

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical centre.

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Increased and continuous abdominal pain
- Disorientation
- Persistent vomiting
- A drop in body temperature
- Disorientation
- Stomach pain, pain in joints, or pain in chest
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical centre IMMEDIATELY

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## New criminal laws come into effect across India

### 3 new criminal laws not passed in haste: Shah

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday rejected the Opposition's claim that the three new criminal laws were passed in haste and said it was unfortunate that the Opposition was giving a political colour to the issue despite the fact that elaborate discussions were held on the new legal provisions.

Addressing a press conference here, Shah hailed the three Criminal Laws and said that in Independent India such a diligent exercise to pass a Bill has never been carried out and I want to tell this "on record".

He said, "In Lok Sabha more than nine hours were given for discussion and 34 members participated in this. While in Rajya Sabha, the discussion was of more than six hours and 40 Members took part".



Rejecting the Opposition claim that the Bill was brought after suspending their members, Shah said, "A false news was also being spread that the Bill was brought after suspending the Opposition members of both Houses. The Bill was already there in the Business Advisory Committee and from 14 December, the Opposition had decided to boycott Parliament. In Both the Houses, the Opposition through their deeds

forced the Chair to take action against them".

Stating that the Bill was brought after suggestions from various stake holders, the Home Minister said, "In 2020, I had personally written letters to all MPs and sought suggestions, I had also written to all the Chief Ministers, Justices of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of all High Courts. Moreover, the Home Secretary had also written letters to all IPS officers, collectors

and sought suggestions and after that I personally went through all of them several times and then this Bill was drafted."

He said before Parliament passed the Bill, it was sent to the Home Ministry Committee. There was a detailed discussion on the Bill and all Members of political parties participated in it and gave their suggestions. Except for some political suggestions, all suggestions were incorporated with 93 changes and the Bill was passed by the Cabinet and then tabled in Parliament, he said.

Urging the Opposition to not politicise the issue, the Home Minister said, "There are several issues for politics, and the Government is ready to respond to them but these laws are for 140 crore people of the country and it is an exercise to deliver law and respect to the people as per Constitution".

### Three new criminal laws have broken centuries old shackles of colonial legacy: LG Manoj Sinha

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that the implementation of three new criminal laws in the UT have broken the centuries old shackles of colonial legacy while as these laws will help ensure zero tolerance against terrorism and also play a great role in rooting out the menace as well.

Speaking at the Police Headquarters Srinagar on the occasion of Implementation of Three new Criminal Laws Ceremony, the LG as per news agency said these laws will help to meet the future challenges effectively. "Laws made by the British were confined to punishment only while these new laws are about ensuring justice and protection to the victims," he said.

He said that these laws will also help effectively achieve the goal of zero-tolerance and give the process of rooting out terror-



ism a new impetus. "Any move to disrupt peace will be considered as terrorism. Promoting separatism and its activities through electronic challenges and gadgets will be considered as an anti-national act (desh-droh)," he said. The LG said that now there will be evidence based speedy trial and conviction rate will also go up.

Later, the LG wrote on X, formerly known as twitter that, "Three New Criminal Laws came into force today. Glad to join

Hon'ble Chief Justice, J&K and Ladakh High Court Justice N. Kotiswar Singh Ji, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Ji, DGP, R.R. Swain Ji & officers from all districts for the implementation ceremony at PHQ Srinagar."

He further wrote, "Commencement of 3 new laws-Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita & Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam-breaks the centuries-old shackles of colonial legacy. These new laws will ensure justice & equality for all,

moving away from the repressive colonial framework." Pertinently, all these three laws came into force in J&K UT from today (July 1, 2024).

The LG also stated that, "These laws, based on individual freedom and human rights, reflect a major shift towards a more humane and just system. The reforms, rooted in the principles of liberty and fraternity, are a testament to our commitment to protect the vulnerable and ensure justice for all."

## 45000 people lost lives in 30 years of strife in J&K; 23000 terrorists killed too: DGP RR Swain

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

Stating that the three new criminal laws that came into force in J&K, Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain Monday said that 45000 people lost lives in the 30 years of conflict in the UT while as 23000 terrorists were also killed till date. He was quick to add

that 6000 police and other security forces personnel were killed in line of duty and 12000 civilians were killed by terrorists alone including those dubbed as informers.

Speaking to reporters on the side-lines of the Implementation Ceremony of Three New Criminal Laws in J&K at Police Headquarters Srinagar,

DGP Swain, as per news agency, said that the three new criminal laws are balanced. "These laws allow us to implement the rule of law in a much better way while keeping intact the public security, national security and national integrity," he said.

While terming three new criminal laws as a major boost to implement



rule of law, DGP Swain said that the last 30 years of "strife of conflict" claimed 45000 lives. "There were 6000 policemen and other security forces personnel who were killed in line of duty as well. Some 12000 people including those killed in mass murders, women and the civilians were killed by terrorists alone,"

the DGP said as per KNO, adding that there is no dilution as "we have authentic evidence to prove this."

He said some journalists were also killed as well. "There were murders in the enemy ranks also," he said. The DGP said that now that the three new criminal laws have been implemented in J&K, there will be proper evidence

without any fear and normal rule of law will be implemented. "Rule of law is fully implemented when there is no fear or a very minimum fear," he said.

To a query whether terrorists are using traditional routes or new routes to infiltrate into J&K, the DGP said that local terrorist recruitment is at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### People asked not to visit forest areas near LoC during night hours in Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE  
MENDHAR/POONCH, JULY 1

People living near the LoC (Line of Control) in the Mendhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district have been asked not to visit forest areas wearing shawls or blankets during night hours to avoid any untoward incident, an official said.

However, they were asked to seek prior permission from the Army or police unit concerned in case of an emergency, an order issued by Mendhar Sub-divisional Magistrate Imran Rashid Kataria said. The order was issued after the Army

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### ECI bans transfer of officials engaged with revision of electoral rolls in J&K

To be applicable in revision period starting from July 25

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has banned transfer of officials engaged in revision of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir during the revision period, which would start on July 25 with publication of draft electoral rolls and culminate on August 20.

In a letter to chief secretaries of Jammu & Kashmir and three

poll-bound states, the commission, as per news agency, has directed that no officials connected with the exercise of revision of electoral rolls like district election officers, deputy district election officers, electoral registration officers and assistant electoral registration officers etc. should be transferred from their places of posting without the prior concurrence of the Election Commission during the special summary revision in the state/union territory.

"It is to clarify that during the current round of revision of electoral rolls such ban on transfer and posting would be effective

from the date of draft publication of electoral roll to the date of final public of electoral roll in your state/UT," the letter states.

According to the communication, the commission has pointed out that transfer of officials engaged in roll-revision work during the period of revision adversely affects the work and quality of the revision work. The commission has said that if it becomes essential to transfer any officer like DEO/EROs etc. a reference, giving full justification, should be made by the state government in consultation with the chief electoral officer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### Modi slams Rahul's remarks on Hindu community

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hit out at Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's remarks over Hindu community, saying "calling the entire Hindu community violent is very serious."

Prime Minister Modi criticised Gandhi by interrupting his speech during discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

Earlier, Gandhi said, "Those who call them-



selves Hindu only talk about violence, hatred, untruth."

After some sharp exchanges between the treasury and Opposition

benches, Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanded an apology from Gandhi.

"The Leader of Opposition

### As assembly poll preparations begin, BJP reactivates local leadership in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

As the authorities started preparations for the assembly polls, the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leadership in Jammu and Kashmir has geared up to strengthen the grassroots.

The leadership in all 10 districts of Jammu region has been told to get reactivated and show their presence on the ground so that better results are ensured in the upcoming Assembly

elections.

According to the news agency, on regular basis, the meetings are being convened to send a clear message to the leaders and workers at the ground level that it is the time to put all the efforts to repeat the performance which the saffron party had done in 2014 assembly elections.

Sources within the party told KNO that it has been conveyed that it is time to get ready for the

assembly elections and there should be no negligence on the part of leaders at the local level.

"All District Development Council members have been tasked to ensure whatever work they have started during their three-and-half-year period should get completed on the ground and people should be made aware about these works," said a source. After these directions, wherever

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### Dr Jitendra describes pensioners as equal stakeholders in nation building

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the special campaign for redressal of the Family Pension Grievances by the Department of Pension and Pensioners welfare (DOPPW) as part of the 100 days action plan of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions at National Media Centre here today.



Describing the Pensioners as equal stakeholders

in the task of nation building, Union Minister of State

(Independent Charge) for Science and Technology,

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that providing them ease for pension disbursement is no charity and senior citizens will play a vital role and contribute positively. Their expertise

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Bahu Fort Development Committee holds protest against Archaeology, Distt Admin Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

The Bahu Fort Development Committee (BFDC), led by President Kr. Rajeev Charak along with Vice Chairman BFDC Advocate Ishant Gupta, has launched a protest against the Archaeology and Museums Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the District Administration of Jammu. The protesters shouted slogans against the Archaeology Department, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jammu, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

During the protest, Charak spoke to the media, expressing their anger over the lack of action against unauthorized construction within the protected Bawe Wali Mata Temple at Bahu Fort. He revealed that

they had informed the Archaeology Department two months ago about the illegal construction of a shed by unknown individuals. Despite multiple complaints, the department has only passed the responsibility to the DC Jammu without taking any concrete action. Charak further added that this type of incident is not happening for the first time. It has now become a habit to damage the protected monument, and every time the archaeology department plays the game of passing responsibility to the district administration and others by writing letters but doing nothing and taking no appropriate action. He said seven years ago, they also informed the department that illegal construction was at its peak, but no action was taken, and the protected monument



was damaged with multiple illegal constructions like langer shed, multiple temples, concrete cement shelter shed, and other cemented constructions. Charak highlighted a letter from the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology, and Museums, dated May 17, 2024, which was sent to the DC Jammu. The letter was about the erection of a shed on the main entry gate of the Bahu Fort within the prohibited area under the J&K Ancient Monument Preservation Act,

1920. The letter emphasized that the Bahu Fort, a protected monument, is being encroached upon without any approval from the competent authority. The letter also referenced the J&K Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 1920, which prohibits new construction within 100 meters of the monument site. Violations of this act can lead to the removal of unauthorized structures and legal action against the offenders.

The letter also referred to the Jammu and Kash-

mir Ancient Monument Preservation Rules, 2012, which require permission from the government for any construction or excavation within a protected area. Despite these regulations, the district administration has not taken any effective measures to stop the illegal construction.

Charak also questioned the role of the police, pointing out that there is a police post within the monument. He raised concerns about how construction materials could be transported and used without the police's knowledge and approval.

The Bahu Fort Development Committee urges the District Administration to take immediate action to halt the illegal construction, investigate the matter, and hold the culprits accountable under the law to protect this historic site.

## DDC Vice-Chairperson Udhampur kick starts work on Gadena to Kutt road

JNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 1

Juhi Manas Pathania, Vice Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur, kick-started work on the Gadena to Kutt road here today. The crucial 11 kilometer road project, funded by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), is estimated to cost nearly Rs 6.70 crore. The new road, being executed by the Department of Public Works (PWD), is set to become a lifeline for approximately two to three thousand residents, addressing longstanding issues of poor road connectivity to the main road.

Over the years the local population has faced multiple challenges due to inadequate road infrastructure, making this development a focal point of community aspirations. The residents expressed their deep



gratitude to Mrs. Pathania for her tireless efforts for including this project in the NABARD-sanctioned road list.

Speaking at the event, Mrs. Pathania highlighted the vital role of roads as indicators of development. "Roads are the arteries of a nation. Their presence is the most visible indicator of our progress and development," she stated. She also reiterated her commitment to initiating work on other important roads, including Banu to Belaspur, Dhar Road to Sortha, Dhar Road to Dingle, Panchayat Ghar Sundla, and Nardi to Khoon.

She assured the public that these projects would

commence in the near future. Addressing additional concerns of the local residents, Mrs. Pathania issued on-the-spot instructions to various officers to resolve issues related to the uninterrupted supply of drinking water, unscheduled power cuts, and blocked irrigation channels. She further called for qualitative and time bound completion of the work.

She also called for full-scale care and sensitivity towards homes and lands of affected people. Her proactive approach aimed at immediate grievance redressal was well-received by the community. Others who attended included Ramesh Chander, ex-Sarpanch, Kuldeep Singh Ex-Sarpanch, Shiv Ram, Ved Sharma, Nimrata Bali, Vikram Singh, Ishar Das, Kulwant Singh, Mohan Lal and a large number of local residents.

## Member NCPDR chairs Grievance Redressal camp on Child Rights Violation at Pattan

JNEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JULY 1

Member, National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR), Dr. Divya Gupta today visited Baramulla and chaired a day long grievance redressal camp/bench on the matters of Child Rights Violation in the district at Government High School Singhpora, Pattan.

During the grievance redressal camp, Dr. Divya was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Syed Qamar Sajad and other district and sectoral officers.

The redressal camp saw a huge participation of the public including parents, guardians, children, and concerned individuals from across the district



who voiced their concerns related to child rights violations, education, healthcare, and other critical issues affecting children to the Member of NCPDR, seeking her intervention for the prompt resolution.

After thoroughly listening to the grievances put forth by the children and the parents, Dr. Divya directed the complaints to the concerned department heads, instructing them to initiate prompt

action for the timely resolution of these issues.

Meanwhile, Dr. Divya emphasized the need for more such initiatives to address child rights issues in the district and highlighted collective efforts from all departments to ensure prompt resolution of any rights abuse issues.

Further, the Member NCPDR encouraged every participant in the camp to make a commitment to plant at least 5 trees in their surroundings to counteract the rising temperatures and contribute towards creating greener and cooler spaces.

Earlier, Dr. Divya inspected various stalls set up by different departments including health, education, ICDS, Social Welfare and others, to acquaint the general public about the beneficiary schemes being implemented by them.

## Baba Chanchal Singh flags of Baba Chitto Yatra at Digiana Ram Dwar

JNEWS SERVICE  
DIGIANA, JULY 1

Baba Chanchal Singh, Vice President of Kissan Morcha, recently gave his endorsement to the Baba Chitto Yatra during a ceremony held at Digiana Ram Dwar. The yatra, led by Shagun Sharma for the past 20 years, journeys to Chitto village, symbolizing a deep-rooted faith in Sanatan Dharma. Singh emphasized the duty to support and propagate Sanatan Dharma whenever opportunities arise, highlighting its significance in fostering spiritual growth and harmony.

During his address, Baba Chanchal Singh spoke passionately about the principles of Sat, Chit, Anand, asserting that they can be attained through the practice and promotion of Sanatan Dharma. His sentiments were echoed by his associates,



Kewal Krishan and Avtar Salathia, who also emphasized the importance of preserving and celebrating the cultural and spiritual heritage embedded in Sanatan Dharma.

The event at Digiana Ram Dwar witnessed a gathering of devotees and community members who expressed their solidarity and commitment

to upholding the values and traditions of Sanatan Dharma. The endorsement from Baba Chanchal Singh, a respected figure in the agricultural community and beyond, is expected to further galvanize support for the Baba Chitto Yatra and similar initiatives that promote faith and cultural continuity.

## Minor Girl rescued by Childline Doda

JNEWS SERVICE  
DODA, JULY 1

A minor girl who was found begging was rescued by Childline here in the Doda Town.

The rescue operation was initiated after receiving information that the parents had forced the girl into begging, causing her severe depression and prompting thoughts of taking drastic measures to escape her situation.

Upon receiving the report, the Childline Doda team, under the supervision of the District Social Welfare Officer, rescued the girl averting any potential mishap. The swift response ensured the girl's safety and prevented any further harm.

Following the rescue, the team provided counseling to the girl's parents, educating them about the dangers and illegality of forced begging. The parents were sensitized to the impact of their actions on their child's well-being and future.

## Overcoming Challenges: Kishtwar Farmers successfully commission Lift Irrigation on Sigdi-Chatroo River in collaboration with District Admin

JNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JULY 1

This is a success story of how progressive farmers from the Satarwajan, Dadpeth area, in collaboration with the District Administration Kishtwar, overcame the challenge of establishing a lift irrigation system that now supports their horticultural setups and hybrid walnut nurseries.

In a remarkable feat of determination and perseverance, the farmers and orchardists, led by Suneel Singh, a progressive orchardist from Gunderna, Tagood, Tehsil Mughal Maidan approached the District Administration to seek help and to achieve the breakthrough.

They sought technical and financial assistance from Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav to lift water from the Marwah, which flows in between, posed another challenge. The Mawarsudhar River is 500 feet deep, flows rapidly, and carries a high silt load, which could damage the motors required for the lift system.

The solution was in the Sigdi Chatroo River, which is clean and flows slowly, making it suitable for water lifting. Despite the challenges, the farmers and progres-



sive orchardists employed innovative solutions to overcome these hurdles. The farmers approached Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, who provided financial and technical support. The technical resolution involved using 18mm steel wire and 50mm HDPE pipes to cross the rivers, drilling holes, and erecting pillars on both sides.

Despite the odds, the persistent efforts paid off and the set up success-

fully lifted water from the Sigdi Chatroo River. The total project cost was substantial, with a major portion funded by the District Administration Kishtwar under the convergence of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other agricultural schemes, while the remaining contribution was made by the progressive farmers themselves.

The successful endeavor exemplifies the achievements possible

through the convergence of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other agricultural schemes. By proactively engaging with these government initiatives, farmers can significantly benefit.

The results of this achievement are manifold, boasting high-value crops in the area. For example, one of the farmer's nurseries bear 20 varieties of walnut plants, totaling 40,000 plants, along with other fruit nurseries, including pecan nuts, kiwi, and apricot.

The high-value crops now grown in the area have not only boosted yields but also enhanced the farmers' income, improved food security, and stimulated local economy. Additionally, this success has inspired other farmers to adopt similar practices, leading to overall agricultural development and sustainability in the region.

This success story is a testament to the power of determination, hard work, and the collaborative efforts of the administration and farmers in tapping the horticultural potential of the area by utilizing the ongoing HADP and agriculture schemes.

## Echoes of Green Amarnath ji Yatra 2024 (Swachhata) resonate at Pantha Chowk Yatri Niwas, Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Transit Camp at Pantha Chowk Srinagar today welcomed pilgrims with a grand reception, highlighted by a mesmerizing performance and a remarkable display of cleanliness.

The event was graced by the presence of senior Officers from various line departments.

The Housing and Urban Development had enlisted a specialized Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) and cultural team for awareness initiatives. The team, 'Swaaha' IIT Indore Startup, in collaboration with the artists' group Hanuman Dhvaj Pathk, captivated thousands of pilgrims with a dynamic one-hour performance.

Through the "Swachhata ka Shiv Naad" program, over 50 artists and volunteers utilized drums, cymbals, and tambourines to inspire Amarnath ji yatrists towards a clean pilgrimage experience. The artists performed splendid dances and songs that left the pilgrims enthralled and inspired.

The campaign aimed



to encourage pilgrims to minimize plastic usage and refrain from littering. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation, along with Urban Local Bodies Kashmir (ULB), are delivering satisfactory performance in SANJY-2024.

Sameer Sharma from Swaha shared insights on the extensive cleanliness campaign led by the Housing and Urban Department, Jammu Kashmir, for the Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024. Numerous cleanliness camps have been established along the

yatra route, accompanied by various programs designed to educate pilgrims on the importance of cleanliness.

The Nukkad Natak performances generated tremendous enthusiasm among the pilgrims, who wholeheartedly pledged to maintain cleanliness along the yatra path and boycott plastic usage. These engaging street plays will continue to be showcased in various ULBs along the entire yatra route throughout the pilgrimage period.

## Director JKEDI awards certificates to Tejaswini Scheme beneficiaries

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Director Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Rajinder Kumar Sharma on Monday awarded training certificates among 22 aspirants trained under Tejaswini scheme of Mission Youth at district centre Ramban. He also reviewed the functioning of the Centre and status of registrations under J&K Startup Policy and recovery of loans in the district. Interacting with the trainees, the Director JKEDI assured them of all possible support for establishing their business ventures. He applauded the determination of the aspiring women entrepreneurs for attending the training despite the difficult terrain of the region.



The Director also discussed the relevance of the training programme to the respective business ventures and sought suggestions from the trainees for any improvement or modifications needed in the current work schedule of Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDPs). The Director also reviewed the registrations, Entrepreneurship Awareness Programs (EAPs), and Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDPs) conducted in the year 2024, formulation of Detailed Project Report

reports to help them establish business ventures. By providing a supportive environment and necessary resources, JKEDI is empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to turn their ideas into successful business ventures.

(DPR), Recovery status-Chronic as well as Chronic activated and demand notices issued.

District Nodal Officer JKEDI delivered the vote of thanks, while all faculty and non-faculty members were present on the occasion.

The JKEDI has been providing training to the candidates registered under Tejaswini scheme and preparing their detailed project

## DC Shopian reviews performance of self-employment schemes, labour welfare initiatives

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, JULY 1

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today chaired a meeting of Officers of Labour and Employment Department besides other concerned to review progress under various schemes.



During the meeting, the DC took thorough review under various self employment generation schemes, including Mission Youth sponsored schemes of Mumkin, Tejasvani and Spurring Entrepreneurship Schemes, run by the Employment department and reviewed the effectiveness and success of these schemes in generating self employment for the youth.

Various other government initiatives for the welfare of unorganised construction workers of the labour department were also reviewed by the chair.

The DC instructed the concerned to visit self-employment units to check their operability and efficiency of livelihood creation. He also emphasized upon improving the performance by sponsoring more cases.

He asked for removing the bottlenecks in the implementation of schemes in vogue and taking required measures to improve the performance and reach of the schemes to maximum youth by also organising more awareness programmes for registration and conducting job fairs for placements.

## DC Udhampur reviews revision of PDA Master Plan

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 1

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today reviewed the progress on the revision of the master plan for the Patnitoop Development Authority (PDA) and other related issues here at a meeting held in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The DC enquired about the status of the current land use and directed the preparation of a complete analysis report of the same compared to the previous master plan. The DC emphasized the importance of revision of the master plan for the PDA that incorporates all concerns and objections.

The meeting was attended by CEO PDA, Devendra Singh Bhatt; SDM Chenani, Gurdev Kumar; Tehsildar Chenani, Pankaj Kumar; and other concerned officers.

## DLC approves 15 Change of Land Use Cases at Udhampur

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 1

A meeting of the District Level Committee on change of land use was held today under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai here in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

The committee approved 15 applications for change of land use received online from applicants from across the district. The Deputy Commissioner inquired

about the status of NOCs issued to the applicants and the follow-up on applications by the concerned departments.

Necessary directions were issued to the departments to ensure the timely issuance of NOCs after proper verification of documents. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the officers to obtain field certification before processing the applications.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan and other officers attended the meeting.

## District Dev Council Ramban finalizes Rs 60.9 cr Developmental Plan under Capex Budget 2024-25



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, JULY 1

The District Development Council (DDC) met here on Monday under the leadership of Chairperson Dr. Shamshad Shan to discuss and finalize the plan for the District Capex Budget and other developmental schemes for the Financial Year 2024-25.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairperson DDC Rabia Beigh, and other DDC members. Senior officers, including ADDC Roshan Lal, CPO Shakeeb Ahmed, ACD Shrinath Suman, Executive Engineers from PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti Department, JPDCL, CMO, BDOs and other senior officials from relevant departments were also in attendance.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion took place regarding the allocations for different departments. The District Development Council finalized the Developmental Plan according to the guidelines, with a budget ceiling of Rs 60.9 Crores for the Financial Year 2024-25.

The plans regarding all the key sectors and departments including Jal Shakti, Irrigation, PWD (R&B), Education, Health, JPDCL and RDD were discussed in detail.

The Chairperson emphasized that formal approval of the Action Plan will be sought from the Government to ensure the District Development Plan is implemented effectively. She stressed the importance of ensuring comprehensive development in every part of the district.

Highlighting the need for proper monitoring and timely completion of developmental works, the Chairperson directed all departments to ensure that their block and zone-level officers oversee the projects within their respective sectors diligently.

## Kisan Sampark Abhiyan 3.0 launched in Reasi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, JULY 1

Kisan Sampark Abhiyan-3.0, under holistic Agriculture Development Programme, was launched today in different panchayats of 12 blocks of Reasi District.



The Abhiyan was launched today under the instructions and overall guidance of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, who is also Chairman HADP, and under close supervision of Director Agriculture Jammu who is also the Supervisory officer of the programme.



The purpose of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan 3.0 is to create increased awareness regarding the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme and expedite implementation of the projects under HADP for the welfare of the farming community.

The training was conducted today simultaneously at 12 locations of District viz. Dadura, Agharjito, Gran Byotran, Dehote, Bidda, Dangakote, Thub, Chinkah, Chaklas, Baddar, Necho, Chassana in the District.

Training is being imparted to farmers by the resource persons of agriculture and allied Departments through various audio visual aids. The Baseline survey is being conducted by the skill gap study person of the farmers who attended the training programme. Officers and officials of allied departments besides a large number of farmers participated in the training programme.

District Nodal officer HADP, Chief Agriculture

## Project on 'CO2 Capture' by "Design Your Degree" Students of GCW Parade Wins Best Poster Award at Int'l Conference

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 1

A team of "Design Your Degree" program from Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground Jammu, participated in the International Conference on "Monitoring Biodiversity for Action" (ICMBA-2024), has achieved acclaim for their outstanding project on CO2 capture. The seven-member team comprising of Tarunpreet Kour, Sehrih Altaf, Sukriti Khajuria, Tanvi Sharma, Tania, Sneha Manhas, and Dr Gurpreet Kour showcased their innovative approach to CO2 capture, presenting comprehensive research plans that impressed conference attendees and experts alike. The project, jointly mentored by Prof.



Kaurab Singh, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology and Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Assistant Professor of Chemistry secured the prestigious Best Poster Award at the Conference on Monitoring Biodiversity for Action, hosted at Kashmir University from June 25th to 27th, 2024.

Their project not only underscores their dedication to addressing pressing environmental challenges but also highlights the rigorous academic standards upheld at GCW Parade

Ground Jammu. Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Principal of GCW Parade Ground Jammu, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the "Design Your Degree" team for this remarkable achievement. He commended their dili-

gence and innovative spirit, which reflects the college's commitment to nurturing academic excellence and fostering scientific inquiry.

Dr. Alpana Vohra, Dean of the "Design Your Degree" program, expressed her joy and appreciation for the faculty members and students involved in the project. She emphasized that this success is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and collaborative efforts in advancing research and innovation. The recognition garnered by "Design Your Degree" Program of GCW Parade Ground Jammu at an international platform underscores its commitment to empowering students and faculty to make meaningful contributions to environmental sustainability and scientific research.

## Team of ARI & Trainings Deptt conducts Administrative inspection of GMC Baramulla

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, JULY 1

In a significant move towards reinforcing administrative reforms accountability and transparency, the Administrative Reforms, Inspections (ARI), and Trainings Department of Jammu and Kashmir is conducting comprehensive inspection across various departments. Today a team led by Secretary Technical, ARI, Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar visited Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla and conducted its detailed inspection.



This inspection was aimed to gather insights into current operational challenges and the effectiveness of the model proforma devised by the department.

The team inspected various departments, wards, and OPDs and also interacted with Principal GMC Baramulla, Dr. Ruby Rishi, faculty members, HODs, doctors, patients, and other stakeholders.

"Our primary objective is to ensure effective implementation of administrative reforms on various aspects and regulations. By identifying areas for improvement and working collaboratively, and having firsthand knowledge we can enhance efficiency, better time management, and public service delivery," stated Dr. Kabir.

## NCPCR to hold Grievance Redressal Bench/Camp on 3rd July at Bandipora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, JULY 1

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a statutory body under the Government of India, will conduct a Grievance Redressal Bench/Camp in Bandipora on July 3, 2024 to address various issues related to the violation and deprivation of child rights.

The event will take place at NHPC Mantrigram, Bandipora. Registration will start at 9:00 AM, and the Bench/Camp proceedings will start at 10:00 AM.

This Grievance Redressal Bench/Camp is an opportunity for children, parents, guardians, caretakers, and other individuals working for child rights to present their complaints and seek redressal.

The NCPCR team will be available to listen to grievances and take necessary actions to ensure the protection and promotion of child rights.

## Lt General NS Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM takes over as Vice Chief of Army Staff

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani has assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of Army Staff today.

The General Officer was tenanted the appointment of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command based at Lucknow.

The General Officer was commissioned into The Garhwal Rifles in Dec 1985. He has graduated from the prestigious National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy. He is an alumnus of Joint Services Command Staff College, Bracknell (UK), and National Defence College, New Delhi. He holds a Master of Arts Degree from King's College London and an M Phil in Defence Studies from Madras University.

# Bholenath Cricket Club lifts Final of 3rd Ragubir Memorial Cricket Tournament

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

In a thrilling finale, Bholenath Cricket Club emerged victorious in the final match of the 3rd Ragubir Memorial Cricket Tournament, held at Chak Singha Ground in Lower Jandial Panchayat, Mathwar Block. Organized by social activist Pintu Chib, the tournament saw a series of exciting matches that culminated in a spectacular final. Total 32 Teams participated in the tournament organised free of cost for the players. More than 500 players participated in the tournament.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Atul Sudan, Youth Activist, and Ex-Sarpanch, along with Congress Leader Balbir Singh



of Kathar Upper Block Dansal. Ex-Sarpanch Balbir Singh of Upper Jandial, Congress State Secretary Thakur Hoshiar Singh, Babu Khan, and other dignitaries were also present.

The final match was played between Mahadev Cricket Club and Bholenath Cricket Club. Bholenath Cricket Club won the toss and elected to bowl first. Mahadev

Cricket Club, batting first, managed to score 81 runs in 12 overs, losing all their wickets. Mohit of Mahadev Cricket Club made a significant contribution with 25 runs. Deva from Bholenath

Cricket Club showcased exceptional bowling skills, taking 5 wickets for just 5 runs.

In response, Bholenath Cricket Club successfully chased the target in the 10th over, losing just 6 wickets. Kirpal was the top scorer with 26 runs, while Rajinder from Mahadev Cricket Club took 3 wickets. Deva's outstanding performance earned him the title of Man of the Match, while Kannu was judged Man of the Series. Bali was named Best Fielder and Pardeep was recognized as Best Umpire. Th. Balbir Singh urged the youth to stay away from drugs and incorporate sports into their daily routines. He emphasized the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the role of sports in achieving it.

# Central University of Jammu secures 39th Position among Central Universities in IIRF Rankings 2024



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Central University of Jammu (CUJ) has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing the 39th position among central universities in the prestigious Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF)- 2024. This achievement highlights CUJ's commitment to excellence in research, faculty quality, and student outcomes.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central university of

Jammu, expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the entire academic community for their dedication and hard work that led to this outstanding recognition. He emphasized that CUJ's consistent efforts in fostering research excellence and ensuring high-quality education have borne fruit with this ranking.

The Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) assesses universities based on several parameters including teaching, learning, research, out-

reach, and inclusivity. CUJ's significant position in these rankings underscores its growing prominence and impact in the realm of higher education.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain extended his gratitude to all faculty members, researchers, and students for their contributions towards achieving this milestone. He reiterated CUJ's commitment to further enhancing its academic and research endeavors to scale greater heights in the future.

# Sports play key role in overall growth, career advancement: Slathia



JNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, JULY 1

Former minister and Pradesh BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia today said exhorted youth to participate in sports in a big way, saying this does not only help in achieving physical fitness but also opens up vistas of opportunities in career advancement.

Speaking at prize giving ceremony of the finals of District Volleyball Tournament at Mandi Sangwali in Samba, Slathia said in the present day competitive world, the skills and values gained from sports are incredible.

"Let each one of us play our role in promoting sports and help young people in shaping successful, healthy and well rounded life for themselves", he said

while congratulating the winners and runners up teams.

In the finals, Barjani Volleyball Club emerged as winners and Balori Volleyball Club as Runners Up. Slathia complimented both the sides and the other participating teams for putting in their best in excelling in the game. He described win and loss as part of the game, saying the fundamentals of the competition is to aim high for pursuing the goals. He hoped that the excellent performance of the players will inspire the youngsters to take to sports and have the best of it as per their aptitude for the games they like the most.

Slathia said sports play a crucial role in mental health management, help reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. Moreover, sports encourage

a positive attitude, resilience, and mental fortitude, which are vital in navigating life's challenges, he said, adding this forges camaraderie and infuses discipline among the sports persons. Healthy body possesses a healthy mind, he said.

While Slathia was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony, Mohan Lal Sharma, Vijay Singh Ex BDC chairman, Jogeshwar Singh Jamwal Organiser-Sangwali Volleyball Club, Rajeshwar Singh Naresh Singh, Tiku Singh, Bantu Singh, Rickey Sambyal, Joney Sambyal and Vinu Sambyal were among the prominent present on the occasion.

A large number of sports lovers from the adjoining areas witnessed the finals and applauded every move of the players enthusiastically.

# Every new law needs discussion in Parliament before implementation: Tony on 3 Criminal laws



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Suchetgarh, strongly criticized the implementation of three new criminal laws by the BJP government, highlighting serious procedural concerns.

Speaking at the public meeting at Ward No 2, Chatha Bhor here today, the senior Congress leader emphasized that the passage of these laws lacked the necessary parliamentary debate and discussion, which are fundamental to the democratic process. "Every new law requires thorough deliberation in Parliament before implementation. Unfortunately, the BJP government has circumvented this crucial step," he

stated.

Tony described the rushed implementation as "yet another instance of bulldozing existing laws without adequate debate and discussions," criticizing the government's approach amidst the suspension of 146 Members of Parliament from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Tony pointed out, "These far-reaching Bills were hurried through Parliament without proper scrutiny, including during their passage through the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. Stakeholders across the country were not adequately consulted, and dissenting voices, including detailed objections from several MPs including those from the Indian National Congress, were ignored."

# Intellect, perseverance of youth will ensure strong nation, empowered society: Sat

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Sat Sharma, former Cabinet Minister felicitated the meritorious students of class 10th and 12th for their sheer hardwork and resultant excellent performance in the important examinations at Om Palace, Jammu.

The programme was organized by Kushant, Mohit Vaid, and Rajkumar. BJP Jammu District President Parmod Kapahi, Munish Khajuria, HS Mankotia, Atul Bakshi, Keshav Chopra and other prominent were also present on the occasion.

Ishika Salotra, Sahib Simran Koul, Manvi Bargar, Nandni Sharma, Khushi Sharma, Tanvi Salotra, Vivek Kumar Goutam, Khushi Tara, Vashisht Sharma, Janvi Sharma of 12th class were felicitated on the occasion. Mitali Bhardwaj, Prisha Anand, Prisha Jandyal, Sahil Pal, Akshit Parashar, Bhumi Kumari, Anjali Sharma, Ankita Rajput, Gourav Mehra,



and Harshita Dogra of class 10th were felicitated on the occasion.

Emphasizing the importance of consistency and diligence, Sat Sharma asked the meritorious students to keep up with their good work and said that the win and the learning never come without mistakes, and defeat. He asked them to fix a target for themselves and make their vision clear and also stressed that education is meaningless without morality. He asked them to imbibe the paramount principles of nationalism and empathy for others while pursuing their further studies and careers.

Mentioning the "Pariksha Pe Charcha" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sharma said that handling the pressure is the

first step to success and congratulated them again for their competent perseverance. He said that their intellect and perseverance will ensure a strong nation and empowered society.

Sat Sharma also congratulated the parents, and the teachers for the success of these students and said that their performance will inspire others to do better.

Parmod Kapahi said that such events honor and encourage the students for their outstanding academic performance in the examination. He added that everything can be stolen from a person, but not his/her education. He also asked them to increase their hunger for comprehensive knowledge along with academic subjects.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### 45000 people lost...

an all time low. "Our boys aren't becoming part of terrorism. Local recruitment is less than what it was in 2013. But camps are still active across and terror factories are also operating," he said.

The J&K police chief said people are the biggest strength of the police force. "The foreign terrorists who are pushed into this side wanted to communalise the situation in Jammu. In Dhangri they attempted to do so but people of Jammu have understood that it is not Hindu versus Muslims but a terror act," he said. "We are laced with public faith, latest weapons and the full support of Government of India."

### ECI bans transfer...

and through the state CEO for consideration of the Commission. "The transfer of AEROs and below level officers/officials including BLOs can be decided by CEO at his own level," the letter states

### Modi slams Rahul's...

Opposition has categorically said that those who call themselves Hindu talk of violence and do violence. He doesn't know that crores of people proudly call themselves Hindu. Connecting violence with any religion is wrong. He should apologise," he said.

During the speech, Gandhi also raised the issue of Agniveer scheme and said "One Agniveer lost his life in a landmine blast but he is not called a 'martyr'... 'Agniveer' is a use & throw labourer."

Making an intervention on his remarks, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, "Rahul Gandhi should not try to mislead the House by making wrong statements. Finan-

cial assistance of Rs one crore is given to the family of the Agniveer who sacrifices his life while protecting our borders or during war."

### People asked not...

raised concern over some civilians visiting the forest areas or fields wearing shawls or blankets during night hours.

"Whereas, various security agencies often launch search operations in the forest areas along the LoC during odd hours in order to combat anti-national or anti-social activities by miscreants.

"In this context, the general public is hereby informed through the medium of this circular that no person shall visit or roam in the forest areas during late night hours from 9 pm to 4 am wearing shawls or blankets without seeking prior permission from concerned Army or police authorities in order to avoid any mishap/untoward incident," the order reads.

In the past week, three persons found moving suspiciously were detained by the Army from different forward areas in the Mendhar sector. (Agencies)

### As assembly poll...

the BJP has its DDC members and Chairpersons, they have started reviewing the works taken up during their tenure and different departments have been told to provide the status of these works.

"Recently a DDC chairman sought reports of all the works taken up since 2020 and list of completed works. There were directions to install signboards at all works mentioning the name of DDC members. Not only that, even the details of Prime Minister Awas Yojna (PMAY)

cases are being collected so that it can be presented to the people that how many people have been benefited with the scheme launched by the BJP government," said a government official.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders in Jammu have been told to review the performance of the party in assembly segments where they have got fewer votes as compared to Congress candidate during the recently concluded Parliamentary elections.

### Dr Jitendra describes...

and experience will add value as they are at the peak of their career with accumulated knowledge and wisdom which can be utilised for development of Nation, hence it our duty to honour their services, he added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that in the last 10 years PM Narendra Modi has been extremely sensitive and supportive to the initiatives and decisions taken by the department.

The Minister shared that there is a sizable number of citizens above 60 years which cannot be neglected and Pension creates a socio-economic impact, thus empowering them to live with dignity.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the efforts taken by his department said, earlier the divorced daughters were kept away from family pension till they obtained a legal divorce, we have removed this rule. For missing employees, the family had to wait for 7 years which stands removed. Several such bottlenecks have been removed, he said.

The month-long Special Campaign for timely redressal of Family Pension cases, pending on the CPENGRAMS portal will span over 1st July to, 31st July, 2024. 1891

## Director CSIR-IIIM inaugurates CEL sponsored Leather training program

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

A six month training program on design and manufacture of leather goods and garments was inaugurated at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine branch Srinagar. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM, inaugurated the "Employability to Women through Skill Development and Entrepreneur Support in Manufacturing & Designing of Leather Goods and Garments" programme which is supported by Central Electronics Limited (CEL) through its CSR initiative. Under the program, 10 trainees shall be provided training for 6 months with a monthly stipend of Rs 5000. The training will be imparted at the leather training centre of CSIR-IIIM, Srinagar which is equipped with high-end



machinery and facilities required for the course. The programme includes comprehensive theory and practical classes for manufacturing leather goods and garments like pouches, jackets, sling bags etc. While speaking on the occasion, Director CSIR-IIIM said that the leather training programme is a part of CSIR-IIIM's initiative in the area of Leather technology which would be pivotal to support the local economy and gener-

ate livelihoods for many others. He hoped that the trainees would setup innovative startups and impart their learnings to others after the completion of the program. He further added that the institute has also established an Atal Incubation Centre which is focused in the areas like leather training, medicinal mushroom cultivation, value addition of essential oils, fermentation-based products etc., keeping in view the richness of natural resources

and available expertise, so as to provide ideal incubation support to the local budding innovators. Dr. Zabeer also expressed his gratitude to Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Director General CSIR and Secretary DSIR and Chetan Prakash Jain, CMD Central Electronics Limited (CEL) for supporting this important initiative for the unemployed women of Kashmir.

Dr. Syed Muzamil Ahmad, Principal Scientist & Deputy Head, CSIR-IIIM (Br.) Srinagar, informed that further training programs of two months duration will be conducted subsequently. He thanked Director CSIR-IIIM for his constant endeavour to impart employable skills to the local people of J&K and become self-sufficient. The technical support for the programme would be provided by Syed Abdul Basit Andrabi, Coordinator AIC-IIIM.

## Public Darbar is welcome; Hold such hearing for Displaced community also: GLR

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Former MLC & JK UT spokesperson of BJP Girdhari Lal Raina has welcomed issuance of new roster for Administrative Secretaries to conduct public darbars in various districts during the month of July. Fresh roster has been notified, as is reported, in supersession of Government Order No 1144-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated June 5, 2024 and Government Order No 1282-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated June 26, 2024.

Government notification has provided a schedule of Administrative Secretaries of various departments detailing date and place where they will be holding the public darbar. "The Deputy Commissioners shall be responsible for organizing these darbars and shall ensure their



wide publicity in districts, well in advance," GAD order read.

This is a welcome move towards a responsive administration, he said. Ex MLC added that this step will surely act as a much needed Communication Bridge between the people and adminis-

tration. Common people can bring to the notice of administrative heads problems faced by them. He however stressed for increased frequency of such Public Darbars as every district has a large area and huge population which cannot be heard in a day at one place. More

robustness is needed in this regard, GL Raina added. Former MLC also demanded holding of such a Public Darbar in "migrant camps" for the Displaced Community as they suffer from double whammy of belonging to no district as such. They are living in territorial limits of one district in Kashmir valley, GL Raina pointed out. In such a situation one separate Darbar by any Administrative Secretary would help them raise issues of their concern in an inclusive manner, he added.

Expressing hope that LG administration will realise the necessity of such a move, GL Raina optimistically wished such a move a huge success and help accomplish the desired result.

## Govt miserably failed to protect rights of weaker sections: Lochan

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAMNAGAR JULY 1

The present government has completely failed to protect the rights of people as well as weaker sections of the society in the J&K. This was stated by Vijay Lochan, Chairman JKNC SC Cell, Jammu, while addressing a day long convention of Udhampur Rural at Ramnagar. The convention was held under the Chairmanship of Ramparshotam Sharma, District President Udhampur Rural, who organized today's convention, apprised senior party functionaries of the problems faced by people of remote areas which include non-availability of basic amenities, unemployment, irregular power and water supply, local health centers and deplorable conditions of roads.

Addressing workers convention, Vijay Lochan said that the entire regions is facing great challenges due to misgovernance and anti people policies of the present administration. He expressed great disappointment against the J&K administration for its negative attitude towards the people and alleged that the present administration is not showing the least concern to address the pressing burning issues of this section of the society.

He observed that the poverty rate is increasing day by day in the J&K. He said that justice has denied to Dalits in the state. The poor and Dalit people have been crunched socially and economically under the BJP regime due to which the future of Dalits and other backward communities are dark in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

He stressed upon the need for stepping up efforts to ensure eco-



nomical empowerment, besides emancipation of the weaker sections so that they can play their useful role in the society.

Lochan asserted that the National Conference has always remained committed to protect the rights of SC/ ST and weaker sections of the society in the

past and shall continue to do the same in future too. He asked the party workers to gear up for the upcoming Assembly elections as these could be announced any time now. He urged the party cadre to conduct an outreach programmes in their respective areas and make

them aware about how BJP has cheated them on the promises made by it in 2014 before going to elections. He asked them to reiterate to the community people the commitment of National Conference to protect the rights of the people.

Ch. Mohd Shafi Advocate and Rajesh Gupta Advocate said that BJP's hollow slogans and promises made to people of weaker sections of the society have not been fulfilled as the Saffron Party continues to remain busy in other Self centric issues. They asked party cadre to work relentlessly as party's foot soldiers in their respective areas to strengthen National Conference at all levels. They also urged the government to strengthen the security scenario in view of recent terror attack in hilly are of Udhampur district.

Rakesh Singh Raka

Central Zone President and Eng. Vijay Kumar, NC leader, in his address, said that the tall claims made by the government with regard to unprecedented development in Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A has proved to be hoax but the reality is that the situation has gone from bad to worst. They said general public is suffering on account of wrong policies of the government.

Vijay Laxmi Datta Senior leader NC said that no justice has been done by the present administration to empower the women folk.

Among those who were present include:- Prem Nath Kissan District President, Mushtaq Malik District President OBC Cell, B.D Sharista women wing district president, Yashpal Singh Block President, Akash Kumar District President Udhampur Rural YNC, Rama Gupta and others.

## PTTI Vijaypur organizes Awareness Campaign on eve of implementation of Three New Criminal Laws

J I NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYPUR JULY 1

On the occasion of the day of "Implementation of three New Criminal Laws" in the country, Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized a general awareness programme at the Institute by inviting guests including locals/respectables/youth of the area and trainees in order to aware them about these laws. The programme was organized on the directions of J&K Police Headquarters with an objective to apprise the general public about the key features and advantages of new Criminal Laws recently promulgated by the Central Govt. The programme was presided over by Shri Zia-ul-Haq, DySP PTTI Vijaypur who in his address, told that motive behind organizing such programme is to spread awareness among the gen-

eral public regarding the implementation of all the three new Criminal Laws viz., Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam. After short briefing by the officer on the subject, Inspr. Ram Lal and Inspr. Surrinder Singh of PTTI Vijaypur speaks on the occasion and delivered an impressive lectures to the guests/trainees focusing on understanding the New Criminal Laws. The programme ended in a very cordial atmosphere and the presiding officer thanked all the visiting guests for sparing their time for attending the programme at the Institute.

Among others, Inspr. Kulbir Singh, Inspr. Bhopinder Singh, Inspr. Mulk Raj, Inspr. Himanshu Dutt (CTI), SI Sulinder Singh (SM Outdoor), SI Shakeel Singh (Lines Officer) were present on the occasion.

## Movement Kalki protests against Vandalism in Temples, atrocities on Cows



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Today members of Movement Kalki held a massive protest near the Maharaja Hari Singh Statue against the vandalism in temples and atrocities on cows. During the protest, members expressed their deep outrage over these incidents and demanded strict laws from the government.

Protesters stated, "Just as stringent actions are taken against drug traffickers, with their properties being seized and them being arrested,

there should be severe provisions against those who commit atrocities on cows." They also mentioned that current laws do not have sufficient penalties for such crimes, which fail to deter the offenders.

Movement Kalki members raised strong slogans demanding the death penalty for those who harm cows. They emphasized the need for a special law to protect cows, which would effectively prevent such crimes. They urged the government to take this issue seriously and enact strict laws as soon

as possible. Additionally, members highlighted the recent implementation of three new criminal laws and questioned why a specific law for the protection of cows has not been made. They asked the government, "Why is there such a delay in enacting laws for the protection of cows?"

Prominent members participating in the protest included Thakur Arjun Singh, Sunny Kant Chib, Pritam Sharma, Sanjeev Dubey, Ashutosh Rajkumar, Ajay Singh Saini, Satpal Hindu, Ravinder

Khajuria, Amitacharya, Neetu Singh, and Rama Krishna Sharma (Ghagwal), among others.

During the protest, many local citizens and religious organizations also supported Movement Kalki. This event helped spread awareness throughout the region and unite people on this issue. Movement Kalki's mission extends beyond this protest. They are committed to continuing their struggle in the coming days. They said, "We will not rest until a special law is enacted for the protection of cows."

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & PRODUCTION & FARMER'S WELFARE, JAMMU

Sub: Selection list of candidates for the post of Truck Cleaner in Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, Jammu.

Ref: (i) Administrative Department Letter No. Agri/Cord/06/2024/CC-7390906 dated 24.06.2024

(ii) JKSSB letter No. JKSSB-Scry/4/2024-03 (E-7411217) dated 30.05.2024

#### NOTICE

The following candidates who have been selected by JKSSB for the post of Truck Cleaner in Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, Jammu vide above mentioned reference and as per the instructions issued by Administrative Department vide above mentioned reference, are hereby informed to submit their valid "Mobile Number and E-mail Address" to the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Gole Pully, Talab Tillo, Jammu within a period of 07 days from the date of issuance of this notice for generation of their user ID & Password of Employee Verification System (EVS) Portal.

S. No	Roll No.	Name of Candidate	Father's Name	D.O.B	Selection Category	District Cadre	Address
1.	1010041	Antish Sharma	Rajinder Kumar Sharma	10.06.1994	OM	Jammu	Ward No. 7, Suketar Dansal, Jammu-181221
2.	1010069	Sandeep Kumar	Ram ditla	31.08.1985	SC	Jammu	Kalyanpur Marh, Jammu-181206

Candidate(s) who fail to submit their "Mobile Number and E-mail Address" within the stipulated time of 07 days, it shall be presumed that they are not willing to opt appointment as Truck Cleaner in Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

DIP/J-2146/24  
Date: 1-7-24

AK (Arvind Singh Keen)  
DIRECTOR  
Agriculture Production & F.W  
Jammu  
Dated: 01/07/2024

No: Agri/DAJ/Estt-194/2024-25/ 1396-99

## EDITORIAL

## BJP's strategic response to LS poll outcome

The BJP is embarking on a critical phase of introspection and self-assessment following the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls. Despite securing both parliamentary seats in the Jammu region for the third consecutive time, the party's leadership is troubled by a notable decline in its vote share within traditionally strong Hindu-dominated assembly segments. This introspective mission is aimed at addressing the root causes of the underperformance and implementing corrective measures ahead of the imminent Assembly elections. The BJP's leadership has taken a resolute stance by initiating a comprehensive review of the performance of its members, ranging from booth-level workers to Mandal presidents. This exercise involves meticulous analysis of polling booth data and the submission of detailed reports by leaders at various levels. The intention is clear: accountability and responsibility for poor performance must be established and rectified. The party is particularly alarmed by the sharp drop in its vote share, from 46.2 percent to 24.36 percent, which signals potential vulnerabilities ahead of the Assembly polls. To ensure a thorough and unbiased assessment, the BJP has launched a 'secret survey' to gather honest feedback on the performance of booth-level leaders and Mandal presidents. This initiative aims to provide a clearer picture of the ground realities and help the party implement effective strategies to regain lost ground. A critical observation from the review is the underwhelming performance of senior party leaders, including state office bearers, district presidents, and Mandal presidents. Despite holding significant positions within the party, many failed to secure a respectable lead for BJP candidates in the Lok Sabha elections. This shortfall necessitates an honest evaluation of their roles and responsibilities, sending a strong message that complacency will not be tolerated in the forthcoming Assembly polls. The urban seats of the Jammu district have emerged as a major concern, with a drastic decline in the BJP's vote share attributed to the lackluster approach of senior leaders. Furthermore, the inability to mobilize the ethnic Pahari tribe, despite granting them Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, has been a significant setback. The central leadership has demanded detailed reports from local leaders to understand why Pahari Muslims predominantly voted for opposition parties, despite the BJP's efforts. The Congress has made significant gains in areas previously dominated by the BJP, particularly in the Hindu heartlands. Assembly segments such as Suchetgarh, R S Pura-Jammu South, Bahu, Nagrota, Jammu East, Ramgarh, Samba, Vijaypur, Nowshera, Bhaaderwah, Inderwal, and Kishtwar witnessed either a lead by Congress candidates or a substantial reduction in the BJP's winning margins. The comparative analysis of current results to those of 2019 underscores the decline: Jitendra Singh's vote share dropped from 61.38% to 51.28%, and Jugal Kishore Sharma from 58.02% to 53.46%. These figures highlight the urgent need for introspection and strategic recalibration. The BJP's introspection following the Lok Sabha polls is a vital step towards addressing internal inefficiencies and realigning its strategies ahead of the Assembly elections. The leadership's proactive approach in holding members accountable and seeking honest feedback is commendable. However, the challenge will lie in the party's ability to implement these corrective measures effectively and regain its stronghold in the upcoming elections.

## Venkaiah Garu- life in service of Bharat

Today, India's former Vice President and respected statesman Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Garu turns 75. I wish him a long and healthy life and also extend my greetings to all his well-wishers and supporters. This is an occasion to celebrate a leader whose life journey showcases dedication, adaptability and an unwavering commitment to public service. From his early days in the political arena to his tenure as Vice President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his unique ability to navigate the complexities of Indian politics with ease and humility. His eloquence, wit and steadfast focus on developmental issues have earned him respect across party lines.

Venkaiah Garu and I have been associated with each other for decades. We have worked together and I have also learnt a lot from him. If there is one thing that has remained common in his life, it is the love for people. His brush with activism and politics began in Andhra Pradesh with student politics as a student leader. Considering his talent, oratory and organisational skills, he would have been welcomed in any political party but he preferred to work with the Sangh Parivar because he was inspired by the vision of Nation First. He was associated with the RSS, ABVP and then strengthened the Jana Sangh and the BJP.

When the Emergency was imposed almost 50

years ago, young Venkaiah Garu immersed himself in the anti-Emergency movement. He was imprisoned and that too for inviting Loknayak JP to Andhra Pradesh. This commitment to democracy would be seen time and again in his political career. In the mid-1980s, when the great NTR's Government was unceremoniously dismissed by the Congress, he was again at the forefront of the movement to protect democratic principles.

Venkaiah Garu has always been comfortable swimming even against the most formidable tides. In 1978, Andhra Pradesh voted for the Congress but he beat the trend and was elected as a young MLA. Five years later, when the NTR Tsunami swept the state, he got elected as a BJP MLA, thus paving the way for the BJP's growth across the state.

All those who have heard Venkaiah Garu speak will vouch for his oratory skills. He is certainly a wordsmith but he is as much a work-smith. Since his days as a young MLA, he began to be respected for the rigour he put in to legislative affairs and speaking for people of his constituency. No less than a stalwart like NTR noted his talent and even wanted him to join his Party but Venkaiah Garu refused to deviate from his core ideology. He went on to play a big role in strengthening the BJP in Andhra Pradesh, going across the villages and connecting with people



from all walks of life. He led the Party on the floor of the Assembly and even became the AP BJP President.

It was in the 1990s that the BJP central leadership took note of Venkaiah Garu's efforts and thus in 1993 began his stint in national politics when he was appointed the Party's All India General Secretary. It was truly a remarkable moment for a man, who as a teenager would go around announcing the visits of Atal Ji and Advani Ji, to be working directly with them. As the General Secretary, he was focused on how to bring our Party to power and ensure that the nation get their first ever BJP Prime Minister. After the move to Delhi, there was no looking back and he rose to become the National President of the Party.

In 2000, when Atal Ji was keen to induct Venkaiah Garu in the government as a Minister, Venkaiah Garu instantly conveyed his preference for the Rural Development Ministry. This left everyone includ-

ing Atal Ji puzzled. After all, here was a leader who was being asked which portfolio he wants and his first choice was Rural Development. But, Venkaiah Garu was clear- he was a Kisan Putra, he had spent his early days in the villages and thus, if there was one area he wished to work, it was rural development. As Minister, he was closely associated with the conception and rolling out of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.' Years later, when the NDA Government of 2014 assumed office, he handled the crucial portfolios of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. It was during his tenure that we launched the important Swachh Bharat Mission and important urban development related schemes. Perhaps, he is one of the only leaders to have worked for both rural and urban development for such an extensive period.

When I came to Delhi in 2014, I was an outsider to the national capital, having worked in Gujarat for the

previous decade and a half. In such times, Venkaiah Garu's insights were very handy. He was an effective Parliamentary Affairs Minister - he knew the essence of bipartisanship but at the same time he drew a line when it came to Parliamentary norms and rules.

In 2017, our Alliance nominated him as our Vice-Presidential candidate. We faced a dilemma - we thought about how the big shoes of Venkaiah Garu would be impossible to fill, but at the same time, we also knew there was no better candidate for the Vice Presidency than him. I can never forget one of the speeches he gave when he resigned as Minister and MP. He could not control his tears when he recalled his association with the Party and efforts to build it. It gave a glimpse of his deep-rooted commitment and passion. Upon becoming the Vice President, he undertook various steps that also enhanced the dignity of the office. He was an outstanding Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, ensuring that young MPs, women MPs and first time MPs get the opportunity to speak. He put great emphasis on attendance, making the Committees more effective and also raising the level of debate in the House.

When the decision to remove Articles 370 and 35(A) were placed on the floor of the Rajya Sabha, it was Venkaiah Garu who was on the Chair. I am sure it was such an emotional

moment for him- the young boy who was drawn to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream of a united India was on the Chair when this was finally achieved.

Apart from work and politics, Venkaiah Garu is a voracious reader and writer too. For the people in Delhi, he is known as the person who brought the glorious Telugu culture to the city. His Ugadi and Sankranti programmes are clearly among the most cherished gatherings in town. I have always known Venkaiah Garu as someone who loves food and also hosting people. But, off late, his self-control has also been visible to everyone. His commitment to fitness is seen in how he still plays badminton and enjoys his brisk walk.

Even after the Vice Presidency, Venkaiah Garu has led an active public life. On the issues that he is passionate about or on various developments that take place across the nation, he calls me and asks me about it. I met him most recently when our government returned to office for the third term. He was delighted and conveyed his best wishes to me and our team. I wish him once again on this milestone. I hope young Karyakartas, elected representatives and all those who have a passion to serve learn from his life and imbibe those values. It is people like him who make our nation better and more vibrant.

## A reflective moment on India's democratic values and political integrity

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Newly elected members of the Lok Sabha taking oath to adhere to the Constitution of India is a solemn occasion. "I, X, having been elected a member of the House of the People do swear in the name of God (solemnly affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter", is what they have to tell while taking the oath. It is not known what is the role of the presidents of the parties under whose label they enter the precincts of the House. Agreed, these members were either hand-picked by the bosses of their parties, or they themselves could have kept a gun on the forehead of the proprietors of the parties demanding the latter to nominate them as candidates for the Lok Sabha election. While watching some of these newly elected mem-

bers taking the oath of office, one was flabbergasted by the fall in the quality of politics and the standard of our parliamentary system. Previously we had titans as members of political and social life but now, the only titans that we come across are the wristwatches and clocks made by the House of Tatas. The Dravidian politicians from Tamil Nadu were the butt of jokes as they took the oath of office. After taking the customary oath specified in the Third Schedule of the Constitution, the DMK members sang paeans to their Gods in Chennai. All DMK members except T R Balu raised slogans eulogizing the DMK supremo and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, the future chief minister Udhayanidhi (son of Stalin) and late M Karunanidhi (former chief minister and one of the founders of the DMK) seeking their blessings to avert Tamil Nadu!

Sycophancy and servility were at their peak while they were swearing in as members. There has been criticism against

members of the DMK and the AIADMK for their servile nature and lassitude to their leaders which make them laughing stocks.

Most DMK members wore Vibhuti and holy Kumkum on their foreheads. It is not uncommon to see MPs and MLAs belonging to the DMK and the AIADMK doing Danda Namaskar, an obeisance to the presiding deity of the party. Though they do not believe in pilgrimage to temples, politicians have made it a point to fall down on the floor once they come face to face with the party head. But whether the sycophancy they exhibit in public is real or not is a major question. One of the elected MPs from Tamil Nadu who took the oath of office last day was going around astrologers and sorcerers in Kerala to ascertain whether the Karunanidhi clan had performed black magic either on him or his family members. Since his father is a bigwig in the party hierarchy, it was the mother who accompanied the son to liberate him from the evil

spirits. That is the rationalism and atheism practised by the followers of Ramasamy Naicker. While the DMK MPs were happily extolling the K-Clan members, there were reservations in the minds of a section of people about what Thol Thirumavalavan of the VCK, whose antipathy for north Indians is infamous, would do.

He is the one who frequently declares that north Indians are not welcome to stay in Tamil Nadu though he has demanded that Rohingya refugees should be given a place of residence in the State. Thank God Thirumavalavan did not raise the slogan Jai Prabhakaran. Many DMK politicians in Chennai were heard asking why the newly elected MPs did not say Jai to Inbanidhi and Tanmaya (Udhayanidhi's son and daughter).

The most disgusting of the lot was made by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi who shouted "Jai Palestine" while taking oath as a member of the House. This is a cardinal sin capable of throwing shadow over India-Israel

ties. People like Owaisi are a blot on this nation as he had the audacity to describe the infamous criminal Mukhtar Ansari as a Shaheed. Owaisi is a living example that one could not have civility by attending Lincoln's Inn. The day is not far when he or others of his ilk would shout "Jai Pakistan" from the temple of Indian democracy.

Organizations like Hamas have no place in the comity of nations and the civilized world. What happened in October 2023 should be condemned in the strongest of words. India has given enough support to the Palestinians and what it got back was just brickbats. The general public should know the truth. Shouting slogans in support of the party president's wife and children from the Speaker's podium while taking the oath of office is not secularism or pluralism.

(The writer is a special correspondent with National Newspaper; views are personal)

## Older Employees Thrive under Work pressure

SAKSHI SETHI

As per recent research and studies, younger employees are reporting more struggles at work while older ones are doing better. Also, around 85% of the working parents in the creative, marketing and related industries feel pressure to prioritize work over parenting duties while a greater proportion also feels they must sacrifice family life to achieve their career goals. An individual at the workplace often comes across situations where they have too many tasks that need to be completed within a limited timeframe without adequate breaks or rest periods. Moreover, not receiving sufficient recognition or rewards for hard work or perceived unfair treatment or favoritism creates a stressful and demoralizing work environment making it difficult to make

decisions and remember tasks which can lead to anxiety and cause stress due to a variety of psychological, physiological and situational factors. When an individual experiences work pressure, it triggers the body's stress response, known as the fight or flight response which releases stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline, which prepare the body to deal with perceived threats. While this response can be beneficial in short bursts, prolonged activation can have negative effects on both physical and mental health resulting in increased heart rates, headaches and fatigue. Also, constant pressure can impair cognitive functions, making it difficult to concentrate, make decisions and remember tasks, which further increases stress.

There is no denying the fact that work pressure is a natural part of most jobs



and can sometimes act as a motivator (such as when prompting a student to study before an important exam), helping individuals stay focused and productive but when the pressure becomes excessive or prolonged, it leads to stress, strain, nervous tension or anxiety. Maintaining a healthy balance between pressure and stress at the workplace is crucial for both productivity as well as employee well-being. Organizations must work towards setting clear communication and expecta-

tions by ensuring that job roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and communicated; an environment where managers are approachable and available to support their teams are well created and the distribution of the tasks and responsibilities are even to avoid overburdening of any single employee. Introducing wellness programs such as yoga, meditation or fitness classes along with access to counseling and support services for employees dealing with stress, regu-

larly acknowledging and rewarding employees for their hard work and contributions, and promoting teamwork and collaboration to create a supportive and cohesive work environment, creating a feedback loop where employees can voice concerns about their workload and suggest improvements, implementing strict anti-harassment policies and ensure they are enforced are a few strategies that can help organizations create a work environment where pressure serves as a motivator rather than a stressor.

Apart from organizations working towards employee well-being, it becomes crucial for the individual working at any level to maintain a balance between work pressure and family stress as it can be challenging to maintain overall well-being. Prioritizing what is most important both at work and

at home, defining clear boundaries between work and family time focusing on high-priority tasks and letting go of less critical ones, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, engaging in hobbies and activities that are outside of work and staying updated on stress management techniques are a few strategies that can help an individual build resilience and manage work stress more effectively. Remember, when stressed, individuals have a more difficult time creating short-term memories and turning those short-term memories into long-term memories. By understanding the causes of work pressure and implementing effective strategies to manage it, individuals and organizations can reduce stress and create a healthier, more productive work environment.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

## JKP organizes awareness Prog on three new Criminal laws at Bhandarwah

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
BHADERWAH, JULY 1

Jammu and Kashmir Police department organised awareness Programme in the premises of Community hall Bhandarwah on three new criminal laws Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam which will replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. Additional Supdt of Police Vinod Sharma was chief guest where as SDPO Bhandarwah Dr Waseem, Station House Officer Sandeep Parihar, Advocate Mohd Majid Malik and PSI Rahul was resource persons on the occasion where educationist Arif Rana Bhandarwah was stage secretary. Advocate Mohd Majid Malik Panel Lawyer District Legal Services Authority said the new laws will allow any person to file a Zero FIR at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction; it will permit online registration of police complaints and electronic serving of summons. He said that it's a historic Day in the Indian Criminal Justice System as new Criminal Laws came into force today and expressed gratitude to the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah for bringing the much-needed reforms in the Criminal Justice System of the country. Panel Lawyer DLSA said the commencement of 3 new laws- 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita', 'Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita' and 'Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam'- breaks the centuries-old shackles of colonial legacy. Advocate Mohd Majid Malik said new laws make videography of crime scenes mandatory for all heinous crimes. Summonses can be served electronically, expediting the legal processes and said the change was made to ensure "speedy justice and justice to all". Proper implementation of these laws will require training and forensic teams, whose visits have been made mandatory for offences carrying a sentence of seven years or more, he

said. "The new laws will ensure justice and equality for all, moving away from the repressive colonial framework. The reforms, rooted in the principles of liberty and fraternity, are a testament to our commitment to protect the vulnerable and ensure justice for all." Advocate Mohd Majid Malik said. He also informed that new provisions have been made in view of emerging crimes like gang rapes, killing by mobs, false promise of marriage and others. "This will increase the demand for forensic experts across the country, which the NFSU (National Forensic Science University) will cater to, he informed and added that swift Judicial Processes: Strict timelines for delivering trial judgments within 45 days and framing charges within 60 days emphasize timely justice delivery, Adv Majid Malik informed.

## New Criminal Laws to transform Nation's justice system: Kavinder

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister asserted that the implementation of new criminal laws will usher in a transformative era for the nation's justice system. These comprehensive reforms are designed to ensure swifter justice, enhance transparency, and provide greater protection for the rights of citizens. In a statement issued here today, Kavinder stated, "The introduction of these new criminal laws is a historic step towards creating a more robust and efficient legal system in India. These laws are designed to

enhance the effectiveness of our judiciary, protect the rights of individuals, and ensure that justice is delivered in a timely and transparent manner." The three new criminal laws being implemented today included The New Penal Code, The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Act and The Evidence Act (Amendment) Act. The senior BJP leader emphasized that these laws are a testament to the BJP government's commitment to reforming the criminal justice system and providing a safer environment for all citizens. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their visionary leadership and unwavering

dedication to improving the nation's legal infrastructure. "These reforms reflect the government's proactive approach in addressing the challenges faced by our judicial system. They will not only ensure that justice is delivered more efficiently but also instill greater confidence among the public in the rule of law," he added. The former deputy Chief Minister urged all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, legal professionals, and the judiciary, to work collaboratively in implementing these laws effectively. He reiterated the BJP's resolve to continue working towards building a stronger and more just India.

## BFDC protests against Archaeology, Dist Admin, Jammu urges to protect Historical Monument

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

The Bahu Fort Development Committee (BFDC), led by President Kr. Rajeev Charak along with Vice Chairman BFDC Advocate Ishant Gupta, has launched a protest against the Archaeology and Museums Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the District Administration of Jammu. The protestors shouted slogans against the Archaeology Department, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jammu, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

During the protest, Charak spoke to the media, expressing his anger over the lack of action against unauthorized construction within the protected Bawe Wali Mata Temple at Bahu Fort. He revealed that they had informed the Archaeology Department two months ago about the illegal construction of a shed by unknown individuals. Despite multiple



complaints, the department has only passed the responsibility to the DC Jammu without taking any concrete action. Charak further added that this type of incident is not happening for the first time. It has now become a habit to damage the protected monument, and every time the archaeology department plays the game of passing responsibility to the district administration and others by writing letters but doing nothing and taking no appropriate action. He said seven years ago, they also informed the department that illegal construction was at its peak, but

no action was taken, and the protected monument was damaged with multiple illegal constructions like langer shed, multiple temples, concrete cement shelter shed, and other cemented constructions. Charak highlighted a letter from the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology, and Museums, dated May 17, 2024, which was sent to the DC Jammu. The letter was about the erection of a shed on the main entry gate of the Bahu Fort within the prohibited area under the J&K Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 1920. The letter emphasized that the Bahu Fort,

a protected monument, is being encroached upon without any approval from the competent authority. The letter also referenced the J&K Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 1920, which prohibits new construction within 100 meters of the monument site. Violations of this act can lead to the removal of unauthorized structures and legal action against the offenders. The letter also referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Ancient Monument Preservation Rules, 2012, which require permission from the government for any construction or excavation within a protected

area. Despite these regulations, the district administration has not taken any effective measures to stop the illegal construction.

Charak also questioned the role of the police, pointing out that there is a police post within the monument. He raised concerns about how construction materials could be transported and used without the police's knowledge and approval.

The Bahu Fort Development Committee urges the District Administration to take immediate action to halt the illegal construction, investigate the matter, and hold the culprits accountable under the law to protect this historic site. Prominent members present at the protest included Kuldeep Raj Gupta, Harsh Khokhar, Capt Moti Lal, Mukhtiyar Singh, Neel Kanth, Kasturi Lal Sagotra, Dr. Davinder Singh, Vinod Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Gird

hari Lal, Nitesh Thapa, Deepak Kumar, Tanish Mehra Bal Krishan and others.

## Transforming Waste into Wealth for Empowering Food Entrepreneurs: VC SKUAST-Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

A vocational training programme on "Boosting Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Food Sector" commenced today at SKUAST-Jammu which is being organized by Division of Post Harvest Management in collaboration with IDP-NAHEP, SKUAST-Jammu, Chatha w.e.f 01-08, July 2024. Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Prof. Tripathi in his address to august gathering and especially students emphasized that the aim of such training programs is to enhance learning experiences, technical and vocational skills, and improve prospects for entrepreneurship development and innovation through industry and



academia linkages among horticulture, agriculture, and allied sciences students. He stressed the importance of waste utilization, value addition and boosting entrepreneurship in the food sector. Prof. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education, SKUAST-Jammu also highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship in the food sector. At the outset of the programme, Prof. Vikas Tandon, Dean, Fac-

ulty of Horticulture and Forestry welcomed the chief guest and provided a detailed overview about the training programme. Prof. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator, IDP-NAHEP, Prof. Neeraj Gupta, Organizing Secretary and Prof. Monika Sood, Division of PHM were also present on the occasion. Dr Syed Zameer Hussain, Head Division of FST, SKUAST K; Dr. Beena Jad, MD Microbiology, Depart-

ment of Laboratory Medicine, Narayana, Katra and Dr. Rehana Akhtar Bijli, Personnel Officer, Associated Hospitals, Jammu delivered expert lectures during the first day of the training programme. The program proceedings were conducted by Prof. Vivak M Arya, and the formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Monica Reshi, organizing secretary of the training program.

## Historic first FIR under BNS in Jammu District

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1, 2024

In a landmark development, Bishnah Police Station in Jammu District has registered the very first FIR under the recently enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), marking a significant evolution in the region's legal framework.

This pivotal case emerged from a written complaint filed today by Srashat Magotra, S/o Jagan Nath, a resident of Nougarn Bishnah, alleging an assault by Raj Kumar, S/o Gandharwan Singh, accompanied by two unidentified individuals, all hailing from the same locality. Subsequently, a case has been registered under FIR No. 85/24, invoking Sections 109/115/3 BNS and 4/25 A Act, with the investigation being spearheaded by PSI Mohd Zahid.

## IIM Jammu inaugurates Fifth Batch of CBP in Collaboration with DICCI

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, in collaboration with the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICCI), commenced the fifth batch of the Capacity Building Program on Small Business Development Units (SBDUs). The inauguration took place at the Patanjali Classroom, IIM Jammu Jagti Campus on 1st July 2024, heralding a new chapter in entrepreneurial empowerment. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, presided over the event in an online mode. The fourth batch comprised 39 participants from various parts of the country, including individuals from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the notable attendees were Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu; Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Centre for Small Business Development, IIM Jammu; Dr. Sarbjit Singh, Program Director, SBDU, IIM Jammu, Dr. Vivek Sharma,

Chief Innovation Officer (CIO), Centre for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development, IIM Jammu; and Shri Naren Karunakaran, Consultant, Centre for Diversity and Inclusion, IIM Jammu. The ceremony commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the enlightenment and empowerment that the program seeks to instill. Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Centre for Small Business Development, IIM Jammu, in his welcome address, provided an overview of the program, setting the stage for an enriching journey of learning and growth.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, joining online, emphasized the importance of the five-day program. He stated that big business is always talked about in India, but not small business, and this initiative aims to strengthen the small businesses thriving in the country. He mentioned that today, entrepreneurship has taken center stage, with the rise of unicorns and \$1 million startups. He expressed immense joy in seeing many women participating in this program and



stressed the importance of participants aspiring beyond the skies. He noted that IIM Jammu is in the process of opening 22 SBDUs in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. He emphasized the importance of focusing on the program, learning the nuances of developing business plans, and marketing products and businesses through various online avenues such as the GEM Portal, Amazon, and Flipkart registration. He urged Dr. Mahesh Gadekar to facilitate networking with past participants of the SBDU program. With 150 participants already trained in the earlier SBDU programs, along with many other participants in other training programs, IIM Jammu is committed

to fostering entrepreneurship in the country. He stressed the importance of participants asking questions, engaging in fruitful discussions, and making the most of this opportunity. He extended his gratitude to the Ministry of Skill Development, Govt. of India, for this initiative and mentioned that successful startups are key to community, society, and nation-building. He wished all the participants and the program great success. Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, reflected on the institution's journey and the inception of the Capacity Building Program, envisioned by Padmashri Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu in collaboration with the Dalit

Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICCI) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development, Govt. of India. He emphasized the Institute's commitment to fostering innovation and inclusivity while highlighting the necessity of establishing a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. He underscored the importance of creating enterprises that lead to job creation. He noted that entrepreneurship is built on two factors: identification of an opportunity and utilization of that opportunity, leading to the creation of unicorns. He urged participants to make full use of the five-day module, which would sensitize them to different aspects of entrepreneurship and mark the start of a new journey and relationship, thereby contributing to the nation's development. The ceremony also included the Campus Audio Visual of IIM Jammu followed by brief introductions from the participants, offering insights

into their backgrounds and aspirations, further enriching the diverse tapestry of the program. Dr. Sarbjit Singh, Program Director, SBDU, IIM Jammu, proposed the vote of thanks. Candidates from various districts of Jammu and Kashmir, representing the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, also participated in a program organized at IIM Jammu by Invest India to enhance their skills. The program aims to refine their abilities, enabling them to play a crucial role in realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, as envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The event concluded with the rendition of the national anthem, symbolizing unity and collective aspirations. The event was coordinated by the Small Business Development Unit Team, IIM Jammu.

The Capacity Building Program on Small Business Development Units by IIM Jammu sets the stage for transformative growth, empowering aspiring and existing entrepreneurs to realize their dreams and contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of the nation.

## BJP leaders visit Shiv Temple in Darmari, Reasi after the vandalism incident



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, JULY 1

BJP leaders visited Shiv Temple in Darmari, under District Reasi after the vandalism incident

J&K BJP Secretary & District Reasi Prabhari Arvind Gupta, District President Rohit Dubey, District Vice President, and District Bar Association President Advocate Pawan Dev Singh, under the directions of BJP State President Ravinder Raina and State General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, visited Darmari, the place where the act of

vandalism took place by the miscreants.

BJP leaders denounced the attack on the temple, urging the administration to take stringent action against the perpetrators. They met with the local people and discussed the matter with the SIT team to gather information. They appealed to the people of Reasi to remain calm and maintain peace & communal harmony in the area. They also assured the people that all the necessary actions would be taken including the restoration of the temple.





## 15 hospitalized in road accident in Sri Lanka

AGENCIES  
COLOMBO, JULY 1

At least 15 people were hospitalized when two buses transporting passengers collided with each other at Weweldeniya on the Colombo-Kandy main road on Monday morning, the police said.

The Colombo-Kandy main road is one of Sri Lanka's busiest roads and Weweldeniya is about 60 km away from Colombo.

The injured were admitted to two regional hospitals, the police said, adding that there was heavy traffic along the route due to the accident.

Road accidents are common in Sri Lanka. There were 2,557 deaths in 2,200 fatal traffic accidents in Sri Lanka in 2023.

## Mauritanian President Ghazouani wins reelection

AGENCIES  
NOUAKCHOTT, JULY 1

Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani won reelection in the country's June 29 presidential poll, capturing 56.12 percent of the votes, according to provisional results announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).

Biram Dah Abeid, the main opposition candidate, came in second with 22.10 per cent of the votes, and Hamadi Mohamed Abdi, from the Tawassoul party, was third with 12.76 per cent, the CENI announced Sunday night, reported Xinhua news agency.

The CENI said 55.39 per cent of the more than 1.9 million registered voters cast their ballots last Saturday. El Ghazouani was first elected president in 2019.

## Iraqi Shiite militia claims drone attack on Israel

AGENCIES  
BAGHDAD, JULY 1

A Shiite militia group, known as the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, in an online statement on Monday, said that it launched a drone attack in the morning on a "vital site" in Israel's southern port city of Eilat.

The militia claimed the attack was carried out "in solidarity with the people of Gaza," pledging more targeting of "the enemy's strongholds."

The statement did not provide additional details about the targeted site or any casualties, reports Xinhua news agency.

There is no response from the Israeli side on the alleged attack.

Since the outbreak of the Gaza conflict on October 7, 2023, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq has launched multiple attacks on Israeli and US bases in the region, claiming to support the Palestinians in Gaza.

## Mongolian President urges political parties to unite for national interests

AGENCIES  
ULANBAATAR, JULY 1

Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh on Monday urged political parties and a coalition that won seats in parliamentary elections to forget disputes and divisions arising during the elections and to unite and work together for the national interests of the country.

Four parties, the ruling Mongolian People's Party, the Democratic Party, the Hun Party and the Civil Will-Green Party, and a coalition, the National Coalition, consisting of the Mongolian National Democratic Party and the Mongolian Green Party, won seats in the State Great Khural, the country's parliament, reports Xinhua news agency.

Khurelsukh made this call during a meeting with leaders of the parties and the coalition.

"You all should prioritise mutual understanding and look ahead to ensure and protect Mongolia's independence, security and national unity," he said.

Meanwhile, the Mongolian President issued a decree to schedule the first session of the new parliament on Tuesday.

## Singapore police seize 1.28 mn fund for scam

AGENCIES  
SINGAPORE, JULY 1

Singapore police blocked 40 suspicious bank accounts and seized over 1.28 million Singapore dollars (945,000 U.S. dollars) during an operation between June 20 and June 27, according to the latest statement from the police.

Acting on information provided by DBS Bank, the police arrested three suspects for involvement in scam-related activities, reported Xinhua news agency.

Another 37 suspects are assisting investigations for allowing scammers to open bank accounts with their identities.

The investigation is underway.



# North Korea test-launches 2 ballistic missiles, 2 days after end of new US-South Korea-Japan drill

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, JULY 1

North Korea test-fired two ballistic missile Monday, South Korea's military said, a day after the North vowed "offensive and overwhelming" responses to a new US military drill with South Korea and Japan.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were launched 10 minutes apart in a northeastern direction from the town of Jangyon in southeastern North Korea. It said the first missile flew 600 kilometres (370 miles) and the second missile 120 kilometres (75 miles), but didn't say where they landed. North Korea typically test-fires missiles toward its eastern waters, but the second missile's flight distance was too short to reach those waters.

South Korean media said an unidentified South Korean military source reported that it was highly likely the second missile crashed in an inland area of the North. Possible damages on the North's ground weren't immediately reported.

The reports said the first missile landed in the waters off the North's eastern city of Chongjin.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, which did not comment on the media reports, said South Korea maintains a firm readiness to repel any provocations by North Korea in conjunctions with the military alliance with the United States.

The launch came two days after South Korea, the US and Japan ended their new multidomain trilateral drills in the region.



In recent years, the three countries have been expanding their trilateral security partnership to better cope with North Korea's evolving nuclear threats and China's increasing assertiveness in the region.

The "Freedom Edge" drill was meant to increase the sophistication of previous exercises with simultaneous air and naval drills geared toward improving joint ballistic-missile

defence, anti-submarine warfare, surveillance and other skills and capabilities. The three-day drill involved a US aircraft carrier as well as destroyers, fighter jets and helicopters from the three countries.

On Sunday, North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a lengthy statement strongly denouncing the "Freedom Edge" drill, calling the US-South Korea-Japan partnership an Asian version of NATO. It said the

drill openly destroyed the security environment on the Korean Peninsula and contained a US intention to lay siege to China and exert pressure on Russia.

The statement said North Korea will "firmly defend the sovereignty, security and interests of the state and peace in the region through offensive and overwhelming countermeasures." Monday's launch was the North's first weapons firing in five days.

On Wednesday, North Korea launched what it called a multiwarhead missile in the first known launch of a developmental, advanced weapon

meant to defeat US and South Korean missile defences. North Korea said the launch was successful, but South Korea dismissed the North's claim as decep-

tion to cover up a failed launch.

In recent weeks, North Korea has floated numerous trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea in what it has described as a tit-for-tat response to South Korean activists sending political leaflets via their own balloons. Last month, North Korea and Russia also struck a deal vowing mutual defence assistance if either is attacked, a major defence pact that raised worries that it could embolden Kim to launch more provocations at South Korea.

Meanwhile, North Korea opened a key ruling party meeting Friday to determine what it called "important, immediate issues" related to works to further enhance Korean-style socialism.

## Pakistan told to expedite release & repatriation of Indian prisoners

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

India on Monday called for an early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, including fishermen along with their boats, and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody.

As both countries exchanged - through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad - the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that Pakistan has been asked to expedite the release and repatriation of 185 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners who have completed their sentence,

India has shared the names of 366 civilian prisoners and 86 fishermen



in its custody, who are Pakistani or are believed-to-be-Pakistani. Similarly, Pakistan has shared the names of 43 civilian prisoners and 211 fishermen in its custody, who are Indian or are believed-to-be-Indian.

Under the provisions of the bilateral Agreement on Consular Access 2008, such lists are exchanged every year on January 1 and on July 1.

"In addition, Pakistan has been asked to pro-

vided immediate consular access to the 47 civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistan's custody, who are believed-to-be-Indian and have not been provided consular access so far. Pakistan has been requested to ensure the safety, security and welfare of all Indian and believed-to-be-Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen, pending their release and repatriation to India," mentioned a MEA statement.

"India remains committed to addressing, on priority, all humanitarian matters, including those pertaining to prisoners and fishermen in each other's country. In this context, India has urged Pakistan to expedite the nationality verification process of 75 believed-to-be-Pakistani civilian prisoners and fishermen in India's custody, whose repatriation is pending for want of nationality confirmation from Pakistan," it added.

The MEA detailed that, as a result of sustained efforts by the government, as many as 2,639 Indian fishermen and 71 Indian civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014. This includes 478 Indian fishermen and 13 Indian civilian prisoners who have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2023 till date.

## Reeling under severe inflation, Pakistanis slam govt for increasing fuel price

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, JULY 1

The Pakistan government's decision to increase the petrol price by at least Rs 9.56 per litre is being massively criticised by people of the country who are already reeling under severe inflation and questioning the imposed taxes in the fiscal budget.

While the government led by Shehbaz Sharif maintains that the revision has been done in view of increase in the global fuel prices, the move has

angered the masses.

As per the notification issued by the Finance Ministry, the price of High Speed Diesel (HSD) has also gone up by Rs 9.56 per litre.

The new prices after the fresh increase now stand at Rs 265.61 (per litre petrol) and Rs 277.49 (per litre HSD).

"This government is working only to please and satisfy the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and does not bother about the sufferings of the citizens," said a resident of Islam-

abad.

"I am a rider with BIKEA (a local company providing transport services in Pakistan). The increase in fuel prices has hit me severely because we cannot increase the rates of our rides and have to bear the cost of fuel price increase from our own pocket," said another person standing at a fuel station.

"This government cannot feel our pain, it cannot relate to our sufferings, it does not care if we live or die of starvation

and hunger. It just wants to make the IMF happy and make life impossible for its citizens," he added.

The government is already facing serious backlash from the locals who are protesting against high electricity bills and the ongoing load shedding being witnessed across the country.

Strong and angry protests have been witnessed in parts of the country with people slamming the government against increased taxes, high per unit rates on electricity and its direct

impact on prices of items of basic needs, triggering high inflation levels, making it difficult for them to run their households.

Experts fear that the coming days may see more increase in prices of petroleum products if the government decides to increase the levy on petrol and HSD.

"The government is charging Rs 60 per litre petroleum levy on petrol and HSD, whereas they are exempt from general sales tax," says economist

Irshad Ansari.

"In case the government decides to raise the levy on both petrol and HSD by Rs 5 per litre, the prices of petrol and HSD would go up further by Rs 12.54 and Rs 14.84 per litre, respectively," he added.

The Finance Bill 2024 has proposed a maximum petroleum levy limit of Rs 80 per litre, which means that the government will be increasing the levy in the coming days, the direct impact of which would be reflected in the prices of petrol and HSD.

## Japan launches advanced Earth observation satellite on its new flagship H3 rocket

AGENCIES  
TOKYO, JULY 1

Japan deployed an upgraded Earth observation satellite for disaster response and security after it was launched on a new flagship H3 rocket Monday.

The H3 No. 3 rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre on a southwestern Japanese island and released its payload about 16 minutes later as planned, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, said during a livestream.

The Advanced Land Observation Satellite, or ALOS-4, is tasked primarily with Earth observation and data collection for disaster response and mapmaking.

It's also capable of monitoring military activity,



such as missile launches, with an infrared sensor developed by the Defence Ministry.

The rocket appeared to fly as planned, and JAXA is expected to give further details at a news conference later Monday. The launch was initially planned for Sunday but was delayed due to bad weather at the launch site.

The ALOS-4 is a suc-

cessor to the current ALOS-2 and can observe a much wider area. Japan will operate both for the time being. The launch was the third of the H3 system, after the successful one on February 17, and the shocking failed debut flight a year earlier when the rocket had to be destroyed with its payload - a satellite that was supposed to be the ALOS-3.

## Mongolia's election body hands over ID cards to newly elected legislators

AGENCIES  
ULANBAATAR, JULY 1

Mongolia's General Election Commission (GEC) handed over identification cards to newly elected members of parliament at the State House here on Monday.

Voting in Mongolia's parliamentary elections took place on Friday across approximately 2,200 polling stations nationwide. A total of 1,341 candidates from 19 political parties, two coalitions, and 42 independents competed in the elections, reported Xinhua news agency.

The ruling Mongolian People's Party (MPP) secured a narrow majority in parliament, capturing 68 out of 126 seats. Meanwhile, the main opposi-



tion Democratic Party secured 42 seats. The Hun Party, meaning "person" in Mongolian, obtained eight seats. Additionally, the Civil Will-Green Party and the National Coalition, consisting of the Mongolian National Democratic Party and the Mongolian Green Party, each secured four seats.

Voter turnout in the ninth parliamentary elections of the Asian country was estimated to be around 70 per cent, slightly lower than the 73.65 per cent recorded in the previous elections in 2020, according to the GEC.

The first session of the new parliament is expected to convene on Tuesday.

In May 2023, the State Great Khural passed amendments increasing the number of legislators from 76 to 126. The elections were conducted under a mixed electoral system, with 78 legislators elected through majority representation and 48 through proportional representation.

## India's retail market attracts investors, funding for startups rose by 32 pc

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

India's consumption story has been attracting investors. In the first half of 2024, retail startups in the country raised 32 per cent more funds as compared to the same period last year.

Data intelligence firm Tracxn report said that funding for the retail sector has increased by 32 per cent to \$1.63 billion in the first half of 2024, which was \$1.23 billion in the first half of 2023.

The report further states that right of the total funding rounds in the first half of 2024 have raised more than \$100 million.

Flipkart has raised



\$350 million, Apollo 24/7 has raised \$297 million and Meeso has raised \$275 million, which shows investors are very optimistic about the retail sector growth.

India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

In FY 2023-24 GDP growth rate was 8.2 per

cent which is estimated to be 7.2 per cent in the current financial year. Due to the economic growth, consumption in India is also increasing rapidly.

According to a UBS report, consumption in India has almost doubled in the last decade. Last year it was at \$2.1 trillion.

India plans to become the world's third-largest economy by 2026.

Last year, consumption in India grew faster than other major economies of the world such as China, US, and Germany. According to the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, since 2011-12, spending in rural areas has increased by 164 per cent and in urban areas by 146 per cent.

The survey said that in monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) 2022-23, compared to 2011-12, the expenditure in rural areas has increased by 164 per cent to Rs 3,773 and the expenditure in urban areas has increased by 146 per cent to Rs 6,459.

## Groww aims to debunk misinformation to over 1.5 crore customers amid concerns

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

As multiple customers juggled to validate their Groww portfolio on mutual fund transfer agencies CAMS and Kfintech amid concerns, the financial services platform on Monday said some of the customers are not able to see all their investments because there are different registrar and transfer agents (RTAs) for different funds.

To verify all their mutual fund investments, customers should verify their holdings both with CAMS and Kfintech or can either check MF Central (investor services hub) or get a consolidated account statement for both RTAs, the company informed.



Groww came under backlash on social media last month after a customer's relative alleged in a social media post (now deleted) that her sister faced fraud after investing via the financial services platform.

Groww replied, saying the customer never made the said investment and no money was deducted from her bank account.

"The customer was

seeing a different entry which was folio details of another transaction. This folio did not belong to that customer. There was no debit from the customer's account. When the issue was flagged to us, we reconciled the entry, found the issue with the duplicate Order ID handling and revised the customer's folio," the company clarified.

Groww said it does not

create any folio numbers and all folios are created by the fund house/RTAs when an investment is made and the Groww app aggregates this information to show customers their portfolio.

Groww serves more than 1.5 crore customers across the country.

The trading platform said it is not involved in the payment process for investments.

"Money moves directly from our MF customers' bank accounts to the exchange's clearing houses, who then pass it on to the fund house. Since Groww does not hold any money in this entire process, we have nothing to gain from delaying orders," it further clarified.

## ONDC adds 300 sellers, 400 women entrepreneurs to its network

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The government-run Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) on Monday announced empowering 300 sellers and 400 women entrepreneurs, by adding them to its e-commerce network.

The 300 sellers were from six clusters across India, including Lucknow (Chikankari), Moradabad (Brassware), Kanchipuram (Kanchipuram sarees), Varanasi (Benarasi Sarees), Khurja (Pottery), Bargarh (Sambhalpur sarees), and were activated on the digital network with partnership from the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

While most sellers are first-time digital play-



ers, they made a significant milestone in their digitalisation journey. An example is the 9 Kanchipuram sellers, who within 10 months of onboarding, made sales of Rs 21 lakh, from 180+ orders collectively, which was previously 10-12 orders monthly, ONDC said.

"If the majority of participating artisans, women entrepreneurs, and social enterprises are getting into the digital

e-commerce ecosystem for the first time ever, it simply points out the gaps in the existing infrastructure and its opportunities that are accessible to only a few," said T. Koshy, MD & CEO of ONDC.

The Open Network also made concerted efforts to empower women entrepreneurs by onboarding approximately 400 women-led businesses across India. These businesses collectively support live-

lihood opportunities for over 50 lakh women.

These include some home-grown brands like Kudumbashree, Jharcraft, UBUNTU Consortium, SEWA Federation, Mann Deshi Foundation, Tea Trunk, Cinnamon Closet, Tamul, Creyo, Shwet India, Anubhuthi Experiences, Sarmaya, Satmya, Amrutam, and Rangasutra support women artisans.

In addition, individual artisan clusters like the Kanchipuram cluster from Tamil Nadu and the Chikankari Cluster from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, also joined the Network.

Recognising the importance of social enterprises in promoting sustainable development, ONDC Network also onboarded over 30 social organisations in

the last year, including Itokri, Okhai, Rangutra, Gulaab Jaipur, Very Much India, Gaon Se, Kalapuri, and Iraaloom among others.

Further, 50 Geographical Indication (GI) tagged social sector sellers from the GI pavilion at the India International Fair Trade have been integrated into the ONDC Network, further amplifying the reach and impact of these socially conscious businesses.

"The Open Network taps such gaps effectively by creating a level playing field for all sellers, regardless of their size or background. We are driving economic empowerment with equitable distribution of growth opportunities as our anchor," Koshy said.

## Maruti Suzuki India, Tata Motors log sales growth in April-June quarter

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, JULY 1

Maruti Suzuki India sold 179,228 units in June, compared to 159,418 units in the same month last year, it said on Monday.

In the April-June period of the current fiscal (FY25), the company sold 521,868 vehicles, compared to 498,030 in the same period in the last fiscal (FY24).

Total sales in the month of June included domestic sales of 139,918 units, sales to other original equipment manufacturers (OEM) of 8,277 units and exports of 31,033 units, said the company.

Meanwhile, Tata Motors' sales in the

domestic and international market for the first quarter of the current fiscal (FY25) stood at 229,891 vehicles, compared to 226,245 units during Q1 of FY24.

"Tata Motors commercial vehicles domestic sales at 87,615 units in Q1 FY25 were 7 per cent higher than Q1 FY24 sales. Additionally, sales in June were 3 per cent higher compared to May 2024," said Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors Ltd.

The M&HCV segment led the growth with a 10 per cent rise in Q1 FY25 sales volumes versus Q1 FY24.

"While HCV demand held up well, market sen-

timent remained positive in the MCV segment with demand increasing in e-commerce, auto-aggregates and LPG segments," said the company.

"Going forward, the forecast of a healthy monsoon, expectations of policy continuity and continuing thrust on infra-related developmental projects by the government are expected to improve the demand for commercial vehicles," said Wagh.

The demand in staff, intercity, and stage carriage segments should also remain healthy despite the seasonal dip often seen in school transportation in Q2, he added.

## CII, Nasscom join hands to digitally skill 1 lakh non-IT professionals in 2 years

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Nasscom on Monday joined hands to provide digital skills to youth in sectors other than IT, with an aim to reskill and upskill 1 lakh youth in the coming two years.

Seven target sectors have been identified to begin with, including banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, green jobs, hospitality and live sciences, the top industry chambers said in a statement.

"Our partnership will equip non-IT professionals with the skills they need to



succeed in the digital age," said Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

"CII will leverage its over 10,000 direct corporate members and over 3 lakh enterprises from affiliated national and regional sectoral industry associations to facilitate digital re-skilling and up-skilling," Banerjee added.

The initiative will also help build digital fluency

on emerging technologies by providing micro-learning content. Both free and paid competency programmes including foundation and deep skilling courses in emerging technology areas will be implemented.

"For India to continue its global competitive advantage, we must ensure our workforce is equipped with future-

ready skills for the digital era," said Debjani Ghosh, President, Nasscom.

The agreement aims to build a digital learning culture through the mass dissemination of cross-sectoral digital content.

The intervention would equip working professionals from non-IT sectors to be updated with key trends and challenges in the evolving digital ecosystem and help them make their organisations more relevant and productive.

CII recently launched its 12th Centre of Excellence on skills, which will impact 10 million youth over the next five years through the scaling up of its on-ground skill initiatives.

## Our tech, R&D can help India's green supply chain grow multifold: Australian envoy

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The green energy sector in India has taken off well under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and Australian companies, with their top-notch technologies and research and development (R&D) expertise, can seamlessly fit into the Indian green supply chain and help it grow at scale, Australia's High Commissioner to India, Philip Green OAM, said on Monday.

Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the 'India Energy Storage Week (IESW) 2024' event in the national capital, Philip Green said Australian firms are well aware of the Indian opportunity in the



green energy sector and are taking big notice of the overall growth.

"The Indian economy is growing very fast, which means a huge demand for new energy, and a large amount will have to be found from renewable sources," said the Australian envoy.

"We are the producers of some of the most important minerals and metals

for the green energy supply chain. Particularly, Australia is one of the biggest producers of critical minerals on the planet," he told IANS.

The High Commissioner to India also said there is a growing synergy between the two countries, especially in the area of green energy supply chain.

PM Modi has set a target

to install 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Abundant solar energy and local technology are aiding in achieving this target while reducing carbon emissions, according to the government.

Australia and India have joined forces to accelerate the production and deployment of renewable energy technologies that will create new economic opportunities, diversify global clean energy supply chains, and help reduce global emissions.

The focus is on scaling up the manufacturing and deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) technologies, and clean hydrogen technologies, including electrolysers.

## Hiring in India's pharma, IT, FMCG sectors saw growth in June: Report

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Major sectors such as pharma/biotech (6 per cent), AI-ML (20 per cent) and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) (12 per cent) showed positive growth in hiring activity in the month of June, a new report showed on Monday.

According to the Naukri JobSpeak Index, hiring in the pharma/biotech sector showed resilience, with notable growth in cities like Hyderabad (18 per cent), Baroda (27 per cent), and Mumbai (14 per cent).



Hiring was dominated by professionals with over

16 years of experience, contributing to a signifi-

cant 58 per cent increase year-on-year.

"Gujarat, has been a silver lining in an otherwise turbulent market and it's now encouraging to see emerging cities in Rajasthan such as Jodhpur and Udaipur join the fray," said Dr Pawan Goyal, Chief Business Officer of Naukri.com.

In the IT sector, Jaipur (16 per cent), Kochi (6 per cent) and Delhi-NCR (4 per

cent) emerged as bright spots.

Hiring in smaller startups was subdued while unicorns recorded an astonishing 30 per cent growth, according to the report.

Maintaining its momentum, the FMCG sector was buoyed by strong performances in Bengaluru (24 per cent), Delhi (23 per cent), and Mumbai (34 per cent).

While fresher hiring saw a marginal 3 per cent increase, professionals with over 16 years of experience saw a robust 41 per cent growth, the report mentioned.

## Ola Electric posts 107 pc growth in June EV 2-wheeler registrations

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola Electric on Monday announced that it has posted a growth of 107 per cent (Year-on-Year) in June 2024 Electric Vehicle (EV) two-wheeler registrations as compared to the corresponding month in 2023.

According to the government's VAHAN Portal, the company recorded 36,716 registrations during the month. It also recorded a 57 per cent growth in the first quarter (Q1) of FY25 over Q1 FY24 and witnessed over 1.08 lakh registrations in the quarter ended June 2024.

"Our steady market leadership reflects the strength of our expansive S1 portfolio with the product offerings across attractive price points, making EVs accessible to everyone," Anshul Khandelwal, Chief Marketing Officer, Ola Electric, said in a statement.

Ola Electric also surpassed 2 lakh registrations in CY2024, becoming the first EV two-wheeler company to achieve the milestone within the first half of a calendar year.

The company has so far recorded more than 2.28 lakh registrations in 2024.

Ola Electric offers an expansive S1 portfolio with six offerings.

It has recently marked its entry into the mass-market segment with the S1 X portfolio.

Available in three battery configurations - 2 kWh, 3 kWh, and 4 kWh, the scooters are priced at Rs 74,999, Rs 84,999, and Rs 99,999, respectively.

Meanwhile, Ola Electric has received the go-ahead from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its initial public offering (IPO).

Ola Electric's public issue consists of a fresh issue of Rs 5,500 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 9.51 crore equity shares, according to the draft red herring prospectus.

# India overcome resilient South Africa to win one-off Women's Test by 10 wickets

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, JULY 1

India were made to wait a tad longer for the winning moment by centurion Laura Wolvaardt, but they eventually went past the line convincingly by 10 wickets on the fourth and final day of the one-off women's Test against South Africa here on Monday.

India were required to chase a modest 37 after bowling out South Africa for 373 in their second innings and the hosts accomplished the task in 9.2 overs without losing a wicket. India had declared their first innings closed at 603 for six.

The opening duo of Shubha Satheesh (13 not out) and Shafali Verma (24 not out) steered their side home comfortably.

This is India's second 10-wicket triumph in Tests after a scoring a similar win over the Proteas at Paarl in 2002.

After getting bundled out 266 in their first innings, South Africa fought well through hundred-makers Wolvaardt (122, 314b, 16x4) and Sune Luus (109, 203b, 18x4) in the second innings.



However, South Africa could only delay the inevitable.

Resuming at the overnight 232 for two, and trailing India by 105 runs, Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp appeared to be in good touch.

The former brought up her maiden Test century, also becoming the first woman batter to score a Test, ODI and T20I ton in the same year.

However, Kapp was soon trapped leg-before by Deepthi Sharma for 31, while Sneha Rana ousted

Delmi Tucker for a duck as the tourists slipped to 266 for four.

With still work to be done for the South Africans to take the lead, Wolvaardt tried to anchor the innings but was dismissed for 122 when Rajeshwari Gayakwad trapped her in front to reduce the visitors 281 for five.

But the Proteas marched on and went past the 300-run mark, their highest team total in Tests against the Indians.

The previous best was the 266 that made in their

opening innings here.

South Africa needed less than 50 runs to take the lead at this stage. Nadine de Klerk and Sinalo Jafta stuck together until the lunch break and South Africa were 302 for five then.

However, in the post-lunch session, Jafta retired hurt due to cramps, as the visitors sent Anne Dercksen to join De Klerk.

But Dercksen departed for five, falling to Pooja Vastrakar with SA trailing by 27 runs.

Meanwhile, the tour-

ists went past 316 to register their highest score in Test cricket, going past the 315 they made against England at Shenley in 2003.

Although South Africans closed in on a lead they struggled to get the partnerships going.

The next stand was worth 14 runs between De Klerk and Tumi Sekhukhune before the latter was run out for six.

Jafta returned to bat, but she could add just nine more runs and departed for 15 and they went to tea at 336 for eight.

The hosts eventually conceded the lead in the final session.

This was the third instance of India giving away the lead after enforcing a follow-on and the fifth overall.

The partnership between De Klerk and Masabata Klaas produced 23 runs before the latter fell to Shafali, who cleaned her up.

De Klerk, who was dropped on fifty by Renuka Singh and Vastrakar during a mix-up, brought up her half-century soon but Rajeshwari Gayakwad knocked her out for 61.

# Mumbai City FC announce addition of Clifford Rayes Miranda and Denis Kavan to coaching staff

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, JULY 1

Mumbai City FC has announced the appointment of Clifford Rayes Miranda as Assistant Coach and Denis Kavan as Strength & Conditioning Coach. Both will join Head Coach Petr Kratky's staff on a two-year contract.

Clifford is an AFC Pro Licence holder, having previously worked as an assistant coach with FC Goa, Odisha FC, and Mohun Bagan SG. During his tenure, Clifford has achieved significant success, including winning the ISL League Winners' Shield with FC Goa and Mohun Bagan SG. Additionally, he led Odisha FC to victory in the 2023 Super Cup. A former India national team footballer, he has also previously coached the Indian U-23 men's team.

"I am delighted to join Mumbai City FC and Petr Kratky's coaching staff. This is a dynamic set of players and a top-quality team. The club has consistently raised the standards in Indian football, and together, I believe we can achieve great things. I



am excited to contribute to the club's ongoing success and help push the boundaries even further," said Clifford Rayes Miranda to the Mumbai City FC media team.

Meanwhile, Kavan, a fitness coach hailing from the Czech Republic, has previously worked with several clubs across Europe and Asia, including Jablonec (Czech Republic), FC Dinamo & Gaz Metan (Romania), Panevezys (Lithuania), FC Seoul & Hanyang University (South Korea), Pafos

and Karmiotissa (Cyprus), Botev Plovdiv (Bulgaria), and most recently Sepsi OSK (Romania). This upcoming season will mark his foray into Indian football as he looks to help the players at the Club with his expertise.

"I am excited to join the Mumbai City FC family and am confident that we can accomplish great things together. I eagerly anticipate coming to India and beginning this wonderful new chapter with my new team," said Denis Kavan

# Hockey: 'Expect nothing but gold from Sreejesh,' says wife Aneeshya ahead of Paris Olympics

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU, JULY 1

With the Indian team gearing up for the Paris Olympic Games which is 25 days away, excitement is mounting in P.R. Sreejesh's household where his family eagerly awaits the hockey star to play his fourth Olympic Games, a record so far held by the legendary Dhanraj Pillay.

In a freewheeling conversation with Hockey Te Charcha, Familia - a special series launched by Hockey India ahead of the Olympic Games where family members of Indian hockey stars share insights into the support system at home that allows the players to chase their dreams, Aneeshya Sreejesh opened up about the champion's journey in the sport.

"We were classmates and have known each other for 22 years. I was an athlete at that time. I have seen his whole journey, right from when he was struggling. It is great to see him achieve his goals now."

An ayurvedic doctor herself, Aneeshya juggles her career while taking care of everything at home when her husband is away, showing the incredible amount of support from the family that goes into having a successful career like Sreejesh. "The real struggle is spending time away from him. He's doing really well for the country so taking care of the kids at home is the least I could do," she said modestly.

Ahead of the Paris Olympic Games, Aneeshya said, there is immense



excitement back in Kochi where Sreejesh resides. "We are all really excited for the Paris Olympics, which will be his fourth one. This is truly special and we all expect nothing less than gold."

Nostalgic about his career which has lasted nearly 20 years including his days as a Junior India player, Aneeshya pointed out his career-threatening

knee injury in 2017 to be the most challenging phase.

"The injury he had in 2017 was the most challenging one in his career. He thought he wouldn't be able to play again. But he took it on with a lot of strength and dedication and that's why he's at the level he is at now. It was around the time our son (Sreeansh) was born. I

think spending time with our son helped Sreejesh look at the injury phase positively," she said.

The Indian men's hockey team beat Germany to win a bronze medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, with Sreejesh playing a crucial role, bringing much joy to the nation and his family in particular. Speaking about the elation back at home, Aneeshya said, "It was a great moment filled with happiness, pride, and relief. I don't really know what the exact emotion was but it was certainly a very special moment. Professionally, that was the most precious and valuable moment in our life."

Age plays a massive factor in any elite sport but the 36-year-old Sreejesh continues to be a livewire,

bringing his infectious energy onto the field and lifting the spirits of everyone on it.

"He always says a goalkeeper's life is like wine. With time, they become more efficient and get better in quality. He tries to become better with every day," she said, admiring his outlook.

Speaking about the Sunehra Safar event hosted by Hockey India in Bengaluru ahead of the Asian Games in 2023, where families of the players were called up on stage to receive the player's jerseys, Aneeshya said, "It was a really nice experience for the kids as well as for me.

The kids realised how great their father was. I thank Hockey India for organizing such an event."

# IDCA clinch historic bilateral international deaf cricket series against England

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The Indian Deaf Cricket Team (IDCA) emerged victorious in the seven-match bilateral T20I series as they defeated England 5-2 at the County Ground, Leicester.

ECB played the perfect host and the team was delighted to get this unique opportunity to play in 5 cricket grounds & prove their mettle each time. The Indian Deaf Cricket Team's success in the bilateral series against England is a moment of celebration for the entire nation, as it marks another milestone in the journey of Indian cricket. As they continue to inspire and uplift through their achievements, they undoubtedly pave the way for future generations of deaf cricketers to dream

big and aim high. The series witnessed an intense battle between India and England, with both teams demonstrating exceptional cricketing talent. However, it was the Indian team that dominated throughout, securing a commendable series win by defeating the hosts by 6 wickets in the seventh and final match of the series. Speaking on this monumental achievement for India, Sumit Jain, president of IDCA said, "The victory in this bilateral series against England is not just a win on the field but a testament to the perseverance and skill of our hearing impaired players. It marks a significant milestone for deaf cricket in India, showcasing our capability to compete and succeed at the highest levels of the sport."

# Sandeep Singh: Indian shooter forged in Siachen aims gold at 2024 Olympics

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Enduring temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius, India's top 10m rifle shooter Sandeep Singh found his resolve in the icy desolation of Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, and spent months living in a tent, cooking his own meals, and contemplating his future.

At 28, Sandeep has already faced and conquered immense challenges. Earlier this year, he secured a berth for the Paris Olympics in the 10m air rifle event by triumphing in the fiercely competitive Olympic Selection Trials at New Delhi, Bhopal topping ahead of former world champion Rudranksh Patil, Tokyo Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar and Olympic quota winner Arjun Babuta.

"The trials were very good from my point of view and finishing on top was a relief to my journey but I believe my best is



yet to come. To claim the quota for the Paris Olympics was my only aim and now since I will be representing India, I will try my best to secure a gold medal for the country," said Sandeep Singh on the back-off Paris Olympic kit launch and send-off ceremony held by IOA.

The struggle began in his early years in Faridkot district, where Sandeep grew up in a lower-middle-class family. His father worked as a daily wage, and his two brothers are bike mechanics. With no background in sports,

Sandeep's path to becoming an elite shooter was unconventional. He used to run cross-country twice a day, covering 7-8 kilometers, to prepare for an Army entrance exam. This rigorous routine eventually paid off, earning him a position as a Sepoy in the Indian Army.

It was during his training in the Army that Sandeep first encountered shooting. Handling an INSAS rifle, an assault rifle that doubles as a light machine gun, he demonstrated remarkable aptitude. His superi-

ors noticed his talent and encouraged him to pursue competitive shooting. This led to his participation in competitions at the Army Marksmanship Unit in Mhow, where he won several medals.

His success at Mhow paved the way for national recognition. In 2018, Sandeep won a silver medal at the National Championships, a victory that secured his promotion to Havaldar and a place in the national shooting squad. Despite being a reserve shooter for the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, a subsequent dip in form saw him return to his unit, eventually leading to his posting in Siachen for six months between 2021 and 2022.

"I was really disappointed with my performance after not making the cut for the Tokyo Olympics and for that mental preparation, I went to serve in the Army. The greatest honour for me is to represent my country at the

highest level and serving in the Indian Army has taught me the importance of it," he recalls.

In April-May of 2024, Sandeep faced the ultimate test at the Olympic Selection Trials. Competing against world champion shooter Rudranksh Patil, Sandeep relied on his rigorous training and unyielding focus. He topped the trials with stunning scores in qualification -- 634.4, 632.6, 631.6 and 628.3 (out of a possible 654), the latter the lowest after having all but qualified on his first three scores - which gave him an edge even without the bonus points.

However, Sandeep remains determined to perform better in Paris and believes that his best is yet to come. "I have been training hard and I have shot more than the points which I scored in the trials. I am training on my concentration and focus and will try to implement it in the Olympics.

# Euro 2024: Mbappe believes having a broken nose makes him a target against Belgium

AGENCIES  
DUSSELDORF, JULY 1

France will take on Belgium in their Round of 16 matchup at the ongoing Euro 2024 campaign at the Merkur Spiel Arena on Monday.

Ahead of the match, French captain Kylian Mbappe spoke about his recent struggles while wearing a mask and how he believes it makes him a 'target' during the game.

"I think that if you're playing with a broken nose and you haven't had your nose operated yet, you're a target. I knew what I was signing up for when I decided that I wasn't going to go home and that I wasn't going to get the operation done and that I was going to play," said Mbappe in the pre-game conference.

Mbappe broke his nose in France's opening encounter against Austria when the forward was involved in an aerial collision with Austria defender Kevin Danso. The injury forced him to miss the game against Netherlands

before he returned for the side's final group game against Poland where he scored a penalty which was also his first goal at the European Championship.

"Maybe I'll get muscled a little bit and it might hurt. But I'm ready to give everything I can for this jersey and to help France go as far as possible. If this means that someone's going to hit my nose, so be it. It's already broken," added the French captain.

France entered the tournament as the favourites to win it but the Group Stage has indicated otherwise. Les Blues have only scored two goals in three games, one being a penalty and the other an own goal. It will be upto Mbappe to lead his side against a feisty Belgian outfit.

"When I got back to the dressing room, with everything that was happening around me, I thought that I was going home. Initially, it was difficult for me because there was a lot of information, lots of appointments, I

didn't really sleep that much. I spent two nights without sleeping. And it was really difficult to sit on the bench against the Netherlands knowing that you're incapable of helping. I felt quite helpless. But, thankfully, I was able to play against Poland," added the Real Madrid forward.

Didier Deschamps will be hoping the side register a convincing victory over Belgium as they face a difficult road ahead to the finals and the side is in dire need of confidence. A win over Belgium would set up a potential quarter-final against Portugal (Portugal faces Slovenia on Tuesday 12:30 AM IST) and a semi-final matchup against the winner of Germany/Spain. Mbappe also went on to talk about the difficulties he faces while trying to play in a mask stating it is 'horrible.'

"Actually it's awful, horrible playing with a mask. I keep changing masks because every time there's something that bothers me, there's something that's not quite right."

## Vi Movies & TV App strengthens entertainment offering with Zee5 Introduces new subscription plans with access to 17 OTT Apps

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

In line with its continuous endeavour to cater to the growing consumer demands of bringing more entertainment at an affordable price, a leading telecom operator Vi, had launched their content aggregator App i.e Vi Movies & TV in its new avatar earlier this year.

In addition to existing top players like Disney+ Hotstar, Vi today announced a new partnership with one of the leading OTT player - ZEE5. With this new addition, Vi Movies & TV App now offers access to 17 OTT Apps in one single subscription, at 248 per month.

The Vi users can binge on their favourite content on top OTT Apps such as Disney+ Hotstar, Sony LIV, ZEE5, and others all with a single subscription to

Vi Movies and TV, on their Mobile & TV.

The Vi users will be able to enjoy a wide range of movies, shows, and popular titles such as the Vidya Balan starrer - Do Aur Do Pyaar, the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, regional blockbusters such as Manjummel Boys, Aranmanai 4 and many more on the Disney+ Hotstar app; UEFA Euro Cup, 'Gullak Season 4, India Tour of Sri Lanka Scam 2003, Rocket Boys etc. from Sony LIV and shows like 'Sunflower', 'Broken News', 'TAJ and movies such as 'Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai', 'Kadak Singh' 'Veer Sawarkar', 'Sam Bahadur', 'Hanuman', and more from ZEE5.

Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vodafone Idea, said "At Vi, we



understand that convenience and great value are two critical factors influencing buying decisions in India and we are committed to offering solutions that meet the needs of our customers.

"Our content aggregator platform, Vi Movies & TV App, offers access to 17 OTT platforms with a single plan. This not only reduces the cost of entertainment consumption but

also eliminates the hassle of subscribing to multiple OTT apps separately," Khosla said.

He further added, "We are confident that Vi Movies & TV App will strike a chord with our consumers for its cost-effectiveness and convenience, opting for a seamless entertainment experience over multiple independent subscriptions. Our aim is to make high-quality enter-

tainment accessible to our users and enhance their overall viewing experience through strategic partnerships with various OTT platforms. We will continue to expand our offerings by bringing the best entertainment experience for our users."

Vi also announced two new subscription plans - Vi Movies & TV Plus and Vi Movies & TV Lite; Vi Movies & TV- Plus: Priced at Rs. 248 per month, offers unlimited access to 17 OTT apps, 350 live TV channels, and various content libraries. This plan can be accessed on two devices-TV and mobile- and includes an extra 6GB of data for prepaid users. Vi Movies & TV- Lite: Special plan for prepaid users

at Rs. 154 per month, provides easy access to 16 OTT Apps for an array of extensive content catalogue on a single mobile device, with an additional 2GB of data. These plans are in addition to the Vi Movies & TV Pro plan, which offers 13+ OTT apps at Rs. 202 per month for prepaid users and Rs. 199 per month for post-paid users. This plan can be accessed on two devices-TV and mobile. The Vi Movies & TV Pro prepaid subscription also offers an extra 5GB of data. With these new offerings, Vi continues to strengthen its position as a leading provider of digital entertainment in India. By leveraging strategic partnerships and distinct subscription models, Vi aims to deliver an enriched viewing experience to its users, ensuring they have access to a vast array of content at their fingertips.

## Stop Diarrhea Campaign held at District Hospital Ganderbal



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, JULY 1

Under the Stop Diarrhea campaign that started from 1st July 2024 and shall continue till 31 August 2024, an inaugural event was today held at District Hospital Ganderbal.

The campaign was kick-started by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad, in presence of Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal/ Head Of Health Department Ganderbal (Dr Bashir Ahmad Khan),

Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal, Dr Nighat Yasmeen and Paediatric /DEIC Staff of District Hospital Ganderbal.

During the ceremony, and as part of awareness initiative Zinc and ORS was dispensed among school Children with the aim of imparting education to the Children and Paediatric Age group about the causes of Childhood Diarrhea.

On the sidelines of event, the ADC delivered a note about the importance of the event.

## AJKPC puts Finance Minister on notice ahead of Union Budget

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

The All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), a registered organization working for the welfare of the rural population and strengthening grassroots democracy in J&K, has put Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on notice by presenting several demands ahead of the Union Budget.

During a press conference in Jammu, Anil Sharma, President of AJKPC, along with other members of the organization, urged the Union Government to fulfill its promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Sharma emphasized that for over a decade, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been waiting for the promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP to be realized.

Sharma demanded an increase in the MGNREGA honorarium to Rs 400 per day and asked the Finance Minister to make provisions in the budget to clear the pending liability of MGNREGA laborers and vendors from 2017 to date in Jammu and Kashmir. His demands also include starting the Jammu to



Poonch Railway Project and laying the foundation stones for the Jammu and Srinagar Metro Projects.

The AJKPC President also highlighted that after the abrogation of Article 370, people in Jammu and Kashmir were optimistic that all daily wages in the state would receive justice and their services would be regularized. He stressed that it is high time for the Union Budget to include a substantial statement from the Finance Minister regarding this serious issue.

"Unemployment is a major problem here in J&K, and our educated youth are under stress and anxiety. Thus, it is the responsibility of the government to provide a minimum Rs 5000 per month stipend to professional degree holders until they get dignified employment," Sharma said.

AJKPC also demanded the establishment of one technical university, one women's university,

and one law university for Jammu and Kashmir, along with ITI colleges in every subdivision. Sharma called for the Union FM to increase the monthly honorarium of Anganwadi and ASHA workers to a minimum of Rs 10,000 with a 10% annual increment, showing sympathy towards these essential workers.

Additionally, Sharma urged the government to expedite pending tourism projects like Mubarak Mandi and the Lake on River Tawi with substantial funding. The list of demands also included the start of a Dogri TV channel and an exclusive Dogri radio station. The AJKPC President warned that if their demands are not considered in the upcoming budget, the organization would decide on the next course of action after a meeting of all AJKPC office bearers. Including Senior Vice President Ram Saroop Sharma and Vice president Des raj Bhagat, Vice President Jitendra Singh.

## Meeting with Political Parties for Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls held at Bandipora

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, JULY 1

In order to discuss various pre-revision activities of the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls, a meeting was held today at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The meeting discussed threadbare various pre-revision activities, rationalization of polling stations, and other necessary measures in view of special summary revision.

During the meeting, political parties were briefed about rationalisation of polling stations, location changes, AMF in polling stations, and related issues. They were also apprised of roll updation via Form 6, Form 7, and Form 8.

Representatives from



political parties actively participated in the discussion, providing valuable insights and suggestions to enhance the revision process.

The ADDC, while interacting with the representatives, took feedback from them and sought their cooperation to facilitate a smooth and inclusive revision process.

The meeting was chaired by ADDC Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, and was attended by Dy. DEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, ERO Bandipora (ACR) Shabir Ahmad wani, ERO Sonawari (SDM Sumbal) Aamir Choudhary, DIO Aadil Manzoor, representatives of political parties, and other concerned.

## Deputy Commissioner Poonch reviews arrangements for Muharram

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JULY 1

Deputy Commissioner of Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary on Monday chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the arrangements and took necessary actions for the Muharram days.

The DC directed the Poonch Municipality and MC Surankote to ensure proper cleanliness in all mosques and Imambargahs. Similar instructions were given to the Block Development Officers of Mandi and Mendhar.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the Chief Medical Officer to arrange for adequate medical facilities and emergency services during the Muharram processions and gatherings at the Imambargahs.

The Public Health Engineering Department and Power Development Department were directed to ensure uninterrupted water and Power supply to the mosques, Imambargahs, and the venues of the Majlis. They were also asked to provide water tankers to support the processions.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the Assistant Director of Food Supplies to



ensure the availability of ration and LPG as per the requirements during the Muharram days. The Regional Transport Officer was directed to coordinate with the police to ensure smooth regulation of traffic and the maintenance of street lights and roads.

The meeting discussed various other arrangements in detail to ensure the peaceful observance of the Muharram in the district.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Yougal

Manhas, Chief Medical Officer, Dr.Zulafkar Ahmed, Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid, ARTO Poonch, Taramani, AD Food, Adil Shabir, District Culture Officer, Dr.Alamdar Adam, Xen PDD, Aftab Hussain, EO Municipality, Yaqoob Choudhary, Tehsildar Mandi, Ashfaq Hussain, AEE PHE, Asiq Hussain, Tehsildar Hqr, Incharge, Nawab Ahmed, besides prominent citizens Taj Mir, Adv Mohammad Zaman, Surjan Singh, Ishrat Bhatt, and other officials and religious heads.

## Muharram arrangements reviewed in Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JULY 1

Assistant Commissioner Revenue S. Harpal Singh today chaired a meeting of officers to review arrangements put in place for ensuing Muharram-Ul-Haram.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kamal Zadu, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Rajeev Gai, Executive Engineer JPDCL, Tasaduq Hussain, AD Fire & Emergency, Sahil Bandral, AD FCS&CA, Niyamtullah Sheikh, CEO MC Sudershan Jamwal and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed different issues for the smooth conduct of Muharram. Threadbare discussion was held on arrangements like

electricity, water supply, roads, ration, sanitation, Street lighting and Medicare facilities.

The ACR instructed Jal Shakti and JPDCL to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply. Besides, the health department was asked to ensure availability of healthcare facilities.

He asked the concerned departments to ensure that the arrangements pertaining to their Departments are put in place well in time.

Municipal authorities were instructed to ensure cleanliness in and around Imambargah Chanderkote. The Police and Traffic department was also asked to provide fool-proof security and traffic arrangements during the Muharram days.

## Agriculture Department promotes Green Manure to restore Default Organic Status of Basmati in R.S. Pura

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

The Agriculture Department Jammu, under the leadership of A.S. Reen, Director of Agriculture, has initiated a major project to revitalize the organic status of Basmati growing fields by providing subsidised Dhanicha seed, serves as a practical example of the initiative's objectives. This effort is part of a mission to regain the by-default organic status of Basmati 370 in R.S. Pura. Farmers of the area highly appreciated the efforts by the Agriculture Department in converting a larger area under green manuring this year. The organic certification of locally grown Basmati rice also opens up significant opportunities for export markets, reinforcing its global appeal based on unparalleled flavour and aroma.

Under this program, 120 quintals of Dhanicha seed have been distributed among farmers across the Basmati-growing belt. The purpose is to implement green manure making practices that enhance soil fertility and sustain the organic integrity of Basmati cultivation areas in the Jammu region.

"The distinct quality of Basmati rice from Jammu's R.S. Pura owes much to the organic status of its soil and the low night temperature during seed formation stage at its growth," highlighted the Director Agriculture. "By promoting green manure

with Dhanicha, we are committed to preserving and enhancing these natural attributes crucial for Basmati cultivation," he added. A significant demonstration of incorporating Dhanicha in an area of 200 hectares in Basmati growing fields by providing subsidised Dhanicha seed, serves as a practical example of the initiative's objectives. This effort is part of a mission to regain the by-default organic status of Basmati 370 in R.S. Pura. Farmers of the area highly appreciated the efforts by the Agriculture Department in converting a larger area under green manuring this year. The organic certification of locally grown Basmati rice also opens up significant opportunities for export markets, reinforcing its global appeal based on unparalleled flavour and aroma.

"The organic status of Jammu's Basmati rice is paramount to its global reputation," emphasized A.S. Reen. "This initiative not only safeguards our agricultural heritage but also ensures sustainable practices that benefit farmers and consumers alike.

## "Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi": DC Kathua inaugurates training programme for field functionaries of projects

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, JULY 1

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr Rakesh Minhas on Monday inaugurated a series of training programs for ICDS field functionaries as part of "Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi" initiative.

The initiative aims to equip workers with comprehensive knowledge and essential skills crucial for nurturing children during their formative years.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC underscored the program's core motive, emphasizing its pivotal role in promoting early stimulation, providing high-quality play-based early childhood care and education, and reinforcing understanding of nutrition among all stakeholders.



The DC emphasised on capacity building and skill enhancement as the training program seeks to empower Anganwadi workers to effectively cater to the diverse needs of children under their care. District Programme Officer Shokat Mehmood reiterated the program's commitment to holistic development, foundational literacy, and numeracy, ensuring a comprehensive approach to child welfare in the region. He said the training will be held in 15 batches each having

100 sanginis who will be trained by state level master trainer and under the supervision of concerned CDPO who shall be the Course Director for their respective projects. The programme will cover all units of POSHAN spanning across 08 POSHAN projects covering 1641 operational Anganwadi Centres of Kathua district namely Kathua, Barnoti, Hiranagar, Billawar, Basohli, Bani, Duggan and Lohai Malhar starting from 1st July to 27th August 2024.