished Siddaveerappa asked me, adding: "Sir, why should the banks take away our tractor and machinery or seek court's orders to put us in jail? Why don't they instead take our crops?"

Well, all said and done, there is certainly merit in what the angry farmers say. After all, they produced the crops for which the loans were taken. And they were willing to pay it back in kind.

To the question as to what the banks would do with the crop harvest, the answer is simple. If the banks can put to public auction the seized tractors or the impounded cultivable lands (for which they have no inbuilt expertise), they can also plan to put the harvested crop for sale. The banks will need to rent storage space or enter into an arrangement with Mother Dairy and other organised retailers like Reliance Fresh, Big Basket and Big Bazaar.

Certainly, this is not going to be a prohibitive cost that the banks cannot undertake. If the banks have the resources to write off corporate bad loans to the tune of Rs 13 lakh crore in 10 years, and are able to provide huge 'haircuts' to the defaulting units under the insolvency proceedings, it is time to put the profits where they belong. This surely is the prescription for a debt-free agriculture.

Careful, online shoppers

Digital 'dark patterns' exploit consumer vulnerability. Interfaces on websites or devices are tweaked to deceive, hoodwink or push consumers into making unintended purchase decisions inimical to their interest or even share personal data unintentionally, affecting their privacy

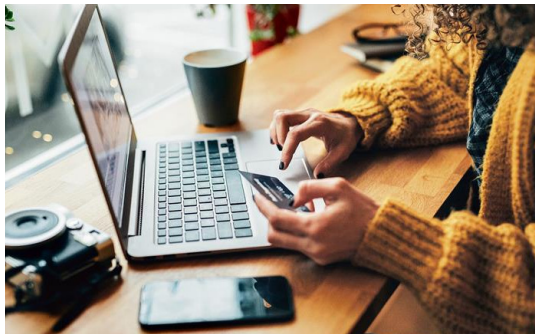
PUSHPA GIRIMAJI

Who wants to buy travel insurance for a domestic flight? Yet, many consumers purchasing domestic airline tickets online end up with travel insurance that they never intended to buy, thanks to deceitful user interfaces that trick them into paying for such policies. Last month, a reader told me about one such purchase of insurance, along with his airline tickets. He said he never wanted the insurance, but somehow ended up having to pay Rs 249 extra for the policy on each ticket!

Well, it was not an inadvertent mistake committed by the consumer, but a deliberate ploy on the part of the service provider to sell the insurance through subterfuge. The user interface on some websites is designed in such a way that when you buy an air ticket, a pre-checked box opting for travel insurance will appear. Since you are not interested in the insurance and do not expect someone to sell it to you without your consent, you do not notice that the website has

already tick-marked your acceptance of the offer. So, obviously, you do not negate or reverse it. In other words, the default option is purchase of insurance, and if you do not see it and change it, you are charged for the insurance. Thus, the insurer sells a policy, the portal gets its commission and the consumer suffers a loss. This is a clear case of fraud, an unfair trade practice. It also violates insurance regulations governing the sale of insurance.

Yet, such practices, described as digital 'dark patterns', continue to exploit consumer vulnerability. What consumers do not know is that businesses are increasingly spending money on 'User Experience' (UX) designers to create user interfaces (or your interaction with a website, an application or an electronic device) that are deliberately tweaked to hoodwink, manipulate, deceive or push consumers into making unintended purchase decisions inimical to their interest or even share personal data unintentionally, affecting their privacy. 'Bait and switch' is another



such example, where a website offers some goods or products at rock-bottom prices, but as soon as you opt for them, their prices suddenly go up or a different, higher price is shown. And it happens so quickly that you will wonder whether you mistook the earlier price claim!

Similarly, when you are buying clothes online, you choose a

dress based on its quality, design and price, but as soon as you indicate your size, the price goes up, implying that only that particular size is priced higher. Log on to the website in another name and try another size — you will find the same response.

Sometimes, when you are trying to make an informed decision, you are hustled into mak-

ing a purchase by an announcement that the product is available at that price only for a very short duration, and only one size is left! The ticking of the countdown timer only adds to the panic, forcing you to make a decision that may not be in your best interest. Well, do not be surprised if the same product is still available the next day, at the

same price!

Make no mistake — these are not some inadvertent flaws in technology, but carefully crafted user interfaces aimed at exploiting consumer behaviour and psychology and they are becoming more and more sophisticated and pervasive, requiring consumers to be extremely alert while interacting with a website or an app or an e-commerce.

As consumer protection agencies around the world express concern over this increasing trend and come up with measures to counter them, many UX designers are exhorting their co-professionals to practice ethical designing and come up with configurations that are fair to consumers and completely transparent. Such a plea for an ethical code and self-regulation comes in the wake of consumer demand that not just companies, but even UX designers be hauled up for 'dark patterns'.

build stakeholder value by compromising consumer value. A good piece of advice!

Those who do not heed this advice will have to face the law. Already, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs is looking at ways and means of curbing such practices and protecting consumers. While rules and regulations (under the Consumer Protection Act) defining 'dark patterns' and prohibiting them is the need of the hour, even under the existing provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) can haul up online entities for 'dark patterns'. Since the CCPA has wide-ranging powers to deal with unfair trade practices, including deceptive advertising and promotion, it can also impose deterrent fines and penalties.

Educating consumers on the 'dark patterns' is equally important. That would not only prevent consumers from falling prey to these kind of machinations, but will also give the CCPA good feedback for action.

— The writer is a consumer affairs expert

# Anil Kapoor on completing 40 years as leading man in Hindi cinema: This is where I belong

Four decades seem like a blink of an eye, says Anil Kapoor as he completes 40 years of being a leading actor and an entertainer in the Hindi film industry.

The 66-year-old actor shared a throwback video from his 1983 movie "Woh Saat Din", which marked his first outing as a leading hero in Hindi films after playing supporting parts in Telugu feature "Vamsa Vruksham" and Dilip Kumar-Amitabh Bachchan starrer "Shakti".

"Today I complete 40 years of being an actor and an entertainer... 40 years of being accepted, loved and blessed by you, the audience! They say when you're doing something you love, time just flies by..."

"No wonder 4 decades seem like the blink of an eye! This is where I belong, this is what I'm meant to do and this is

who I'm supposed to be," Kapoor wrote.

Produced by his father Surinder Kapoor and brother Boney Kapoor, "Woh Saat Din" was a remake of the 1981 Tamil film "Andha 7 Naatkal" and also starred Naseeruddin Shah and Padmini Kolhapure as well as his close friend, late Satish Kaushik.

The actor expressed gratitude to the movie's director Bapu and the team for "believing in me and for giving me my first chance".

"I'm also eternally grateful to @naseeruddin49 & @padminikolhapure for their grace in welcoming a newcomer. Their stardom made me shine brighter than I could've hoped for."

"I owe everything I am today to these legends, and to the love and acceptance I have found with each one of you," Kapoor added.



The actor teased his next two projects -- "The Night Manager" part two and the Ranbir Kapoor-led "Animal". "To mark the completion of these 40 years, I'm coming to you in two very special avatars with 'The Night Manager' part two and 'Animal'." I hope you will continue to love and support me the way you have always done," Kapoor said.

# 'GLAMOROUS' SERIES REVIEW: AN UNABASHEDLY QUEER SHOW THAT CAN'T PULL ITSELF FREE FROM ITS PAST

A young credulous assistant clashing with an industry-towering snobby boss has formed a solid basis for many an entertainer. From Betty Suarez humping around in the early aughts to Ava Daniels figuring her way out in the post-Instagram comedy industry, the dynamic has elicited a loyal audience.

Queering this trusted TV narrative, Netflix's latest show, Glamorous arrives amid Pride month, aiming to add its name to the list of summer binges. Severely anchoring itself in the beauty-anxious social media world, Glamorous positions itself as the sleek summer-child of its predecessors, however pales in comparison to those that it has been inspired by. Marco Mejia (Miss Benny), who aims to make it big in the beauty influencer com-



munity, attracts the attention of Madolyn Addison (Kim Catrall), the owner of a luxury makeup brand -- "Glamorous by Madolyn". Madolyn plucks Marco from his mall counter job and hires him as her second assistant. This is just one of the

many fever-dream scenarios that form Marco's life and the larger plot of this show. As Madolyn seeks to reinvent a brand that Marco once called bland, the new assistant learns the ropes of an adult job and his adult life.

Their tale of star-crossed mentormentee is populated with a generous helping of love triangles, corporate sabotages, unresolved parental issues, several musical performances, and (not enough) drag sequences. As far as its emotions are concerned, Glamorous wears its genre on its sleeve. It doesn't betray a lightness that the audience expects, with a steady stream of pop music bookending its episodes. Marco speaks exclusively in a way that feels like he is reading off a YouTube video transcript, and all corners of the office of Glamorous by Madolyn are framed with a lens flare. Creator Jordan Nardino uses all the tools available to convince us of the show's modernity, of how much shinier it looks than similar shows before it.

# Parineeti Chopra Responds To A Fan Asking 'How's Married Life?'



Actress Parineeti Chopra, who got engaged to AAP leader Raghav Chadha in May, reacted to a question by a fan asking her about her "married life." Parineeti was attending an event here, where she was also seen interacting with paparazzi.

She was asked by paparazzi to invite them to her wedding.

A brief clip shared by Bollywood photographer Varindra Chawla on Instagram shows Parineeti dressed in all black, standing in an elevator.

A paparazzo said: "Shaadi mein bulana." She smiled and nodded her head.

Then a fan asked, "How's married life?" To which, she replied with a smile: "I'm not married yet."

Parineeti got engaged to the AAP leader on May 13 in New Delhi. On the acting front, she will next be seen in 'Chamkila' with Diljit Dosanah.

# Ajay Devgn's 'Maidaan' is S.A. Rahim's biopic. All about India's greatest football coach

The 1950s and 60s are often referred to as the golden era in Indian football. Not only did the Indians win the gold in football at the 1951 and 1962 Asian Games, they also finished fourth at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics -- their best-ever finish at the Games.

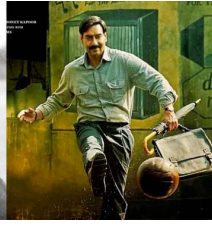
Tulsidas Balamram, Chuni Goswami, P.K. Banerjee, Jarnail Singh, Pradyut Barman, Prasanta Sinha, Peter Thangaraj, the list of legends was long. But the man in charge of these 'Galacticos' was a certain Syed Abdul Rahim, then considered to be one of Asia's finest coaches.

The slightly-built but astute tactician is set to be immortalised on the silver screen with Maidaan by director Amit Sharma of Badhaai Ho fame. Starring Ajay Devgn and Priyamani among others, and co-produced by Boney Kapoor, Akash



Chawla and Arunava Joy Sengupta, the biopic will be released in Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu. Actor Keerthy Suresh will be making her debut in the Hindi film industry with this film, the music of which has been composed by the legendary, A.R. Rahman. The film's release has been postponed several times because of multiple reasons since 2021, and is finally expected to hit the theatres in July.

Rahim was considered the best football coach



India ever had not just for the trophies or medals India won under him, but his revolutionary vision and tactics. The film deals with the earlier-mentioned golden era of Indian football and how he moulded the star-studded team into a world-class unit. It also charts the rise of Rahim from a teacher-turned-physical education instructor to the face and soul of Indian football.

Born in 1909 in Hyderabad, Rahim took to football in school and never looked back. According to 'Box to Box -- 75 years of the Indian Football Team', he got a BA degree from Osmania University, and taught history and geography in Darul Uloom High School. He also obtained a degree in physical education while he was switching schools in the state. But his first love remained football. He played as an inside forward and was a prolific goalscorer and a good dribbler, the book says.

# Amit Ravindernath Sharma On Directing 'Lust Stories 2': Wanted To Do Something I Haven't Done

Director Amit Ravindernath Sharma says he has never stuck to one genre and his segment in the upcoming film anthology 'Lust Stories 2' is a step in the same direction.

Sharma made his directorial debut in 2015 with "Tevar", an action movie starring Arjun Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha and Manoj Bajpayee. Three years later, he achieved both awards and acclaim with the hit comedy drama "Badhaai Ho". His next feature film is long-awaited sports drama "Maidaan", headlined by Ajay Devgn.

"I wanted to do something which I have not done. I have never been in any of the comfort zones, like 'Tevar', 'Badhaai Ho', and 'Maidaan' (are all different)."

"The most important thing, I told Ashi Dua and Ronnie Screwvala (producers) is if I found the story (for 'Lust Stories 2'), then I will make this. I found it and made it," Sharma told PTI in an interview.

"Lust Stories 2" is a Netflix movie, which consists of four shorts, directed by Sharma, R Balki, Konkona Sen Sharma and Sujoy Ghosh. It is billed as a collection of films that sheds light on relationships from the female lens of women, stringing them together thematically.

Sharma's segment revolves around a married couple, played by Kajol and Kumud Mishra.

Produced by RSVP and Flying Unicorn Entertainment, the second edition of "Lust Stories" will start streaming on Netflix from June 29.

The Delhi-born filmmaker said he is fortunate that the two actors agreed to star in his short as "the story needed them".

"This is one of my favourites of what I have made till now. It was a very difficult cast to think of but I thought of these two and they said yes..." he added.

According to the makers, the first edition of 'Lust Stories' ignited "meaningful conversations" and the second anthology has "even more bold, diverse and progressive stories from different parts of India".

# OLIVIA COLMAN IN TALKS TO JOIN 'PADDINGTON 3' CAST



Oscar winner Olivia Colman is in negotiations to join the cast of the third part of popular British movie series Paddington. Actors Antonio Banderas, Rachel Zegler, and Emily Mortimer are also in talks to board the threequel, titled Paddington In Peru, reported Deadline.

Besides, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, Madeleine Harris, Samuel Joslin, and Imelda Staunton are also in talks with StudioCanal to reprise their roles in the new movie. The project, which will mark the directorial debut of Dougal Wilson, known for his work as a commercial and music video director, will be filmed in the UK, Peru, and Colombia.

The film franchise features Ben Whishaw voicing Paddington and Imelda Staunton lending her voice for Aunt Lucy. Based on the best-selling book of the same name by British author Michael Bond, the movie series tells the story of the eponymous character Paddington, an anthropomorphic bear who migrates from the jungles of Peru to the streets of London, where he is adopted by the Brown family.

Paddington in Peru will see the bear embark on a new adventure that will take him from Windsor Gardens to Peru. It will follow Paddington as he returns to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown Family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey through the Amazon rainforest and up to the mountain peaks of Peru. The third part has a story by Paddington one and two collaborators Paul King, Simon Farnaby, and Mark Burton with the screenplay by Burton, Jon Foster, and James Lamont. It will be produced by David Heyman and Rosie Alison with Rob Silva as co-producer.

# I-T DEPT CLOSELY MONITORING BRAND ENDORSEMENTS, INVESTMENTS OF YOUTUBERS

On June 22, Kerala witnessed a significant and unprecedented action taken by the Income Tax department against YouTubers from the state. Ten teams, operating under the Kochi intelligence division of the I-T department, conducted raids at the residences and offices of 13 YouTubers, including actress and TV host Pearle Maaney. The raids were prompted by allegations of tax evasion by the YouTubers, some of whom earn crores through video sharing and social media platforms. According to sources within

the Income Tax department, although some of these influencers filed their income tax returns, they concealed their earnings from content creation. It was discovered that some influencers were ignorant of the income tax regulations, leading to their troubles. An officer told THE WEEK that some influencers argued that they had substantial expenses related to creating content. After deducting expenses, they considered the remaining amount as their income while filing the taxes. I-T sleuths monitored over 30 influencers for several months

and shortlisted 13 individuals for further scrutiny. The department is also closely examining influencers' brand endorsements, foreign trips, gifts received, and investments made in real estate. Social media service providers are obligated to provide income data of content creators when requested by the I-T department, as it falls outside the realm of personal data for social media users. I-T sources say that the maximum money for content is made from YouTube and Facebook, and some of these

niche-content creators failed to file the taxes properly even after earning over Rs 3 crore from YouTube alone in the last three years. The raids commenced at 8am on Thursday and continued until late evening. It has been reported that the I-T department may take steps to deactivate the social media accounts of influencers who fail to comply with tax filing regulations. Interestingly, on the night of June 22, Kerala police also took action against a controversial Malayali influencer named Thoppi. Thoppi, who has a

large following among teenage boys, was apprehended in Kochi for using obscene language in public and obstructing traffic while attending the inauguration of a shop in Valanchery, Malappuram. Two days prior, DYFI, the youth wing of the ruling CPI(M), had demanded legal action against content creators like Thoppi who produce 'anti-social and misogynistic' videos. The influencer also live-streamed a video of police attempting to break open the door to his room. In the video, he alleged that he had agreed to



# Sikh man shot dead by unknown gunmen in Pakistan's Peshawar city

AGENCY

**PESHAWAR:** Pakistan police on Sunday arrested some suspects in connection with the murder of a Sikh man here who was shot dead by unidentified gunmen, in a probable case of targeted killing.

Manmohan Singh, 35, was on his way to the interior city area of Peshawar from Rasheed Garhi, a suburban locality of Peshawar when some armed men attacked him near Guldara Chowk Kakshal, which is under police jurisdiction of Yakka Toot police station.

This is the latest incident of targeted attacks against minority communities in Pakistan.



Though Singh was shifted to a hospital, he was pronounced dead by the doctors, police said.

Some suspects have been arrested in the murder of Singh, Ashtaq Anwar, the city police chief in Peshawar told reporters.

The police chief said that they are close to arresting the main accused involved in the murder.

Police have been directed to ensure the protection of life and property of law-abiding citizens in the province.

They are investigating the case from different angles. This is the second incident of armed attack on a Sikh man in the Yakka Toot area in the last 48 hours. A Sikh man was injured after he sustained bullet wounds on his legs on Friday.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) is investigating the armed attack on Sikh trader Tarlok Singh who was injured in the attack on Friday.

The police believe that two attacks on Sikh men in Peshawar within 48 hours may be target killings but the real facts would come after thorough investigation.

A Sikh businessman was shot dead in the city by unknown

assailants in March. About 15,000 Sikhs live in Peshawar, mostly in the Jogan Shah neighbourhood of the provincial capital Peshawar.

Most of the members of the Sikh community in Peshawar are involved in business, while some also have pharmacies.

In September last year, a well-known Sikh 'Hakeem' (Unani medicine practitioner) was shot dead by unidentified gunmen inside his clinic in Peshawar.

In 2018, Charanjit Singh, a prominent Sikh community member, was killed by unknown men in Peshawar. Similarly, news channel anchor Ravinder Singh was killed in 2020 in the city.

# US: Two dead, 15 hurt in a shooting at Michigan street party

AGENCY

**WASHINGTON:** Two persons died and about 15 persons suffered injuries in a shooting at a large street party in Michigan on Saturday midnight. According to police, no suspects have been arrested.

The shooting occurred around midnight Saturday in Saginaw, about 164 kilometres northwest of Detroit, state police said. The deceased were a 19-year-old man and a 51-year-old woman, police said. "Fifteen people were injured by gunshot or being struck by a vehicle," police said in a statement. According to reports, the party was promoted on social media.

CNN quoted police as saying, "A fight broke out between partygoers resulting in gunshots being fired. In response, others in the crowd began shooting into the crowd, striking several victims. As people fled the scene, many were injured after being struck by fleeing vehicles."

According to reports, police were present nearby the street, preparing to disperse the crowd when multiple callers reported to 911 that people were shooting into the crowd.

Police initially said about 200 people were in the area of the party and that officers had been dispersing the crowd prior to the shooting, MLive.com reported.

Investigators determined five different guns had been fired in the shooting. No arrests were made.

# Afghan women provided with 'comfortable and prosperous life', claims Taliban leader

AGENCY

**KABUL:** The supreme leader of the Taliban released a message on Sunday claiming that his government has taken the necessary steps for the betterment of women's lives in Afghanistan, where women are banned from public life and work and girls' education is severely curtailed.

The statement from Hibatullah Akhundzada was made public ahead of the Eid al-Adha holiday, which will be celebrated later this week in Afghanistan and other Islamic countries.

Akhundzada, an Islamic scholar, rarely appears in public or leaves the Taliban heartland in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province. He surrounds himself with other religious scholars and allies who oppose education and work for women.

In his Eid message, Akhundzada said that under the rule of the Islamic Emirate, concrete



measures have been taken to save women from many traditional oppressions, including forced marriages, "and their Shariah rights have been protected".

"Moreover, necessary steps have been taken for the betterment of women as half of society in order to provide them with a comfortable and prosperous life according to the Islamic Shariah," the message continued.

Lately, Akhundzada appears to have taken a stronger hand in directing domestic policy, banning girls' education after the

women in securing marriage, inheritance and other rights," he added.

Despite initial promises of a more moderate rule than during their previous stint in power in the 1990s, the Taliban have imposed harsh measures since seizing Afghanistan in August 2021 as US and NATO forces were pulling out.

They have barred women from public spaces, like parks and gyms, and cracked down on media freedoms. The measures have triggered a fierce international uproar, increasing the country's isolation at a time when its economy has collapsed and worsening a humanitarian crisis.

Akhundzada reiterated his call for other countries to stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. He said the Taliban government wants good political and economic relations with the world, especially with Islamic countries, and has fulfilled its responsibility in this regard.

"The status of women as a free and dignified human being, has been restored and all institutions have been obliged to help

# Russian diplomat visits China a day after Wagner mutiny ends

JI NEWS SERVICE

**MOSCOW:** A day after Russia's private mercenary group Wagner's mutiny was stopped by sending its chief into exile, Russia's deputy foreign minister reached China on Sunday for talks.

A statement on Chinese foreign ministry's website said the leaders discussed issues of common concern. "Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko met with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang to discuss Sino-Russian relations and international and regional issues that are of common concern" SCMP reported.

Russian authorities said China reaffirmed its interest in strengthening relations with Moscow. "China expressed support for the Russian leadership to stabilise the domestic situation after the events on Saturday and reaffirmed interest in strengthening cooperation with Russia's foreign ministry. According to reports, China is monitoring the situation in Russia and is reportedly watching closely for any spillover.

Russia and China, while not formal allies, have maintained close ties throughout Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which China has refused to condemn.

Rudenko's visit comes after Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the private mercenary army Wagner Group, ordered his troops to march on Moscow in the greatest challenge to President Vladimir Putin in his more than two decades in power. Prigozhin later on Saturday reached a deal with the Kremlin to go into exile and sounded the retreat.

China has not officially commented on the crisis in Russia. The United States and other Western powers have urged China not to supply Russia with arms that could be used in the Ukraine conflict.

China in May sent an envoy to Ukraine and Russia in an attempt to mediate talks to end the war.

# Will Putin pardon Yevgeny Prigozhin for his 'march for justice'

AGENCY

**MOSCOW:** On Saturday, the world braced for an unprecedented event: a coup that would overthrow Russia's strongman Vladimir Putin out of power. In possibility the first open challenge to his two-decade-long Presidency, the world watched in anticipation as Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin and his 25,000 soldiers marched to the Russian capital of Moscow.

But, a potential mutiny dissipated as immediately as it began. By Sunday morning, it was evident that Prigozhin has halted his 'advance to Moscow' after negotiations with Belarusian

President and Putin ally Alexander Lukashenko.

While Prigozhin will leave Russia for Belarus - the criminal case opened against him for armed mutiny would be dropped - the over 25,000 soldiers who took part in the 'march for justice' would not face any action in recognition of their service to Russia. The rebellion was aborted within hours.

But, questions remain on what awaits Prigozhin despite Putin granting him amnesty. "Russian President Vladimir Putin doesn't forgive traitors," according to former CNN Moscow bureau chief Jill Dougherty. "Even though Putin has told Prigozhin

to go to Belarus, according to the Kremlin, the Wagner chief remains a traitor," Dougherty told CNN.

"I think Putin will never ever forgive that," she added. "I think it is a real dilemma because as long as Prigozhin is acting the way he does and has some type of support, he is a threat. Regardless of where he is."

Putin himself had promised to punish those behind the armed rebellion stating that it was "a stab in the back of our troops and the people of Russia and the response would be 'brutal'."

But on Saturday, when asked about Prigozhin's whereabouts, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry

Peskov said he had no clue about where the Wagner chief was. Peskov also said that he does not know who Prigozhin will work for after he leaves for Belarus.

The future of the Wagner Group is also uncertain. According to Major Mike Lyons (Ret.) US Army, assisting the Wagner men with the Russian Army has its set of challenges. Peskov had stated that Wagner fighters will face no legal action for their part in the insurrection, and will instead sign contracts with Russia's Ministry of Defense. Prigozhin had vehemently opposed this move.

"They're an independent fighting company. They were given better ratings. They dressed differently. I don't think they'll be easily assimilated into the Russian military and sent back to the front there. So I think there is going to be an amnesty."

He added: "Maybe some will splinter off. Maybe some will decide to defect and provide information to Ukraine. Those people are loyal to the man, Prigozhin, not to the country, not to the mission. I think we've got a lot more questions that are not answered right now."

There were already a lot of apprehensions post-Wagner's win in Bakhmut as they are designed for offensive operations rather than defensive.

Prigozhin's march for justice

Prigozhin's march for justice

Prigozhin's march for justice

# Pakistan National Assembly passes crucial budget to secure IMF funding

AGENCY

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's National Assembly passed crucial budget on Sunday, to secure funding from International Monetary Fund. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar tabled the budget after making changes advised by the IMF to secure the funding.

The budget was passed during a session that lacked a quorum, Dawn reported. Only 70 lawmakers were present on the treasury benches and two on the opposition benches. Ejan Riaz, was absent.

Minister Dar held three-day-long general discussions with IMF on the budget. The revised budget aims to raise Rs 215 billion through taxes and the government has proposed to cut public spending by Rs 85 billion. Dawn reported that as per the budget, government's revenue



collection target has been revised to Rs 9.415 trillion and put total spending at Rs14.48 trillion. The share of the provinces has been increased to Rs 5.39 trillion from Rs 5.28 trillion.

On Saturday, speaking at the closing of a three-day-long general discussion with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the budget for the financial year 2023-24 held in the

National Assembly, Dar said that Pakistan is trying to fulfil all the formalities the global lender wants them to complete prior to availing the loan.

"As a result of the talks with IMF, for the fiscal year 2023-24, the final taxes of only Rs 215 billion (approximately \$750,400,000) have been agreed, ensuring that it will not burden the poor and middle segments of

the society," he said.

The announcement was made by Dar two days after IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva urged Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to resolve policy differences at the global lender's staff level before getting a much-needed loan to stabilise the country's economy.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) signed a deal in 2019 to provide \$6 billion to Pakistan on the fulfillment of certain conditions. The plan was derailed several times and the full reimbursement is still pending due to insistence by the donor that Pakistan should complete all formalities. A member of the federal cabinet joined in Paris for the technical round of talks, which took place in Islamabad after the meeting between the IMF MD and Prime Minister Sharif.

Both sides again discussed all the outstanding issues and the government appeared to accept

the IMF's views on a few budgetary numbers.

Dar said Pakistan held talks with the IMF with complete sincerity and assured the House to make details public once the things with the international lender were settled.

Pakistan's efforts to unlock access to the already agreed \$6 billion loan package are in a quagmire as the budget needs to satisfy the global lender to secure the release of more bailout money for the country's ailing economy.

It is feared that Pakistan might default on external financing commitments without the active support of the IMF.

Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet.

# Trump says US government has 'vital role' opposing abortion



AGENCY

**WASHINGTON:** Former President Donald Trump said the federal government should play a vital role opposing abortion but again failed to provide specifics on what national restrictions he would support if elected to the White House again. Trump's remarks to a group of influential evangelicals Saturday on the anniversary of the Supreme Court overturning the national right to an abortion stood in contrast to that of his former vice president and 2024 rival Mike Pence. Pence, speaking at the same conference a day earlier, challenged every GOP presidential candidate to support the passage of a national ban on abortions at least as early as 15 weeks of pregnancy.

Trump, the GOP front-runner, has been reluctant to endorse a national ban and has suggested restrictions should be left to the states. He has even suggested that pushing for increased abortion restrictions would be a political liability for Republicans, despite his three Supreme Court nominees making up the majority of justices who voted to overturn Roe v. Wade last year.



## Manipur: Army releases 12 KYKL militants after a standoff with women-led mob

AGENCY

**IMPHAL:** The Indian Army was forced to release 12 Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) militants who were apprehended during an operation in Manipur's Itham village after a standoff with a women-led mob of 1,500 people.

An official release from Defence FRO said the women entered into a standoff with the Army by surrounding the target area, thereby stopping them from continuing with the operation. "The area was cordoned before the specific search commenced to avoid inconvenience to the locals. The operation resulted in the apprehension of



12 KYKL cadres along with arms, ammunition and war-like stores," the release said.

However, a mob of approximately 1,200-1,500 women and the local leader immediately surrounded the target area. Though

the Army appealed to the aggressive mob to let them continue with their operation, it did not yield any positive results.

"Keeping in view the sensitivity of the use of kinetic force against a large irate mob and

envisaged casualties due to such action, the officer on the ground made a considerate decision to hand over all 12 cadres to the local leader. Own columns lifted the cordon and left the area with weapons and war-like stores, recovered from insurgents," it read. The statement added that Army took "a mature decision" to not risk civilian lives and this reflected its humane face of the force.

The Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), a Meitei militant group, was involved in several attacks, including the ambush of a 6 Dogra unit in 2015, they said. Among those held up in the village was self-styled Lt Col Motrangthem Tamba alias

Utam, a wanted terrorist who may have been the mastermind of the Dogra ambush tragedy, officials said.

More than 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities in the northeastern state so far. Clashes first broke out on May 3 after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis -- constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

## Patna Opposition meet also marks Lalu Prasad Yadav's return to active politics



AGENCY

**PATNA:** "I am addressing the press after a long time. I am fully fit now..." said BJP supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, the last speaker at the media briefing held after the mega opposition meeting in Patna on Friday.

If Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the host of the meeting, spoke at the beginning of the press conference, Lalu had the last word. It was only apt because the meeting also marked the return of the veteran leader to the centre stage of politics in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

Lalu had been ailing for a long time. He underwent a kidney transplant a few months back. Now, he finds himself at the centre of the discussions amongst the opposition parties to mount a joint fight against the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections.

Lalu and his son, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, are credited with playing a crucial role in making the meeting of opposition parties possible. The importance of the 75-year-old leader was evident as opposition leaders made it a point to call on him when they arrived in Patna for the meeting.

Nitish is learnt to have convened the meeting in close consultation with Lalu. The RJD supremo attended the meeting, the first time he participated in an event of this nature after his kidney transplant. He declared that he is fit and is ready to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP.

Lalu is expected to continue playing an important role in the opposition discussions as the parties work out issues such as state-level seat adjustments and at the same time, at the national level, seek to come across as a unified force against the BJP.

## Sitharaman slams Obama's remarks, says US 'bombed' six Muslim countries during his tenure

AGENCY

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday slammed former US president Barack Obama's statement about minority rights in India, saying his remarks were surprising as six Muslim-majority countries had faced US "bombing" during his tenure.

She said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the highest civilian awards from 13 countries, including six with predominantly Muslim population.

The finance minister alleged that "organised campaigns" were being run to level "baseless" allegations on the treatment meted out to minorities at the behest of the Opposition as it cannot defeat the BJP electorally under Modi. In an interview with CNN on Thursday, Obama reportedly said if India does not protect the rights of ethnic minorities, there is a strong possibility at some point that the country starts pulling apart.



AGENCY

"I was surprised when Prime Minister Modi was talking about India in front of everyone, a former US president was giving statements about Indian Muslims at that time, Sitharaman said at a press conference at the BJP headquarters here. "Didn't bombings happen in six countries - Syria, Yemen, Saudi and Iraq and other Muslim countries - during his term (as US President)?" she asked.

"When he makes such allegations, will the people trust him," she said. Sitharaman also took exception to the allegations by U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), saying India wants to maintain a good relationship with the

US but she is surprised to hear such statements. We want good friendship with the US. But from there also, USCIRF's comments about religious tolerance in India comes and the former president is also saying something, she added. She said it is also important to see who are the people behind them. The minister alleged that the Congress is deliberately raising "non-issues" and levelling allegations "without facts" to vitiate the country's atmosphere because the opposition party cannot defeat the BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. The Congress party is running such campaigns and it was clearly visible in the last election and the

previous elections where they went to Pakistan seeking their help to change the government in India, she charged while replying to questions on allegations of discrimination against minorities.

She said whenever there is an issue, it is addressed at the state level as law and order is a state subject. I find this deliberate attempt to vitiate the atmosphere in the country because they think they cannot win against the development policies of prime minister Modi, she alleged, adding The Congress have deployed their food kits which operate abroad.

Going abroad, our Opposition do not talk in India's interest because they cannot defeat Prime Minister Modi."

They bring up these people who go to these debates without ground-level details, she charged. Sitharaman said Prime Minister Modi has received the highest civilian awards from 13 countries and six of them have the highest Muslim population.

## West Bengal: Two goods trains collide in Bankura, 12 bogies derailed



AGENCY

**KOLKATA:** A goods train collided with another stationary freight train at Onda in Bankura district of West Bengal on Sunday morning, a senior South Eastern Railway official said. No one was injured in the accident, which affected train services in the Adra division of SER for over four hours, he said.

At least eight wagons derailed due to the collision, which happened around 4 am, the official said. Train movement at Onda in the Midnapore-Adra section of Adra division was restored at 8.30 am, after urgent repair work was carried out, he said.

The derailed wagons were removed from the tracks on war footing, and the first passenger train to pass was the 18011 Howrah-Chakradharpur express at 8.35 am, he said.

The incident comes weeks after the train disaster at Bahanaga Bazar station in Odisha's Balasore district on June 2 in which 288 people were killed and hundreds injured.

Onda is around 250 km away from Bahanaga Bazar. The SER official said the likely cause of Sunday's accident was that the driver of the moving goods train had overshoot the home signal at Onda, which was red. The train then went into the loop line, for which the point was likely to have been set on the tracks, and hit the stationary freight wagons, he said.

An enquiry will be held to pinpoint the cause of the accident.

## Woman dies of electrocution at New Delhi railway station amid heavy rain

AGENCY

**NEW DELHI:** A woman on Sunday died at New Delhi railway station area due to electrocution as she allegedly grabbed on to an electric pole trying to avoid falling into puddles amid heavy rain.

The deceased has been identified as Sakshi Ahuja, a resident of east Delhi's Preet Vihar. She, along with her family, had reached the railway station to catch the Bhopal Shatabdi Express.

"We were going to Chandigarh. I was in the parking area when I received the information that my daughter Sakshi Ahuja has died due to electrocution. This has happened due to the negligence of the concerned authority," Lokesh Kumar Chopra, father of the deceased woman, was quoted by agencies.

Though the people in the area had rushed Sakshi to the nearby Lady Harding Hospital immediately after she fell, she could not be saved. According to the officials, she died at the hospital and the body was sent for postmortem.

However, the victim's sister Madhvi Chopra filed a complaint alleging negligence by concerned authorities. Based on the complaint, Delhi police had registered a case for negligence.

The officials are inspecting the area, said police. As per agencies, a complaint alleging the concerned authority for their negligence was received and a case u/s 287/304-A IPC was registered. ISL, Rohini team is inspecting the place of incident, said police.

In a similar incident, two men were killed while another injured after they came in contact with a high-tension electric wire on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Rashid (30) and Afsar (32), they said the incident happened in the Rithaura area.

## Monsoon arrives in Delhi, Mumbai; heavy rains, thunderstorm lash NCR region

AGENCY

**NEW DELHI:** Monsoon has arrived in Delhi and Mumbai in a rare occurrence where it covered both states together. Interestingly, the rain hit Delhi two days before expected, as the initial India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast was that the national capital could expect its first showers by Monday.

However, its entry to Mumbai was two weeks late. "The Southwest Monsoon has advanced over Mumbai and

Delhi today (June 25)," an IMD official said.

The monsoon had a slow start due to several factors, including Cyclone Biparjoy, which usually reaches Kerala by June 1, Mumbai by June 11, and the national capital by June 27.

Residents of the NCR region, including Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad and Ghaziabad, woke up to a rainy Sunday with heavy rainfall with lightning and thunderstorm. The Regional Weather Forecasting Centre (RWFC) has predicted light to moderate intensity rain over and adjoining

areas of the entire Delhi and NCR. "25/06/2023: 06:05 IST; Light to moderate intensity rain would occur over and adjoining areas of entire Delhi and NCR (Loni Dehat) Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Narwana, Karnal, Rajauri, Assandh, Safidon, Barwala, Jind, Panipat, Hissar, Gohana, Gannaur, Hansi, Siwani, Mehram, Sonapat, Tosham, Rohtak, Kharkhoda, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dabri, Mattanahil, Jhajjar, Palwal, Aurangabad, Hissar (Haranya) Saharanpur, Gangoh, Deoband, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, Kandhla,

Khatauli, Sakoti Tanda, Hastinapur, Baraut, Daurala, Bagpat, Meerut, Khehra, Modinagar, Kithor, Garhmukteshwar, Pilakhua, Hapur, Gulaoti, Siyana, Sikandrabad, Bulandshahar, Jharkarabad, Anupshahar, Shikarpur, Khurja, Pahasu, Debai, Narora, Gabhana, Sahaswan, Badaayun, Nandgaon, Barsana (U.P.) Nagar, Deeg (Rajasthan)," tweeted RWFC.

Though monsoon has covered a significant portion of north India, including Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand,

and a large part of Jammu and Kashmir, on schedule or slightly ahead, it is currently running 10-12 days behind schedule for a considerable part of central India, where a significant number of farmers heavily rely on it.

D S Pai, a senior scientist at the IMD, Cyclone Biparjoy had impacted the monsoon's progress over southern India and the adjoining western and central parts of the country. "Since the system absorbed most of the moisture, the monsoon's progress along the west coast was slow," he told agencies.

## China helping Pakistan Army build defence infrastructure along LoC: Officials

AGENCY

**NEW DELHI:** China has been helping the Pakistan Army build its defence infrastructure besides providing Unmanned Aerial and Combat Aerial Vehicles, setting up communication towers and laying underground cables along the Line of Control, officials said.

This, according to the officials, is part of efforts to further shore up China's position as an all-weather friend of Pakistan while ensuring the safety of the growing Chinese enclaves on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) set up on the pretext of securing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) road and hydel projects built in the occupied territory.

The officials said that the recently developed SH-15, a 155



mm truck-mounted howitzer gun, has also been spotted at some places along the Line of Control (LoC) after it was displayed on Pakistan Day last year. Known as a 'shoot and scoot' artillery weapon, Pakistan had signed a contract with Chinese firm North Industries

Group Corporation Limited (Norinco) for the supply of 236 SH-15s and, according to London-based Janes Defence magazine, the first batch was delivered in January 2022. Though the presence of senior PLA officials at forward posts, as was detected in 2014, was not

found, some intercepts suggested that Chinese troops and engineers were setting up infrastructure along the LoC, including building underground bunkers, the officials said.

The Army has officially maintained silence on the issue but has been constantly updating the intelligence agencies, sources said. The Chinese military's presence, according to experts, is due to Beijing's 46-billion-dollar CPEC under which Gwadar Port in Karachi will be linked to China's Xinjiang province through the Karakoram highway, an area under the illegal occupation of China.

The officials suggested that Chinese experts were digging some tunnels in the Leepa Valley located in PoK, preparatory to building an all-weather road that will serve as an alternative route

to reach the Karakoram highway.

It may be mentioned here that a Chinese telecom company took over Pakistan's telecom company in 2007 and formed China Mobile Pakistan (CMPak), which is a 100 per cent owned subsidiary of China Mobile Communications Corporation.

In August last year, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), while renewing the mobile licence of CMPak (Zong) for PoK, gave permission for expanding Next Generation Mobile Services (NGMS) in the region.

India has strongly objected to the presence of the Chinese in Gilgit and Baltistan regions in the past, and officials said the Army was completely prepared to frustrate any moves from across the border.

## Manipur violence: In all-party meet, Opp questions PM's silence, CM's leadership

AGENCY

**NEW DELHI:** Even though Home Minister Amit Shah assured that all steps were taken by the government to restore peace in Manipur, the political parties said healing touch be provided in the state.

However, the opposition parties during the all-party meeting called by Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss Manipur violence, expressed concern over the failure of Biren Singh government in tackling the violence in the state. Many parties including Congress demanded that it would have been better if Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called the meeting as the violence has been on for over 50 days.

During the meeting chaired by Amit Shah, the Home Ministry made a detailed presentation on the Manipur situation detailing the legacy issues and steps taken to curb the violence. "During the meeting, the Home Ministry explained what triggered the violence (in Manipur) and what steps have been taken so far."

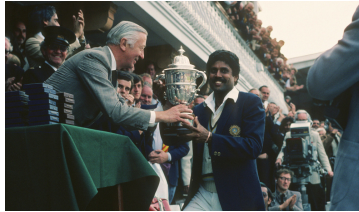
All parties raised their concerns by keeping political differences aside," BJP leader Sambit Patra said. He said the meeting was held in a positive atmosphere; Home Minister heard everyone patiently and said that the views expressed by all will be taken into consideration and discussed. Patra said all parties agreed that it was unprecedented that a Home Minister spent three days in a violence-hit state.

# 1983 Cricket World Cup: India 17/4 & Kapil Dev in the shower & then unthinkable happened

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: July 25 holds a significant place in the annals of Indian cricket, marking a momentous day that took place four decades ago. On this very day, the legendary Kapil Dev and his determined team triumphantly hoisted the World Cup Trophy, etching a glorious chapter in Indian cricket history. Their victory not only secured India's maiden World Cup win but also inspired countless generations to believe in the indomitable spirit of this beautiful game. Overcoming the odds as perceived underdogs, the 1983 World Cup victory stands as a monumental achievement.

Unbeknownst to many, the



selected cricketers of the Indian team had not approached the tournament with unwavering seriousness. Startling revelations from team members themselves unveiled that several players had initially made plans for vacations

in multiple interviews that he had meticulously planned a honeymoon in the United States following the tournament. He revealed that many other players harbored similar intentions.

Adding to the astonishing revelations, team manager PR Man Singh disclosed that the cricket association had made hotel reservations for only a few days, assuming the team would not progress far in the tournament. Return tickets were even booked for an earlier date. However, all these arrangements were promptly adjusted as the Indian team showcased remarkable progress in their performance.

Countless anecdotes abound of the team's self-doubt and perpetual underestimation of their own abilities. As the world perceived them as underdogs, they too succumbed to this notion. Prior to the World Cup, India had registered victory against only one team - East Africa in 1975.

These factors did little to bolster the confidence radiating from the faces and attitudes of Kapil Dev's squad. In historic India vs. Zimbabwe match, which curiously went unaired by the BBC, Kapil Dev etched his name into the cricketing annals with an extraordinary knock of 175 not out. Players have often shared their behind-the-scenes experiences from that fateful day. Even as India lost four wickets, Kapil Dev unabashedly luxuriated in a hot water shower.

# Indian hockey teams celebrate FIH Inclusion and Diversity Day

AGENCY



NEW DELHI: On the occasion of FIH Inclusion and Diversity Day, the members of the Indian Men and Women's Hockey Teams expressed their thoughts on #HockeyEquals. Emphasising that sport has the power to unite people, seasoned campaigner and Khat Ratan award-winning PR Sreejesh said, "The FIH Inclusion and Diversity Day highlights that we are #HockeyEquals. No matter your gender, ethnic background, physical or intellectual ability. No matter your sexual orientation or age, hockey is equal for all and inclusion is a norm in the sport." Hamranpreet Singh, the Captain of the Men's Team said, "We are a team full of players from different cultures, religions and spiritual beliefs but the sport unifies us. Diversity is wealth and we are proud to be part of a sport that provides equal opportunity to all."

Padma Shri awardee Vandana Katarjia, who has over 250 International Caps with the Indian Women's Hockey Team, echoed the sentiments of her male counterparts. She said, "When I began playing hockey, girls were never allowed to leave their household. As a girl, playing a sport, wearing shorts and going to practice everyday was not normal. There was a sense of discrimination but over the years, this has largely changed and it is great that FIH through Inclusion and Diversity Day is educating people across the globe about gender discrimination among other things."

Putting her weight behind the initiative, Indian Women's Team Captain Savita said, "This is a great initiative by FIH. Sport unites the world and brings people together on one platform without any discrimination." "We are very proud to be part of a sport that paves the way for the next generation to embrace this motto. We faced challenges to overcome the stereotypes in our formative days but believe it won't be so difficult for the future generations with Hockey India along with FIH promoting the right values," signed off the ace goalkeeper who led the Indian team to a historic Bronze at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

# Hockey India announces senior men's team core group ahead of Asian Champions Trophy

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Hockey India on Sunday named a 39-member core probable group for the senior men's national coaching camp scheduled to take place from June 26 to July 19 at SAI Centre in Bengaluru.

The camp will conclude ahead of the team's trip to Terrasa, Spain, where they will compete against England, Spain and the Netherlands in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament from July 25 to 30. The four-nation tournament will be followed by the prestigious Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023, starting on August 3 2023, in which the Indian men's hockey team will face off against Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, and China for the title. The core-group includes goalkeepers Krishan Bahadur Pathak, PR Sreejesh, Suraj Karkera, Pawan Malik, and Prashant Kumar Chauhan, and defenders Hamranpreet



Singh, Jarnanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Gurinder Singh, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipans Tirkey, and Manjeet. The midfielders called up to the camp include Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsheer Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Sumit, Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Mohd. Raheel Mousen, Maninder Singh, S. Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, and Pawan Rajbhar. Speaking on the upcoming National Coaching Camp, Indian Men's Hockey Team Chief Coach Craig Fulton said in an official statement released by Hockey India, "We performed well in the FIH Men's Hockey Pro League 2022/2023 matches in Belgium and the Netherlands, and now we hope to maintain some consistency, especially with important tournaments set to take place later this year. The camp will be an opportunity for us to improve ourselves in certain areas and to work together as a unit once again. With the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023 set to take place in August, followed by the Asian Games 2023 in

Hangzhou, China, it is an important camp for us to begin our preparations for the upcoming months and to display the kind of hockey we wish to play."

List of players in India's 39-member core-probable group: Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Sreejesh Parattu Raveendran, Suraj Karkera, Pawan Malik, Prashant Kumar Chauhan, Jarnanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Hamranpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Gurinder Singh, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipans Tirkey, Manjeet, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsheer Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Sumit, Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Mohd. Raheel Mousen, Maninder Singh, S. Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra and Pawan Rajbhar.



# Who is Sarfaraz Khan & why Sunil Gavaskar criticised the selection committee?

J I NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: Sunil Gavaskar, the former captain of the Indian cricket team, criticised the All India Selection Committee for not selecting Sarfaraz Khan, a prolific domestic scorer for the two Test matches in the West Indies that would take place next month. Even though he's been smashing tons while in excellent form. The 25-year-old Mumbai native Sarfaraz Khan has had an amazing run with the bat in domestic games. In the last three years, he has scored runs in Ranji with an average of over 100. In Ranji games, Sarfaraz Khan has scored runs at a remarkable average. Sarfaraz Khan has a stellar average of 79.65 and has amassed 3505 runs in 54 innings across 37 first-class matches. He also has 13 centuries and 9 half-centuries to his credit. Even if Sarfaraz's bat is silent during the IPL, his average is still only 22.5 against international bowlers. In 50 IPL games, Sarfaraz has scored only 585 runs. Gavaskar, in reference to Sarfaraz's non-selection, questioned the reason behind holding the Ranji Trophy if player performance in the nation's top domestic competition is not taken into account when selecting the Indian red-ball teams, rather they are selected as per performance in the IPL.

Despite having a successful domestic career, he hasn't been able to win over the Indian team's selectors and earn a spot on the squad.

# Alcaraz reaches first final on grass at Queen's Club C'ships

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz reached his first final on grass after beating American Sebastian Korda 6-3, 6-4 at the Queen's Club Championships, here.

On Saturday, the 20-year old Alcaraz was broken in the opening game, but held his nerve to break back right away before breaking again in the eighth game and won the first set 6-3, Xinhua reported.

The top seed at the ATP 500 event seemed more confident in the second set, as he converted his only break point of this set in the third game and wrapped it up 6-4.

"I surprised myself honestly with the level that I'm playing right now," said Alcaraz, whose previous match experience on grass were two Wimbledon appearances in the past two years.

"I came here just to get experience, to get out on court and practice and play with these kinds of players," said Alcaraz, who reached the round of 16 at last year's Wimbledon Championships. "I'm going to say it's good preparation for Wimbledon, but I didn't expect at the beginning of the week that I'm gonna be in the final and playing at such a good level."

Alcaraz will lock horns with Australian Alex de Minaur in Sunday's final as the seventh seed saw off second-seeded Holger Rune of Denmark 6-3, 7-6(2).

# The Hundred is 'future-proofing' English cricket like LIV golf, claims Warwickshire chief executive

AGENCY

LONDON: English cricket is the envy of other sports due to the success of the Hundred, according to Stuart Cain, Warwickshire's chief executive.

Cain, who joined Warwickshire in 2020, has previously held senior roles in rugby (both league and union), athletics, swimming and football, and believes that there is a "harsh economic reality" underpinning the Hundred - which remains a divisive competition, with its third season dominating the month of August in the English cricketing calendar.

Each of the 18 counties is paid £1.3 million per year by the ECB under the terms of the initial agreement that underpinned the competition. And Cain, who is a director of Birmingham Phoenix, said that some counties would go under without those funds, and underlined his support for the competition.

"60% of the people that come into Edgbaston [for the Hundred] have never been before, and the majority are from the local area," Cain said. "That tells you we're getting new people into games, a much more family audience, a much more diverse audience."

"We've got new sponsors, and we've got it on free-to-air television. If you were tennis or golf, and someone said, 'I've got a competition that brings a whole new audience into your sports, takes it to people on free-to-air television,' they'd say, 'What's not to like?'"

The Hundred's future has been discussed throughout the first half of the English summer and while the ECB have stressed that it is locked in until the end of their existing broadcast deal with Sky Sports, which runs until the end of the 2028 season, a change of format or structure has been mooted.

# Neeraj Chopra opts out of Ostrava Golden Spike athletics meet

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has opted out of Ostrava Golden Spike athletics meet, scheduled in the Czech Republic on 27 June.

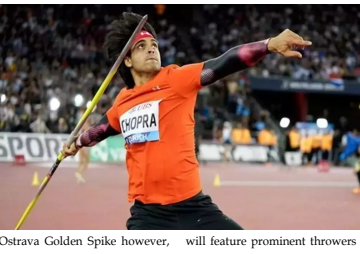
The reigning Olympic champion doesn't feature in the entry list for the meet as he is not fully recovered from a muscle strain he suffered during training last month, which led to his withdrawal from the FBK Games in the Netherlands on June 4 and the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland on 13 June.

He also missed the recently concluded National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar.

However, the 25-year-old Indian, top ranked in the javelin throw by World Athletics, is expected to participate at the Lausanne Diamond League in Switzerland on 30 June.

The Ostrava Golden Spike is a World Athletics Continental Tour Gold meet and the organisers had earlier announced Neeraj Chopra's participation in this year's event.

The javelin throw event at the



Ostrava Golden Spike however, will feature prominent throwers

including Grenada's reigning world champion Anderson Peters and Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch.

Last year, Neeraj Chopra created history by becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Diamond League finals in Eugene, USA. The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold medalist began his Diamond League title defence with a first-place finish at the Doha Diamond League in May. The Doha meet, though, has been Neeraj Chopra's only competitive outing this year till now.

# "The enemy wants to break our unity": Sakshi Malik shares letter that urges Sports Ministry to postpone trials

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Olympic medalist wrestler Sakshi Malik on Sunday shared a letter written to the Sports Ministry, in which the wrestlers protesting against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Singh, requested that their trials be postponed.

This was posted in reply to former wrestler and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Yogeshwar Dutt who had in a video expressed disappointment at reports that Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) ad hoc committee had decided to exempt protesting wrestlers from the initial trials. The reports claimed that six wrestlers - Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik, Sangeta Phogat, Satyawad Kadian and Jitender Kinha - have not just been



exempted from appearing in the initial trials, but have been promised that they will compete directly against the winners of the trials. The letter shared by Sakshi, written to the Union Sports Ministry, urged the ministry to postpone the trials and take them after August 10 this year.

"We agitating wrestlers had

Yogeshwar took to Twitter and posted a video and had questioned the criteria and parameters on which the protesting grapplers were exempted from the trials.

"I came to know from a newspaper report that the ad hoc committee of IOA has decided to give (the wrestling) protesting against Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh) an exemption from the trials. They will take part in a final trial. I do not know what parameters or criteria were taken into consideration by the committee to let all six wrestlers take a direct final trial," Yogeshwar said in the video.

Also questioning the wrestlers' protest, he said he had doubts if the protest had more to do with exemption from the trials than allegations of sexual harassment against the WFI chief.

The BJP leader said he had information that the wrestlers wrote to the ad hoc committee of the IOA, seeking an exemption from trials.

"Was this protest against sexual harassment or getting an exemption from trials? I also came to know the protesters wrote to the ad hoc committee seeking an exemption from trials," Yogeshwar added.

He reasoned that there are other grapplers, who have a stronger and more claim to exemption from trials, than those who have been away from the mat for more than a year.

"If you want to give such exemptions, give it to Ravi Dhayia, an Olympic gold medalist, or Deepak Punia (secured 4th place in Olympics), Anshu Malik (World Wrestling Championships silver medal-

## Forest Loot Continues Unabated in Nowshera and Boniyar, illegal timber seized

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUN 25: The forest department has completely failed to tackle the cutting of green trees in several areas of North Kashmir and has raised its hand in front of smugglers. In a fresh incident, police have seized 30 logs of green trees from the tin shed at Chahla Mode Boniyar. According to reports, these illegal timber logs belong to BDC Boniyar Bilal Aashiq Mir. In this regard, case number 44/2023 under section 379



IPC of the Forest Act has been registered and legal proceedings were initiated against the accused. On the other hand, people alleged that forest officials are in hand in glove with timber smugglers.

According to the local police, Block Officer Nowshera and Range Officer Boniyar in Uri were already informed about this timber worth lakhs of rupees, but they deliberately did not take any action, after which the local people informed the police and the police immediately moved and raided the place. Meanwhile, people request authority to take strong actions and make top officials of the forest department accountable and answerable.

## Meet Sehar Mir who is breaking taboos around menstruation, mental health among rural women

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE, 25: Andleeb-Firdous, also known as 'ZOOM', is a non-profit youth organization, whose seeds were sown by Sehar Mir in October 2021. Sehar Mir, an 18-year-old from Pampore in Pulwama, started a campaign creating awareness about two taboo subjects, mental health and menstruation. Her resolve had a domino effect and what started out as the brainchild of a single individual grew into a team of 50 like-minded teenagers.



Currently, Sehar and her team carry out awareness drives in government schools and among women in rural areas. The organization works at creating awareness about menstruation and mental health by uplifting important landmarks and their people. The organization's main aim is to teach the values of women's health, menstrual hygiene management and sanitation among rural girls and women. "The majority of rural women of Kashmir still use filthy cloth pieces as absorbent during periods for many reasons. One of the main reasons behind not using any sanitary products during periods is shyness. They feel ashamed of buying sanitary napkins. We started from the birthplace of an important Kashmiri personality, Habba Khatun. In her birthplace, Chandhara, we lead many menstrual health drives to provide accessible menstrual products while educating young girls on menstrual health and hygiene," Sehar said. Over time, Andleeb-Firdous, commonly referred to as ZOOM, has broadened its objectives and presently addresses not only mental health and menstruation but also issues like climate change, economic stability and the power of technology in its awareness drives. The drives are characterized by the distribution of sanitary

pads at the end. ZOOM also addresses a range of mental disorders, menstrual hygiene issues and sexual abuse through its Instagram handle @andleeb.firdous. The volunteers have managed to conduct drives in remote areas such as Pattan Baramulla, Mirgund Baramulla, Chandhara Pampore, Shar Shali Pampore, Laltrag Pampore, Zantrag Pulwama, Haal Pulwama, Aripal Tral and many other backward villages of Kashmir passing their share of knowledge to over 1000+ students and distributing more than 10,000 free sanitary napkins amongst them. They have received appreciation from the authorities for their work and are speedily gaining recognition. In Kashmir, there are very few organizations which are led by students. It's mainly because of the societal pressure of not going in these directions and just focusing on studies. By creating this organization, ZOOM is able to reach out to people and have started to do what they were aspiring to for a very long time. The best part about it was the response they received from the students, which made the team even more motivated. According to a study, 88% of home-meat alternatives like old fabric, whereas 63 million adolescent girls live without toilet facilities. Ignorance, poverty and neglect are the main reasons for inadequate menstrual hygiene. Even in modern times, conversations about topics such as mental and menstrual health are often avoided. More so, in rural areas where even the early waves of modernization are yet to arrive, this has given rise to disastrous, albeit expected, consequences. The unaware masses have strongly stigmatised issues that need to be addressed on a priority basis. ZOOM is planning to take professionals such as psychologists and doctors on board so that not only are the people informed about issues but also diagnosed and cured. While implying that healthy family relations are prime for good mental health of children, ZOOM has also decided to hold counselling sessions with parents so that they understand the need to open up and discuss physical and mental health with children. ZOOM in today's times is emerging as a one of a kind organisation in Kashmir because it is rare in the valley to have a platform created by an 18-year-old girl and run-by like-minded children across different schools and areas of the valley.

## Beyond The White Coat' – authored by a medical student released at SKIE Classes



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUN 25: 'Beyond The White Coat' – the book authored by Umer Ashraf – a determined and passionate individual who is currently pursuing his MBBS at SKIMS Medical College Baramulla was released at SKIE Classes Srinagar today in the presence of students and renowned dignitaries.

Those who were present on the book release include Khawaja Nazir Ahmed Qureshi – Director Land Records, Prof Muhammad Tufail Banday – Dean Veterinary Sciences & Animal and Husbandry SKUAST, Prof Shob Kamil – Dean Library Science, Prof Dr Reyaz Ahmed Malik – HoD Pediatric SKIMS, Dr Roshan Ara-HoD Womens Studies Kashmir University,

Mahroof Ahmed Shah – Deputy Director Sheep and Animal Husbandry, Mehmoood-ur-Rehman – Senior Editor Columnist GK, Asif Iqbal – Chairman Human Peace, Mr Rafi former Deputy Commissioner and Fazil Zahoor. Speaking on the occasion the speakers said that hard work has no substitute and students should not limit themselves to a particular subject. They said there are the number of options for students and they can think beyond medical profession. Director SKIE Classes Mr Saddam said that it is the responsibility of every individual to work for nation-building. "We must contribute towards society. This is the only way we as a community can rise up," he said. Umer Ashraf the author of the book said that his experiences have shaped him into a resilient and empathetic individual. He has learnt the value of hard work, perseverance, and the importance of compassion in the medical field. The book talks about the journey of a medical student.

## Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha took out Bike Rally

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JUNE 25: Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha held Bike rally on amid the celebrations of the 9th year anniversary of the govt in Presence of District President BJYM Rocky Goswami in District Kishtwar, besides social media users are posting their top 9 picks for the achievements of the Modi government in the last nine years. PM Modi today quote tweeted some of the tweets, saying that since morning he has been seeing many tweets on the hashtag #9YearsOfModiGovernment, in which people are high-



lighting what they have appreciated about the government since 2014. It is always humbling to

receive such affection and it also gives me added strength to work even harder for the people," he added. The PM then quoted several tweets from people who have picked the top 9 achievements of the Modi

government. "We have covered much ground in the last 9 years and we want to do even more in the times to come so that we can build a strong and prosperous India in the Amrit Kaal," he said, quoting such a tweet. PM Modi said that his government has been able to deliver because people elected a stable government. "This unparalleled support is a source of great strength," he said. Responding to another tweet, he wrote, "You have highlighted key infrastructure and 'Ease of Living' projects which have been very impactful at the grassroots level."

## Col Mahan inaugurates Chhinh, Pahari Cultural Mela in Bani

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANI, Jun 25: The three-day-long Chhinh and Pahari Cultural Mela was inaugurated by DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh (Retd) at Bani today. The event was attended by a large number of dignitaries, including District Judge Simrit Sharma, DDC Member Reeta Thakur, Mela Ram, Naresh Sharma Tehsilidar Bani, Darshan Singh Naib Tehsilidar Bani, Sarpanch

Bani Rakesh Gupta, and thousands of locals, cultural artists, Patelwans, shopkeepers, etc. Upon his arrival in Bani, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) was accorded a warm welcome by local residents and members of Pahari Cultural Mela and Chhinh Committee Bani. He was presented with a traditional Pagri and proceeded in a procession to the local Goddess Kai Mata Temple to pay obeisance and seek blessings for the peaceful

conduct of the annual historical event. The DDC Chairman visited stalls laid by local shopkeepers and outsiders, met with artists, including those who had come from Himachal and Punjab, and administered an oath on the theme of "Say no to drug, yes to life" to participants. Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) congratulated the participants, organizing committee team, and artists, and appreciated their collective zeal to make this historical event a grand success. He asserted that cultural growth and transformation of culture from one generation to another as a crucial aspect of society's progress. He emphasized the promotion and development projects coming up in the Bani region, including tourist infrastructure and FDI, and emphasized united efforts and partnerships amongst government machinery, public representatives, and the public to achieve sustainable development goals and the gross well-being of society.

## Pahalgam Horse Carriage Operation: Gujjar-Bakerwal community members protest for equal rights

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: The members from Gujjar-Bakerwal community held a protest on Saturday, demanding that the authorities allow them to operate their horse carriages in Pahalgam, just like other communities. Speaking to the reporters here in Srinagar's press enclave, the protesting Gujjar-Bakerwal members of the community said that they had travelled all the way from Pahalgam to register their protest and seek justice for their community. "The economy of Pahalgam heavily relies on tourists, but there is a lack of infrastructure for us to earn a livelihood, and we are here solely to assert our rights. If other communities have 6,000 horse carriages, we believe we should also have a minimum of 3,000," they said. "We have taken loans to purchase the carriages, and now our carriages are not being allowed to operate at the designated stand. Please tell us, what we we supposed to do? We kindly request the administration to grant us our rights," they added.



**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) JAMMU.**  
**CORRIGENDUM**

**Sub- Cancellation of tender**

Due to technical reasons, the work, "Upgradation of Road From T02 Kalakote to Srot, PMGSY III Batch-I of 2022-23, Package No. JK12-3004, Block Kalakote, District Rajouri. Length-22.00 Kms (Using Waste Plastic) Ad. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 3624.56Lacs" tendered in E NIT No :CEJ/PMGSY/ NIT 70 OF 2022-23 DTD :27-10-2022 figuring at serial no. 15 is hereby cancelled .

No.-CEJ/PMGSY/5352-5426  
 Dated:- 22-06-2023  
 DIP/IJ-3867/23

S/-  
**CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) JAMMU**  
 GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
 JAMMU & KASHMIR

G20		NORTHERN RAILWAY		75	
DEN-HQ-FZR		E-Tender Notice		Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav	
DEN-HQ-FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on <a href="http://www Ireps.gov.in">www Ireps.gov.in</a> with closing date: 17.07.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/bid bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on <a href="http://www Ireps.gov.in">www Ireps.gov.in</a> portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to <a href="http://www Ireps.gov.in">www Ireps.gov.in</a>					
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System			
Open	Works	Single Packet System			
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time			
21.06.2023	03.07.2023	17.07.2023/ 15:00 Hrs			
S.No	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	27-2023-24-SDEN-HQ-FZR	Improvement to infrastructure of 14 Nos existing Special class level Crossings in the section of Sr. DEN-HQ-FZR.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		1,76,07,080.05/-	2,38,000/-	60 Days	10 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work"					
30.	32-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Track works in connection with provision of new RGM/TTR sidings at GJUT, GHA & LKW and misc work of existing sidings at GNA & JGN stations in the section of ADEN-1-FZR.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		1,88,22,363.38/-	2,44,100/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work :- "CTR/TRR/TR/FTR/TR including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Ballast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28"					
31.	31-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Replacement of existing early steel girder (Span 1 x 3.20 m) of bridge no. 32 at Km 3275.6 and bridge no.47 at Km 337/6-7 on BT-1-FZR Section & 56A (2X6.86m) at Km 289-10 on LDH-FZR section under ADEN-1-FZR.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		1,49,48,858.41/-	2,24,800/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Construction of any Bridge work"					
4.	32-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Improvement/repair and augmentation of RPF barrack including provision of dining and recreation for RPF staff at Firozpur & Provision of 20 Bedded Female Barrack at Firozpur and 10 Bedded Male Barrack at Kottaspora for RPF with provision of store, kitchen & dining hall, entertainment room, mini GYM, toilets/bathrooms & parking shed for staff in the jurisdiction of SSE-W/FZR under ADEN-1-FZR.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		3,31,07,584.71/-	3,15,500/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Construction of building/quarters."					
5.	95-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Development & maintenance of horticulture work at Firozpur cantt in the section of SSE/W/FZR under ADEN-1-FZR (For Three Years).			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		1,19,61,154.22/-	2,09,800/-	60 Days	36 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Any civil engineering works contract or tree plantation or garden maintenance or horticulture/landscaping work."					
6.	96-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Replacement of R.C.C Tank of 2.25,000litter capacity including pump House and improvement to drainage system in colony no. 1,2,3 & 4 at Firozpur.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		2,06,77,828.84/-	2,53,400/-	60 Days	10 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work."					
7.	97-2023-24-ADEN-2-PTK	Various Track works in o/With E1 work at DHW, GSP, DNN, SRM & JK stations and remodeling of yard at Gurdaspur station in the section of ADEN-1/PTK & ADEN-1/PTK in ASR-PTK section.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		3,76,54,410.90/-	3,38,300/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work :- "CTR/TRR/TR/FTR/TR including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Ballast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28"					
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No: 770-W/169/WA/FZR/2023-24 Date: 23.06.2023					
				1955/2023	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

# Two-Day Cricket event for the visually impaired concludes in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: The J&K Cricket Association for Blind in association with J&K Handicapped Association organized a cricket tournament at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar. The two-day event, sponsored by J&K Sports Council concluded today.

A version of cricket designed for players who are blind or partially sighted and conceived by two blind factory workers in Melbourne as "blind cricket" in 1922 using a tin can filled with rocks. Soon after, in 1922, the Victorian Blind Cricket Association was established, and the first sports facility and clubhouse for blind cricket were constructed in Kooyong, Melbourne,



The tournament played in a format of 15/15 overs was hosted in Bakshi Stadium to filter out the

noise from the city hustle and bustle as the ball used for blind cricket is a special audible plastic ball filled with bells that produce sound once rolled on the ground and players follow the sound whether fielding or hitting the ball with a bat.

In a cricket match played between the team yellow and team blue, the match fell into the kitty of the yellow team, batting first team yellow piled up 202 runs for the loss of five wickets and their opponents collapsed at a score of 96 runs.

In the final match played between team blue and team yellow, batting first team blue scored 162 in their allotted quota of 15 while team yellow managed to score only 124 runs

while chasing. Team Blue emerged victorious by 38 runs. Meanwhile, the series of sports events under special verticals of G-20 and My Youth My Pride was organized in the Bhaderwah zone of district Doda.

The events in the disciplines of Kho Kho and Kabaddi were organized at Boys Higher Secondary School.

More than two hundred students drawn from different schools of the zone segregated into twelve teams of Kabaddi and ten teams of Kho-Kho participated in the event.

The Radiant High School Bhaderwah won the Kho Kho Championship while Sarintalg Higher Secondary School ended up as runner-up in the event.

# Dir Agriculture conducts Public outreach program in Tulail

Says successful implementation of HADP vital for agriculture sector



JI NEWS SERVICE

TULAIL, JUNE 25: In a series of new initiatives taken by Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare Department Kashmir Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal along with his team of officers visited a number of remote villages of Tulail Sub Division Gurez for reaching out to poor farming community and to make them aware about the benefits of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) presently being implemented in the UT of JK.

While addressing the public gathering at various places in these areas, Director Agriculture said the successful and effective HADP in these far flung areas will lead to a developed and prosperous agriculture sector in future.

The agro climatic diversity of these areas makes them special and therefore a unique approach would be adopted to explore these conditions for crop production, he said and added.

Iqbal said that the Department is committed for the welfare of farming community, he asked concerned officers to work with utmost commitment and dedication for the upliftment of the farmers of these far flung areas.

During his visit progressive farmers put forth their demands before the Director Agriculture Kashmir.

# DC inspects preparedness of Amarnath Ji Yatra Lodgement Centre at Chichi Mata Temple Samba



JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA JUNE 25: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma alongwith SSP, Benam Tosh today visited Chichi Mata Temple and reviewed Amarnath Ji Yatra arrangements of Lodgement Centre for pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need to provide the best arrangements for the Yatis. He laid stress on adequate provision of sanitation, power supply, drinking water, security, lodging and other amenities for the yatis (pilgrims).

SSP informed that special checkpoints, conduct round-the-clock patrols, CCTV cameras at langar sites and other vital locations shall be put in place.

# Div Com inspects traffic, progress on National Highway maintenance in Ramban

ALSO REVIEWS SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA ARRANGEMENTS

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 25: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today visited district Ramban to review the arrangements being put in place for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2023 and to inspect progress on national highway four laning works.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mussarat Islam, SSP Mohita Sharma, SSP Traffic National Highway, Rohit Baksotra, ADC Harbans Sharma, PD NHAI Parshotam Kumar besides senior officers of SASB, JPDCIL, Jal Shakti, PWD, NHAI and other concerned officers accompanied the Divisional Commissioner.

During the tour, the Div Com visited Yatri Niwas Chanderkote and inspected the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of Yatra. He also inspected Langer sites along National Highway besides inspected national highway works.

He directed NHAI and construction companies to maintain NH-44 and stationed adequate machinery at all vulnerable places to clear roads without any delay.



He instructed the executing agency and other stakeholders to ensure completion of works by implementing all plans and directions issued from time to time for the smooth conduct of holy Yatra. He also directed officers of NHAI to complete the maintenance work to provide safe passage to commuters. He stressed on expeditious maintenance of highway, Traffic regulation, follow lane enforcement, Surface maintenance.

The Div Com also chaired a meeting and emphasized upon the stakeholders departments to synergize efforts to make adequate arrangements well in advance for smooth conduct of the holy Yatra.

The Div Com instructed the Traffic Department to formulate a traffic plan for smooth flow of traffic on important routes.

He asked the district administration Ramban to ensure the availability of water, power and toilets at each lodgement centres. The Div Com also reviewed in detail about the facilities at Yatri Niwas Chanderkote and issued directions for putting in all necessary arrangements in time.

The Div Com instructed all the concerned departments to expedite the works to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well before commencement of the Yatra.

# Annual Bani Chinj Mela kickstarts with great Pomp & Show

DDC CHAIRPERSON UNVEILS 3 DAY EVENT AMIDST EBULLIENT PARTICIPATION OF LOCALS

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JUNE 25: The 3-day annual Bani Chinj Mela kickstarted with cultural fervor at Bani which witnessed huge participation of locals.

The event was organised by the Sub-Divisional Administration Bani in collaboration with JKAACL and Pahari Cultural Forum Bani.

District Development Council Chairperson Kathua, Col (Retd) Mahan Singh was the Chief Guest.

DDC member Bani, Reeta Thakur and SDM Bani, Satish Sharma were also present.



The Mela was organised with the theme "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life".

On the inaugural day, a colorful Music and Dance programme was organised under the overall guidance

of Secretary JKAACL Bharat Singh.

While speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Mahan Singh said "I was awestruck to see the presentations by every artist

becoming a famous event where wrestlers and Cultural troupes from different parts of the UT and neighbouring states turn up with great enthusiasm. He appreciated troupes of JKAACL for their scintillating cultural performances. He said such events help in preserving local Culture and reforms besides giving good opportunities to the artists to inspire young generations.

The programme started with the vibrant dogri dance "Thanda Pani Pinda ne pahari Lok" by Natya roots Dance group Jammu. Followed the presentations of Subash

Chander and party Kud dance, Yudhishter Gupta and party dogri folk song. The programme was concluded with the awestruck performance of Dogri folk Geetru which is a traditional narrative song-dance form in which the lead singer also performs some dance steps and at times also uses the theatrical devices as well.

Ram Ditta and party through their singing advised the folks of Bani not to indulge in drug abuse and also aware the masses at large about the various other social evils existing in the society due to drug abuse.

# DC Kulgam inspects physical progress of several development projects

KULGAM JUNE 25: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited Laroo area of the district where he took stock of the physical progress made on the construction of residential quarters here.

It was informed that 06 residential quarters for Officers are under execution of JKPC, with an estimated cost of about 14.47 crore rupees.

It was intimated that out of 06 blocks, work on 05 blocks is complete while 45 percent of work stands completed on block 06.

While taking stock of progress made on construction of 2 BHK residential accommodation for PRIs at Kulgam, concerned from R&B informed that that 70 percent work has been completed in these quarters.

It was also shared that the project cost of these PRI residential quarters is 5.25 crore.

The DC directed the concerned executing agency to expedite the construction work so that these are immediately put to use.

PRESERVING KASHMIRI CULTURE & ARTISTRY

# Vitasta Cultural Festival's third and final edition wraps up, celebrating India's diverse cultural expressions

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: The third and final edition of the esteemed 'Vitasta Cultural Festival' concluded successfully, on Sunday, in the Valley, celebrating culture and various art forms unique to the region of Jammu and Kashmir, and bringing together diverse cultural expressions from various regions of the country.

The grand event concluded on Sunday evening, with a series of cultural programmes, including singing, dancing, and various forms of folk art, which took place at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), located on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar.

The Governors of Punjab and Tamil Nadu, Shri Banwarilal Purohit and R. N. Ravi were present as chief guests at the closing ceremony.

On Sunday, the concluding event show-

CLOSING CEREMONY SEES PRESENCE OF GOVERNORS OF PUNJAB AND TAMIL NADU

cased a remarkable variety of captivating cultural programmes, featuring one standing performance by Saurabh Jadu & Group. Their enchanting singing mesmerised the audience and left a profound impression. Adding to these mesmerising programmes, the audience was enthralled by a special presentation of Tigulbandi, which beautifully merged Kashmiri instruments like santoor, rabab, and guitar in a harmonious fusion. Moreover, the programme was graced by the captivating qawwali performance of Ustad Shafi Sopori, who is renowned for his exceptional musical prowess. Additionally, the Bollywood orchestra delivered a captivating rendition of songs filmed in the scenic locales of Kashmir, further enhancing the overall experience.

On this occasion, Shri Banwarilal Purohit, Governor of Punjab and Chairman of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala,

expressed immense pride in being a part of the ongoing celebration of this festival. Highlighting the significance of this glorious occasion, where diverse cultures from across the country converge in the heavenly land of Kashmir, he said that the festival 'Vitasta' serves as a unifying thread, weaving diverse cultural blooms into a splendid garland. Mr. Purohit extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, for organising this grand and folk culture-centric event. Additionally, he lauded the dedicated efforts of Furkan Khan, the diligent director of the North Zone Cultural Centre, for orchestrating this marvellous occasion.

Shri Purohit said, "As the Chairman of the North Zone Cultural Centre, I take immense pride in the trust placed upon us to host this remarkable event. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Director of the

Centre, Furkan Khan, and his dedicated team for the resounding success of this event. I am grateful to the Government of India, particularly the Union Ministry of Culture and its officials, for providing us with this valuable opportunity. Additionally, as the Chairman of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, I wholeheartedly express my gratitude to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the local administration for their unwavering cooperation in organising this grand cultural extravaganza."

During the event, Governor of Tamil Nadu, RN Ravi, expressed his thoughts on the significance of Vitasta as a remarkable initiative towards the vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Great India). He conveyed his immense delight at having attended the inaugural edition of this event when it was held in Tamil Nadu, and he expressed his joy

at being present once again for its conclusion in the enchanting city of Srinagar.

He emphasised the profound spiritual significance of Kashmir, stating that it holds a prominent place as a centre of spirituality. He cited the transformative power of the region, exemplified by historical figures such as Milander, who, even as an invader, underwent a spiritual transformation and became known as Milind. Governor RN Ravi expressed his belief in the emergence of a new India, where the rich cultural heritage of the nation plays a pivotal role. He enthusiastically announced his commitment to invite artists from Jammu and Kashmir to participate in future cultural festivals held in Tamil Nadu, fostering cultural exchange and collaboration between the two regions. The event commenced with a warm welcome extended to the esteemed guests, accompanied by the melodious strains of the Wunwan song, a traditional Kashmiri composition.