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LG Attends 'Pedal for Peace' Award Ceremony at Srinagar

# Country proud of youth for transforming J&K into land of enterprise, innovation; LG Sinha

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 25:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the Award Ceremony of 'Pedal for Peace' Cycle Race -2023 organized by Jammu Kashmir Police. The Lt Governor felicitated the winners and congratulated them for showcasing great enthusiasm, commitment and passion. This year, 2557 Cyclists in 8 categories participated in 'Pedal for Peace'. "Enthusiasm and commitment of young generation to move forward with one goal and one resolve is the biggest asset of J&K administration. The entire country is proud of our youth for channelizing their energy



and transforming the J&K UT into land of Enterprise, Innovation and Invention," the Lt Governor said. "Pedal for Peace is a symbol of peace, progress and prosperity and all the efforts are being made to ensure that our youth can improve the sporting talents they have, provided with opportunities to excel and their unique qualities are celebrated," he added.

At the award ceremony, the Lt Governor highlighted the key endeavours of the UT Administration to promote sports culture in the J&K UT. Sport as a universal language brings together all sections of society and unites people. It is the most

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Discusses preparations and arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 25:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the prominent members of PRIs, Civil Society organizations, Trade, Business and Spiritual Leaders and discussed the preparations and arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The Lt Governor urged the prominent citizens for active participation of all sections of society in the 62-day long festivity.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## NEWS BRIEF

### SP Traffic Rural Kashmir Holds Meeting to Ensure Smooth Amarnath Yatra Traffic

**SRINAGAR, JUN 25:** SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir convened a meeting with officers responsible for traffic regulation during the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The meeting was attended by SP Ifroz Ah, Traffic Yatra officer, as well as zonal and sector officers deployed for both the Pahalgam and Baltal yatra routes.

During the meeting, the SSP briefed the officers about their crucial roles and responsibilities during the event. Emphasizing the need for dedication, the SSP urged them to ensure a

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Terrorism flourished in J&K during Gandhis, Muftis and Abdullahs' tenure: Tarun Chugh

**SRINAGAR, JUN 25:** Launching a scathing attack on former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Sunday said that during their tenures terrorism flourished in Jammu and Kashmir, while under PM Modi tourism saw bloom in the Union Territory. Talking to Kashmir News Service (KNS) Tarun Chugh said that the three families including Gandhis, Muftis and Abdullah plundered Jammu and Kashmir and that terrorism was at its peak during their tenures.

His comments came in the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Kashmir's Florence Nightingale champions self care, mental well-being for nurses

**SRINAGAR, JUN 25:** Firdousa Jan, who was recently bestowed the Florence Nightingale award by President Droupadi Murmu, believes that to become good caregivers, nurses need to take care of their own mental and physical well-being.

"Who will nurse the nurses? For a patient, there is a nurse, but there is no nurse for the nurses. So a nurse has to take care of her own mental and physical health before she is able to give care to the patients. They have to manage their stress and have to be physically fit to face all the challenges," Jan told PTI in an exclusive interview.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Urs Shah-e-Hamdan celebrated in Kashmir

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 25:** The annual Urs of Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani popularly known as Shah-e-Hamdan, was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in Kashmir valley on Sunday.

The main function of the Urs was held at Khan-e-Kah-e-Moula Shrine in downtown Srinagar where hundreds of people, including men and



women from various parts of the Kashmir valley, participated in night-long prayers.

A large number of people from all walks of life thronged the shrine on the banks of river Jhelum at Khan-e-Kah-e-Moula in Srinagar to attend the "Dhur" namaz or midday prayers amid hot and humid weather conditions.

Special prayers were held for the peace and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Govt Announces Summer Vacation Upto Primary Level From June 26

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 25:** The authorities here on Sunday preponed summer vacation for pre primary and primary classes of all government and private educational institutions of

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Rajnath Singh to address security conclave in Jammu today

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, JUN 25:** President, Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday said that Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh to address security conclave here tomorrow.

Raina here told reporters that the defense minister will address the security conclave in which around 1,500

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



## China Helping Pakistan Army Build Defence Infrastructure Along LoC: Officials

■ HT News Network

**NEW DELHI, JUN 25:** China has been helping the Pakistan Army build its defence infrastructure besides providing Unmanned Aerial and Combat Aerial Vehicles, setting up communication towers and laying underground cables along the Line of Control, officials said.

This, according to the officials, is part of efforts to further shore up China's position as an all-weather friend of Pakistan while ensuring

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



## Drones Being Used For Security Surveillance Ahead Of Amarnath Yatra

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, JUN 25:** Central Reserve Police Force has placed cutting-edge drones with high-resolution cameras including Remote Controlled Improvised Explosive Device (RCIED) Jammers along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and its adjacent link roads to keep 24/7 surveillance on the smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra 2023.

"A Hi-Tech system has been put in place

by the CRPF notably the Udhampur-based 137th Battalion, to ensure the safe and orderly progress of the Amarnath Yatra in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory," they said.

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

The CRPF's unflinching dedication

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Preserving Kashmiri Culture & Artistry:

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

Closing ceremony sees presence of Governors of Punjab and Tamil Nadu

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, JUN 25:** The third and final edition of the esteemed 'Vitasta Cultural Festival' concluded successfully, on Sunday, in the Valley, celebrating culture and various art forms unique to the region of Jammu and Kashmir, and bringing together diverse cul-

tural expressions from various regions of the country.

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



in Srinagar.

The Governors of Punjab and Tamil Nadu, Shri Banwarilal Purohit and R. N. Ravi were present as chief guests at the closing ceremony. On Sunday, the concluding event showcased a remarkable variety of captivating cultural programmes, featuring one

TURN ON.....PAGE 02









# Annual Bani Chinj Mela kickstarts with great Pomp & Show

## DDC Chairperson unveils 3 day event amidst ebullient participation of locals

■ HT News Network

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

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

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

DDC member Bani, Reeta

Thakur and SDM Bani, Satish Sharma were also present.

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

On the inaugural day, a colorful Music and Dance programme was organised under the overall guidance of Secretary JKAACL Bharat Singh.

While speaking on the occasion Chief Guest Mahan Singh said "I was awestruck to see the presentations by every artist and urged the Academy authorities to make this event an annual happening so that the Art and Culture of Bani can be



preserved".

SDM Bani in his address said

Bani Chinj Mela is becoming a famous event where wrestlers

and Cultural troupes from different parts of the UT and neigh-

bouring states turn up with great enthusiasm. He appreciated troupes of JKAACL for their scintillating cultural performances. He said such events help in preserving local Culture and art-forms besides giving good opportunities to the artists to inspire young generations.

The programme started with the vibrant dogri dance "Thanda Pani Pinnde ne pahari Lok" by Natya roots Dance group Jammu. Followed the presentations of Subash Chander and party Kud dance, Yudishter Gupta and party dogri folk song. The programme was con-

cluded with the awestruck performance of Dogri folk Geetru which is a traditional narrative song-dance form in which the lead singer also performs some dance steps and at times also uses the theatrical devices as well.

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

Retd. ZEO Mele Ram conducted the proceedings of the programme.

## 2- day Baba Jatroon annual mela commences at village Dandota

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 25: The two day Baba Jatroon annual Mela Commenced today, here at Village Dandota of District Udhampur.

DDC Councillor, Jasvir Singh along with Tehsildar Panchari inaugurated the mela.

While addressing the gathering, the DDC Councillor congratulated the people and said such melas are helpful in exchanging our cultural tradition and people from far flung areas meet their near ones in such melas. These melas are playing a pivotal role in maintaining brotherhood, peace and prosperity, he added.

Various sports activities were also organised by the students of various schools of the area. Besides local Artists including students of different Educational institutions presented scintillating cultural performances on the first day which was highly appreciated by one and all.

## BLIND MURDER CASE SOLVED MISSING TURNED INTO MURDER, ACCUSED ARRESTED REASI POLICE

■ HT News Network

REASI, In a bizarre incident son along with other accomplices killed his real father, disposed off the dead body and in order to escape from the clutches of Law, cooked a story of missing father. On dated 30-03-2023 a person namely Dalip Singh S/O Gopi Chand R/O Tote tehsil Bhomag Reasi appeared at Police Station Reasi and lodged a written complaint that his brother namely Paramjeet Singh S/O Gopi Chand R/O Tote went missing from Reasi on 27-03-2023. On this a missing report was lodged at Police Station Reasi and further investigation started by Reasi Police to trace the missing person. During the course of enquiry using human as well as technical support the police rounded up few suspects and it was found that the said person Paramjeet Singh is murdered by his real son and some other accomplices. On this a Case FIR NO. 133/2023 U/S 302/368/342/109/34 IPC registered at PS Reasi and different teams of the police station formed to trace out the accused persons involved in the murder. After raiding at different location the Police teams from PS Reasi arrested the accused persons namely 1. Sushil Chander S/O Sansar Chand R/O Chorakote Teh- Bhomag Distt-Reasi 2. Vikas Thakur S/O Lt Paramjeet Singh R/O Tote Teh-Bhomag 3. Vipin kumar S/O Rattan Lal caste-Bhagat R/O Kotli Manotrian. During the investigation and interrogation of accused persons namely 1. Sushil Chander 2. Vikas Thakur S/O Lt Paramjeet Singh R/O Tote Teh-Bhomag 3. Vipin kumar S/O Rattan Lal caste-Bhagat R/O Kotli Manotrian disclosed.

## Aryans to start Bachelor of Physiotherapy Course from this Session

■ HT News Network

Srinagar June 25th Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh is going to start a 4.5 years Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT) Course from 2023-24. The candidates who have passed 12th with Physics, Chemistry and Biology with minimum 50 percent marks would be eligible to apply for this Course. A helpline 98765-99888 for the candidates has also been launched for the students who want to make their career with this Course.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman Aryans Group while thanking MRS Punjab Technical University (MRS-PTU), Bathinda said that we are really grateful that MRSPTU

has chosen Aryans Campus for this Course. He said that out of 120 allotted seats, 10 seats would be given free of any tuition fee to those students who have secured 95 percent in 12th & are needy & deserving. Further he added that Scholarship will be given on Merit cum means basis. Also for SC/ST candidates the admission will be free of cost. Physiotherapy is a very promising, rewarding and a satisfactory profession as para-medical science has a larger role & responsibility in a hospital scenario. After clearing the licensing examination of a given country, it opens up wide opportunities for the physiotherapists in the health industry. BPT Graduates are also eligible for courses.

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

■ HT News Network

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

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

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

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



He instructed the executing agency and other stakeholders to ensure completion of works by implementing all plans and directions issued from time to time for the smooth conduct of holy yatra.

He also directed officers of NHAI to complete the maintenance work to provide safe passage to commuters. He stressed on expeditious maintenance of highway, Traffic regulation, follow lane enforcement, Surface maintenance.

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

## Dir Agriculture conducts Public outreach program in Tulail

### Says successful implementation of HADP vital for agriculture sector

■ HT News Network

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

While addressing the public gathering at various places in these areas, Director Agriculture said the successful and effective HADP in these far flung areas will lead to a developed and prosperous agriculture sector in future. The agro climatic diversity of these areas makes them special and therefore a unique approach would



be adopted to explore these conditions for crop production, he said and added.

Iqbal said that the Department is committed for the welfare of farming community, he asked concerned offi-

cers to work with utmost commitment and dedication for the upliftment of the farmers of these far flung areas.

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

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

■ HT News Network

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

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

SSP informed that special



checkpoints, conduct round-the-clock patrols, CCTV cameras at langar sites and other vital locations shall be put in place. Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma along with SSP, Benam Tosh today visited Chichi Mata Temple and reviewed Amarnath Ji Yatra arrangements of Lodgement Centre for

pilgrims. The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need to provide the best arrangements for the Yatris. He laid stress on adequate provision of sanitation, power supply, drinking water, security, lodging and other amenities for the yatris (pilgrims). SSP informed that special checkpoints,

## DC Kulgam inspects physical progress of several development projects

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM JUNE 25: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited Liroo area of the district where he took stock of the physical progress made on the construction of residential quarters here. It was informed that 06 residential quarters for Officers are under execution of JKPC, with an estimated cost of about 14.47 crore rupees. It was intimated that out of 06 blocks, work on 05 blocks is complete while 45 percent of work stands com-



pleted on block 06. While taking stock of progress made on construction of 2 BHK residential accommodation for PRIs at Kulgam, concerned from R&B

informed that that 70 percent work has been completed in these quarters.

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

crore.

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

Besides, DC also took stock of work on NH-444 near Liroo Kulgam.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz and other officers and officials. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited Liroo area of the district where he took stock of the physical progress made on the construction of residential quarters here.

## PM visit redefines India-US common goals: Nirmala Sitharaman

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, June 25 (UNI) Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US as "historic" and said it redefined the strategic participation in various areas of common goals between the two countries.

"During this visit, many important agreements have been signed on the subject of defense production, technology and employment," Sitharaman said while addressing a press conference here at party head-



quarters in New Delhi.

Speaking over the importance of the visit, the Finance Minister said, "The agreement between HAL and GE for the joint produc-

tion of F414 aircraft engines was one of the major achievements of PM Modi's visit to the US".

"As a significant and meaningful milestone in

the growth of the semiconductor eco-system, Micron will set up its semiconductor and test plant in Gujarat entailing a total investment of \$2.75 billion" she added.

The Finance Minister said, "It is expected to create nearly 5,000 new direct jobs and around 15,000 indirect jobs over the next few years".

Talking about PM address to joint session of the US Congress, She said very few people have got the opportunity to address the Congress and the Prime Minister was invited by both the parties of America.



EDITORIAL

## How Long Shall "Reservations Continue to Mar the Merit"

Reservations have been and continue to be debated. According to the majority Section of the population who do not possess any such reservations this catagorization should be done away with now.

Majority of the Students who face Competitive Examinations under Open Merit are of the openion that Time has come that these constitutional provisions need to be revisited majority beleives.

The Supreme Court in a landmark judgement had sought to know during the Maratha quota case hearing recently that for how many generations would reservations in jobs and education continue. SC also raised concerns over “resultant inequality” in case the overall 50 per cent limit was to be removed.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan was vehemently told by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Maharashtra, that the Mandal judgement on capping the quota needed a re-look in changed circumstances.

He said the courts should leave it to states to fix reservation quotas in view of the changed circumstances and the Mandal judgement was premised on census of 1931.

Arguing in favour of the Maharashtra law granting quota to Marathas, Rohatgi referred to various aspects of the Mandal judgement, also known as Indra Sawhney case, and said the Centre’s decision to grant 10 per cent quota to people from economically weaker section also breached the 50 per cent cap.

“If there is no 50 per cent or no limit, as you are suggesting, what is the concept of equality then. We will ultimately have to deal with it. What is your reflection on that... What about the resultant inequality. How many generations will you continue,” observed the bench, which also comprised Justices L Nageswara Rao, S Abdul Nazeer, Hemant Gupta and S Ravindra Bhat.

Rohatgi said there were many reasons for the re-look of the Mandal judgment which was premised on the census of 1931 and moreover, the population has increased many fold and reached to 135 crore.

The bench said 70 years have passed since independence and the states have been carrying on so many beneficial schemes and “can we accept that no development has taken place, that no backward caste has moved forward”.

It also observed that the purpose of reviewing the Mandal judgement was that those who have come out from backwardness must be eliminated.

“Yes, we have moved forward. But it is not that backward classes have gone down from 50 to 20 per cent. We still have starvation deaths in this country... I am not trying to say that Indra Sawhney is completely wrong, throw it in the dustbin. I am raising issues that 30 years have gone by, the law has changed, the population has grown, backward persons may also have increased,” Rohatgi said.

He referred to amendments made in the Constitution and said they are the indicators that the country has not reached “anywhere near the emancipation” it required for its backwards classes.

“The fact of the matter is Parliament should know what is going on in the country. If Parliament knows it is more than 50 per cent and has given 10 per cent to a class of economically backward section, no warrant from court should say it cannot go over 50 per cent,” he argued.

When a number of states have reservations exceeding 50 per cent and in this situation, it cannot be said that this is not “a burning issue” and does not require a relook after 30 years, he said.

The arguments in the case remained inconclusive and would resume on Monday.

On Thursday, Attorney General K K Venugopal had told the apex court that the 102nd amendment to the Constitution does not deprive state legislatures to enact law determining the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) and conferring benefits on them.

The 102nd Constitution amendment Act of 2018 inserted Articles 338B, which deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Class (NCBC), and 342A dealing with power of the President to notify a particular caste as SEBC as also of Parliament to change the list.

On Wednesday, the top court was told that Marathas have been dominant “socially and politically” as almost 40 per cent of MPs and MLAs of Maharashtra are from this community and the entire hypothesis that they have been left behind, faced historical injustice is completely flawed.

The top court has been hearing a clutch of cases challenging the Bombay High Court verdict which upheld the grant of quota to Marathas in admissions and government jobs in the state.

## Changing dynamics: When the city is the new village

HARISH BIJOOR

In the beginning, there was the village. And then came the city. And then there was the village again. All over again. Life is cyclical. I am in the midst of an ongoing study comprising a sample size of 84,630 people who live in Indian villages. This is a study that has been going on for the last nine years. I study the same set of villages and, more or less the same set of villagers, and watch. The idea is to study the changing or the unchanging patterns (for that matter) of the Indian villager, village life, society and inclinations—political, economic, religious and social. The output is monthly, rich and loaded with insight.

For the purpose of this article, I pick just one facet of an Indian village: its geography. How is a village laid out? Who lives where? And do people move from one segment of the pre-defined village to another? What allows for this transition? And what doesn't? How did all this happen and fall into place?

Even as I answer some of these questions through my ongoing study in Indian villages, I must say that I have conducted parallel research across villages in Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, South Africa and China. I have compared data sets, both qualitative and quantitative. Voila! Not very strangely, the world is flat. What I find in terms of the geographical layout of a village, I find common not only in India, but across all countries mentioned as test cases—with smaller sample sizes of investigation of course. Take it with a pinch of salt for sure (but not a shovel), as my sample size covers a miniscule 5,640 villages out of 6,43,920 villages that dot the landscape of India.

Back to the original point then. How is a village laid out? Typically and traditionally, caste is a very important part of the fabric of an Indian village. It all, therefore, begins with caste. And gone are the days of single-caste villages in India.

Today, every village is a mixed village, with

the Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra segments of caste-based society living together in harmony. Those from the sub-castes thrive in the very same ecosystem as well. When you add religion to this mix, there is a way of further segmenting who lives where. Ghettoisation is still not a trend you can pinpoint in the village. Thankfully.

There is a method to the segmentation of the dwelling areas of various groups. Either by design or conscious happenstance, different castes tend to live in different segments of the Indian village. Houses are laid out literally in concentric circles that radiate from the center of the village. And the center of the village is where the village well is. The traditional village well, that large peepal tree under which the panchayat used to sit (and still sits in many cases), and the primary temple of the village—are all magnet landmarks defining the epicentre of the village.

Not very strangely, the village gets divided into the Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra parts rather seamlessly. Typically, to the naked eye, all this is not visible at all, and neither is it an oft-spoken-about topic. The village is, however, divided. And not as united and mixed as one would imagine it to be. At least in terms of caste, and most certainly in terms of the attendant wealth and power that each of these castes boasts of.

The ones who live closest to the traditional assets of the village like the village well, the temple and the primary (and in some cases sacred) tree of the village are those who are seen to be opinion leaders in the village ecosystem. In many cases, these are the temple priests, the teachers, and those who follow similar vocations. Many of them are not as rich as those who live in surrounding areas today, but geography defines clout and power. Clout and power of opinion for sure that flow from one generation to the next.

Those who then live in the periphery of this core are those who belong to the Kshatriya and Vaishya segments and, in the outermost periphery of the village, live those who belong to the Shudra segment. The more you are distanced from the primary village assets, the lower the social status. Ouch. This hurts. This pinches. This pains. Even to write.

None of this has been made to happen in recent years. The Indian village has been there for far too long. Been there for far too long to care for social niceties or political correctness. Let me allow the point to rest. And simmer in our psyches.

Now let me fly into the big city of today. Is there such a similar geographic division of the big city? What about in Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata or Bengaluru? Thankfully no. Not yet.

But wait. I wish to make a point. A politically incorrect point even. Big cities are creating their own geographic segmentation of society. Let me pick Bengaluru. The city has two parts to it. An old part of the city and a newer one. Typically, one would say that the older areas are in the heart of the city and the newer parts are in the periphery. While Chamrajpete and Chickpete are the older parts, the new parts are Bellandur and IT hubs like Whitefield. But that would be an overt simplification, wouldn't it?

Look closely though. Feel the pulse of what is changing. There is a covert segmentation of the city taking place on the basis of affordability and money power. Take the home rentals market in Bengaluru. The boom in prices is in some central localities, and equally in the areas close to the IT corridor. And when I use the term IT, I use it loosely to represent our traditional IT companies, ITES, Biotech, our startups, online enterprises of every kind, R&D establishments of global MNCs, and more.

Affordability is today redefining the emergence of geographies which seek similar types of occupants. While traditional salaries from traditional professions are quite unable to bear the bite of new rental inflation, folks who work for the superleagues of new-age companies are able to grin and bear it all. The city in turn gets divided based on profession. Without sinking into another politically incorrect discussion, I would just ask us to sit up and smell the coffee. Sit up and watch the city as it changes. As it morphs.

In many ways, the big city is the new village. The village of yore, as it fell into place in the good or bad old days.

Brand Guru and Founder, Harish Bijoor  
Consults Inc ([harishbijoor@hotmail.com](mailto:harishbijoor@hotmail.com))

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## NAIL TECHNICIAN - HOW TO BECOME A NAIL TECHNICIAN



VIJAY GARG



Nail Technicians (Manicurists) are skilled professionals who perform manicures and pedicures. It includes nail art, the application of artificial nails, nail repair and other specialised hand and foot treatments. A Nail Technician specialises in looking after a client's fingernails and toenails. They give advice on nail care and product selection. And they help improve the appearance of hands and feet by offering nail treatments; manicures, pedicures, nail extensions and nail art applications. Typically a nail technician performs the following functions

Nail Care Advice - Nail technicians should have the ability to recognise nail conditions.

Manicure - A manicure can be solely for the fingernails or a combined treatment for both hands and fingernails.

Pedicure - A pedicure improves the condition and appearance of your feet and toenails.

Nail Extension/Overlays - Nail technicians often apply for false nail extensions either over the whole natural nail or to the tip. The most common are gel nails or acrylics.

Nail Art - Nail art is becoming an increasingly popular requirement and nails can be polished in two colours.

Nail Technician Eligibility They should be at least a 10+2 class pass along with a Certificate Course in Nail Treatments, including Nail Art and Nail Technology.

Nail Technician Required Skills Nail Technicians should possess good concentration skills as Clients want to chat about their problems, the weather etc. they should be able to listen, converse and maintain their concentration on the task at hand.

They should be creative; it is important especially when painting designs on clients' nails. It is also important to have good colour sense.



Nail Technicians work on a one-to-one basis with clients, therefore, excellent customer service skills are crucial, they should be polite, sociable, friendly, caring and a good listener.

They should have steady hand art by applying for polish, nail art designs and applications and extensions.

How to become a Nail Technician? To become a Nail Technician, one has to follow the given steps:

Step 1 After passing their high school education they can go for their 10+2 class or other option with them are some of the Certificate courses for the very profession. These courses are being offered by the institutes both on a regular or distance basis. Their duration depends on the rules and regulations of various institutions from place to place.

Diploma/Certificate Courses: Certificate Course in Advanced Beauty Technician

Certificate Course in Ayurved Beauty Care

Diploma in Beautician

Diploma in Beauty Cosmetology

Step 2 At some of the places, they are

required to have a Bachelor's Degree course for having jobs in reputed Beauty Parlours, Saloons and the like. They can have this degree course in the same manner as other courses.

Institutes offering Courses for Nail Technician

Maha Beauty Parlour Training Institute, Thane

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik

Idhaya College for Women, Thanjavur

Ginni Devi Modi Girls (P.G.) College, Modinagar

Nail Technician Job Description

There are various responsibilities of the nail technician, some of them are:

Provide Manicures and Pedicures

Maintain Sanitary workstations

Build Customer Relationships

Nail Technician Career Prospects

Nail Technicians can work in nail salons, within department stores, hair salons, day spas, beauty salons and on cruise liners. Increasingly, there are opportunities for nail technicians to work on fashion shows and fashion magazine shoots.

Having experience, after that they can start their own business; open their

own salon, rent space in a salon, or run a mobile business visiting different salons or visiting clients in their homes.

Nail Technicians have opportunities to work with photographers, fashion designers or TV companies, preparing nails for photo shoots or fashion shows.

And if they have further higher studies, they can move into teaching in colleges, doing training for nail product manufacturers, or assessing students on nail courses.

Nail Technician Salary

The working hours for Nail Technicians vary and as such so do earnings. However, a Nail Technician can expect to earn the start, on average ranging from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month. More senior and experienced Nail Technicians can expect to earn anything up to Rs. 30,000 per month. A lot of Nail Technicians often choose to open their own businesses, catering to a variety of different beauty specialities in one place and it can change earning expectations.

Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational Columnist  
Malout Punjab



# India committed to improving ties with Egypt: PM Modi

## HT News Network

New Delhi/Cairo, June 25 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India is committed to improving bilateral ties with Egypt, and added that 2023 has already been a remarkable year for the two countries.

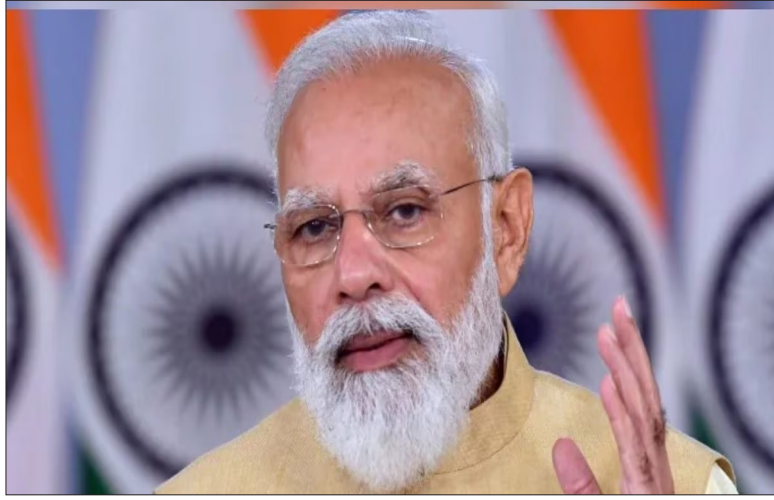
The PM said this during a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Mostafa Madbouly on Saturday, where they held a roundtable meeting in Cairo.

PM Modi said in statements following the meeting that he listened attentively to the positive opinions of his Egyptian counterpart on ways to enhance their bilateral relations and took detailed notes on the proposals, according to local reports.

"This is a remarkable year for our shared relations. At the beginning of this year, President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi visited India as a chief guest in the Republic Day celebration, where we signed an agreement to elevate our bilateral relations to a strategic partnership," PM Modi said.

He also said that he is honoured to invite President El-Sisi to India again to attend the G20 meetings, which are scheduled to take place in New Delhi in September.

PM Modi said that Egypt and India were swiftly moving towards achieving the \$12 billion target in bilateral trade within the next five years. He added that in the past six months alone, Indian companies have invest-



ed around \$170 million in Egypt.

This is PM Modi's first-ever visit to Egypt, following an invitation from El-Sisi. According to Indian Ambassador Ajit Gupte, this is the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Cairo since 1997. "Some of you have recently visited India, and here I would like to say that regular visits between the two sides will actively enhance bilateral relations," PM Modi told the attendees at the meeting.

PM Modi was meeting the 'India Unit' in the Egyptian Cabinet, which was set up earlier this year following the State Visit of President El-Sisi to India. The India Unit is headed by Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly, and comprises a number of Ministers and senior officials.

PM Modi added that the visit of the

Chairman of the Suez Canal Economic Zone to India last week was successful and will encourage other Indian companies to come to invest in Egypt.

He also emphasized that the increasing cooperation between the two sides in the field of renewable energy reflects a joint commitment to environmental protection.

He pointed out that many Indian companies are investing in green hydrogen and electric vehicles.

PM Modi said he would like to visit the New Administrative Capital on his next trip to Egypt.

From his side, Egyptian PM Madbouly affirmed the determination of both governments to strengthen strategic partnership between the two sides.

# JP Nadda, BJP MPs to receive PM Modi on return from US, Egypt State visits

## HT News Network

New Delhi, June 25: BJP national president JP Nadda, party MPs and its Delhi chief Virendra Sachdeva would receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his return to the national capital after concluding his hugely successful and substantive maiden State visits to the US and Egypt.

Earlier, on Sunday, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi conferred PM Modi with Egypt's highest state honour — the 'Order of the Nile' — in Cairo.

It was the 13th state honour of its kind to have been conferred on PM Modi.

Over the last 9 years, PM Modi has received many international awards including Companion of the Order of Logohu, Companion of the Order of Fiji, and Ebaki Award by the Republic of Palau, among others.

Meanwhile, PM Modi, and Egyptian President El-Sisi on Sunday signed an agreement to elevate the bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership".

Both the leaders discussed ways to further deepen the partnership between the two nations, including in trade, investment, defence, security, renewable energy, cultural and people-to-people ties.

The two sides also signed an agreement to elevate the bilateral partnership to a "strategic partnership."

In addition, three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the fields of



agriculture, archaeology and antiquities, and competition law were also signed between India and Egypt. PM Modi also visited the Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo.

Taking to Twitter, PM Modi said, "Honored to visit the historic Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo. It's a profound testament to Egypt's rich heritage and culture."

Earlier, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi conferred PM Modi with Egypt's highest state honour — the 'Order of the Nile' — in Cairo. BJP national president JP Nadda, party MPs and its Delhi chief Virendra Sachdeva would receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his return to the national capital after concluding his hugely successful and substantive maiden State visits to the US and Egypt. Earlier, on Sunday, Egyptian

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## CM Biren Singh briefs Shah about Manipur situation

### HT News Network

New Delhi, June 25 (UNI) Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh met Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Sunday, a day after the latter convened a all-party meeting over the current crisis in the Northeastern state. During his meeting with Shah at his residence, the CM apprised about the present situation in Manipur, sources said. Meanwhile, the Manipur CM in a tweet wrote, "Called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah Ji in New Delhi today and briefed about the evolving situation on the ground in Manipur." Singh said under Shah's close supervision, the State and Central government have been able to control the violence to a great extent in the past week. "It may be noted that there has been no report of casualties due to the violence since June 13," he said.

The CM said Shah has assured that the Central government will take all possible steps to bring normalcy in Manipur. "Further, Amit Shah Ji advised us to strengthen our work towards achieving everlasting peace and also sought the cooperation of every stakeholders in Manipur to ensure that peace prevails in the state," he said. Manipur Assembly Speaker T Satyabrata Singh was also present.

## 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.

## Yogi inspects development works in Mathura

### HT News Network

Mathura (UP), June 25 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inspected the ongoing development works in Vrindavan on the second day of his visit to Mathura district on Sunday. The CM conducted a local inspection of the sewer project in Vrindavan and directed the officials to complete the work in a qualitative manner at the earliest. After the local inspection, he went to the Tourism Facilitation Center in Vrindavan to interact with the saints and sages. During their interaction, he enquired about their well-being, discussed the ongoing projects in Mathura and had refreshments with the saints. It may be noted that Yogi constituted the UP Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad to accelerate the development of the region and currently a number of developmental projects are underway in Braj region. Prior to the inspection, the CM also planted saplings on University Guest House premises.

## Emergency a black chapter of history: Rajnath

### HT News Network

Agra (UP), June 25 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday attacked Congress and said that on this day in 1975 it murdered democracy by imposing emergency in the country and this black chapter of the history will be remembered always.

Addressing a public meeting as a part of Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Maha Sampark Abhiyaan on the completion of 9 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government at Kagarol under Fatehpur Sikri Lok Sabha constituency, Rajnath said, "Today it's June 25th and on this day the emergency was imposed and democracy was strangled in 1975. I also spent 16 months in jail." He said that Congress held a meeting in Patna to remove PM Narendra Modi and it claims that there is no democracy in the country. "If there is no democracy in the country then how did it form the government in Himachal, Rajasthan and Karnataka?" he said.

The Defence Minister said that PM Modi has raised the prestige of India at the international level. "The country has also been



empowered economically. The country, which was at the 11th position in terms of the economy in the year 2014, has now reached the fifth position," he said.

He said that today the borders of the country are secure. "When Pakistan did a cowardly act in Uri, we crossed the border and eliminated terrorism. Work is being done for the village, the poor, the farmers and they are getting free ration," he said.

Rajnath said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has improved the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh. "Law and order is most important for the development of any state," he said.

## Southwest Monsoon reaches Delhi, advances to most parts of India

### HT News Network

New Delhi, June 25 (UNI) The Southwest Monsoon arrived in Delhi on Sunday, triggering heavy rainfall accompanied by lightning in the national capital, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

The IMD said the conditions are favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon into some more parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and the remaining parts of Jammu and Kashmir during the next two days.

"The Southwest Monsoon will today (Sunday) cover the remaining parts of Maharashtra including Mumbai, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

"It will also cover some parts of Gujarat, some more parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, today (June 25)" as per IMD.

"Southwest monsoon is active now. Monsoon has



also arrived in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and parts of Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu. It will move forward in the next 2 days and will cover other parts also" said Dr Mrityunjay Mohapatra, DG, IMD.

As the Monsoon arrived in Delhi, there was heavy deluge accompanied by lightning in several parts of the national capital Delhi

and its adjoining areas in the early hours of Sunday.

"Five cm maximum rainfall was recorded in Delhi, rain will continue for the next 2 days" Mohapatra said.

The bulletin predicted more rainfall in the national capital and the adjoining regions of NCR.

"Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over East Central and parts of

Northwest India including the national capital, during the next five days", it said.

"Maximum rainfall of 18 cm was recorded in Mumbai region and even today there may be heavy to very heavy rainfall. Monsoon is active in Central India" it said.

The weather agency said there will be no heatwave during the next five days in the country.

## Engineering goods exports to US, China continue downtrend in May

### HT News Network

New Delhi, June 25 (UNI) Engineering goods exports to key markets such as the US and China continued a declining trend in May, engineering export promotion body EEPIC India said on Sunday.

However, shipments to two of India's newest trade agreement partners, the UAE and Australia, increased during this period, EEPIC India said that the decline in exports to the US was primarily driven by a sharp drop in domestic demand, accompanied by fears of an impending recession.

Engineering exports to the US in May 2023 stood at US\$ 1.44 billion, down 19.6% compared to US\$ 1.79 billion in May 2022.

Cumulatively, engineering exports to the US declined 22.3% year-on-year in April-May of FY24 compared to US\$ 2.84 billion in same period previous year.

Engineering exports to another key market, China, continued to witness a sharp decline during the month under review. Shipments to China dropped 10.5% year-on-year to US\$ 193.1 million in May. Cumulatively, the decline was to the extent of 13% year-on-year in the April-May period of the current financial year.



On the other hand, engineering exports to the UAE and Australia increased in May 2023. While engineering exports to the UAE rose nearly 32% year-on-year to US\$ 567.1 million in May 2023, shipments to another new trade agreement partner Australia increased 17.4% during this period. On a cumulative basis, shipments to both UAE and Australia witnessed positive growth.

Engineering exports to the European Union (EU) declined by 6.4% year-on-year to US\$ 1.91 billion in May 2023.

Region-wise, positive year-on-year growth was noted majorly in WANA, CIS, and Oceania. Regions witnessing a drop in exports during May 2023 include North America, ASEAN countries, EU countries, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia.

## Shah enquires about Assam flood situation

### HT News Network



New Delhi, June 25 (UNI) Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday spoke to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and enquired about the state's flood situation. Shah also assured Sarma of all possible assistance.

"Due to heavy rain, the people in parts of Assam are braving a flood-like situation. I have spoken to CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Ji and assured all possible assistance," the HM said in a tweet.

Shah informed that the NDRF teams are already on the ground, conducting relief and rescue operations, and adequate forces are on standby.

"The Modi government stands firm as it has always been with the people of Assam in these difficult times," he added.

Meanwhile, the Assam CM expressed his gratitude to the HM for his proactive response and concern regarding the flood situation in Assam.

"We are grateful to PM Narendra Modi Ji for all the help to the state from Government of India," Sarma said. The Assam Government is on high alert and providing all assistance to the affected persons, he added.



# Rebel Russian mercenaries return to base under deal ending advance on Moscow

■ HT News Network

Heavily armed Russian mercenaries withdrew from the southern Russian city of Rostov overnight under a deal that defused an unprecedented challenge to the authority of President Vladimir Putin and halted their rapid advance on Moscow.

Fighters of the Wagner group returned to their bases in return for guarantees for their safety and the leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, will move to Belarus, according to the agreement mediated by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

However, the aborted mutiny raises big questions about Putin's grip on a country he has ruled with an iron hand for more than two decades. Italy's foreign minister said it had shattered the "myth" of Russian unity.

Prigozhin, 62, a former Putin ally whose forces have fought the bloodiest battles of the 16-month war in Ukraine, said his decision to advance on Moscow was intended to remove corrupt and incompetent Russian commanders he blames for botching the war.

He was seen leaving the district military headquarters in Rostov — hundreds of miles south of Moscow — late on Saturday in a sport utility vehicle. His whereabouts on



Sunday were not immediately clear.

Videos shared on social media from Rostov overnight purportedly showed the mercenaries withdrawing from the city in a convoy of armoured vehicles, tanks and coaches to the sound of cheers, chants of "Wagner" and celebratory gunfire from local residents.

Reuters was able to verify the location of the video but not the date that it was filmed.

"Take care of yourselves," shouted one woman. The show of support for Wagner's short-lived insurrection will alarm the authorities in a country which has become increasingly intolerant of any public criticism of Putin and his rule.

Moscow was calm on Sunday, with the Red Square closed but otherwise little evidence of increased security in the streets. Monday has been declared a non-working day to allow time for things to settle.

The capital had told residents to stay indoors and deployed soldiers in preparation for the arrival of the mercenaries, who appeared to meet little pushback from the regular armed forces.

Chechen special forces who deployed to the Rostov region to resist the mercenaries' advance were also withdrawing back to where they had been fighting in Ukraine, commander Apty Alaudinov said in a video published on Telegram.

After capturing Rostov — the main rear logistical hub for Russia's invasion of Ukraine — the mercenaries had raced hundreds of miles north in what Prigozhin called a "march for justice", transporting tanks and armoured trucks and smashing through barricades set up to stop them, before the deal to withdraw was reached.

Prigozhin Belarus exile Under the deal, brokered late on Saturday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said a criminal case opened against Prigozhin for armed mutiny would be dropped, Prigozhin would move to Belarus, and Wagner fighters who rallied to his cause would face no action, in recognition of their previous service to Russia.

Peskov said Lukashenko had offered to mediate, with Putin's approval, because he had known Prigozhin personally for around 20 years.

## Biden vows to fight Republicans' 'extreme' anti-abortion agenda

■ HT News Network

WASHINGTON: A year after US Supreme Court scrapped the constitutional right to abortion in the United States, President Joe Biden on Saturday vowed to fight against the "extreme and dangerous" effort by Republicans to curb access to the procedure nationwide.

The high court's decision to overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision passed the regulation of abortion back to individual states — some of which have since moved to drastically restrict the procedure.

"State bans are just the beginning," Biden said in a statement on the anniversary of the ruling. "Their agenda is extreme, dangerous, and out-of-step with the vast majority of Americans."

Some 20 states, mostly in the South and Midwest, have prohibited abortion outright or severely restricted access while others, mainly on the coasts, have moved to protect it.

The closure of abortion



clinics in about a dozen states has forced tens of thousands of women to travel elsewhere to terminate a pregnancy. Biden warned that Republicans were working to enact a nationwide abortion ban.

"Congressional Republicans want to ban abortion nationwide, but go beyond that, by taking FDA-approved medication for terminating a pregnancy, off the market, and make it harder to obtain contraception," the president said, referring to the Food and Drug Administration.

With a divided US Congress, there is little the president can do. Still, Biden said he would push for federal-level protections.

"My Administration will continue to protect access to reproductive health care and call on Congress to restore the protections of Roe v. Wade in federal law once and for all," he said.

Abortion rights proved a key issue for Democrats in the 2022 midterm elections, and are likely to be just as important in the 2024 presidential race. They've also become an animating feature in Republican campaigns. Abortion rights proved a key issue for Democrats in the 2022 midterm elections, and are likely to be just as important in the 2024 presidential race. They've also become an animating feature in Republican campaigns.

## Afghan supreme leader claims women 'saved from oppression' by Taliban

■ HT News Network

Afghanistan's supreme leader claimed on Sunday that the country's women were being saved from "traditional oppressions" by the adoption of Islamic governance and their status as "free and dignified human beings" restored.

In a statement marking this week's Eidul Azha holiday, Hibatullah Akhundzada — who rarely appears in public and rules by decree from the Taliban's birthplace in Kandahar — said steps had been taken to provide women with a "comfortable and prosperous life according to Islamic Shariah".

The United Nations expressed "deep concern" last week that women were being deprived of their rights under Afghanistan's Taliban government and warned of systematic gender apartheid.

Since returning to power in August 2021, Taliban authorities have stopped girls and women from attending high school or university, banned them from parks, gyms, and public baths, and ordered them to cover up when leaving home.

They have also barred them from working for the UN or NGOs, while most female government employees have been dismissed from their jobs or are being paid to stay at home.

However, Akhundzada said, "Necessary steps have been taken for the betterment of women as half of the society".

"All institutions have been obliged to help women in securing marriage, inheritance, and other rights," his statement read.



Akhundzada said a six-point decree issued in December 2021 guaranteed women their rights.

Among other things, the decree outlawed forced marriages and enshrined the right to inheritance and divorce.

"The negative aspects of the past 20-year occupation related to women's hijab and misguidance will end soon," Akhundzada said.

A report to the UN's Human Rights Council last week by Richard Bennett, the special rapporteur for Afghanistan, said the plight of women and girls in the country "was among the worst in the world".

"Grave, systematic, and institutionalised discrimination against women and girls is at the heart of Taliban ideology and rule, which also gives rise to concerns that they may be responsible for gender apartheid," Bennett said.

UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Nada Al-Nashif added: "Over the past 22 months, every aspect of women's and girls' lives has been restricted."

"They are discriminated against in every way."

## West Bank violence persists with Israeli, Palestinian attacks

■ HT News Network

JERUSALEM: Violence in the occupied West Bank persisted on Saturday with a Palestinian man killed by Israeli forces at a checkpoint and Israelis attacking Palestinian residents, officials on both sides said. The latest incidents add to a mounting toll which has cost four Israeli and 16 Palestinian lives across the territory since Monday.

At the Qalandia checkpoint north of Jerusalem, Israeli police said a "suspect opened fire at the security forces", who shot back early on Saturday. "The death of the attacker was later determined at the scene," a police statement said.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Bri-



gade, a Palestinian group, in a statement said "our heroic fighters... were able to directly target occupation (Israeli) soldiers at Qalandia checkpoint."

The crossing serves as the main gateway used by Palestinians between annexed east Jerusalem and Ramallah, seat of the Palestinian Authority which has partial

administrative control in the West Bank. The official Palestinian news agency Wafa identified the person shot dead as Ishaq al-Ajluni, aged 17 or 18, from the Kufri Aqab neighbourhood just north of the checkpoint.

Later, the Israeli military reported "violent friction between Israeli citizens and Palestinian" residents in the

northern West Bank village of Umm Safa.

"Rocks were hurled and reports were received of Israeli citizens setting fire to Palestinian property," an army statement said, adding that a soldier was wounded and one Israeli was arrested. The alleged arson is the latest in a series of such incidents, following Palestinian gunmen killing four Israelis near a West Bank settlement on Tuesday. Ambulance attacked

The Palestinian health ministry said an ambulance "was stoned by (Israeli) settlers near the village of Umm Safa" on Saturday, wounding the driver. Israel has occupied the West Bank since the 1967 Six-Day War and, excluding annexed east Jerusalem.

## Freight train falls into river after bridge collapses in US: Authorities

■ HT News Network

Los Angeles, June 24 (UNI) A freight train fell into the Yellowstone River in the U.S. state of Montana after parts of a bridge collapsed on Saturday, authorities said on Sunday. According to the county's Disaster and Emergency Services, the incident occurred at approximately 6 M. (1200PM GMT) on the rail bridge that crosses the Yellowstone River in Montana's Stillwater County.

The bridge collapsed, and there are multiple rail cars in the Yellowstone River. We have not determined the cause of the derailment," said the department on its Facebook page. There were no reports of injuries after the incident.

Officials initially said at least seven cars from the freight train, including three cars of hot asphalt and four cars of molten sulfur, tumbled into the river.

"Initial assessment indicates compromised rail cars contained molten sulfur and asphalt.

Both substances solidify rapidly when exposed to cooler temperatures," the department said in an update on Saturday afternoon. "Two cars carrying sodium hydro sulfate are also included in the list.

Neither of these cars has entered the water, and initial air quality assessments have been performed and confirmed that there is no release event associated with those two cars," the department added.

## Two killed, 14 security members wounded in clash in Philippines

■ HT News Network

Manila, June 25 (UNI) A police officer was killed and 13 others, plus a government soldier, were wounded during a clash with armed men in the southern Philippines, Armed Forces of the Philippine Chief of Staff Andres Centino said on Sunday.

Centino said an armed man was also killed in the clash.

The fighting broke out on Saturday morning when a team of policemen and soldiers went to a local politician's house in Maimbung town in Sulu province to serve arrest and search warrants against the politician, Centino said.

The warrants were in connection with charges of murder, frustrated murder, and illegal possession of firearms against the former town official allegedly linked with criminal groups in the area, he said.

The politician's armed men opened fire at the team, resulting in nearly five-hour fighting, the military chief added. The fighting stopped before noon after the politician and his armed men escaped.

Centino said a pursuit operation is underway to find the politician and his men

## 1,142 Afghan youths join national police :Officials

HT News Network

Kabul, June 25 (UNI) A total of 1,142 Afghan youths have joined the country's national police force after completing a two-month training course in northern Kunduz and Balkh provinces, officials said Sunday.

Spokesman for Kunduz police Jumadin Khaksar said that 507 cadets joined the national police force on Saturday to serve the nation.

Similarly, 635 Afghans graduated from the police training center in Kunduz's neighboring Balkh province on the same day and vowed to serve their war-torn country, the state-run Bakhtar news agency reported.

More than 2,000 Afghan youths have graduated from short-term two-month police training courses in the provinces of Kandahar, Khost, Wardak, Kunduz and Balkh over the past week.

The Afghan caretaker government has formed a 200,000-member police force to ensure law and order in the country, according to its Interior Ministry.

## 21 alleged criminals arrested in Afghan

■ HT News Network

Kabul, June 25 (UNI) Afghan police have arrested 21 people on the charge of involvement in criminal activities in six out of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, a statement of the country's Ministry of Interior Affairs said Sunday.

The arrested people were involved in illegal activities such as murder, robbery, mobile snatching, forgery, theft, drug smuggling and creating law and order problems in the country, the statement said, adding that further investigation on the Saturday crackdown was underway.

In a similar crackdown, police arrested 80 alleged criminals in Kunduz, Balkh, Takhar, Herat, Samangan, Kabul and Kandahar provinces last week.

The Afghan caretaker government has vowed to crack down on criminal elements in Afghanistan to ensure law and order in the war-torn country.

## Greece to hold parliamentary elections on Sunday

■ HT News Network

Athens, June 25 (UNI) Greece is set to hold its second parliamentary elections in five weeks on Sunday.

Since no party won an absolute majority of 151 or more seats in the 300-seat parliament during the latest round on May 21, the newly elected parliament was dissolved and Greeks will cast a vote for the second time.

The conservative New Democracy party, led by former Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, is expected to win, with polls giving it at least 146 seats.

The left-wing opposition party Syriza is expected to come second.

This time, the vote will be held under the proportional party list system, in which several candidates are elected based on their position on the electoral list proposed by their party.

The leading party is rewarded with up to 50 bonus seats.

## Reminiscing India's peacemaking role in Korean War

■ HT News Network

Seoul, June 25 (UNI) On this day, 73 years ago, India had her first UN assignment after becoming its member. This is in reference to the proxy Korean War which began on June 25, 1950, and raged for three long years between US and Soviet Russia.

Though India did not send her combat forces during the Korean War, it made a huge diplomatic push in 1950 under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to prevent an escalation into another world war.

A couple of attempts by India to bring about a ceasefire ended in failure. However, its 1952 proposals for the exchange of prisoners enabled the July 1953 Armistice Agreement. India proposed a commission to resolve the issue of prisoners of war (PoWs) during talks between the UN and communist sides in 1952.







# The permanence of Nathan Lyon: a special century beckons at Lord's

For all Nathan Lyon's batting heroics at Edgbaston - his drive through mid-off and flick over mid-on against Stuart Broad will go down in Australian Ashes folklore - he is unlikely to get the chance to raise his bat for a century. However, he can acknowledge such a landmark when the coin goes up at Lord's, because he will join the small group of players to appear in 100 consecutive Test matches.

Lyon will be the first specialist bowler and third Australian after Allan Border (153 Tests) and Mark Waugh (107) to play a hundred Tests without a break. Border didn't miss a game from his fourth Test onwards, while Waugh went on an unbroken run after being recalled for the 1993 Ashes. The others on the list are Alastair Cook (159), Sunil Gavaskar (106) and England's current coach Brendon McCullum (101) whose entire Test career was played without an absence.

"It'll be extremely special," Lyon said after throwing out the first pitch at the MLB London game. "One hundred consecutive Test matches for anyone is a pretty special feat. I hate talking about myself but that's one record I'm extremely proud of. Especially being a bowler and No. 11 batter that you're able to get that feat done and tick off 100 consecutive games, that's something that I'll be extremely proud of when it happens and more importantly when my career is done."

This will be Lyon's 122nd Test overall. With a fair wind, continued fitness and form he could challenge Ricky Ponting and Steve Waugh's Australia record of 168 appearances.

There is a symmetry to Lyon reaching the hundred mark at Lord's. It was in England during 2013 that the run began. With 76 wickets at 33.18 from 22 Tests, including nine in his previous outing in Delhi, he was left out in favour of Ashton Agar at Trent Bridge and Lord's (both matches which Australia lost) before earning a recall at Old Trafford. Since then he has forged a career where he sits behind only Shane Warne as Australia's greatest spinner. From when he returned in 2013, he is Test cricket's leading wicket-taker.

When Lyon debuted in 2011, Australia had cycled through spinners since the retirement of Warne after the 2006-07 Ashes. From that moment, until Lyon took a wicket with his first ball in Test cricket against Sri Lanka in Galle, Nathan Hauritz was the most successful spinner with 58 wickets at 36.22 in 16 Tests. Next came Marcus North with 14 at 42.21. The list includes such names as Cameron White, Beau Casson, Michael Beer and Bryce McGain. There was also some chap called Steven Smith.

There is hope that the transition from Lyon - whenever it comes, and he has no appetite to stop - will be smoother with the emergence of Todd Murphy but they will still be huge shoes to fill.

If things go well for Lyon at Lord's - and England will no doubt continue to offer him chances by their aggressive approach - he could also bring up his 500th Test wicket. The



eight he claimed at Edgbaston leaves him five short of a milestone only seven players, including Warne and Glenn McGrath, have reached.

At times it has been questioned whether Lyon was a true matchwinner as a few opportunities to spin Australia to fourth-innings victories slipped away. But after a trying 2020-21 season where wickets dried up against India, he has entered a golden period. He was the fulcrum of Australia's attack in their World Test Championship success, taking 88 wickets in that cycle, and has begun the next one productively.

"In the last couple of years it just feels like he gets seven, eight wickets every Test. He's ratcheted up his wicket-taking ability and that's testament to the ability to bowl long, quality spells and rarely bad balls. Think that's the thing that most other spinners admire about him, the pressure never comes off."

Daniel Vettori on Nathan Lyon  
Lyon was central to Australia's three crucial subcontinental wins which got them into the final: five wickets in the final innings in Lahore;

five wickets in the first innings in Galle; and 8 for 64 in Indore. He is currently averaging 24.35 in 2023 which is his best year to include more than three Tests since 2017. After Edgbaston, his average has ticked under 31 for the first time since 2012.

"You get an appreciation of the skill levels from afar, but to see it day-to-day, to see the amount he works on it and to understand just how good he is, don't think you think get that privilege unless you are in this setting," Daniel Vettori, Australia's assistant coach who took 362 wickets for New Zealand, told ESPNcricinfo.

"In the last couple of years it just feels like he gets seven, eight wickets every Test. He's ratcheted up his wicket-taking ability and that's testament to the ability to bowl long, quality spells and rarely bad balls. Think that's the thing that most other spinners admire about him, the pressure never comes off and it's through a very attacking style of bowling. To marry up that style with consistency, that probably sets him apart."

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