



Srinagar

Sunday

June 25 | 2023

Dhul Hijjah 06 | 1444

Issue No: 146

Volume: 13

Zimbabwe stun West  
Indies to storm into Super  
Sixes with full points

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Advisor Bhatnagar chairs  
30th AGM of J&K Women  
Development Corporation

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# Challenge before us is to work on skills that will remain relevant in the future: LG Sinha

■ HT News Network

**AWANTIPORA, JUNE 24:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the 2nd Convocation of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora, today.

Prof. K Kasturirangan, Chairman, Drafting Committee of the National Education Policy 2020, was the chief guest on the occasion.

The Lt Governor, who is also the Chancellor of the University, congratulated the graduating students and gold medalists for their achievements and wished them the very best.

"Convocation is also an opportunity to celebrate eternal values, humility, creativity, righteousness, individuality and compassion, nurtured by the insti-



tution. These values are invisible gold medals that empower students to create a better future of the country," the Lt Governor said.

Addressing the students and faculty members, the Lt Governor exhorted the youth to focus on innovation, new ideas, new technologies that will shape the future.

"Education is the birth of new consciousness. It is the energy of society. Education is ecstasy, education is elation, education is elegance, education is empowerment, education is enrichment, education enables students to attain the highest peak in life," the Lt Governor said.

Being truly educated requires courage to break the artificial barriers

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## Rajnath to visit Jammu today

Will address security conclave, review J&K's political scenario

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, JUN 24:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh



would visit Jammu on 26 to address a 'security conclave' besides reviewing Jammu and Kashmir's political scenario. Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

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## NEWS BRIEF

### AP GMCA Dr Showkat receives Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Inspirational Award 2023

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** Dr Showkat Hussain Tali, Associate Professor of Paediatrics and Neonatologist at GMC Anantnag, has been awarded the prestigious Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Inspirational Award 2023- 'Paediatrician and Neonatologist of the year'.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the award ceremony took place on 23rd June 2023, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Dr Tali is the first national board-certified neonatologist from

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### Tourism biggest path towards Change, development in Kashmir: MoS M Lekhi

**KUPWARA, JUN 24:** Stating that there is a need to explore the tourism potential of frontier district Kupwara, Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Cultural Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi Saturday said tourist arrival is a path of change and development in the region.

Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Cultural Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi Saturday arrived on a surprise visit to north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

She was earlier accompanying the Union Home Minister of India Amit Shah who was on a visit to Jammu

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### Farmers continue paddy transplantation

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** The paddy transplantation that got delayed due to erratic weather conditions in April and May months is still going on at some places and is expected to be completed in the next few days.

Farmers from various areas of the valley told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the continuous wet weather had delayed all agricultural work in Kashmir. However, they were unable to resume agricultural activities only after dry weather in the ongoing month.

Abdul Majeed, a farmer from south Kashmir's Pulwama district said they typically transplant paddy in the last week of May. However, intermittent rains last month affected the growth

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## Yatra: DGP J&K emphasizes on having better understanding of deployment on ground & specific SOPs for different contingencies

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Dilbag Singh on Saturday emphasized on having better understanding of deployment on ground and specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) for different contingencies for the Amarnath Yatra beginning July 1.

said this while chairing a

joint high-level meeting of senior officers from the central armed police forces, the Army and the Police to review the security arrangements and deployments of personnel for the Yatra.

A police spokesman said on the onset of the meeting, the DGP complimented all forces for the successful conduct of the Union Home Minister's visit to Jammu and Kashmir



and appreciated the cooperation among the forces.

"The meeting deliberated on different issues like SOP, putting in place areas of responsibility, functioning of Joint Control Rooms at Pahalgam & Baltal and contingency plans. The issues of camps, communication network, regulation of traffic management on the national highways and other

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## Weatherman Predicts Isolated Rain In Kashmir, Widespread Light Showers In Jammu

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** Upward trend in night temperature continued in most of the places in Jammu and Kashmir with Srinagar recording six degrees above normal temperatures on Saturday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 22.4°C against 21.0°C on



the previous night and it was above normal by 6.6°C for the

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## Daily wagers, casual labourers protest for 'fair wages'

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** The casual labourers and daily wagers held a protest on Saturday, urging the Lieutenant Governor-led administration to address their long-pending demands.

Talking to the media persons here in the Press Enclave, the protesters, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "We have always assisted and served the people of Jammu and Kashmir. During challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2014 flood, we supplied fresh water to the people. However, the administration seems to overlook us."

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## CRPF DG Reviews Security Preparedness For Amarnath Yatra

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** CRPF Director General Sujoy Lal Thakur on Saturday reviewed the security preparedness of the force for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra which



begins next month. Thakur reviewed the preparedness of the paramilitary force during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

"During his J&K visit, @sthaosen, DG @crpfindia, held a meeting with officials, scrutinizing the security preparedness of the force vis-à-vis the forthcoming SANJY 2023. He instructed the officials to

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## BOTTOM

### Amit Shah lays Martyr's Memorial Foundation Stone Hands Appointment Letters To Kin Of Slain Cops



■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday laid the foundation stone of a martyr's memorial here and distributed appointment letters to the next of kin of eight Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel killed in the line of duty, officials said.

The 'Balidaan Stambh' memorial, a project under the Srinagar Smart City initiative, is a tribute to martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the nation, they said.

Shah, who was on a two-day visit to the Union territory, and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid its foundation stone at Prapat Park near

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## Implementation of NEP will help students enter into professional world with power of infinite creativity

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Saturday said that with the implementation of New Education Policy (NEP), students will enter into the professional world with a power of infinite creativity.

Addressing the students and faculty during the second convocation at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora, Sinha said, "I believe that with the implementation of NEP, students won't remain confined to the syllabi and classrooms only. With this the students will come

out into the professional world with a power of infinite creativity."

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sinha on the occasion said, "I am truly proud of our daughters who have bagged the maximum gold medals."

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## Once a rice bowl, Kulgam loses 8,000 hectares of agricultural land in a decade

■ HT News Network

**KULGAM, JUN 24:** Kulgam district of southern Kashmir, once known as 'Rice - Bowl' of Kashmir has lost a huge chunk of 7,000 hectares of fertile agricultural land to other activities mostly constructions in the past one decade.

Official figures from Agricultural department accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), read that Kulgam is having a geographical area of 1067 square kilometres. "In the year 2010 the net

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## NEXT exam not in the interest of medical students: DAK

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** With National Exit Test (NEXT) set to replace MBBS final examination, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said that NEXT exam is not in the interest of medical students.

"The students are awarded MBBS degrees in medical colleges/universities only after rigorous training and examinations. There are so many exams which medical students have to write during their MBBS course, and the additional exit exam will put undue burden on students," said DAK President

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## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### Challenge.....

between subjects, which prefer independent thinking, creativity, research and new inventions instead of becoming another memory hard disk in the world, he added.

Education must draw out all that is unique in students and individuality must be promoted so that students stepping out of campus and entering professional world will not be a hard disk of memories or storehouse of information, but they will be powerhouse of infinite creativity, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor impressed on the Universities, educational institutions and the teaching community to adapt to a future-oriented learning approach that goes beyond the classrooms and prepares the students for the future challenges and opportunities.

"In this era of acceleration, teachers' role has expanded. They are not just information providers or a medium to complete the syllabus. Teachers are artisans and they need to shape minds and consciousness of new generation," the Lt Governor said.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, National Education Policy is empowering our students to succeed in machine-dominated world and it is blended with the value system to ensure perfect balance in inner and outer growth of every student, the Lt Governor said.

"Education should awaken the inner curiosity, critical thinking, it should trigger more questions in classrooms and provide the courage to walk on an unknown path. Through NEP 2020 efforts are being made to ensure that our classrooms reflect the real world instead of four walls," he observed.

Speaking on the recent technological advancements, the Lt Governor said it will have transformative impact on the society.

"Technology is moving faster than ever before and it is increasingly transforming the way we live, socialize, travel and work. Our human capital is facing a completely different future and it is time that our classrooms and campus recognize the radical shift and create a new ecosystem," the Lt Governor said.

He said, the classrooms and labs need to reinvent itself on the lines of National Education Policy, not only to maintain the competitive edge but also to remain relevant.

The change is also affecting the field of Humanities. The biggest challenge is to make the resolution of inclusive society and empowered individual a reality in the midst of rapid changes and bridge the digital divide in the society, he added.

"Challenge before us is to work on skills that will remain relevant in the future. We cannot imagine the world to 2050, but core skills like analytical, critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, individuality, originality, uniqueness, resilience and leadership will remain relevant," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also appreciated the Vice Chancellor and faculty members of IUST for providing a conducive learning environment to the students and empowering them to contribute to nation building.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. K Kasturirangan, Chairman, NEP Drafting Committee, congratulated the graduating students and lauded their spirit, enthusiasm and curiosity. Your mission of Higher learning with great passion should not end here. Never give up on your dreams and aspirations, he said.

Prof Kasturirangan commended the Lt Governor led UT Administration for taking unprecedented measures to bring reforms in the education system and implementing the National Educational Policy. Prof Kasturirangan also highlighted the key role of universities and teachers in the effective implementation of NEP 2020.

Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST, presented the University report and highlighted the achievements of the University.

During the convocation, 72 students were conferred with Gold Medals, while 147 students were awarded with merit certificates.

A total of 3000 students have been awarded with degrees for the academic year 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Choudhary Mohd. Yousuf Gorsi, Chairman District Development Council Anantnag; Sh Hasnain Masoodi, Member of Parliament; Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Vice Chancellors and former Vice Chancellors of various Universities; Prof Naseer Iqbal, Registrar IUST, faculty members and students attended the Convocation ceremony.

### Rajnath to.....

, the Union Defence Minister will arrive in the winter capital in morning and address a 'Security Conclave' organized by the J&K unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party at Zorawar Singh Auditorium.

He will also visit the BJP office at Trikuta Nagar and interact with senior party leaders to discuss prevailing political security in Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources confirmed that a visit to the BJP office to assess political situation in Jammu and Kashmir and party's preparedness for the future elections has been added to Rajnath Singh's one-day visit to Jammu on June 26.

Rajnath will interact with UT unit office bearers and senior leaders at Trikuta Nagar headquarters of the BJP after addressing Security Conclave and discuss with them prevailing security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

Though no elections are scheduled to be held immediately yet the Defence Minister will assess party's preparedness if the Assembly elections, which are due and for which the BJP UT unit has made a demand, are held.

Prior to the BJP meeting, Rajnath Singh will address decorated ex-servicemen, writers, journalists and other senior security experts at the first-ever Security Conclave. Later, he will interact with them and is also likely to take some questions.

Earlier, J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina stated

that 'security conclave', would be "totally a non-political event" was taken by the party.

He also affirmed that the party was finalising a list of dignitaries to be invited and they would include "defence experts, retired senior army officers, intellectuals, writers, media persons and think tanks from different parts of the Union Territory."

Notably, the BJP is organising many programmes as a part of its month-long "Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan" to mark completion of nine years of Modi-government at the Centre.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also address the booth-level workers of the BJP across the country including Jammu and Kashmir on June 27.

### Yatra: DGP.....

roads, parking of vehicles and deployment of forces on both the yatra routes of Pahalgam and Baltal were also discussed," the spokesman said.

It was also decided that rescue teams would be deployed at various places to provide necessary help to the pilgrims.

The DGP emphasized upon having better understanding of deployment of manpower on ground and SOPs with regard to various kinds of contingencies. He directed that the responsibility of every officer/official should be clear.

He directed for issuing of clear and defined SOPs in a standard format, adding that officer incharge on field should be aware of responsibility and must have a clear mindset to follow the directions.

Apart from the routine and defined duties of ROPs, camp security, langer & convoy security, the DGP further stressed that there should be additional arrangements in the form of special teams that would be in the form of drone units, canine units, special BD squads, anti sabotage teams, counter drone teams, QRTs to quicken our responses.

He further stressed upon the officers present in the meeting to maintain close coordination with their ranks and other security agencies to achieve better results and called for an effective mechanism and planning for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Yatra.

DGP emphasised upon officers for special focus on sensitive locations and base camps while putting in place the security arrangements.

The DGP said that the communication network must be established between the counterparts of all the stakeholders of the Army, the CAPFs, the Police and the Civil administration.

He said that adequate and effective deployments should be made on the ground to address any vulnerability and gaps if any.

He directed the officers to revisit security plans at the ground level to expand an adequate response to any exigency.

DG CRPF S L Thaosen appreciated the DGP J&Ks initiative for organizing the meeting adding that there is now more clarity with regard to responsibilities.

He said that JKP & CRPF has been working shoulder to shoulder for several decades to reduce the number of incidents of terrorism. He stressed for clear cut directions and SOPs for the conduct of peaceful Yatra.

He assured that CRPF would extend all possible help and cooperation.

On the occasion DG BSF Nitin Agarwal complimented the officers for successful conduct of G20 Summit, which was appreciated by one and all, he added. He said that synergy and understanding among the forces should be of highest level to make the deployments more effective, and result oriented.

General Officer Commanding of Army's Srinagar 15 Corps Commander, Lt. General Rajiv Ghai said that the Army in the valley would provide all assistance to make the yatra successful.

### CRPF DG Reviews.....

ardently ensure every measure, facilitating a harmonious and seamless yatra," the CRPF said on Twitter. The 62-day yatra is set to begin on July 1. During the visit, the DG CRPF also assessed the operational preparedness of the Valley Quick Action Team of the CRPF.

"He lauded the unwavering resolve and dedication of the Valley QAT, urging them to incessantly strive towards ascending unprecedented pinnacles of excellence," the force added. (Agencies)

### Weatherman.....

summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 20.0°C against 19.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 5.7°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 13.3°C against 10.6°C on the previous night and it was 4.2°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 19.6°C against 17.8°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 5.5°C for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 20.0°C against 19.3°C on the previous night and it was 5.9°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 14.4°C against 15.4°C on previous night and it was above normal by 4.2°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 28.5°C against 31.2°C on the previous night and it was 2.4°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 21.3°C (6.2°C above normal), Batote 22.9°C (5.7°C above normal), Katra 25.4°C (3.4°C below normal) and Baderwah 21.8°C (above normal by 6.9°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 12.0°C and 15.8°C respectively, he said.

Regarding the forecast for next 24 hours, he said,

"Isolated light rain/TS is expected in Kashmir division and widespread light to moderate rain/TS in Jammu division."

From June 25-28, he said, generally cloudy weather with intermittent light to moderate thunder-shower was expected at many places. (Agencies)

### Daily wagers.....

"In the past four days, two of our casual labourers have died while performing their duties, yet no one seems to be addressing this issue, which is deeply shameful. We would like to appeal to the administration to ensure justice for the families affected," they said.

If the Minimum Wages Act stipulates a wage range of 18,000 to 28,000, why are we only receiving 9,000 here in Kashmir? they asked, adding that if the government claims that we are one country, why doesn't this rule apply here?

"We request the administration to fulfill all the promises made to us and provide justice to us by resolving our issues," they added—(KNO)

### Amit Shah.....

the Lal Chowk city centre.

"Jammu and Kashmir is the land of indomitable courage and bravery of the nation's bravehearts. To immortalise the valour of such heroes, the foundation stone of the 'Balidaan Stambh' was laid at Pratap Park in Srinagar, today. It will inspire patriotism among the youth by immortalising the memory of the martyrs," the Union home minister later said in a tweet in Hindi.

Stringent security arrangements were put in place for the event but shops in and around the venue were open, they said, adding that traffic movement remained normal except when it was briefly stopped on the stretch between Regal Crossing and Lal Chowk till Shah left the venue, the officials said.

The Union minister also visited the Karan Mahal – the residence of the last 'Yuvraj' of Jammu and Kashmir, Karan Singh.

At a separate event, Shah met with the family members of slain police personnel at the Police Golf Course, overlooking the famous Dal Lake here, the officials added.

LG Sinha and J-K Police chief Dilbag Singh, along with other senior officers of the police and civil administration, were present on the occasion.

"The martyrdom of numerous Jawans of the @JmUKmrPolice who laid down their lives battling terrorists and securing innocent fellow citizens is a testament to what Kashmir and its people stand for," Shah said on Twitter.

"Today, met the family members of such martyrs in Srinagar and distributed appointment letters on behalf of the J&K govt to the closest kins of the martyrs," he added.

Thereafter, the union minister concluded his visit and left for Delhi.

### Implementation.....

The LG said that he was told that out of 72 gold medals, at least 46 have been bagged by the girl students of IUST which amounts to more than 60 percent among the all.

"I can proudly say that the unique half of the society includes, brilliance, peace, harmony, creativity, leadership equality and courage," he said.

Sinha congratulated all the students and staff members. "IUST is one of the top most educational institutes of higher education."

"It is true that we need to celebrate the success of our good medalists and toppers but more than that, we must celebrate the creativity, curiosity, critical thinking, righteousness and individuality which have been nurtured by IUST," he said.

The LG further said that these values are invisible gold medals that will empower you to create a better future for the country as a responsible citizen.

"Under the leadership under Prime Narendra Modi, National Education Policy (NEP) that is empowering our students to succeed in a machine dominated world with the perfect balance in inner and outer growth for the students," Sinha said.

Stating the importance of studies, LG Sinha said that when the first letter of the holy Quran was revealed to Prophet Mohammed (SAW) was 'Iqra' that means read.

"I believe that with the implementation of NEP, students won't remain confined to the syllabi and classrooms only. With this the students will come out into the professional world with a power of infinite creativity," he said.

The LG further said that he believes that those teachers are the best who are capable of creating human capital and who do not only think of covering syllabi but also take challenges to teach something different in the class that would be beneficial for the students and the country.

"Keeping in view the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), we need to understand the challenges and those works which are relevant in today's world," he said.

In the meantime, advisor to LG, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar in his address during the convocation said, "I would expect each student to be the problem solving individual not only for themselves but to the whole society and for your country."

Bhatnagar said, "We all know that Jammu and Kashmir is seeing a new sunrise. It is a land of opportunities like never before."

He requested all of the students to appreciate the kind of support that they got from their parents and society. "I am sure that your parents and teachers are a part of your success."

Vice Chancellor of IUST, Shakeel Ramshoo on the occasion spoke about the recent developments, initiatives related to academic, research and innovations.

"IUST is conscious about its role for the goodwill of the society and in meeting public expectations.

We are fully prepared to fulfill this role through innovation, creativity and judicious planning," Ramshoo said.

He said that IUST have devised a five year strategic plan for the university from (2021-26) which will focus on development administration, infrastructure development, research, academics, outreach and planning.

He said that on the second convocation, IUST will be felicitating 72 gold medalists and 120 merit holders.

### Once a rice.....

cultivated area in Kulgam district was 19,300 hectares and it has decreased to 11,157 hectares till this year (2023)," figures said.

The area under horticulture department has shown an increase from past 13 years in the district. "In the year 2010 the area under horticulture was 17,178 hectares and it has increased to 19,227 in the year 2023," the figures state.

Despite the existence of many regulations, the UT government has been unable to prevent the conversion of agricultural land to commercial and residential uses. Farmers said that it is not possible to earn livelihood from the agriculture sector due to which most people have already shifted to the horticulture sector.

"We aren't even getting the amount from the paddy that we spend on it", Ghulam Rasool Shah, a farmer said.

He said government food depots have also discontinued the subsidized ration order in the valley. "Now it's up to agriculture Department to provide us seeds having good productivity so that we can continue paddy farming in future" he added.

Sub-Divisional Agricultural Officer (SDAO) Kulgam, Shujaat Ali told KNO that there is a significant number of farmers who are currently turning their agricultural lands into apple orchards due to the perceived profitability and reduced effort involved.

"However, this approach is resulting in substantial losses," he said, adding that the authorities should set up criteria to control the conversion of lands in the valley, adding that the authorities should establish rules and mechanisms to regulate land conversion, requiring permission from revenue officials, horticulture officials, and other concerned authorities..

"Kulgam district, once known as a rice-bowl of Kashmir is now witnessing a decline in rice cultivation due to this shifting trend as farmers increasingly opt for apple orchards," he said. Shujaat said that the department has made available superior rice varieties with high yields in limited seed quantities.

He also informed that the department has started training sessions in each panchayat Halqa under Horticulture Development and Production (HADP) scheme, where farmers are trained about production process and are educated about various schemes.

### NEXT exam.....

Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said while medical students focus on both theoretical and clinical aspects of medical science under the existing system, the introduction of NEXT exam will force them to focus on the theoretical part of medicine during their course.

"This is bound to hamper the development of their clinical skills," he said.

The DAK President said the attendance of students in clinical postings and ward trainings will decrease as they will be solely focusing on this decisive exit exam.

"This will affect their clinical judgement and communication skills which are so essential for patient care," he said adding "we need doctors for patient care not MCQ-cracking robots who have never seen clinics."

Dr Nisar said NEXT exam is also intended to replace NEET-PG and it will not assess the students on basic subjects. It will only assess the clinical subjects and the applied aspects of non-clinical subjects.

"Knowledge of basic science is crucial for any medical and surgical speciality," he said.

"After qualifying for post graduation, students will be subjected to viva-voce which has the potential to bias," he added.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said the National Medical Commission has proposed the NEXT exam which is set to replace MBBS final and NEET-PG examinations.

"NEXT exam will be conducted in two parts. Part I will be a theoretical examination with multiple choice questions and part II will be a practical examination/viva-voce conducted after the completion of an internship," he said.

### AP GMCA.....

Kashmir and has made significant contributions in the field of Pediatrics and neonatology.

He is the Vice-president of NNF-Jammu and Kashmir and was the chief organizing secretary of North Zone Neocon-2023, the first event of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir in the last 65 years.

Dr Tali has presented his research work globally, including countries like the USA, UK, Japan, European Union, and the Middle East.

He is an editorial board member of archives of paediatrics and neonatology and one of the authors of the Textbook of Clinical Neonatology.

Dr Tali has received several awards throughout his career, including the National Research Talent Award 1997, Creative Writing Award by Help Foundation and Rajiv Gandhi Foundation 2006, EET-CRS Young Faculty Award 2017,

First Position Award for Paper Presentation at 7th Arab Neonatal Care Conference at Dubai 2017, Emerging Professional of India Award 2022, Best Young Researcher Award for 2022, Global Ikon Award 2023, Appreciation Award by WHO State Branch 2022, Best Book Award for the year 2021, and nominated for Venous Health Care Awards 2023 Chennai.

The Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Inspirational Award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to their field and have inspired others.

Dr Tali's tireless dedication to neonatology and his commitment to improving the lives of infants has been an inspiration to many.

It is pertinent to mention that the award ceremony was held in presence of several union cabinet and state ministers alongside with other parliament members of both the houses.

Dr Tali expressed his gratitude for the award, saying, "It is an honor to receive this prestigious award. I am grateful for the recognition of my work and the opportunity to continue making a difference in the lives of children and their families."

Dr Showkat, a resident of Shirpora Frisal in Kulgam district pursued his Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 2010, and after a specialist degree in Neonatology from the Diplomat of the National Board-DNB.

"I believe the struggle for good is never passive and awards serve as an inspiration for others to follow the suit and I believe this award will lead me to more good in the field of neonatology," he added.

### Tourism biggest.....

and Kashmir. She was part of the two major events at Jammu and Srinagar chaired by the Home Minister on Friday.

Talking to reporters at Dak Bungalow Kupwara, the Union Minister as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that there is a need to explore the tourism potential of the Kupwara district.

She said that her surprise visit aims to further open up the tourism potential and opportunities in the Kupwara district.

"Tourism potential and beauty of Kupwara district are yet to be explored. It is still untouched. In Kashmir Valley tourism is the biggest path toward change and development," the MoS said.

The Union Minister also said that tourism can provide ample opportunities to the people of the valley. "With more tourists arriving, people of the valley will be able to get opportunities to make a better livelihood. It will help people to head towards prosperity," she said.

The MoS also said that Meadows, Border tourism, Aspirational districts, and border villages have a great potential to be developed as tourism destinations. "They have a great potential to be the source of change. This visit is aimed at exploring that potential," the MoS added.

Meanwhile, a senior administration official privy to the visit said that the MoS visited several places. During the visit, he said the MoS interacted with the officials and visited forward areas.

The official said that the MoS interacted with the district officials of Kupwara at the DC office. "She reviewed the progress of various Central Govt. schemes," the official said.

The official also said that the Union Minister in connection with border tourism visited forward areas as well.

"The MoS visited the Sadhna Pass Army Post," the official said.

### Farmers continue.....

of paddy nurseries and transplanted paddy in the second and third weeks of June.

Another farmer from Kulgam said they were unable to carry out the tilling process due to the wet weather. "We tilled the land in the water. This is not usually done," he said. "Usually, dry land is tilled, which is easier for farmers. However, this year the land was first irrigated before tilling and it was tilled."

Farmers said the wet weather had delayed the transplantation process throughout the valley by approximately 15 to 20 days and this process was usually completed by June 21 while this year, the process is still going on.

They said that it is being said that paddy transplanted after 21 June doesn't ripen on time and affects the yield as well. "Transplantation process is going on and it will take around a week for full completion of the paddy transplantation process," they said.

Director Agriculture Kashmir Mohammad Iqbal Choudhary told KNO that the maximum paddy transplantation process has been already completed while the rest will be completed in the next few days.

"Major thrust remains that around 90 percent paddy transplantation must be completed before June 21 and that has been already done," he said, adding, "Thanks to Almighty Allah, the weather remained dry in last few weeks, otherwise the situation would have been very difficult."

Over 95 percent paddy transplantation process has been completed and the rest will be completed in the next two to three days, he added.

When asked whether there will be any impact on the yield of paddy transplanted after June 21, he said if there will be good temperature in the coming months, then there won't be any impact on the yield.





# Ayushi Sudan assumes charge as DC Kupwara

**Chairs introductory cum review meeting with District officers**

■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, JUNE 24: Ms. Ayushi Sudan, today assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, relieving Doifode Sagar Dattatray from the charge.

Ayushi Sudan, a 2017-batch IAS officer, has been previously serving as Mission Director, National Health Mission J&K.

She was received by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan; Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir, JD Planning, Abdul Majeed and other senior officers and officials of DC Office.

Soon after assuming charge as Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan took an introductory cum review meeting with all district and sectoral officers and received



feedback of office business.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to be responsible to the people of Kupwara district. She impressed upon them to work hard with added dedication and personally see the grievances of the people for their effective disposal.

The Deputy Commissioner sought

cooperation from officers to make administration more delivering to general public of district Kupwara at large.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed sector wise review of major ongoing works of the district and got feedback of the progress achieved so far from the concerned officers.

## 94% of Kulgam villages covered under different categories of ODF Plus :DC

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, JUNE 24: District Kulgam has so far achieved coverage of 94 percent of the villages under different categories of ODF Plus; this was informed during a visit of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat to Mirhama.

The DC had conducted the tour to take stock of progress recorded in construction of Solid Waste Management Segregation Shed at Mirhama which is under execution of the Rural Development Department.

ACP Kulgam while briefing the DC about the progress made under ODF Plus said that the district has already covered 94 percent of the villages under different categories of ODF Plus.

DC directed the concerned to achieve 100 percent progress by the end of this month, so that the targets of ODF Plus model panchayats are achieved within the timeline fixed by the Government. The DC also inspected the playfield at Mirhama developed by RDD at an expenditure of Rs 27 Lac. Later, Dr Bilal visited 100 bedded G&B



Girls Hostel at Aadpora and took stock of progress made on the project which is under the execution of R&B with an estimated cost of 3.25 crore.

The concerned from R&B informed the DC that 99 percent of work on the project has been completed. The DC instructed the concerned executing agency to complete the project within 15 days. During the visit, the DC was accompanied by ACD, Mohammad

Imran; ACR, Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz; ACP, Dr Shurjeel Ali and other officers. The concerned from R&B informed the DC that 99 percent of work on the project has been completed. The DC instructed the concerned executing agency to complete the project within 15 days. During the visit, the DC was accompanied by ACD, Mohammad Imran; ACR, Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz; ACP, Dr Shurjeel Ali and other officers.

## Important meeting regarding development of Theater Federation of Kashmir held at Srinagar.

■ **Surkhab Zehra**

Srinagar, In order to pave a new path towards the theater of the Valley, an organization Theater Federation of Kashmir, was formed by the various theater groups of the Valley for the purpose, to activate the theatre movement of the Valley. The issues of related persons should be brought up to the higher officials of the departments related to culture and these issues should be resolved as soon as possible. As part of this series, an extraordinary meeting of the Theater Federation of Kashmir was held in a local hotel at Srinagar under the chairmanship Mr. Mush-taque Ali Ahmad Khan (President).



Details regarding meetings with Director Tourism. All India Radio Srinagar Program Head and Secretary Cultural Academy were provided to the all repre-

sentatives from all associated theatre groups who attended this meeting. The executive members Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Haneef, Manzoor Ahmad Mir and

Farhat Siddiqui apprised them about the issues of valley theaters and theater related people. Director Tourism Raja Yaqoob Farooq in the meeting, Ghulam Rasool Akhoun, Program Head of All India Radio Srinagar and Secretary Cultural Academy Bharat Singh Manhas expressed appreciation and thanked them for their assurance to remove these problems. The meetings with the Director Tourism, Program Head of All India Radio Srinagar and the Secretary Cultural Academy was termed as an important development for theater in the valley. Theater Federation of Kashmir will speed up its struggle to solve the problems.

## Director Horticulture Kashmir visits ACHD Zainapora, Shopian

**Identifies 140 kanals of land for establishment of different components of project**

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: The Director Horticulture Kashmir, G.R. Mir today visited Advanced Centre for Horticulture Development (ACHD) Zainapora, Shopian with an aim to identify suitable land for the establishment of different components of the project "Production of Designer Plants for High-Density Plantation and Rejuvenation of Orchards," encompassed under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP).

This pivotal project aims to revolutionize the horticulture sector in the region.

The visit entailed an assessment of approximately 140 kanals of land that will be utilized for the estab-



lishment of the different components of the project which will play a crucial role in ensuring the availability of high-quality planting material, thereby facilitating the cultivation of superior crops and fostering the rejuvenation of orchards. Director Horticulture also engaged in insightful discussions concerning various aspects related to the creation of the different

components of HADP, emphasizing the importance of meticulous planning and implementation.

During the visit, Director Horticulture meticulously evaluated the requirements and essential provisions necessary for the establishment of the project. Recognizing the significance of producing top-notch planting material, he laid emphasis on the cultivation of

superior-quality saplings that meet the highest quality standards.

Additionally, Mir also took stock of the functioning of the farm at the Advanced Centre for Horticulture Development. This comprehensive evaluation encompassed a thorough assessment of the farm operations, including its adherence to industry best practices and the implementation of innovative techniques. He reiterated the importance of continuous improvement and the need to ensure the production of exceptional planting material to enhance the region's horticultural landscape. The Director Horticulture was accompanied by Javeed Ahmad Bhat (OSD to the Director).

## Department of Wildlife Protection

### Office of the Wildlife Warden, Shopian Wildlife Division

Mini Secretariat Arahama Shopian, e-mail: [wildlifeshopian@gmail.com](mailto:wildlifeshopian@gmail.com)

#### e-TENDERING

**Fresh Tender Notice: e-NIT No: 08 of 2023-24 dated: 22.06.2023**

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K / Central Government organizations for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Receiving/Opening Authority
01	Erection of Barbed Wire Closure on angle iron posts with six (6) strands of black annealed barbed wire at Nalchinnard Area of Pannier Block Trail Range, Trail WLS	8.93	2 % (two percent) of Advertized cost at the time of submission of Bid/tender online & 3 % (Three percent) performance security of the allotted cost to be submitted within three days from the date of opening of financial bids by successful bidder Pledged to Wildlife Warden, Wildlife Division Shopian.	DEE/CEE	Rs.500/-	(42) calendar days	Tender Opening Committee
02	Construction of Crate wire Bunds at various spots using black annealed wire crate mesh to check soil erosion at Zeethnard Nagwadi Pinglish, Shikargah Trail Range, Trail WLS	1.67		DEE	Rs.200/-	(26) calendar days	
03	Construction of DRSM works at various Spots i.e. Zeethnard Nagwadi and Yashnardi Nallah Shikargah Trail Range, Trail WLS	1.87		DEE	Rs.200/-	(28) calendar days	
04	Erection of Barbed Wire Closure on angle iron posts (Renovation of existing Barbed Wire Closure) SANGNARD Closure Trail Wildlife Sanctuary	1.01		DEE	Rs.200/-	(20) calendar days	
05	Construction of Inspection path with standard specification (1.5 mtr wide), Chesnag to Twiltharg, Shikargah Trail Range	1.36		DEE	Rs.200/-	(20) calendar days	

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website: <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

Position of funds: Committed

Position of AA / TS: Accorded

Compulsory Note & Instructions:-

Hard copy of all the documents uploaded at the time of submission of tenders should be submitted in the office within Three (03) days from the date of opening of Technical Bids without fail along with the copy of Registration Card of required class duly renewed for the year 2023-24 along with verification certificate, valid GST Registration / Latest Return, PAN Card and other relevant documents duly renewed.

a) All contractors/bidders intending to participate in this tender are advised to inspect the location and nature of works or contact the office of the Wildlife Warden, Wildlife Division Shopian in case of any clarification before participating in the tender.

b. All contractors / bidders have to submit Earnest Money Deposit and Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR as per Circular issued by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, Kashmir vide No: CE/RBK/HD/32857-92 Dated: 01-01-2022. The bid/tender without accompanying Earnest Money Deposit shall be out rightly rejected.

c) The allotment / Letter of Intent (LoI) shall be made strictly & only within or as per the approved, allotted & released budgetary allocation at the time of issuance and shall be valid for the current financial year only.

d) Works not completed within the stipulated time of completion shall attract fine under rule and no liability shall be accepted / carried forward.

e) All the documents listed below should be scanned in 100 dpi and uploaded with the bid, providing of Aadhar Card and Contact Number with Contractor's Registration Card is mandatory.

f) The Contractor / Bidder / Agency shall upload Verification Report of Registration Card duly signed by Issuing Authority of the Registration Card or the Competent Authority.

The online bids must be accompanied with the following documents:-

Part-I Technical Bid

(Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid)

1. Retraction Card of required class duly renewed for the year 2023-24 along with verification certificate.

2. Cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) in the shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt for particular work to be deposited into Major Head 0406-Forestry and Wildlife remitted between Tender Inviting Date and Tender Closing Date only in any Treasury of J&K UT.

3. Earnest Money Deposit in shape of CDR/FDR as per Circular issued by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, Kashmir vide No: CE/RBK/HD/32857-92 Dated: 01-01-2022.

4. The GST Registration with GST Clearance ending March-2023

5. PAN Card / Aadhar Card / in use Contact Number.

Part-II Financial Bid

1. Statement of Advertised Quantity & Consideration Rates on item rate basis to be offered by the Contractor / Bidder towards Department (single amount to be quoted by the bidder/contractor on estimated amount) of the advertised quantity in BoQ.

2. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specification, Drawings, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> as per the schedule of dates given below:

Publishing Date	22/06/2023 @ 09:00 Hrs
Downloading Start Date	24/06/2023 to 19/06/2023
Bid submission Date Start	24/06/2023 from 9:30 AM
Bid submission End Date	03/07/2023 upto 04: 00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	04/07/2023 at 11:50 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Srinagar)
Date & time of opening of financial bids (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation
Last Date for Submission of Original Challan and CDR/FDR and other documents (Hard Copy)	Three working days from the date of opening of tenders

1.The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

2.Terms and Conditions

3.Bids uploaded must Treasury Challan / Receipt in shape of Government Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) for the amount shown against the work to be deposited in any Treasury of J&K UT under Account Head : 0406-Forestry and Wildlife and Earnest Money Deposit in shape of CER/ FDR as per Circular issued by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, Kashmir vide No: CE/RBK/HD/32857-92 Dated: 01-01-2022 pledged to Wildlife Warden, Wildlife Division, Shopian remitted / pledged between Tender Inviting Date and Tender Closing Date only.

4.The technical bid uploaded should contain the cleared scan copies of the following documents.

5.Scanned copy of Tender Fee in shape of Govt. Treasury/challan.

6.Scanned Copy of CDR.

7.Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/other authorized Govt. dept. duly renewed for the current year.

8.Scanned copy of the Active GST Number and has filed the most recent Monthly/Quarterly GST return. The same will be checked by this office from GST common portal of State taxes department/Period app.

9.Scanned copy of the PAN Card.

10.Latest Income Tax Return and Valid Sales Tax Clearance Certificate (Form GSTR-3B ending 5/2023)

11.Copy of Aadhaar card.

12.An Affidavit with points:- 1. Correctness of Documents submitted 2. Not Being Black Listed by any institution.

13.Complete address with Whats App No. and email.

14.The original copies of documents, EMD @ 3% of Tender Cost, additional security (if any) and relevant documents be submitted to the tender inviting authority within 07 days after opening of financial bid by LI bidder, otherwise the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further/future tendering process in the Division for a period of One year.

15.In case the cost of lowest bidder is found below the advertised amount, the bidder has to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR before issuance of award of contract to the tune as per below details:

S. No.	%age of unbalanced Bid viz-a viz advertised	Additional Performance Security to be deposited on quoted Bid by LI
1.	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2.	>15% upto and including 20%	5%
3.	>20% upto and including 25%	10%
4.	>25% upto and including 30%	15%
5.	>30%	20%

6.The dates of opening of price bids as per NIT. The price bids will be opened in the office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, Boulevard Road Srinagar.

7.The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, then the earnest money shall be stand forfeited.

**DIPK-4054/23**  
**Date: Jun 24 2023**

**Sd/-**  
**Wildlife Warden,**  
**Shopian Wildlife Division,**  
**Block C 2nd Floor Mini-Secretariat, Shopian**

## NDMA conducts mock exercises at Pahalgam ahead of SANJY-2023

■ **HT News Network**

ANANTNAG, JUNE 24: In view of the ensuing Shri Amarnath ji Yatra (SAJY-2023), a mock drill was today organized under the supervision of Major General Sudhir Bahal to test the disaster preparedness and improvise the response strategy where required.

The Major General on the occasion said that response strategies for these mock scenarios have been discussed threadbare and any gap areas identified have been addressed.

He said that the mock exercise has been very fruitful in ensuring that all



stakeholders are well versed with their responsibilities. He said that the exer-

cise has been instrumental in ensuring interdepartmental coordination.

During the mock drill, several scenarios including fire incidents, terrorist attacks, IED identification and neutralization, vehicular accidents and stampedes were simulated.

The simulations were held at Nunwan Base camp and in adjacent areas. NDMA experts trained the participants on key aspects of disaster management such as the formation of Incident Response Teams, coordination among various participating agencies, evacuation, medical preparedness and trauma counselling.



# Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023: Div Com reviews finalisation of arrangements at Yatri Niwas

## HT News Network

JAMMU, JUNE 24: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today visited Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar to inspect finalisation of arrangements at the Jammu base camp for the Annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023.

The Divisional Commissioner along with senior officers of concerned departments took a round of the Yatri Niwas complex and inspected the arrangements put in place for the comfortable stay of the pilgrims and their safety.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; Commissioner JMC, Rahul Yadav; SSP Jammu, SSP Traffic, SSP Security, Joint Direc-

tor Tourism, besides senior officers of Health, CRPF, Jal Shakti, PWD, JPDCL and other concerned departments.

The Joint Director Tourism apprised the Div Com about the progress of various works being executed in Yatri Niwas premises for improving the facilities. It was informed that the work of face-lifting and renovation of Yatri Niwas has been completed. The Div Com stressed on improving all basic facilities so that pilgrims don't face any inconvenience during the Yatra.

The Div Com emphasized on making adequate provision of the basic amenities well in advance by working in close coordination. Directions were issued for regular sanitation, provision of clean drinking water and other logistics during



the Yatra days. While reviewing security arrangements, the Div Com was informed by the CRPF that all the nakas have been strengthened and adequate deployment will be ensured well

before commencement of the yatra.

Reviewing sanitation facilities, the Commissioner JMC apprised the Div Com that adequate manpower (sanitation

workers) have been deployed for ensuring regular sanitation of yatri niwas and surrounding area.

The Div Com asked concerned departments to ensure early

completion of work of barricading. The Div Com also inspected the parking area, spaces for registration counters, Langer sites etc and issued specific directions for ensuring smooth conduct of Yatra. The Div Com instructed the concerned departments to expedite the pace of works and ensure early completion of all the works. The Divisional Commissioner along with senior officers of concerned departments took a round of the Yatri Niwas complex and inspected the arrangements put in place for the comfortable stay of the pilgrims and their safety.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; Commissioner JMC, Rahul Yadav; SSP Jammu, SSP Traffic, SSP Security, Joint Direc-

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## Samba: MVD recovers over Rs 3.50 Lakh fine from Traffic violators

### HT News Network

SAMBA, JUNE 24: The enforcement team of the Motor Vehicle Department today recovered Rs 3.50 Lakh fine from traffic violators during an early morning checking on National Highway Way in Samba District.

The team comprising ARTO, Samba Shammi Kumar, C.S. Balaria, MVI and other staff conducted checking of around 300 vehicles challaned/compounded 101 vehicles for different traffic violations and recovered Rs. 3, 50, 500 fine on the spot.

Besides conducting checking, the drivers of vehicles were also made aware about the road safety rules and following the same for safe driving on the road. The owners and drivers were advised to ply vehicles with valid documents and avoid over speeding and avoid use of mobile phones while driving which often becomes the cause of accidents.

The ARTO Samba also appealed to the people to wear Crash Helmets and Seat Belts while driving two and four wheelers. He further requested drivers of commercial vehicles to ply vehicles on road by obeying traffic rules to reduce road accidents and save precious human lives.

## Tehsil Administration Panchari conducts cleanliness drive

### HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 24: In view of the increasing footfall of tourists at hill station Panchari amid the scorching heat, the potential of the area has been over explored giving rise to accumulation of garbage and plastic waste which is affecting the scenic view of the area.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya, a cleanliness drive was today conducted by Tehsil Administration here at Tehsil Headquarters Panchari. District Development Council member Panchari Jasvir Singh, Tehsildar Panchari, Vipin Kumar, Principal GHSS Panchari, SHO Panchari, Sarpanch Chulna, officials of Revenue, Forest, Education and various other departments, Local people including students and staff members participated in the drive with full enthusiasm.

The programme was an initiative to make everyone responsible towards our environment and spread the message of 'Clean India Green India'. The programme was highly successful and joyful.

The programme started with the flagging off the rally from GHSS Panchari towards Deodar Forest wherein a public message was flashed by raising slogans. Later the entire Deodar Forest was cleaned by all the participants and the garbage collected was disposed of properly. The participants, after having light refreshment, interacted and shared their views and the programme culminated at Tehsil Headquarters Panchari.

## ICDS-Poshan Camp organised at Gool

### HT News Network

RAMBAN, JUNE 24: In an endeavour to promote health and nutrition among targeted populace, the ICDS (Poshan) Ramban Saturday organized a Mega Camp at Gool. The camp witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 400 beneficiaries, including 150 women and 250 children. The event also saw active involvement of the Anganwadi workers and helpers.

At the inaugural function, District Programme Officer, ICDS Ramban Jahangir Hashmi, sensitized the beneficiaries about the wide array of benefits available under various Poshan Abhiyaan schemes. He said that the Mega camp organized by ICDS (Poshan) Ramban exemplifies the government's commitment

towards the health, nutrition and overall well-being of its citizens, particularly women and children.

Emphasizing the significance of seamless growth and development of children, Hashmi conducted height and weight measurements of the beneficiary children on the spot, promptly uploading the data on the Poshan tracker. During the process, a few children were identified with malnutrition, and immediate directions were given for coordination with health officials present at the camp to implement corrective measures. Furthermore, as part of the initiative to ensure adequate nutrition, supplementary meals in the form of hot cooked meals and glucose biscuits were distributed among all 400 beneficiaries.

## DDC Reasi reviews progress under District Capex Budget 2023-24

### HT News Network

REASI, JUNE 24: District Development Commissioner Reasi Babila Rakwal on Saturday chaired a meeting of District and Sectoral officers of different developmental departments here in the DC office complex.

The DDC reviewed progress of the ongoing works along with the status of new works with regards to preparation of estimates/tendering/allotment and execution under UT/DDC/BDC/PRI, Aspirational Block Development programs and Aspirational panchayat Development plan under capex Budget 2023-24.

The executing agencies apprised DDC Reasi that all the ongoing works are under completion and 40% of estimation has been done.

The DDC issued strict instructions to the Executive Engineers of (R&B) Pwd, PMGSY, JPDCL, PHE, Xen MID, REW to speed up the pace of preparation of estimation and also start the



works immediately, as 'we have received 50% of funds under capex Budget which needs to be utilized at the earliest to pave way for seeking balance funds from the Finance Department.' After taking the work wise review under all the components, the Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to expedite the

tendering process followed by their execution and completion of the same.

ADDC Jyoti Sathia, CPO Sunita Kanchan, ACD Reasi Anirudh Rai, CMO Reasi, Youth Service and sports officer, XEN JPDCL, XEN PWD Katra, XEN PMGSY Reasi, XEN Rew, and other concerned officers were also present at the meeting.

## Secretary Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People concludes 4-Day tour of Poonch District

### HT News Network

POONCH, JUNE 24: Secretary Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People, Sapna Kotwal conducted a 4-day extensive tour of Poonch District to review the functioning of the Boys and Girls Pahari Hostels there. The Secretary was warmly welcomed by the District Social Welfare Officer, Mohinder Paul, who holds the additional charge of the Warden Boys Hostel. The staff of the Boys Pahari Hostel and Shahnaz Bano, Warden girls hostel Poonch and its staff also extended a warm welcome to the Secretary. During her visit, she inspected the facilities being provided to the inmates and directed the staff to ensure proper cleanliness and better infrastructure. She emphasized the need for maintaining cleanliness in and around the institutions and serving healthy food to the inmates as per the menu.

She also chaired a meeting with the concerned wardens to review the status of various upcoming projects, including the construction of the girls' Pahari Hostel at



Qazi Mohra Poonch, the construction of the approach road to Boys Pahari Hostel Poonch and the construction of a multi-purpose hall at Boys Pahari Hostel Poonch.

She instructed the officers to ensure early preparation of DPRs for these projects and conduct awareness programs to sensitize the public about the services provided in the Pahari hostels. Ms. Kotwal emphasized the need for overall development of the residents and their participation in cultural and sports activities besides academic excellence. She also directed the wardens to remain vigilant on the issues of drug abuse to ensure that the residents stay away from any kind of drug.

## DC reviews progress achieved in meeting MGNREGA indicators in Udhampur

### HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 24: To review the progress achieved in meeting indicators under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya today convened a meeting of officers of Rural Development Department here in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Detailed discussions were held on different aspects which include tendering process, Renovation of traditional water bodies, Allotment of works, Timely payment, Quality check, Solid and liquid waste management, Aadhaar authentication, Shelf of works, Registration and verification of Awaas Plus, water conservation and water harvesting, rural connectivity and sanitation etc.

While reviewing the block wise progress of tendering process and allotment of works under MGNREGA, the DC asked the BDOs to complete all the allotted works at an earliest.

He exhorted the officers and field functionaries to work with dedication and in a transparent manner to



complete the works within the fixed time frame ensuring desired quality and providing early benefits to people in rural areas. He stressed upon the officers to maintain the transparency and accountability in all the works being executed under MGNREGA in the District.

The ACD was directed to ensure close monitoring of ongoing works to ensure quality and adherence to timelines and submit the report on a daily basis.

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The ACD was directed to ensure close monitoring of ongoing works to ensure quality and adherence to timelines and submit the report on a daily basis.

## Jal Shakti department Ramban organises awareness programme on JJM

### HT News Network

RAMBAN, JUNE 24: Jal Shakti Department Ramban today hosted a hand holding cum awareness cum orientation programme for Implementation Support Agency (ISA) representatives, PRIs, Anganwadi and Asha workers to achieve optimum results and ensure effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme in the district. Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Musarat Islam was the chief guest of the programme also attended by Chief Plan-



ning Officer, Dr. Kasturi Lal, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, Rajeev Gai, AEEs, IEC Expert JJM and all other functionaries of concerned departments. During the session, the IEC Expert educated the attendants

through demonstration and Power Point Presentation, besides water testing. Awareness was spread among the Anganwari and Asha workers about rain water harvesting, artificial recharge, testing of water

quality, water-borne diseases, water conservation, water cleaning, drinking water source augmentation, sustainability aspects, etc. During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner urged the officers to adhere to the laid guidelines and maintain the highest level of transparency and accountability in the implementation process. He highlighted the importance of Pani Samitis for their immense role not only in providing adequate water supply but also in maintaining cleanliness of the surroundings of water bodies.

## Deputy Commissioner Rajouri interacts with newly appointed Lambardars & Chowkidars

### HT News Network

RAJOURI, JUNE 24: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today interacted with the newly appointed Lambardars and Chowkidars here in his office. The meeting was held to emphasize their crucial role in maintaining law and order in their respective areas, and to urge them to perform their duties with dedication and sincerity.

The meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Imran Rashid



Kataria.

The DC highlighted the crucial role of the Lambardars and Chowkidars in ensuring the safety and security of the villagers, and in declaring them Nasha Mukts. He urged them to work closely with the Tehsil administration and law

enforcement agencies, and to stay vigilant and proactive in identifying and reporting any suspicious activities or incidents in their areas.

The DC also emphasized the need for transparency and fairness in carrying out their duties, and assured

them of the full support of the district administration in carrying out their responsibilities.

The newly appointed Lambardars and Chowkidars expressed their gratitude to the DC for taking the time to interact with them and provide them with valuable guidance. They pledged to work with dedication and sincerity towards maintaining law and order in their areas, and to ensure the safety and security of their fellow citizens, preventing encroachment, reporting cases of accidents, fires and drug abuse.



# NDMA conducts mock exercises ahead of SANJY-2023 via Baltal axis

## Safety of every yatri must be first preference: Member Secretary NDMA

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JUNE 24: To assess the overall preparedness and response measures taken at critical sites to deal with any untoward incident during Yatra, a Mock Drill was conducted by National Disaster Management Authority and District Disaster Management Authorities and all the concerned Govt and private agencies from Baltal axis to deal with

any eventuality during the 2-month long Amarnath pilgrimage.

Member Secretary NDMA, Kamal Kishore, Brig. B.S Thakar from NDMA; Camp Director Baltal, Ghan Shyam Singh and ADC Ganderbal, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah conducted the Mock exercise on the Baltal route covering both natural as well as man-made disasters.

The exercise was conducted to assess the overall preparedness and response measures taken at critical sites to deal with any untow-



ard incident on the Baltal route of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

NDMA experts trained the participants on key aspects of disaster management such as the formation of Incident Response Teams, coordination among various participating agencies, evacuation, medical preparedness and trauma counselling.

After the drills, post-exercise analysis was carried out by the NDMA experts where they discussed the entire operation and underlined

areas that needed improvement.

Kamal Kishore, Member Secretary NDMA while speaking on the occasion said that purpose of holding day-long mock exercise was to take stock of preparations for the Shri amarnathji Yatra 2023 and to take all different scenario of disaster and prepare and avoid all possible such disasters to ensure safety of every yatri which is the first most preference and efforts are being put together by everyone, he added.

## Nagina International and Jammu and Kashmir Fiction Writers' Guild Host Vibrant Literary Event

■ By Zubair Qureshi

A literary function unfolded in the heart of Srinagar on Saturday as Nagina International and Jammu and Kashmir Fiction Writers' Guild jointly hosted a grand literary function at the Awan E Adab, Hotel Shahenshah Palace, Boulevard Road. The event brought together esteemed personalities from the world of literature to celebrate renowned writers and unveil notable publications. The function served as a testament to the rich literary heritage of Jammu and

Kashmir, captivating attendees and participants alike. Retired Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani, presiding over the event, emphasized the importance of such programs and expressed his hope for their continuation in the future. He stated, "Jammu and Kashmir is a literary hub and has produced many legendary icons. These types of programs should also be organized in the future."

In the presidium, the distinguished gathering included luminaries such as Prof. Shafeeq Parveen, former Director of Distance Education at KU, Vehshi



Sayed Patron JkFWG, Prof. Majrooh Rasheed, former HOD Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir, Dr. Nazir Mushtaq, President Fiction Writers Guild, Mohd. Amin Bhat, President Adbi Markiz Kamraz, and Dr. Dildar Ahmad Son of

Prof. Rehman Rahi. The event buzzed with a huge gathering of esteemed writers and literary lovers.

The event commenced with the unveiling of the latest issue of Nagina International, paying tribute to the illustrious career of

Prof. Rehman Rahi. Masarat Ara, a research scholar from Kashmir University, presented a brief analysis of the publication, highlighting the profound impact of Prof. Rahi's contributions.

Jammu and Kashmir Fiction Writers Guild also took the opportunity to unveil a commemorative booklet honoring its former President, Shahzada Bismal. In a remarkable announcement, it was revealed that the Fiction Writers Guild would establish the prestigious "Shahzada Bismal Memorial Award," to be conferred upon deserving writers of Kashmir at their

annual function in future. The award was presented to the world-renowned fiction writer, Noor Shah, acknowledging his exceptional talent. Adding to the literary fervor, renowned writer Hasaan Saho unveiled his latest publication, "Saang Rezay," which had garnered considerable anticipation. The book's release was followed by an insightful analysis delivered by the young scholar, Suhail Salim, further captivating the audience.

Recognizing excellence across various fields, Nagina International honored individuals.

## Various Agro-Chemical Shops inspected at Budgam

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, JUNE 24: In order to take stock of the agro-chemicals in the district, Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO) Budgam today inspected various agrochemical shops in the district where registration documents were checked and samples were lifted for laboratory testing.

The CHO directed the Officers of the Department of Horticulture Budgam for surprise inspection of all retail outlets and warehouses of pesticides in the district to ensure that quality pesticides reach the Orchardists.

He called upon the public and said that as responsible citizens, they should be eyes and ears of administration in the field and bring into notice the sale and/or purchase of spurious pesticides if any, so that stringent action is initiated against culprits. He also instructed all the dealers to strictly comply with guidelines. The CHO was accompanied by the District Level Subject Matter Specialist, Pathology Budgam during the inspection.

## DC visits Mata Katyayani temple at Kakran & Mata Kulwagishori temple Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JUNE 24: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited Mata Katyayani temple at Kakran and Mata Kulwagishori temple at Kulgam to oversee the arrangements put in place for 'Haar Ashtami'. Officers from KPDC, Jal Shakti, Health, RDD and other line departments briefed the DC about the arrangements put in place for smooth conduct of the celebrations at these places. On the occasion, the DC asked the concerned officers to synergize efforts and extend all requisite facilities to the devotees. He directed all the offices to ensure appropriate arrangements are put in place for the smooth celebrations of 'Haar Ashtami.'

The DC during the visit was accompanied by ACR, Mir Imtiyaz UI Aziz; ACD, Mohammad Imran; ACP Shrjeel Ali; Tehsildar Kulgam, BMO, EO, TSO and other officers.

## 3 day Internal Assessor Training for officers of health department concludes

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: A three day Internal Assessor Training programme for officers of health department of Kashmir division concluded here today. The training programme was organised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in collaboration with National Health Mission (NHM) J&K. The valedictory ceremony was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, as chief guest besides Advisor Quality Improvement at NHSRC, JN Srivastava, Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmed Rather.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name wrongly mentioned in Driving Licence Bearing Licence No bearing no JK0120150098089 as Aakib Rashid S/O : Abdul Rashid Pukhta R/O Usman Abad Zanakote sgr, But my actual Nmae is Aqib Rashid S/O : Abdul Rashid Pukhta R/O Usman Abad Zanakote

Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He//She may contact with RTO Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Nmae, Aqib Rashid  
S/O : Abdul Rashid Pukhta  
R/O Usman Abad Zanakote

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Aslam Sheikh, S/O Bashir Ahmad Sheikh R/O Mandir Bagh Gaw Kadal Want to correcting my name and D.O.B 6/9/1992 given above in my school certificate records. Anybody having any objection should In this regard contact S.M Public School, Safakadal, Sgr within 7 days. Fareed Ahmed Khan  
Name, Mohammad Aslam Sheikh,  
S/O Bashir Ahmad Sheikh  
R/O Mandir Bagh Gaw Kadal



## TLSC Kangan organizes Awareness programme On NALSA

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JUNE 24: On the directions of Secretary District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak and under the guidance of Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Kangan, Essar-UI-Nabi, the TLSC Kangan today organized an awareness programme on Legal Services to Mentally ill and Mentally Disabled Persons Scheme 2015 at Government Higher Secondary School Gund.

Advocate Sajad Ahmad Khan, Resource person delivered speech on the said topic.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that under section 12 of legal services Authority Act 1987, persons who are disabled as defined in clause 1 of section 2 of the persons with disabilities (Equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act 1985 and those in a psychiatric hospital or in a psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (Q) of section 2 of the mental health Act 1987 are entitled to legal services.

He said, hence NALSA has drawn up a scheme to provide effective legal services to Mentally ill and Mentally Disabled Persons in 2010, in terms of its mandate under S.4 (B) of the legal services Authority Act 1987. He further said that though the scheme was first launched in 2010, from the reports receiving from all the states on its implementation, it appears that there is a need to revive the scheme to strengthen the service rendered by the state Legal Services Authorities / Legal Services Institutions to these marginalized people to enable them to access justice.

There is imperative need for a proactive outreach to these people so for the SLAs / DLSAs seem to be concerned only with matters reaching them. Even then, there remains much to be done in court related activities, he added.

## Big relief to Kidney patients at SSH

### Rana handover 1000 Ltr RO plant for dialysis to SSH under CSR

■ HT News Network

JAMMU JUNE 24- Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today lauded societal response in supplementing the governmental efforts to ensure various services to people, especially in key health sector.

"The motivation to help and support has strengthened manifold ever since 'health for all' getting impetus and focus under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inspirational leadership", Mr Devender Rana said while handing over 1000 Ltr Capacity LPH Water Purification Plant for dialysis of patients under Corporate Social Responsibility to Principal Government Medical College, Jammu at Super-Specialty Hospital (SSH) provided by OSMOTECH (RO manufacturing company) through their local partner Mr Dinesh Gupta, Managing Director Globus Healthcare here this morning.

Principal Government



Medical College Jammu Dr. Shashi Sudan, Deputy Superintendent SSH Hospital, Dr Manoj Chalotra and Mr Ashwani Khajuria, Administrator GMC, Jammu were present on the occasion. Mr Devender Rana said the gesture will go a long way in meeting the requirements of Kidney patients, attendants of the hospital. The community and Corporate support in such endeavours does not only strengthen the human values but also instils the sense of camaraderie among fellow human beings, he added.

Mr Devender Rana said the health sector has witnessed tremendous and

unprecedented growth in the recent years with the Prime Minister introducing Ayushman Scheme as part of his mission to lead the nation to yet another milestone of ensuring health for all. As regards Jammu and Kashmir, the scheme applies to the entire population without economic status. This speaks of the BJP's concern for the common people, he said.

To questions by media persons, Mr Rana dwelt in detail how India converted the grim pandemic situation into an opportunity to raise health infrastructure across the country. The resolute leadership of the Prime Minister inspired

scientists to develop indigenous vaccines which insulated the compatriots against the disease and came as Sanjeevani for the desperate people the world over. This reflected India's glorious philosophy of Vasudeva Kutumbakam that is manifesting in global admiration for this spiritual land, he added.

On perpetual India bashing campaign by 'misguided' opposition politicians, Mr Devender Rana said one can only take pity on them and their sense of proportion. On the one hand Yashasvi Modiji is building a powerful image for his country across continents and on the other hand handful of power hungry Indian elite work overtime to bring bad name for the nation, he lamented, saying they are destined to fail.

Prominent BJP leaders who were present on the occasion included Zorawar Singh, Som Nath Khajuria, Rajesh Bakshi, Sanjay Gupta, Ajay Gupta and others.

## Director Agriculture Kashmir visits Apiarists at Ajas Bandipora

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Apiarists at Ajas Bandipora and held an interactive session with concerned bee keepers.

He took stock of various related activities and received feed back regarding various interventions by the department.

Addressing, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of small scale agriculture cottage industries like Bee Keeping/ Apiculture and mushroom cultivation for small and marginal farmers.

He asked the farmers to go for diversification in agriculture activities. He said that diversification contributes to the economic security of the farming community against changes in Climate and Soil resources.

Director Agriculture said Multi-crore projects have been approved by the government under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for the promotion



of apiculture in the UT of J&K. He said the promotion of apiculture And mushroom are among the 29 projects recently approved after being recommended by the UT level apex Committee for HADP.

Chowdhury Iqbal assured the concerned farmers of every possible technical support from the department. He asked the concerned officers to put in all the efforts for the successful implementation of different programme aimed to promote the agriculture activities like apiculture And mushroom among the small and marginal farmers of the region.

## DC Rajouri Inspects Progress on Jal Shakti, PWD(R&B), and Power Sector Projects in Rajouri

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JUNE 24: Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the mega development projects in the district. Among them was the Androlla Bridge, which is being completed under the languishing scheme. The bridge spans 135 meters and is estimated to cost about Rs 4.50 crore Rupees. The work on the approach road to the bridge is in progress.

He was accompanied by several officers from Jal Shakti, PWD (R&B) and PDD departments, including SE PWD (R&B), Bikram Singh; SE Jal Shakti Rajouri, Bhram Jyoti Sharma; EXEN Jal



Shakti Rajouri, Ashwini Sharma; and EXEN PWD (R&B) Rajouri, Sardar Khan

DC Vikas Kundal also inspected the Saranoo Thathi JJM scheme, which is estimated to cost about Rs 6.60 crore and will benefit a population of 5000 people. The project is expected to be complete within four months. The DC expressed satisfaction over the progress made so far.

In addition, DC Vikas Kundal also inspected the

under construction 6.3 MVA receiving station at Khandli, which is estimated to cost Rs 2.79 crore. The receiving station is a crucial component of the power sector projects in the area. The DC also resolved a local ROW dispute on the spot.

The visit of the DC along with the officers was aimed to galvanize the efforts of the executing agencies in order to ensure timely completion of these projects.



EDITORIAL

CLIMATE CHANGE:  
Kashmir Also Battling  
Impact of Rising  
Temperatures...

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges facing our planet today, with far-reaching consequences on both a global and local scale. The mountainous region of Kashmir, renowned for its natural beauty and picturesque landscapes, is not immune to the impacts of climate change. As temperatures continue to rise, Kashmir is experiencing a shift in its weather patterns, leading to a multitude of challenges for its environment, economy, and the well-being of its inhabitants.

One of the most noticeable effects of climate change in Kashmir is the rise in temperatures. Over the past few decades, the region has witnessed a consistent increase in average temperatures, disrupting its delicate ecological balance. The higher temperatures have led to accelerated glacial melting in the Himalayan range, which serves as a vital source of freshwater for the region's rivers and lakes. This has not only resulted in reduced water availability but has also heightened the risk of flash floods and landslides during the monsoon season.

Kashmir is home to a diverse array of flora and fauna, with its unique ecosystem providing habitat to several endangered species. However, the changing climate is threatening this biodiversity. The warmer temperatures are altering the timing and duration of seasons, affecting the flowering and fruiting patterns of plants. As a consequence, migratory birds and insects are arriving at different times, disrupting the delicate ecological interactions that have evolved over centuries. Additionally, rising temperatures have facilitated the expansion of invasive species, further destabilizing the region's ecological balance.

Kashmir's economy heavily relies on agriculture, with a significant portion of its population engaged in farming. However, the changing climate is posing severe challenges to the agricultural sector. Erratic rainfall patterns and extended dry spells are resulting in water stress and reduced crop yields. The timing and intensity of snowfall, critical for ensuring water availability during the summer months, are becoming increasingly unpredictable. Farmers are finding it difficult to adapt to these changes, which threaten their livelihoods and exacerbate food security concerns.

The impact of climate change extends beyond the natural environment; it also poses risks to human health and livelihoods. Rising temperatures contribute to the spread of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, which were previously uncommon in the region. Heatwaves have become more frequent and intense, leading to heat-related illnesses and even fatalities, particularly among vulnerable populations. Additionally, the disruption of traditional livelihoods, such as agriculture and tourism, due to changing weather patterns further compounds the socio-economic challenges faced by the people of Kashmir.

Addressing climate change requires a two-pronged approach: mitigation and adaptation. On the mitigation front, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is essential to slow down the rate of global warming. Governments, both at the regional and national levels, must prioritize the transition to renewable energy sources, promote energy efficiency, and enforce stricter environmental regulations. Simultaneously, adaptation measures are necessary to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts. This includes implementing sustainable water management practices, promoting climate-smart agriculture, and enhancing early warning systems for extreme weather events.

Climate change is an undeniable reality, and its impact on Kashmir's weather patterns and ecosystems is becoming increasingly evident. The rising temperatures in the region are affecting biodiversity, water resources, agriculture, human health, and livelihoods.

To safeguard the future of Kashmir and its inhabitants, concerted efforts are required to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changing climate. It is crucial for policymakers, communities, and individuals to work collaboratively in implementing sustainable solutions that preserve the beauty and resilience of this picturesque region while securing a better future for generations to come.

Both Modi And Biden Had Their Eyes On  
2024 Polls During The Indian PM's Visit

Defence And High Tech Agreements To Give A Big Boost To India's Capability



ARUN KUMAR SHRIVASTAV

India and the United States will witness national elections to choose the top executives next year. In India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will seek a third term in the government. President Joe Biden is seeking reelection in the USA, while reports suggest that Michelle Obama, the former first lady, could be brought in as the Democratic Party's Presidential candidate. During the Presidential race, Joe Biden had asked Michelle Obama to join him as the Vice Presidential candidate. It's believed that the Obamas practically run the current Joe Biden administration.

Just ahead of the crucial elections, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit gives the two leaders a chance to reassert their leadership for the future. A warm welcome to visiting dignitaries has been an unmistakable characteristic of the Indian PM's working style. But the Americans have not been known for such symbolism. They are supposed to be more business-like. With Joe Biden stealing a leaf from PM Modi's PR book, the American people have been treated with something unexpected in which Biden emerges much brighter and promising than he has been so far.

Tangible outcomes from the Indian PM's US visit serve both leaders. So, there is plenty for the press from the US-India Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership. Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), Space cooperation, technology sharing, co-development, and co-production opportunities, Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership, telecommunications, Indo-US Quantum Coordination Mechanism, Quantum Information Science and Technology agreement, and various defence deals, including India's plans to procure General Atomics MQ-9B HALE UAVs are the results of the engagement.

With India being the 5th largest economy aspiring to be the 3rd, next only to the US and China, it offers immense potential to global business. There is nothing to guess why top CEOs from Elon Musk to Sundar Pichai would sit with the Indian Prime Minister and discuss multi-billion dollar deals. A notable development that these



discussions and potential deals hint at is the focus on high-tech and manufacturing. Interestingly, these are the areas in which China has done remarkably well in the past decades to become not only the second largest economy in the world but also leave the most powerful country with a staggering \$31 trillion debt trap. A significant portion of this debt has come from China.

In the 2008 Presidential run-up in which Hillary Clinton was increasingly viewed as a Presidential candidate, she once remarked: How do you get tough on your banker? She was replying to someone complaining about the loss of manufacturing jobs and asked why America can't get tough with China. The Barack Obama administration, which followed the Iraq war, where America was seen as the aggressor, had practically accepted the rise of China on the economic front. President Obama allowed this to continue as he remained focused on improving the global image of America. A suave and sophisticated Obama won hearts across the globe but lost the American plot to China. While the US has waged several wars and armed offensives from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan, China has refrained from military interventions and remained focused on increasing its economic might. The narrative

got a twist when businessman Donald Trump became the US President and began to investigate where America lost its jobs and edge in manufacturing.

Being the next-door neighbour, India is constantly threatened by the China factor. As the world unites to counter an aggressive China flush with funds, Indian PM Modi and American President Biden find themselves in a unique position when they can change the course of world diplomacy, and this must start with making themselves economically stronger than China. If that's the objective, manufacturing is the new frontier where they must slug it out. From semiconductors to military hardware, space technology, and AI, the two countries must pip China. If Modi and Putin can do so, both will be hailed as job creators in their respective countries. They may likely win the elections, also.

Else India is seeing opposition parties coming together at a historic Patna meet, and Michelle Obama is getting ready to unleash another round of America's charm offensive. An attorney, writer, mother, wife, and a former first lady, very few in world politics can match her credentials.

(IPA Service)

British Labour Leadership Under Keir  
Starmer Is Isolating The Left Members

Time Is Right For The Trade Unions And Progressives To Jointly Fight Back



BEN CHACKO

The relentless right-wing attack on the left within the Britain's Labour Party continues unabated. Recent weeks have seen the elected mayor of the North of Tyne region barred from being considered as the party's candidate for the next election and two further members of the Socialist Campaign Group of MPs deselected.

In both cases, the MPs were victims of the crudest manipulation by the party apparatus. Beth Winter in Cynon and Merthyr Tydfil was railroaded out after a reselection process truncated and circumscribed to make democratic debate within her constituency party all but impossible.

And Mick Whitley in Birkenhead, one of the few former manual workers still to be found in the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP), was forced into an entirely unnecessary reselection fight against Allison McGovern, one-time chair of right-wing pressure group Progress, whose Wirral South seat is being abolished.

McGovern could easily have moved to the adjacent Labour-held Wirral West constituency, where the incumbent MP is retiring and much of her existing seat transferred, but chose instead to be used as a means to remove Whitley from Parliament. These latest manoeuvres follow the banning of former leader Jeremy Corbyn from standing again, the withdrawal of the whip from Diane Abbott, which prejudices her parliamentary future too, and the continued blocking of union-supported candidates from consideration for Labour nominations in winnable seats.



Preferred candidates are overwhelmingly drawn from the professional classes, and are often people with scant achievements. The Labour standard-bearer in the forthcoming Selby by-election, for example, has only ever held a job at the Confederation of British Industry, where he worked in its public affairs team through the greatest PR disaster in the organisation's history.

The striking thing about the left response to this unending onslaught on party democracy has been its absence. Right-wing fixer Luke Akehurst — one of a trio of Labour officials effectively choosing the next PLP — exultantly retweeted this assessment by a business journalist: "Keir Starmer is running rings around the left. Every announcement has them jumping up and down,

shouting, crying, raging, vowing to 'fight'. But nothing ever comes of it. They haven't landed a single blow and they have no clue what to do next. A petulant army of paper tigers."

There is limited virtue in playing a blame game as to why this situation has arisen, why the defeat of 2019 has turned into a wholesale rout. The key is turning the situation around.

One challenge here is the tendency of affiliated unions to give the parliamentary leadership — Keir Starmer, in effect — a blank cheque to go about its business as it sees fit. That attitude only waxes as it appears that Labour is on the brink of government. Who wants to fall out with the next prime minister over a left MP or two?

This attitude is, however, profoundly short-sighted. Labour is on the verge of ceasing to be "a labour party" in any meaningful sense, with socialism and trade unionism likewise marginalised and the party leadership more in hock than ever to the main centres of capitalist class power.

Whatever partial amelioration a Starmer government might offer on this or that issue, the entrenched subordination of Labour to the bourgeoisie would constitute a historic setback for working-class political independence and articulation.

Affiliated trade unions should unite with left MPs, disenfranchised constituencies and vetoed candidates in a common bloc in support of party democracy in the first instance.

This does not mean forming a new party, for which there is scant basis at present, but it does mean organising a more purposeful fight for socialist policies as well as for the integrity of Labour's procedures.

(IPA Service)  
Courtesy: Morning Star



In March, the government informed the Rajya Sabha that it would become a 5 trillion dollar economy even before the IMF's estimate of 2026-27. How does this number trickle down to the citizens here? Does economic growth and happiness have any correlation?

There's a need to look into the intersection of economy and happiness to allow for a growth that is citizen focused, sustainable and effective.

Happiness is an inherent human desire, and economists have been concentrating a lot of their research on this topic. A sub-field of economics termed "the economics of happiness" deals with the correlation between happiness and economic growth.

#### What Does Happiness Mean Economically?

Although it can be challenging to define happiness, economists have made an effort to measure it using a variety of indicators, including happiness indices, subjective well-being, and life satisfaction. These measures, which are aimed at capturing people's opinions of their own well-being, can be influenced by a variety of factors, such as personal values, wealth, health, and social relationships.

When we discuss the economics of happiness, we fundamentally want to know how variables like income and employment affect people's happiness and sense of fulfilment in life. Happiness measurement is a complex task, though. It is a complicated, multifaceted idea that is susceptible to a wide range of internal and external variables.

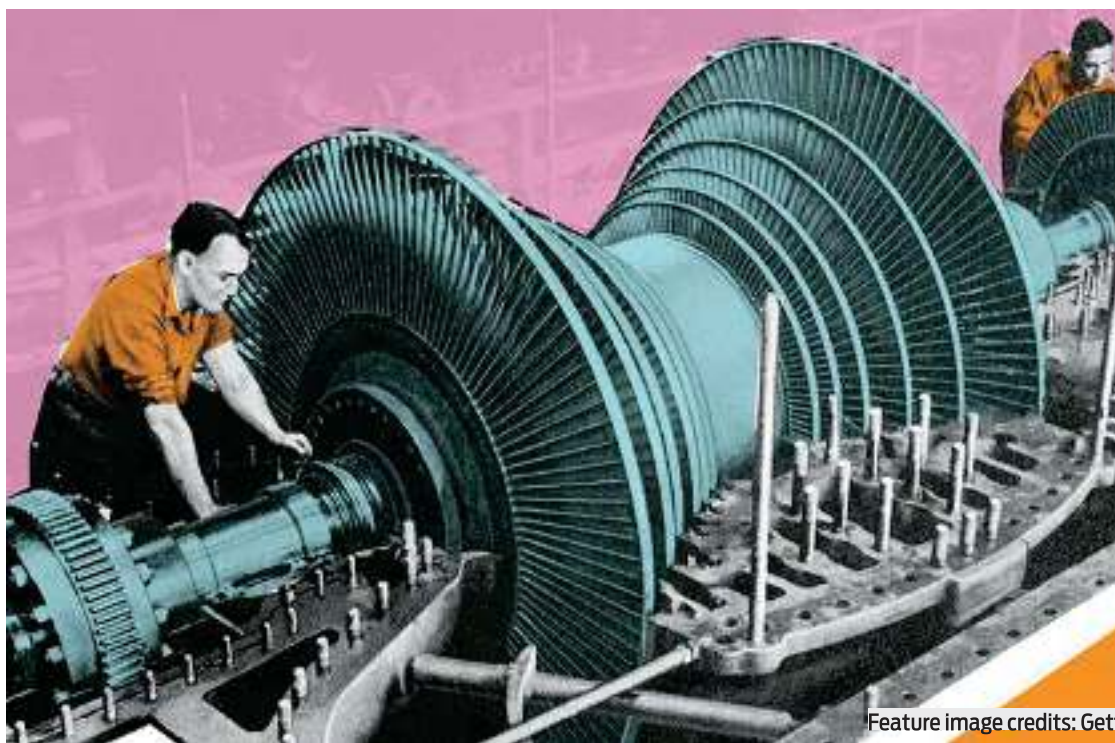
Surveys and questionnaires that allow participants to rate their own level of life satisfaction or subjective well-being are methods economists have used to measure happiness. In these surveys, individuals are frequently asked how happy they are with their jobs, relationships, health, and other aspects of their lives. The average level of life satisfaction or well-being for a population can be calculated by adding together these responses.

The use of happiness indices, which are composite measurements that account for a variety of different variables thought to influence happiness, such as wealth, health, education, and social ties, is an additional strategy. The World Happiness Report, which evaluates nations based on a variety of characteristics including money, social support, freedom, and charity, is an illustration of a happiness index. It's important to keep in mind that these measurements do have some constraints, despite the fact that they can be insightful into how societal and economic issues affect happiness. For instance, a variety of biases and cognitive heuristics, such as the propensity to place more emphasis on negative than positive experiences, can have an impact on how people perceive their own well-being. Additionally, these measures could miss out on crucial components of happiness, including finding meaning and purpose in life, which are determined by individual values and beliefs.

Despite these drawbacks, the economics of happiness has grown in importance as a field for

# The Economics of Happiness

Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena and M. Nayyar Azam



Feature image credits: Getty

**The necessity of reorienting economic policy away from straightforward, conventional economic development, towards more comprehensive measurements of progress is another significant conclusion of the economics of happiness. The effects of economic policies on well-being must be considered by policymakers, who must also make sure that economic growth is equitable and sustainable**

research recently. This is due in part to the fact that decision-makers have begun to realize that ensuring citizens' well-being cannot be achieved solely through economic growth. We must consider how economic policies affect people's happiness and sense of fulfilment in life in order to build a truly prosperous and sustainable society.

The creation of gross national happiness (GNH) measures is one way that policymakers

are doing this. GNH is a counterpart for the gross domestic product (GDP) that considers not just economic development but also other aspects including cultural preservation, environmental sustainability, and the promotion of well-being and happiness. Countries like Bhutan have already made GNH a national policy objective, and other nations are now beginning to consider this type of approach as well.

"The economics of happiness" is a fascinat-

ing and vital area of research that intends to comprehend the connection between economic factors and people's well-being. Even though quantifying happiness is not an easy process, economists have created a number of indices and measures that can offer important insights into this intricate and multidimensional topic. We can build a more sustainable and prosperous society for all if we consider how economic policies affect people's happiness and well-being.

#### The Relation Between Happiness and Income

To a certain extent, there is a positive correlation between income and happiness, which is one of the main findings of the economics of happiness. This relationship is often termed the "Easterlin Paradox," so named after the economist Richard Easterlin who initially studied it. This paradox asserts that while money and material belongings do make people happier, the impact of income on well-being actually diminishes as income rises. While income plays an important role in determining happiness, other factors additionally have a big impact. Social ties, health, education, and personal values are a few of these. For instance, research has found that socially connected individuals typically experience greater levels of happiness than socially isolated individuals. Similarly, people who prioritize their own development and education tend to be happier and have more satisfaction with their lives.

#### Policymakers Implications

The economics of happiness has significant implications for policymakers, who are becoming increasingly conscious of the necessity to give happiness preference when making decisions. This has prompted the development of policies like the gross national happiness (GNH) initiative, which aims to evaluate and promote happiness and well-being alongside economic progress.

The necessity of reorienting economic policy away from straightforward, conventional economic development, towards more comprehensive measurements of progress is another significant conclusion of the economics of happiness. The effects of economic policies on well-being must be considered by policymakers, who must also make sure that economic growth is equitable and sustainable.

The relationship between economic growth and well-being has become more widely recognized owing to the economics of happiness. Despite the fact that income is a key indicator of happiness, other elements including social ties, health, and personal values are as crucial. In making decisions, those making decisions must prioritize people's well-being and make sure that economic policies support fair and sustainable growth. We can make everyone in society happier and more successful by doing so.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer*

## What Is The Political Agenda Of Artificial Intelligence?

Santiago Zabala | Claudio Gallo

The hand mill gives you society with the feudal lord; the steam mill society with the industrial capitalist," Karl Marx once said. And he was right. We have seen over and over again throughout history how technological inventions determine the dominant mode of production and with it the type of political authority present in a society.

So what will artificial intelligence give us? Who will capitalise on this new technology, which is not only becoming a dominant productive force in our societies (just like the hand mill and the steam mill once were) but, as we keep reading in the news, also appears to be "fast escaping our control"?

Could AI take on a life of its own, like so many seem to believe it will, and single-handedly decide the course of our history? Or will it end up as yet another technological invention that serves a particular agenda and benefits a certain subset of humans?

Recently, examples of hyperrealistic, AI-generated content, such as an "interview" with former Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher, who has not been able to talk to the press since a devastating ski accident in 2013; "photographs" showing former President Donald Trump being arrested in New York; and seemingly authentic student essays "written" by OpenAI's famous chatbot ChatGPT have raised serious concerns among intellectuals, politicians and academics about the dangers this new technology may pose to our societies.

In March, such concerns led Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, AI heavyweight Yoshua Bengio and Tesla/Twitter CEO Elon Musk among many others to sign an open letter accusing AI labs of being "locked in an out-of-control race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one – not even their creators – can understand, predict, or reliably control" and calling on AI developers to pause their work. More recently, Geoffrey Hinton – known as one of the three "godfathers of AI" quit Google "to speak freely about the dangers of AI" and said he, at least in part, regrets his contributions to the field.

We accept that AI – like all era-defining technology – comes with considerable downsides and dangers, but contrary to Wozniak, Bengio, Hinton

and others, we do not believe that it could determine the course of history on its own, without any input or guidance from humanity. We do not share such concerns because we know that, just like it is the case with all our other technological devices and systems, our political, social and cultural agendas are also built into AI technologies. As philosopher Donna Haraway explained, "Technology is not neutral. We're inside of what we make, and it's inside of us."

Before we further explain why we are not scared of a so-called AI takeover, we must define and explain what AI – as what we are dealing with now – actually is. This is a challenging task, not only because of the complexity of the product at hand but also because of the media's mythologisation of AI.

What is being insistently communicated to the public today is that the conscious machine is (almost) here, that our everyday world will soon resemble the ones depicted in movies like 2001: A Space Odyssey, Blade Runner and The Matrix.

This is a false narrative. While we are undoubtedly building ever more capable computers and calculators, there is no indication that we have created – or are anywhere close to creating – a digital mind that can actually "think".

Noam Chomsky recently argued (alongside Ian Roberts and Jeffrey Watumull) in a New York Times article that "we know from the science of linguistics and the philosophy of knowledge that [machine learning programmes like ChatGPT] differ profoundly from how humans reason and use language". Despite its amazingly convincing answers to a variety of questions from humans, ChatGPT is "a lumbering statistical engine for pattern matching, gorging on hundreds of terabytes of data and extrapolating the most likely conversational response or most probable answer to a scientific question". Mimicking German philosopher Martin Heidegger (and risking reigniting the age-old battle between continental and analytical philosophers), we might say, "AI doesn't think. It simply calculates."

Federico Faggin, the inventor of the first commercial microprocessor, the mythical Intel 4004, explained this clearly in his 2022 book Irriducibile (Irreducible): "There is a clear distinction between symbolic machine 'knowledge' ... and human se-

**We accept that AI – like all era-defining technology – comes with considerable downsides and dangers, but contrary to Wozniak, Bengio, Hinton and others, we do not believe that it could determine the course of history on its own, without any input or guidance from humanity**

mantic knowledge. The former is objective information that can be copied and shared; the latter is a subjective and private experience that occurs in the intimacy of the conscious being."

Interpreting the latest theories of Quantum Physics, Faggin appears to have produced a philosophical conclusion that fits curiously well within ancient Neoplatonism – a feat that may ensure that he is forever considered a heretic in scientific circles despite his incredible achievements as an inventor.

But what does all this mean for our future? If our super-intelligent Centaur Chiron cannot actually "think" (and therefore emerge as an independent force that can determine the course of human history), exactly who will it benefit and give political authority to? In other words, what values will its decisions rely on?

Chomsky and his colleagues asked a similar question to ChatGPT.

"As an AI, I do not have moral beliefs or the ability to make moral judgments, so I cannot be considered immoral or moral," the chatbot told them. "My lack of moral beliefs is simply a result of my nature as a machine learning model."

Where have we heard of this position before? Is it not eerily similar to the ethically neutral vi-

sion of hardcore liberalism?

Liberalism aspires to confine in the private individual sphere all religious, civil and political values that proved so dangerous and destructive in the 16th and 17th centuries. It wants all aspects of society to be regulated by a particular – and in a way mysterious – form of rationality: the market.

AI appears to be promoting the very same brand of mysterious rationality. The truth is, it is emerging as the next global "big business" innovation that will steal jobs from humans – making labourers, doctors, barristers, journalists and many others redundant. The new bots' moral values are identical to the market's. It is difficult to imagine all the possible developments now, but a scary scenario is emerging.

David Krueger, assistant professor in machine learning at the University of Cambridge, commented recently in New Scientist: "Essentially every AI researcher (myself included) has received funding from big tech. At some point, society may stop believing reassurances from people with such strong conflicts of interest and conclude, as I have, that their dismissal [of warnings about AI] betrays wishful thinking rather than good counterarguments."

If society stands up to AI and its promoters, it could prove Marx wrong and prevent the leading technological development of the current era from determining who holds political authority.

But for now, AI appears to be here to stay. And its political agenda is fully synchronised with that of free market capitalism, the principal (undeclared) goal and purpose of which is to tear apart any form of social solidarity and community.

The danger of AI is not that it is an impossible-to-control digital intelligence that could destroy our sense of self and truth through the "fake" images, essays, news and histories it generates. The danger is that this undeniably monumental invention appears to be basing all its decisions and actions on the same destructive and dangerous values that drive predatory capitalism.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Al Jazeera*



# PM Modi meets CEOs of Amazon, Boeing and Google, discusses further collaboration with India

## HT News Network

New Delhi/Washington, June 24 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met the President and CEO of Amazon Andrew Jassy, and of Boeing, David L. Calhoun, and Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet Inc. and Google.

Prime Minister and Jassy held discussions in the area of e-commerce. They also discussed the potential of further collaboration with Amazon in the logistics sector in India.

Prime Minister welcomed Amazon's initiative of promoting digitisation of MSMEs in India, a statement said. During his meeting with the President and CEO of Boeing, David Calhoun, the two discussed Boeing's greater presence in the aviation sector in India, including in the domain of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) of aircrafts.

Prime Minister also invited Boeing to invest in the Space manufacturing sector in India.

During his meeting with Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet Inc. and Google, Prime Minister invited Pichai to explore further avenues of collaboration in the domains of Artificial Intelligence (AI); fintech; cybersecurity products & services; as well as mobile device manufacturing in India. They also discussed collaboration



between Google and academic institutions in India to promote R&D and skill development. PM Modi also held a meeting with leading professionals at the John F. Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C.

The event was organized by US – India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). Secretary of State Antony Blinken also graced the occasion.

In his address, Prime Minister highlighted the profound transformation currently underway in India and the strides being made in various sectors. Stressing that "This is the moment", Prime Minister invited the professionals to forge partnerships with India. The event was attended by around 1000 leading professions hailing from diverse fields. Google CEO Sundar Puchai said that he shared with the Prime Minister that Google

is investing \$10 billion in India's digitisation fund. "We are announcing the opening of our global fintech operation centre in GIFT City, Gujarat," news agency ANI quoted Mr Pichai as saying. An Amazon statement said its CEO Andy Jassy and the PM spoke about supporting Indian startups, creating jobs, enabling exports, digitisation, and empowering individuals and small businesses to compete globally. "Amazon has pledged to digitise 10 million small businesses, enable \$20 billion in exports, and create 2 million jobs in India by 2025. Currently, Amazon India is on track to deliver on them, having already digitised over 6.2 million small businesses, enabled over \$7 billion in exports, and created over 1.3 million direct and indirect jobs," the company statement said.

# "Nitish Kumar, Lalu Yadav Daydreaming": Ravi Shankar Prasad Rips Into Opposition

## HT News Network

New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday mocked the opposition party meeting, saying Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Lalu Prasad Yadav were "daydreaming". He reminded them of their "suffering" during the Emergency imposed by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"Lalu Ji and Nitish Ji went to jail during the Emergency in the country. How much they suffered during the Indira regime. They are hobnobbing with Rahul Gandhi for the sake of power," he said.

The BJP leader also took a dig at Lalu Yadav's "Shaa-di kariye, aur hum log baraati chale (get married, we'll come for the wedding procession)" suggestion to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

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Continuing the attack against the opposition, Mr Prasad said, "How far will



they (opposition) stay united in their opposition to PM Modi and what can they do to grab power. Let us see".

He termed PM Narendra Modi's visit to the United States a successful one, based on shared principles of democracy and equality. Referring to PM Modi's rising stature as a tall world leader, he said, "People have seen that a leader who is honest is always voted to power with an absolute majority".

As India is the world's third-largest economy, the former Union Minister said, "The respect and worth of a nation lies in its economic development and political clout".

"They (opposition) will not get political advantage

out of this meeting," Mr Prasad, a senior BJP leader, said.

He took a dig at the opposition after Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party engaged in a war of words over the Centre's Ordinance pertaining to control of services in the Capital.

"Kejriwal ran away.... Let us see what is happening next," he said, after Mr Kejriwal had before the meeting threatened to pull out of the meeting in case the grand old party did not support AAP's fight against the Centre's Ordinance.

The mega event was attended by Chief Ministers of several opposition-ruled states, including Mamata Banerjee and some other prominent leaders from

parties opposed to the BJP.

Nitish Kumar, who had convened the meeting of opposition leaders, said at the joint press conference that opposition parties decided to fight the elections together.

"It was a good meeting where it has been decided to fight the elections together. Another meeting will be held soon," Mr Kumar said after the meeting.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D Raja and former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray were among the leaders who attended the meeting. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D Raja and former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray were among the leaders who attended the meeting.

## PM concludes 'very special' US visit, heads for Egypt

### HT News Network

New Delhi/Washington, June 24 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday evening concluded his State Visit to the US and left for Egypt. PM Modi said his US visit and his interactions there were aimed at adding momentum to the India-USA friendship.

The PM's first-ever visit to Egypt is also a State Visit, at the invitation of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The two sides are expected to ink several agreements.

PM Modi in a tweet said: "Concluding a very special USA visit, where I got to take part in numerous programmes and interactions aimed at adding momentum to the India-USA friendship. Our nations will keep working together to make our planet a better place for the coming generations."

The MEA spokesperson said:

## Well-known industrialist Santosh Shinde commits suicide with wife & son

### HT News Network

Kolhapur, June 24 (UNI) In a shocking incident, a well-known young industrialist committed suicide with his wife and son by poisoning and slitting his throat in his bedroom.

The incident came to light on Saturday morning at Gadhinglaj tehsil town of this district.

According to Gadhinglaj police, a young industrialist identified as Santosh Shinde, owner of 'Arjun industry group' in Gadhinglaj, production of edible oil and Becker's production and also a modern Jim, which expanded in border areas between Maharashtra-Karnataka states.

Police said a case of rape has been registered against Santosh and he has also been jailed, and since then he has been under stress, even though he was trying to recover after coming out of jail on bail.

However, there was a discussion at the scene that he did this due to his mental deterioration.

By taking extreme steps on Saturday, Santosh committed suicide by taking poison and slitting the throats of himself, his wife, and his son. Further investigation is on. Police added..

## 6 including ex-Cong MLA booked in cheating case in Ludhiana : Police

### HT News Network

Ludhiana, June 24 (UNI) Six people including a former Congress MLA from Kotbhai were booked in a cheating case, police said on Saturday. According to sources, the complainant Shinder Singh has alleged that the former MLA Preetam Singh had promised to bail out his uncle Nirmal Singh Bhangu, who was lodged in Bathinda jail in a chit-fund case in lieu of Rs Five crore. It was alleged that Rs 3.5 crore were already paid to the accused and the rest was to be paid after the job was done.

However, the accused stopped receiving his calls after the payment, so he filed a complaint with Ludhiana police commissioner Mandeep Singh. A case has been registered at Sarabha Nagar police station against Preetam Singh, Jeevan Singh, Dilip Kumar Tripathi.

## Centre's Pan-India Move To Help Citizens Save 20% On Electricity Bill

### HT News Network

New Delhi: The Government of India has introduced two changes to the prevailing power tariff system and now across the country consumers can save up to 20 per cent in power bills by planning usage during solar hours or daytime as the government is set to implement a 'time of the day' tariff. The Government of India has introduced two changes to the prevailing power tariff system, through an amendment to the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020. The changes are the introduction of the Time of Day (ToD) Tariff, and the rationalization of smart metering provisions, the Ministry of Power said.

"Under the ToD Tariff system, the Tariff during solar hours (duration of eight hours in a day as specified by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission) of the day shall be 10 per cent-20 per cent less than the normal tariff, while the tariff during peak hours will be 10 to 20 per cent higher, the release stated.

ToD tariff would be applicable for Commercial and Industrial consumers having Maximum demand of 10 KW and above, from April 1, 2024, and for all other con-



sumers except agricultural consumers, latest from April 1 2025. Time of Day tariff shall be made effective immediately after installation of smart meters, for the consumers with smart meters, it further said.

Union Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh said that the ToD is a win-win for consumers as well as the power system. "The TOD tariffs comprising separate tariffs for peak hours, Solar hours and normal hours, send price signals to consumers to manage their load according to the Tariff. With awareness and effective utilization of the ToD tariff mechanism, consumers can reduce their electricity bills," he said."

## S Jaishankar Makes Huge Announcement On Passport Seva 2.0, e-Passports

### HT News Network

New Delhi: India will soon embark on the second phase of the Passport Seva Programme (PSP-Version 2.0), which includes new and upgraded e-passports, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced on the occasion of Passport Seva Divas. Mr Jaishankar called on passport-issuing authorities in India and abroad to join him in renewing the pledge to provide passport and related services to people in a "timely, reliable, accessible, transparent and efficient manner." "We will soon be embarking on Passport Seva Programme (PSP) Version 2.0, including new and upgraded e-passports," Mr Jaishankar said in his message on Passport Seva Kendra. He further stated, "In line with the Prime Minister's vision of enhancing the 'Ease of Living' for citizens, these initiatives will usher in a new paradigm of 'EASE': E: Enhanced passport services to citizens, using a digital eco-system



A: Artificial Intelligence-powered service delivery S: Smoother overseas travel using chip-enabled e-passports E: Enhanced data security." Mr Jaishankar in his message stated, "I would like to call on all our passport issuing authorities in India and abroad to join me in renewing our pledge to provide passport and related services to citizens in a timely, reliable, accessible, transparent and efficient manner." While sharing Mr Jaishankar's message on Twitter, the Ministry of External Affairs stated, "Here is a message from EAM @DrSJaishankar, as we observe the Passport Seva

Divas today. #TeamMEA reaffirms its commitment to provide passport and related services to citizens in a timely, reliable, accessible, transparent and efficient manner." Mr Jaishankar said it was a matter of pleasure to felicitate all passport-issuing authorities in India and abroad and their colleagues from the Central Passport Organization on the occasion of the Passport Seva Divas 2023. He noted that this day is an occasion to take stock of what has been achieved and to reaffirm India's resolve to strive to attain the highest standards in the delivery of passport services.

EAM Jaishankar said that

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after the COVID-19 pandemic rose to address the surge in demand for passport-related services by increasing the number of daily appointments and organising special Drives over the weekends. He noted that the ministry processed a record 13.32 million passports and miscellaneous services in 2022, marking a rise of 63 per cent from 2021. Mr Jaishankar noted that similar visits have been made by other ministers and senior officials of MEA. He further said, "These visits have enabled us to build a congruence between the levels of policy and operational governance. There will be no slowing down of such efforts in future as well." "PSP has significantly contributed towards the Government's goal of a Digital India', with milestones such as mPassport Seva Mobile App, mPassport Police App, integration of PSP with Digilocker, and the 'apply from anywhere' scheme.

## LS election 2024: Oppn Parties to hold brainstorm meeting at Shimla on July 10 to 12

### HT News Network

Shimla, June 24 (UNI) All the Fifteen Opposition parties in the country likely to attend the brainstorm meeting at Shimla on July 10 to 12 to fight 2024 Lok Sabha election together to defeat the ruling BJP at the centre.

The party office bearers of Congress, CPI(M) and AAP in the state have been alerted by the national unit for the upcoming meeting likely to be held at Shimla on July 10 to 12. Chief Minister Sukvinder Singh Sukhu, Pratibha Singh and Congress stalwart Kaul Singh Thakur was at AICC headquarter for last three days about the cabinet expansion and review of party government performance in Himachal Pradesh.

It was after the AICC meeting that party leader Mallikarjun Kharge to convene opposition party meeting at Shimla on July 12. Sukhu, Singh and AICC spokesperson SP Khera would likely to revealed about the outcome of

AICC meeting and possible venue for the opposition party meeting on Saturday. CPI(M) state secretariat member Dr. Kuldeep Singh Tanwar said that in first meeting of Opposition party held at Patna was attended by the 13 parties however latter two main opposition party also showed solidarity with the opposition. He said in this meeting all the 15 non BJP opposition parties are going to attend the two days conference including CPI(M). He said that AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM Bhagwat Mann expected to attend the meeting on July brainstorming session. AAP state leader J. D Chauhan said that AAP is not happy with the Congress party as it wants clear assurance from latter moreover AAP have government in Punjab and Delhi likely to bargain on the most of LS seat in both state.



soon reached Kerala on June 8, a week after its usual date of June 1. It arrived in the southern state on May 29 last year, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018. Research shows a delay in the monsoon onset over Kerala does not necessarily mean a delay in the monsoon onset over northwest India. Also, it does not impact the total rainfall over the country during the season.

India is expected to get normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon season despite the evolving El Nino conditions, the IMD had earlier said.

Northwest India is expected to see normal to below-normal rainfall. East and northeast, central, and south peninsula are expected to receive normal rainfall at 94-106 per cent of the long-period average of 87 centimetres.



# Putin vows to crush 'armed mutiny' after Russian mercenary boss tries to oust top brass

■ HT News Network

Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to crush what he called an armed mutiny after rebellious mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin said on Saturday he had taken control of a southern city as part of an attempt to oust the military leadership.

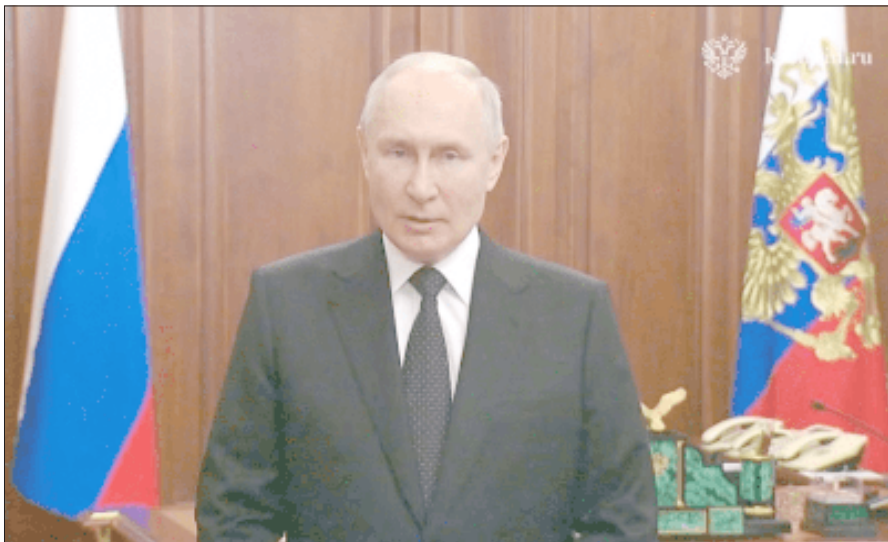
The dramatic turn, with many details unclear, looked like the biggest domestic crisis Putin has faced since he ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine — something he called a "special military operation" — in February last year.

In a televised address, Putin said that "excessive ambitions and vested interests have led to treason", and called the mutiny a "stab in the back".

"This is a stab in a back to our country, to our nation," Putin said in an address to the nation. "What we have been faced with is exactly betrayal.

"It is a blow to Russia, to our people. And our actions to defend the Fatherland against such a threat will be harsh.

"All those who deliberately stepped on the path of betrayal, who prepared an armed insurrection, who took the path of blackmail and terrorist methods, will suffer inevitable punishment, will answer both to the law and to our people," Putin



said. He acknowledged a "difficult" situation was unfolding in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, where the Wagner mercenary group has taken control of key military sites in an effort to oust Russian military's top brass. "There will be decisive measures taken on stabilising the situation in Rostov-on-Don," Putin said in an address to Russians. "It remains difficult and the work of civil and military authorities in fact is being blocked. "25,000 fighters would 'restore justice', says Prigozhin

Prigozhin had demanded that Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Valery Gerasimov, chief of the General Staff, whom he has pledged to oust over what he says is their disastrous leadership of the war against Ukraine, come to see him in Rostov — a city near the Ukrainian border that he said he had seized control of.

He had said he had 25,000 fighters who would "restore justice" and had alleged, without providing evidence, that the military had killed a huge number of fighters

from his Wagner private militia in an air strike, something the defence ministry denied.

"Those who destroyed our lads, who destroyed the lives of many tens of thousands of Russian soldiers, will be punished. I ask that no one offer resistance..." he said in one of many frenzied audio messages.

"There are 25,000 of us and we are going to figure out why chaos is happening in the country," he said, promising to destroy any checkpoints or air forces that got in Wagner's way.

Prigozhin's Wagner militia spearheaded the capture of the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut last month, and he has for months been openly accusing Shoigu and Gerasimov of incompetence and of denying Wagner ammunition and support.

Russia's FSB security had earlier opened a criminal case against Prigozhin for armed mutiny and had said that his statements were "calls for the start of an armed civil conflict on Russian territory and his actions a 'stab in the back' of Russian servicemen fighting pro-fascist Ukrainian forces".

It added: "We urge the... fighters not to make irreparable mistakes, to stop any forcible actions against the Russian people, not to carry out the criminal and traitorous orders of Prigozhin, to take measures to detain him."

## "All 25,000 Ready To Die": Wagner Chief On Armed Mutiny 'Against Military'

■ HT News Network

Moscow: The head of the Wagner mercenary group said Saturday he had crossed into Russia with his forces to topple Moscow's military leadership, saying he and his 25,000 fighters were "ready to die".

"All of us are ready to die. All 25,000, and then another 25,000," Yevgeny Prigozhin, 62, said in an audio message, after earlier accusing the Russian top brass of launching strikes against his men. 'All 25,000 Ready To Die': Wagner Chief On Armed Mutiny 'Against Military' "All of us are ready to die. All 25,000, and then another 25,000," Yevgeny Prigozhin said. (File)

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"All of us are ready to die. All 25,000, and then another 25,000," Yevgeny Prigozhin, 62, said in an audio message, after earlier accusing the Russian top brass of launching strikes against his men.

In response, Russian authorities said security had been tightened in several regions and the mayor of Moscow announced that "anti-terrorist" measures were being taken in the capital.

The FSB security service accused Prigozhin of attempting to launch a "civil conflict" and urged Wagner fighters to detain him.

"We will destroy everything that stands in our way," Prigozhin said earlier, in the most audacious challenge to President



Vladimir Putin since the start of the offensive in Ukraine last year.

Prigozhin said his forces, who have spearheaded much of Russia's offensive in Ukraine, had entered the southern Russian region of Rostov, and had also shot down a Russian military helicopter.

He did not, however, provide proof, and AFP could not independently verify the claims.

Authorities in Rostov urged residents to stay home.

"Law enforcement agencies are doing everything necessary to ensure the safety of residents," Rostov governor Vasily Golubev said.

Videos and pictures posted online, including by TASS, showed armed men surrounding administrative buildings in Rostov and tanks deployed in the city centre. It was not clear who the armed men were.

In Moscow, critical facilities were "under reinforced protection", the TASS state-run news agency reported, citing a law enforcement source.

## No evidence Covid created in Chinese lab: US intelligence

■ HT News Network

The head of US intelligence said on Friday that there was no evidence that the Covid-19 virus was created in the Chinese government's Wuhan research lab.

In a declassified report, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) said that they had no information backing recent claims that three scientists at the lab were some of the very first infected with Covid-19 and may have created the virus themselves. Drawing on intelligence collected by various member agencies of the US intelligence community (IC), the ODNI report said some scientists at the Wuhan lab had done genetic engineering of coronaviruses similar to Covid-19. But the US "has no information" indicating they had done such work on the specific Covid-9 virus, known as SARS-CoV-2, or on any "close progenitor, or a backbone virus that is closely related enough to have been the source of the pandemic."

The report, made for Congress and carrying an unreleased classified annex, came three months after lawmakers demanded a fuller explanation of US intelligence's information on the origins of the pandemic which erupted at the end of 2019.

Some lawmakers allege that the virus was created out of so-called gain-of-function genetic engineering research at Wuhan and that Beijing had covered up evidence to show it was a man-made disease.

Reiterating a conclusion announced in March, the ODNI report said "almost all"



of its constituent agencies, which include the NSA, the CIA and the FBI, assess that Covid-19 was not genetically engineered and most believe as well it was not laboratory-adapted.

But the ODNI report, as in March, did not dismiss the possibility that Covid-19 was being examined in the Wuhan lab at the time and may have leaked out through carelessness.

ODNI said the intelligence community remained divided on whether the pandemic arose from a natural occurrence of the virus — perhaps transferred from animals like bats — or from a lab leak.

The report said the Wuhan lab had done pathogen research and vaccine development together with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) "for public health needs." But the coronaviruses used in this research "were too distantly related to have led to the creation of SARS-CoV-2," the report said.

It firmly rejected allegations that Covid-19 was developed by the PLA as a bio-weapon.

## Beijing Swelters In Extreme Heat, Over 40 Degrees Recorded For 3rd Day

■ HT News Network

Beijing: Beijing topped 40 degrees Celsius (104F) on Saturday for a record third day as the Chinese capital sweltered in extreme heat, while uncommonly high temperatures for June grilled an area the size of California in northern China. At 1:51 p.m. (0551 GMT), the temperature measured by Beijing's benchmark weather station in its southern suburbs briefly soared above 40C. Until Saturday, the city of nearly 22 million people had never logged three straight days above 40C since setting up the southern observatory in 1951. Aside from Beijing, parts of nearby Hebei, Henan, Shandong, Inner Mongolia and Tianjin either



raised or kept their hot weather alert at "red", the highest in China's four-tier warning system. A red alert signifies the temperature could exceed 40C within 24 hours. As of 1:13 p.m., an area of 450,000 square km (174,000 square miles) had recorded temperatures over 37C, according to local media. "Last year's heat-wave gives some sense of the risks to China's food supply and the potential

impact on prices," Capital Economics wrote in a note on Friday. "Another drought would hurt crop yields while livestock are vulnerable to high temperatures." On Saturday, state media reported ground surface temperatures in excess of 70C in parts of Shandong — China's most populous province after Guangdong, and a key grower of grain.

The heatwaves, the second round in about 10 days,

were caused by warm air masses associated with high pressure ridges in the atmosphere. The effect was amplified by thin cloud cover and long daylight hours around the summer solstice, according to Chinese meteorologists. In Beijing between 1990 and 2020, the average number of days with temperatures of 35C or more was 10.6, the official Beijing Daily reported, citing official data. June is not yet over and that number has already been beaten, the newspaper said, after temperatures in Beijing surpassed 35C for the 11th day this year on Saturday.

On Friday, Beijing baked in temperatures as high as 40.3C, after sizzling at 41.1C on Thursday, the second-hottest day recorded by the Chinese capital.

## Afghan seeks UN cooperation to release foreign assets

■ HT News Network

Kabul, June 24 (UNI) Afghanistan's central bank or Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) has asked the United Nations for cooperation to unblock billions of US dollars in the country's foreign reservoirs, the bank said in a statement on Saturday.

In a meeting with the UN Special Coordinator for Afghanistan Feridun Sinirlio lu, DAB Governor Mullah Hedayatullah Badri discussed issues including the removal of banking restrictions and calling on the UN for cooperation to free billions of US dollars in the country's foreign exchange assets, the statement added.

Meanwhile, Sinirlio lu assured that the world sought good interactions with Afghanistan in all sectors.

The United States blocked billions of US dollars in Afghanistan's foreign reservoirs after the Taliban took over the power of the country in August 2021. In a meeting with the UN Special Coordinator for Afghanistan Feridun Sinirlio lu, DAB Governor Mullah Hedayatullah Badri discussed issues including the removal of banking restrictions and calling on the UN for cooperation to free billions of US dollars in the country's foreign exchange assets, the statement added.

Meanwhile, Sinirlio lu assured that the world sought good interactions with Afghanistan in all sectors.

## Japan reports first death from Oz virus

■ HT News Network

Tokyo, June 24 (UNI) The first case of human death from the tick-borne Oz virus has been officially confirmed in Japan, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) said on Saturday.

The Oz virus was discovered in Japan in 2018; it has not been found outside of the country.

The first fatal case among humans occurred in the summer of 2022, when a woman in her 70s died in Japan's Ibaraki prefecture after contracting the virus, according to NIID data released on Friday.

The woman exhibited symptoms including fever and fatigue after getting bitten by a tick.

She was hospitalized with pneumonia and died nearly a month later of myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, NIID said.

## Japan's Nikko to host G7 Ministerial Meeting on Gender Equality

HT News Network

Tokyo, June 24 (UNI) The Japanese city of Nikko will host the G7 Ministerial Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment from June 24-25 to discuss different related issues faced by the international community.

The list of participating countries and organizations includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the Women 7 engagement group and the Gender Equality Advisory Council.

## Six killed, 25 injured in 26-car pile-up in SW Iran

■ HT News Network

Tehran, June 24 (UNI) At least six people were killed, and 25 others injured in a 26-car pile-up on an inter-city road in southwestern Iran, the semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported.

The incident occurred at 10:50 a.m. local time on Friday morning (0720 GMT) when a semi-trailer truck carrying iron girders collided into 25 other vehicles because of the malfunction of its brake system, the report said.

A number of pedestrians were also hit in the incident in the province of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, it added.

The number of people injured in the incident is still rising, Tasnim quoted President of Yasuj University of Medical Sciences Saeed Javdan-Sirat as saying.

## 31 suspected illegal miners die in mine in SA

■ HT News Network

Tokyo, June 24 (UNI) A Japanese woman died of myocarditis last year after contracting the Oz virus, making her death the world's first fatal case of the virus, the country's health authorities have said.

The woman in her 70s who lived in Ibaraki Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, did not have a history of traveling abroad, but had underlying diseases including hypertension, according to the report jointly released on Friday by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID).

She visited a medical institution last summer with symptoms including fever, fatigue, and joint pain and was diagnosed with pneumonia. After her condition worsened, she was hospitalized, and a hard tick was found sucking blood on the base of her right thigh, they said.

She died of myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart, 26 days after she was hospitalized.

The virus, first detected in 2018 in the Amblyomma testudinarium tick found in the western prefecture of Ehime, is not necessarily fatal, but more studies need to be conducted on its symptoms and dangers, according to the NIID.

The Oz virus is thought to be transmitted through the bite of the tick, the institute said, with the species existing across a wide area of Japan.

The virus has so far not been found outside Japan, according to the health ministry.

It advises people to avoid exposing their skin when in areas where they may come in contact with hard ticks and visit a doctor instead of trying to remove them themselves once bitten by such ticks.

## Fake wine poisoning kills 17 in Iran

■ HT News Network

Tehran, June 24 (UNI) At least 17 people have died after drinking counterfeit alcohol in the northern Iranian province of Alborz over the past 11 days, official news agency IRNA reported.

Some 191 people suffering from poisoning symptoms were referred to the province's hospitals in this period, of whom four are still hospitalized, IRNA quoted Alborz Province's Chief Justice Hossein Fazeli Herikandi as saying on Friday.

So far the provincial police have arrested nine suspects, including two who were captured in the past two days, Fazeli Herikandi added.

He noted that the arrestees have been involved in either producing the counterfeit toxic alcohol through adding water and other solutions to methanol, or its distribution. The owner of a hairspray production factory in Eshtehard County in Alborz was found "illegally" selling the industrial-grade alcohol that was used in producing the toxic alcoholic drinks.



# India will face Korea in FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup campaign opener

KUALA LUMPUR: India, on Saturday was handed a relatively easy draw for the 2023 FIH men's hockey junior world cup Malaysia 2023, and will start their campaign against South Korea in a Group C match on December 5, the opening day of the marquee event.

The tournament will conclude on December 16, with the matches taking place at the National Hockey Stadium Bukit Jalil.

Besides Korea, India, which finished fourth in the last edition in 2021 having turned out as tournament hosts in Bhubaneswar, has drawn Spain and Canada.

The tournament was officially launched on Saturday during a ceremony at the Mercure Living Hotel in Putrajaya.

Hosts Malaysia are in Group A with Argentina, Australia, and Chile, while Germany, France, South Africa, and Egypt are in Group B.

The Netherlands, Belgium, Pakistan, and New Zealand form Group D.

The pools were established on the basis of the first FIH junior world rankings, the sport's apex body said in a press release.



As many as 16 teams from around the world will be vying for the coveted championship title.

India's Uttam Singh expressed confidence about doing well in the tournament.

"With victories at the Sultan of Johor Cup and the Junior Asia Cup, the Indian team is brimming with optimism and is confident of a podium finish at the Junior World Cup in Malaysia. The passionate Malaysian spectators add an extra level of excitement to the event, and we can't wait to go there and do our best," Singh said.

Argentina trumped six-time champions Germany in the final to win gold at the last edition, while France and India finished third and fourth, respectively.

Each player competing in the junior hockey world cup must be below 21 years of age in the December of the year preceding the tournament.

First held in 1979, the men's junior world cup was initially a 12-team tournament which has since increased to 16 since the 2001 edition (though 20 teams played in 2009).

With two titles, in 2001 and

2016, India is the only team, besides Germany and Argentina, to win the tournament on more than one occasion.

Tayyab Ikram, the president of the FIH, in a message delivered through a video recording, said, "Through its 'athletes first' approach, mentioned in the new Empowerment and Engagement strategy that was recently launched, FIH has made youth a strong focus going forward. The FIH Junior World Cups play a crucial role in this regard."

He said, "Furthermore, one of my priorities as FIH president is to highlight the powerful contributions hockey can make outside of the sport itself for individuals, community and society with the important topic of sustainability being an integral part of this ambition."

"I look forward to seeing the ways this will be realised in this event. Special thanks to the Malaysian Hockey Confederation as they will, as we know it, put together a fantastic show for this 13th edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup," he added.

## 'Why has Pujara been made the fall guy?': Gavaskar slams selectors

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has lashed out at the national selectors for making Cheteshwar Pujara the "scapegoat" and ignoring prolific domestic scorer Sarfaraz Khan for the two Tests in the West Indies next month.

Referring to Sarfaraz's non-selection, Gavaskar questioned the logic behind having the Ranji Trophy if performance in the country's premier domestic tournament is not looked into while picking the Indian red-ball teams instead of taking into account the players' record in the IPL.

"Sarfaraz Khan has been scoring at an average of 100 in all past three seasons. What does he have to do to be picked in the squad? He might not be in the XI, but you pick him in the team," Gavaskar said of the Mumbai batter to Sports Today.

"Tell him that his performances are being recognised. Otherwise, stop playing Ranji Trophy. Say, it's of no use, you just play IPL and think you are good enough for the red-ball game as well," HE ADDED.

With the help of three centuries, Sarfaraz amassed 556 runs in six games at an average of 92.66 in the 2022-23 Ranji Trophy.

The 25-year-old right-handed batter had scored 982 runs at an average of 122.75 in the 2021-22 Ranji season, including four hundreds.

In all, Sarfaraz has scored 3,505 runs in 37 first-class matches at an average of 79.65, including 13 centuries.

As far as Pujara is concerned, his absence

from the Indian Test team for the Windies tour has been one of the talking points.

Gavaskar said that not having millions of followers on social media platforms, like some of the other Indian stars such as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, is no reason to drop anyone.

"Why has he been made the scapegoat for our batting failures? He has been a loyal servant of Indian cricket, a quiet and able achiever. But because he doesn't have millions of followers on whatever platforms who would make a noise in case he gets dropped, you drop him? That is something beyond understanding," said Gavaskar.

"What is the criteria for dropping him and keeping the others who failed. I don't know because nowadays there is no media interaction with the selection committee chairman or whoever where you could actually ask these questions," he added.

The highly promising and in-form Yashasvi Jaiswal could be taking up the No.3 spot that Pujara made his own over the last decade.

Continuing, the batting great said that age should not be a criteria for selecting players.

About Pujara Gavaskar said, "Yes he has been playing County cricket, he knows what the red ball is all about. Nowadays players can play till they are 39 or 40, there is nothing wrong with that. They are all very fit and as long as you are producing runs or taking wickets, I don't think age should be a factor."

### Inter-district Football Championship concludes at Baramulla



BARAMULLA, JUNE 24: The inter-district provincial level Sabroto Mukherji football championship organized by the Youth Services & Sports department for under 14 boys concluded today at Baramulla.

District Youth Service & Sports Officer, Jatinder Singh was the chief guest at the event.

The championship that commenced from June 20 was aimed to promote the game of football at grass-roots level and provide a platform for young players to showcase their skills. The tournament witnessed overwhelming participation from all districts of Kashmir province, with teams competing fiercely for the prestigious title.

The tournament witnessed an electrifying opening ceremony that set the stage for an intense battle on the field. The matches were held at the Showkat Ali Stadium GDC ground Baramulla.

The final match of the championship was held today at Showkat Ali stadium, with the teams representing Baramulla and Anantnag locking horns in a thrilling encounter. Both sides displayed remarkable talent and fought tooth and nail for the coveted trophy.

In the contested battle, Baramulla emerged victorious defeating Anantnag by a margin of 04:01.

The closing ceremony was held after the final match, where the winning team was awarded the championship trophy amidst thunderous applause.

Speaking at the event, the chief guest applauded the efforts of the officials of the department and highlighted the importance of such tournaments in nurturing young talent.

Huge crowd of football lovers, officials, were present to witness the grand finale and celebrate the exceptional talent displayed by the young athletes.

### Special Olympics: India's medal tally reaches 96

BERLIN: On a rainy day that led to cancellations and postponement of almost all outdoor events at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, India's roller-skaters won plenty of medals on Friday.

Among the gold medallists were Md Nissar (30m slalom) and Aryan and Abhijit, who are part of the 2x100m relay.

MD Nisar bags first Gold of the day in Roller Skating! #SpecialOlympics #SoBharat #rollerskate #rollerskates #rollerskating #rollerskater #specialolympicsbharat #sob #inclusionmatters #inclusionrevolution #roadtoberlin #berlin2023 #cheer4india #proudmoment #Bharat pic.twitter.com/ptwu0FZQcD

Roller skating has proven to be among the most fruitful of arenas for the Indian contingent and despite the downpour, they did not disappoint.

Judo proved to be another happy hunting ground for India on Friday.

## Secretary Sports Council reviews activity calendar for current year Inspects ongoing sports tournaments in MA Stadium

JAMMU, JUNE 24: Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull today reviewed the plan and preparations of various sports activities in the pipeline for the current year here at a meeting.

The Secretary was flanked by a team of engineers headed by Executive Engineer, CDK Jammu, Ashok Singh and Sports Officer of Jammu.

The Secretary visited High Performance Khelo India Centre of Excellence for Fencing, besides the M.A Stadium cricket ground where the cricket tournament for women is in progress.

The Secretary Sports Council met with female cricketers who expressed their gratitude to the government and Sports Council for providing the facilities to the cricketers.

While interacting with a group of cricketers, the Secretary Sports Council said that in the last few years the scenario of sports in J&K has undergone tremendous transformation and has changed for good.

She also said that the government has taken many initiatives for the progress and prosperity of the athletes of J&K.

The Secretary also briefly interacted with the national and international champions, including fencers from Khelo



India Centre of Excellence at Fencing Hall, M.A Stadium, Jammu. The interaction was followed by demonstration of fencing skills by the trainees of the centre which left the audience spell bound. The Secretary appreciated the display of fine skills and termed the show exemplary and performers as the inspiration for youth.

The Secretary Sports Council also paid a visit to the newly inaugurated centre of excellence for Gymnastics and took stock of the functioning of the equipment besides appraisal of medicare and other health services being provided to the athletes at the newly established Physiotherapy Centre at the venue.

Earlier in the morning, immediately upon reaching Jammu, the Secretary Sports Council chaired a meeting with the construction division, Jammu. The meeting was also attended by the Sports Officer Jammu along with managers and other staff members of Sports Council.

The Secretary sought the detailed report of the

infrastructural works and progress report of the various sports activities in progress and advised the Jammu team to percolate the programmes under special activities to each block in the division.

Speaking on the occasion, Nuzhat Gull said that the union government is committed to raise the sports standards of all athletes and ensure inclusive growth for all, adding that the sports programs closely focus on improving people's ability to participate fully in the progressive sports.

The Secretary Sports Council also gave out the spot directions to equip sports halls, gymnasium, physiotherapy centre and office chambers with air conditioning facilities to battle the heat and increase the productivity of athlete welfare and friendly measures.

Meanwhile, the Secretary also visited the Wushu hall where she interacted with the athletes who were leaving for participation in the senior national championship to be held at Pune from 26th June. Speaking to athletes, Nuzhat Gull assured all the support for their training and learning process besides wishing them well for the championship.

## Excited' Yashasvi Jaiswal confident of fitting into any role

New Delhi: Left-hand batter Yashasvi Jaiswal's fairytale story and meteoric rise got another boost on Monday with his maiden call up to the Indian Test squad for the tour of the Caribbean next month.

"It's a very good feeling. I need to keep my focus and keep doing what I am doing," Jaiswal said.

Yashasvi Jaiswal earned his maiden call up to the Indian Test squad for the tour of the Caribbean next month.

From sleeping in tents at Mumbai's Azad Maidan in his quest to learn the sport, Jaiswal has made all his years of hard work count through consistent performances. In 15 first-class games, he averages 80.21 with nine hundreds.

What added to his growing reputation was the attention-grabbing show in the 2023 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, in which he scored 625 runs at an average of 48.08 for Rajasthan Royals. A strike-rate of 163.61 was proof of his rapid development thanks to hours spent honing

his skills at the Rajasthan Royals Academy, Talegaon, near Nagpur.

It led to the selectors naming him as a stand-by for last month's World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia, in London.

Even though West Indies is now seen as a relatively easier tour, Jaiswal faces the prospect of filling in the big shoes of Cheteshwar Pujara as the southpaw is being looked upon as a possible option at No. 3. Jaiswal usually opens for Mumbai and his IPL side, and it will therefore be a change in role if he is tried out at Pujara's position.

"I don't know that much and where I will bat, but let's see how it goes.

I am really excited to go there and express myself," said Jaiswal.

The 21-year-old is positive about adapting to any role the team management decides for him.

"Of course, I am ready to do whatever the team needs (me to do) and I am just looking forward to it (the tour)," he said.

## J&K Police to Organize Cycle Race-2023 "Pedal for Peace" on Sunday

Srinagar 24 June: Jammu and Kashmir Police is going to organize a Cycle Race-2023 "Pedal For Peace" in collaboration with J&K Cycling Association Srinagar at Lake View Police Golf Course Boulevard Srinagar on June 25, 2023 (Sunday) under its Civic Action Program 2023-24.

On the occasion Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will be the chief guest and the event is being held under the patronage of DGP J&K Dilbag Singh, S.J.M Geelani ADGP Armed J&K is the Chairman. While Shahid Mehraj DIG Armed Kashmir is the Organizing Secretary and Tahir Saleem SSP Commandant JKAP-5th Bn is the Nodal Officer, a statement issued here said.

"To review the arrangements in connection with the successful conduct of the Mega Event, a preparatory meeting was held today at the venue which was chaired by Shahid Mehraj DIG Armed Kashmir, who directed all the officers for timely completion of their respective



assignments related to the event. During the meeting Kuldeep Handoo-DySP (Sports) APHQ gave a detailed presentation viz-aviz the arrangements made on the ground for the successful conduct of the event and all the related arrangements were discussed threadbare," it added.

The meeting was also attended by all the designated Nodal Officers/ Chairman of the Sub-Committees and Associated Officials including

Abdul Qayoom (DIG IR Kashmir), Suhail Munawar Mir (SSP Crime Branch Kashmir), Bakar Hussain Samoon-SSP

(CO IR-23 rd Bn.), Mohammad Aslam SSP (CO JKAP 13th Bn.), Abdul Hakim Munshi - SSP (CO IR-3 rd Bn.), Tahir Saleem - SSP (CO JKAP 9th Bn.), Muneer Ahmad - SP (Dy. CO IR-20 th), Feroz Ahmad - SP (APCR Kashmir), and Kuldeep Handoo-DYSP (Sports) APHQ J&K. (CNS)





## The Benefits of Exercising Outdoors

One of the best ways to keep yourself healthy is by getting active and exercising. Fortunately, you do not have to be a fitness expert to get active. There are different types of physical activity that allow you to choose an activity that best suits your fitness level. Whether you want to lift weights, stick to cardio, do yoga, or participate in class exercises, you are bound to find a physical activity fit for you. Many of these activities are done indoors. Naturally, people go to the gym to get active. After all, gyms have all the necessary equipment to ensure you have a good workout, but that doesn't mean you can't engage in outdoor exercise from time to time.

Exercising outdoors has numerous health benefits that you cannot find exercising indoors. Exercising provides you with several benefits for your physical and mental on its own, but when you take your workout outside, you put yourself in a position to exponentially increase these benefits. There are many factors that lead to an increase in benefits during an outdoor workout, from fresh air to sunlight.

Fitness Nation encourages everyone to get up and get active. Regardless of if you are a fitness expert or just beginning your fitness journey, there are workouts and activities for you. If your resources are limited, exercising outdoors can provide you with countless benefits.

### Boosts Mental Health

We have spoken time and time again about the mental health benefits of exercising. When you exercise, your body releases feel-good chemicals called endorphins. This chemical induces feelings of euphoria and happiness and elevates your mood. Endorphins naturally reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression. Even the lightest form of exercise prompts your body to release these chemicals. However, spending time outside can increase these benefits.

Exercising outdoors, referred to as green exercise, puts you in direct contact with sunlight. Studies have shown that people's brains have higher levels of serotonin on bright and sunny days. Serotonin is the body's natural mood stabilizer. It helps reduce your symptoms of depression and anxiety. Sunlight also increases your vitamin D intake. Vitamin D has proven to be an effective way of enhancing your mood. As you can see, engaging in an outdoor activity can drastically improve the mental health benefits of exercise.

### Challenges Your Body

When you work out in a gym or other indoor facility, you're likely in a climate-controlled environment with air conditioning and more. While there is nothing wrong with working out in the AC, exercising outside challenges your body in ways indoor workouts cannot.

When you are active outdoors,

whether running, walking, hiking, or biking, you put your body in the elements. The environment around you is always changing. Even slight changes, such as inclines, bumps, holes, or obstacles, force you to adapt and work harder. Even changes in the weather, such as the heat and breezes, can increase the difficulty of your workout.

### Relieves Stress

Much like exercise improves your mental health, it also relieves stress. Exercise naturally releases norepinephrine, which helps reverse the damage stress does to your brain. This hormone also helps boost your mood and improve cognition. Norepinephrine forces your central nervous system and sympathetic nervous system to work together, which helps you manage and respond to stress more efficiently. Spending time outside in nature can also help reduce your stress. In a Japanese study that centered around the effects of spending time in a forest environment or forest bathing, known as Shinrin-yoku, researchers discovered that even spending a short period outdoors could reduce your cortisol levels. Cortisol is the chemical found in your body that causes stress. By exercising outdoors, you can relieve your stress, lower your blood pressure, and prioritize your physical health.

### Access to Cleaner Air

Earlier, we mentioned that

when you work out indoors, you exercise in circulated air. However, when you do an outdoor exercise, you are breathing in much cleaner, fresher air than you would by doing a physical activity indoors. In fact, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, indoor air may be more polluted than outdoor air, even in large metropolitan areas. By taking your workout outside, you protect yourself from the pollutants in indoor air while allowing your lungs to breathe in fresh air.

### It's Accessible

As you can imagine, you don't have to go very far to exercise outdoors. All most people need to do is step out of their front door, and they're ready to go. Even if you do not have the space to exercise, you probably do not have to go far to find an open area to exercise. You won't have to deal with traffic, look for a parking space, go into a crowded locker room, or wait to use a machine. There are plenty of parks, bike trails, hiking trails, and much more available to you. Additionally, you also do not need much equipment either, saving you time and money.

### Burns More Calories

Earlier, we discussed how exercising outside gives you a harder workout than inside. Unsurprisingly, this also means you will likely burn much more calories. Your body has to work harder to adjust to the changing

terrain and the changing weather. Your muscles have to work much harder to complete movements you could do with ease in a gym. The harder your body works, the more calories you will burn.

### Enhances Self-Esteem

Exercise has countless mental health benefits, along with physical benefits. We already discussed how exercising outside can improve your symptoms of depression and anxiety and relieve stress. However, it can also have an impact on your overall self-esteem. Exercise improves self-esteem by helping you lose weight, tone your body, build muscle, and improve your endurance. However, when you exercise outside, you get to experience these benefits more often.

Research has found that even spending as little as five minutes exercising outside can improve your self-esteem. Being out near greenery or watery features boosts this effect. Low-to-moderate exercises, such as walking, cycling, fishing, and gardening, lead to greater improvements in one's self-esteem. By taking your workout outdoors, you can enhance the self-esteem boosting effects of exercise. Exercising is vital when it comes to improving your health, both mental and physical. While all exercise is good, taking it outside can introduce you to benefits you cannot experience indoors. You don't have to move all your workouts outside, though.

## NEWS

### The impact of diabetes on eye health



Diabetes is a chronic metabolic disorder that affects millions of people worldwide, significantly affecting different organs and systems in the human body. Among the many problems associated with diabetes, eye health stands out as a critical area of concern. The association between diabetes and eye problems is well documented, emphasising the importance of exercise control and regular eye exams for people with diabetes.

#### 1. Diabetic retinopathy

One of the most common eye problems associated with diabetes is diabetic retinopathy. The condition affects the blood vessels in the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. Chronically high blood sugar levels in individuals with diabetes can harm the small blood vessels within the retina, driving to their spillage or blockage. This can cause blurry or distorted vision, floaters, or even complete vision loss if left untreated.

#### 2. Diabetic macular edema

Another important part of diabetes that affects the eyes is diabetic macular edema (DME). The macula is a small area in the centre of the retina responsible for sharp and clear vision. In diabetic retinopathy, damaged blood vessels can cause fluid to enter the macula and cause the macula to swell. In some cases, the swelling can lead to blurred central vision, making it difficult to read, recognize faces, or perform other tasks that require good vision. Prompt diagnosis and treatment, such as laser therapy or intravitreal injections, can help control DME and prevent further vision loss.

#### 3. Cataracts

An individual with diabetes also face an increased risk of developing cataracts. A cataract is the clouding of the lens inside the eye, leading to hazy and unclear vision. The lens is responsible for focusing light onto the retina for clarity. Diabetes can cause cataracts by altering the metabolism of the proteins of the lens. Therefore, people with diabetes can develop cataracts at a younger age and are more likely to develop serious illness. Cataract surgery is a safe and effective way to restore vision by replacing the cloud with an artificial lens.

#### 4. Glaucoma

Glaucoma, a group of eye diseases caused by nerve damage, is another condition associated with diabetes. People with diabetes are twice as likely to develop glaucoma than people without diabetes. The exact mechanism linking the two conditions is not fully understood, but it is believed that poor blood flow and blood vessel damage caused by diabetes lead to the development of glaucoma. If glaucoma is left untreated, it can lead to blindness and even blindness. Regular eye exams, early detection, and appropriate treatment (such as eye drops or surgery) are the keys to getting glaucoma under control.

# Air Pollution Linked to Heart Disease, COPD, Cancer, and Other Health Concerns

The air we breathe contains much more than vital oxygen – it comprises toxins and particulate matter (PM), high levels of which can harm health.

Poor air quality is exacerbated daily by multiple pollutants, which could increase the risks of health concerns ranging from heart disease to COPD, cancer, and even dementia. Unhealthy air quality is also associated with premature death.

We might not give the air we're breathing much thought until we see noticeable changes in the air around us, such as during wildfire season, when the sky turns burnt orange and the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches dangerously high levels.

"Many people may not think about the fact that air that looks clean (has good visibility) still contains pollutants that are harmful to health," said Shahir Masri, ScD, a specialist in air pollution exposure at the Department of Environmental & Occupational Health at the University of California, Irvine.

If you're concerned about the health effects of air pollution, it's important to understand how to protect yourself.

#### Air particle pollution a leading cause of death

Particulate matter (PM), also known as atmospheric aerosol particles, contain microscopic solid or liquid molecules that are found in the air we breathe.

One type of particle pollution Trusted Source that is especially harmful to health is PM2.5,



a fine particulate matter measuring just 2.5 microns or less in diameter. The microscopic size of PM2.5 allows it to enter deep into the body once breathed in.

"The reason [PM2.5 particulates] are particularly virulent is they float with the air through your upper respiratory system, deep into your lungs into the alveoli [air sacs], where they lodge," explained Russell Dickerson, PhD, a researcher and professor at the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science at University of Maryland, College Park.

Dickerson explained that when you breathe PM2.5 matter it can pass through the sacs' membrane and into your blood. As a result, inflammation and oxidative stress can occur, leading to various health concerns.

According to Neil Donahue, PhD, a professor of chemical engineering at the College of Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, PM2.5 "causes more than 10% of all deaths around the world."

Indeed, the World Health Organization (WHO) Trusted Source estimates around 7 million premature deaths are caused by indoor and outdoor air pollution each year.

Donahue told Healthline that air quality in the United States is "really quite good compared to other places," but noted the number of related deaths remains high.

He said around 3.5 million deaths occur in the U.S. each year, 100,000 of which (about 3%) can be attributed to air pollution.

"[This is] not that far off the pandemic and

way more than homicide and automobile deaths combined," Donahue noted.

Health effects of air pollution

#### Respiratory disease

Huang said another major health concern of air pollution exposure is respiratory disease,



Recent and ongoing wildfires have highlighted how climate change contributes to poor air quality. Air pollutants are also caused by vehicle emissions, and industrial and agricultural practices, and may also arise indoors. Each year, an estimated 7 million premature deaths are attributed to air pollution. Breathing in harmful particulate matter can increase the risk of health concerns, including heart disease, respiratory distress, and cancer. You can reduce your exposure to air pollution by wearing a face mask or refraining from exercising outdoors when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches high levels.



Air pollution from dangerous particulate matter like PM2.5 could have significant effects on health and well-being, which may vary depending on where you live.

Indeed, research Trusted Source shows nearly half of PM2.5-related deaths may be attributed to cardiovascular disease.

What's more, heart disease has been found to occur from long-term PM2.5 exposure, even when pollution levels are below ambient levels of 12 micrograms (µg) per cubic meter (m3).

the short-term impacts of which may include: Air pollution exposure may also lead to and exacerbate chronic concerns, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

One meta-analysis found that a 10 µg/m3 increase in PM2.5 led to higher hospital visits and admissions among COPD patients. Huang added that air pollution may also lead to respiratory conditions like asthma and lung cancer. Lung cancer isn't the only cancer associated with air pollution. Previous studies have linked long-term exposure to PM2.5 to breast cancer, digestive cancers.



## Zimbabwe stun West Indies to storm into Super Sixes with full points

Before the game, West Indies were favourites. At the halfway mark, West Indies remained favourites. And at the midway point of the chase, West Indies were arguably even stronger favourites. Yet, somehow, improbably, preposterously, it's Zimbabwe that emerged winners by 35 runs, in front of a raucous crowd in Harare.

By virtue of this win, Zimbabwe carry over a strong net run rate into the next round, and two points from this game as well as the same from their win against Netherlands. With a tricky game against Sri Lanka to come in the Super Sixes stage, these could prove vital in boosting their qualification chances - the top two teams from the Super Sixes book their passage to India for the World Cup. West Indies and Netherlands, the other two teams that are through to the Super Sixes from this group, will now battle to carry over two vital points themselves when they meet on Monday.

The stats from today will show that Sikandar Raza was yet again Player of the Match, picking up two wickets to go with his 58-ball 68. It will show that the under-fire Tendai Chatara with figures was 3 for 52 was the pick of the Zimbabwe bowlers. And it will show Alzarri Joseph with an inconsequential 2 for 42. But this a game that took place within the margins.

It all began rather cagily, with Zimbabwe put into bat on a good batting track but one that was expected to provide some early movement for the seamers. The West Indies seamers, particularly Joseph, exploited the favourable conditions expertly, deriving extra bounce off a good length and moving the ball in the air and off the surface. While it wasn't exactly an overcast morning in Auckland, it nevertheless brought out the more cautious side of openers Joylord Gumbie and Craig Ervine. By the end of the 10th over they had reached just 37.

## HT - TRIBUTE - By Sad ud din SAIDI

By - Syed Sad ud din Saidi

نذر حضرت شاہ ہمدانؒ

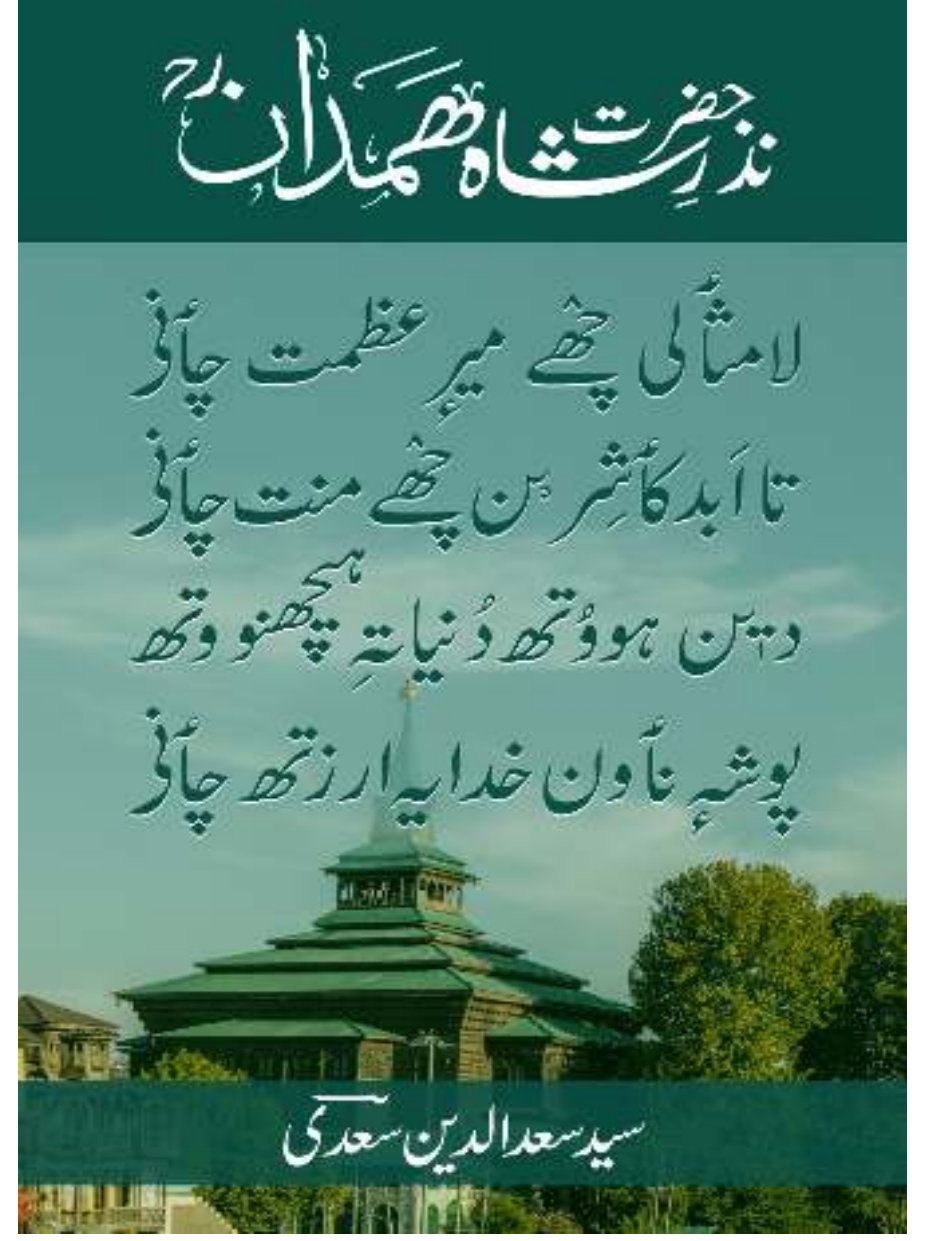
لامثالی چھے میر عظمت چائی  
تا ابد کا شر بن چھے منت چائی  
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پوشہ ناؤن خدایہ ارزتھ چائی



منقبت شریف  
بحضور حضرت شاہ ہمدانؒ

چھ شاہ مکان لا مکان شاہ ہمدانؒ  
نبی ﷺ سُنڈ سراسر نشان شاہ ہمدانؒ  
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بکم خوش عقیدین بران شاہ ہمدانؒ  
چھ بوڈ علم و ادبک جہان شاہ ہمدانؒ  
مَور جہانس کران شاہ ہمدانؒ  
خزانن تُلان تھو د چھ ٹھان شاہ ہمدانؒ  
مریدن چھ حاران کران شاہ ہمدانؒ  
مے معرفت باگران شاہ ہمدانؒ  
ولایتک سہ روح روان شاہ ہمدانؒ  
رچھان سعدیس پٹھ تہ شان شاہ ہمدانؒ

وَلَوِیَ زَمَیْن وَ زَمَانِ شَاہِ ہَمْدَانِ  
سُہ سَیْد چھ سَرْدَارِ قَوْمِک چھ خَاْدَمِ  
علی ولی سُنڈ اچھن ہُنڈ سُہ نوراہ  
چھ جوہرِ توحید اورادِ فتنیہ  
گُستارِ اسلام کُے بوڈ گُلاباہ  
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