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PM Modi set for 'historic' 3rd term

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

The Lok Sabha election results, unlike the Exit Polls that gave 350 plus seats to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), dealt a strong blow to the party's dreams of winning '370 seats' on its own and the '400 paar' target for the NDA on Saturday.

The Lok Sabha election results announced on Saturday sprang a surprise even for the pollsters, as most of them predicted a one-sided outcome in favour of the BJP-led NDA.

Till the last reports came in, the INDIA bloc was leading on

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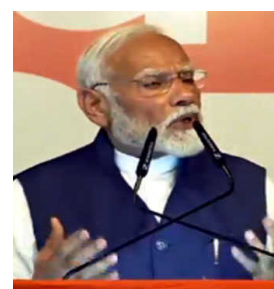


People have reposed their faith in BJP and NDA for the third time: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday termed the NDA victory in the Lok Sabha election as a victory of world largest democracy, saying people have reposed their faith in the BJP and NDA for the third time.

Addressing party workers at BJP headquarters in New Delhi, Modi said "Today is a very auspicious day and the NDA is going to form the government for the third consecutive time. We are all thankful



to the public for this.

He further said, "People of the nation have reposed their faith in the BJP and the NDA, and our victory is the win of the world's biggest democracy".

In his first speech after the result of Lok Sabha

election, the PM said, "Today's victory is the victory of unwavering loyalty to the Constitution of India, it is the victory of the mantra of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, it is the victory of 140 crore Indians".

He highlighted that this is the first time after 1962 that a government after completing two terms has returned to power for the third consecutive time.

Modi mentioning the names of TDP National President N Chandrababu Naidu and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

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People don't want PM Modi, Shah to run this country: Rahul Gandhi



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

Calling the Lok Sabha results as 'people's victory, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said that people don't want

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Jailed Er Rashid emerges as 'Giant Killer', defeats Omar, Sajad by over 2 lakh votes



J I NEWS SERVICE/KNO
SRINAGAR, JUN 4

The poll results of three important Lok Sabha seats declared on Tuesday sprang a big surprise with the jailed leader Er Rashid turning tables around by emerging as a 'Giant Killer'. Er Rashid defeated National Conference stalwart and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone with a huge margin of over two lakh votes.

On the other hand, NC big-wig Mian Alaf Ahmed defeated Mehbooba Mufti with a huge margin of 2.80

VOTE SHARE IN 3 LS SEATS OF KASHMIR	
SRINAGAR LS SEAT	
Aga Syed Ruhullah NC:	3,56,866
Waheedur Rehman PDP:	1,68,450
Ashraf Mir Apni Party:	65,954
NC's winning margin:	1,88,416.
ANANTNAG	
Mian Altaf Ahmad NC:	5,21,836
Mehbooba Mufti PDP:	2,40,042
Zaffar Iqbal Apni Party:	1,42,195
NC's winning margin:	2,81,794
BARAMULLA	
Sheikh Abdul Rashid Ind:	4,72,481
Omar Abdullah NC:	2,68,339
Sajad Lone PC:	1,73,239
Mir Mohammad Fayaz PDP:	27,488
Rashid's winning margin:	2,04,142

2 Ex-CMs Omar & Mehbooba concede defeat

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

Midway into counting of votes on Tuesday, former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti accepted their defeat in their respective Lok Sabha constituencies.

By 1.30 pm, National Conference's Omar Abdullah was trailing behind Abdul Rashid Sheikh, also known as Engineer Rashid by a margin of over 1.30 lakh votes. Engineer Rashid, a former MLA is currently lodged in Tihar jail in a UAPA case.

According to the Election Commission of India, Engineer Rashid, had bagged

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Hat-trick for BJP's two Jammu MPs

J I NEWS SERVICE/KNO
JAMMU, JUN 4

For the third consecutive time, people of Jammu region have reposed faith in Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) by giving thumping victory in both Jammu and Udhampur parliamentary constituencies.

While Jammu has elected Jugal Kishore Sharma for the third consecutive term as Member Parliament (MP), Udhampur has sided with the union minister of state Dr. Jitendra Singh to represent them at the highest seat of governance.

According to the news agency, the saffron wave has swept Hindu-dominated Jammu region despite the fact that anti-incumbency was in place and both the BJP candidates had to reach from pillar to post to convince people to vote in their favour.

As per the data available with election commission of India website, Jugal Kishore Sharma won



the Jammu Lok Sabha seat with a margin of 135498 votes as he got a total of 687588 votes. His nearest and only strong competitor, Congress party's stalwart Raman Bhalla was able to get 552090 votes. On Udhampur seat, Dr. Jitendra Singh defeated his arch rival and Congress candidate Choudhary Lal Singh with a margin of 124373 votes. The union MoS in PMO got a total of 571076 votes whereas Congress candidates got 446703 votes.

Talking to the media persons Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "This is victory of people to see Narendra Modi as Prime Minister for the third term. People

VOTE SHARE	
UDHAMPUR	
Dr Jitendra Singh BJP	5,71,076
Ch Lal Singh INC	4,46,703
GM Saroori DPAP	39,599
BJP's winning margin	1,24,373
JAMMU	
Jugal Kishore BJP	6,87,588
Raman Bhalla INC	5,52,090
BJP's winning margin	1,35,498
LADAKH	
Haji Haneefa Jan	65,259 votes
Tsering Namgyal Congress	37,397 votes
Tashi Gyalson BJP	31,956 votes
Haji Haneefa's winning margin	27,862 votes

of Udhampur seat are lucky enough as they have become part of transformation and contributed to elect the Prime Minister. This constituency is very important and I pray to god to give me wisdom so that development works continue like it was taken up earlier."

Udhampur Lok Sabha seat went for polls during the first phase on April

19 and 1113727 votes out of over 16.23 lakh votes whereas Jammu seat went for polls during the second phase on April 26 and 1302176 votes were polled out of over 17.80 lakh votes.

"We contested the elections in the first phase, for which I got just 20 days and all the equations were against us.

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Jitendra Singh scores hat-trick from Udhampur Lok Sabha seat

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 4

BJP leader and Union minister Jitendra Singh has won the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat for the third time, defeating Congress candidate Choudhary Lal Singh.

After maintaining a narrow lead in the early rounds of counting, Jitendra Singh emerged victorious, equalling the feat of veteran Congress leader Karan Singh, who held the seat in 1971, 1977, and 1980. Singh, who previously won the seat in 2014 and 2019, secured 571076 votes, defeating Choudhary Lal Singh by a margin of 1,24,373 votes, the Election Commission of India website, said.

Lal Singh received 4,46,703 votes. Former minister G M Saroori, running on the Democratic Azad Party (DPAP) ticket, came third with 39599 votes. Additionally, 12938 votes were cast under the NOTA category.

According to the officials, Saroori along

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Will 'see' BJP in upcoming Assembly polls: Lal Singh after losing parliament polls

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 4

Accepting defeat in Udhampur Lok Sabha from Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, Congress party's Choudhary Lal Singh Tuesday said that 'he will see them (BJP) in upcoming elections'.

"We contested the elections in the first phase, for which I got just 20 days and all the equations were against the opposition, despite that people shower their blessing and I managed 4,46,703, which shows the resentment of youth and poor against present government," he said, as per news agency,

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BJP-Led NDA to form govt for third time: J&K BJP President

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 4



The NDA will form government with Narendra Modi as prime minister for a third term, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina said on Tuesday, expressing hope that the BJP-led alliance will cross the 300-mark.

Counting of votes for the Lok Sabha elections is underway.

He also expressed satisfaction over BJP candidates - Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma - leading in Udhampur and Jammu parliamentary

seats in the Jammu region.

"BJP-led NDA under the leadership of Modi is forming the government for the third consecutive term, given the trends which till now show that the Congress-led INDIA bloc is 100 seats behind us. The counting is underway and we are hopeful of getting over 300 seats for our alliance at the end of the counting," Raina told reporters at party headquarters here.

He said Singh and Sharma are maintaining lead since the start of the counting and "we are

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J&K embraces digital payments with 130% surge in AePS Transactions

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 04

Digital transformation is fast sweeping across Jammu and Kashmir, which witnessed an unprecedented surge of more than 130% in AePS (Aadhaar-enabled Payment System) transactions.

As per the Atmanirbhar Bharat Digital Empowerment report by PayNearby, a copy of which is with the news agency, Jammu & Kashmir as the union territory witnessed a growth of over 134 per cent in value and 89 per cent in volume of AePS transactions in FY24 at retail stores.

The report further highlights that Micro-ATM transactions at retail stores in Jammu & Kashmir saw a 31 per cent increase in both value and volume.

This surge underscores the increasing adoption of digital payment

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KP migrant voters keep their promise with BJP

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 04

Kashmiri Pandit migrant voters kept their promise with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and voted in favour of candidates on all the three seats of Kashmir valley which were being supported by the saffron party.

Be it Baramulla, Srinagar or Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituencies, KP migrant voters mostly voted for BJP backed candidates.

According to the data available with the news agency, KP migrant voters of Jammu voted in favour of Peoples Conference's candidate Sajad Lone on Baramulla seat and J&K Apni Party's candidates for Srinagar and Anantnag-Rajouri seats, Muhammad Ashraf Mir and Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

On Srinagar seat, which sent for polls on May 13, J&K Apni Party candidate Muhammad Ashraf got 4719 votes out of the total votes polled by KP migrant voters in Jammu whereas others only got

1619 votes. Similarly on Baramulla seat which went for polls on May 20, PC's Sajad Lone got 4859 votes out of 6229 total votes polled by KP migrant voters whereas others only got 1370 votes.

On Anantnag-Rajouri seat, which went for polls on May 25, J&K Apni Party's candidate Zafar Iqbal Manhas got 6631 votes out of the 9924 total votes polled by KP migrant voters whereas others only got 3293 votes.

During the campaigning, KP migrant voters had said that no candidate from either National Conference or Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had visited them to listen to their problems and seek votes. Whereas they had said that Apni Party president Muhammad Altaf Mukhari on regular intervals visited Jammu and met several delegations of KP community and even addressed long pending issues related to their land and houses at their native places in Kashmir valley.

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AYUSH Deptt organises free medical camp under 'Anaemia Mukh Bharat' campaign at Budgam



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 4

Ayush Health and Wellness Centre Kenihama today organized a free medical camp under the theme 'Anaemia Mukh Bharat' at Govt High School Kenihama here.

The camp was held under the guidance of Director AYUSH department, Dr. Mohan Singh, with an aim to raise awareness about anaemia and provide necessary interventions to promote a healthier community.

Medical Officer, Ayush Health and Wellness Centre Kenihama, Dr. Nusrat Bashir and her

team of medical practitioners and supporting staff provided free screenings for anaemia and other related health conditions, facilitating early detection and intervention for the local residents.

Dr. Nusrat and her team also provided expert consultations to local residents specializing in anaemia management as well as personalized guidance and treatment plans.

During the camp, dietary counselling sessions were also provided to residents, educating them about the importance of balanced diet and other essential nutrients crucial for combating

anaemia. Speaking on the significance of this camp, Dr. Nusrat said that Anaemia is a prevalent health issue in India, particularly among women and children, leading to various health complications. She added that this Ayush and Wellness Center organized this specialized health camp to offer accessible healthcare services to the residents of this area.

Pertinently, this health camp underscores AYUSH department's commitment to promoting holistic healthcare and addressing prevalent health challenges in the community.

Human Genetics Research Group, SMVDU investigates multiple Muscular Dystrophy Cases in District Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

In response to reports of a mysterious disease affecting several families in the Panasa area of Reasi district, the Human Genetics Research Group from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) in Katra has launched a detailed investigation. The disease, presumed to be a type of muscular dystrophy, has alarmed both local residents and healthcare authorities. A team comprising researchers from SMVDU, Doctors from District Hospital Reasi, World Health Organization (WHO) officials, and aided by the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA), visited the affected families to conduct an extensive assessment. This collaborative effort aimed to gather essential data and offer immediate support to the patients.

During their visit, the team conducted thorough examinations of the patients, documenting symptoms and medical histories. They also carried out pedigree analyses to understand the hereditary patterns of the disease, a crucial step in uncovering potential genetic links. Samples were collected for further genetic testing and analysis. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, head of the Human Genetics Research Group at SMVDU, highlighted the significance of this study: "Understanding the genetic basis of mus-



cular dystrophy in these families is crucial. Our goal is to identify prominent mutations and other genetic factors contributing to the disease. This will not only help in providing accurate diagnoses but also pave the way for potential treatments and interventions." The samples collected are set to undergo rigorous genetic analysis at SMVDU's advanced laboratory. Researchers aim to identify specific genetic mutations associated with the disease, providing valuable insights into its cause and progression. This data will also contribute to the broader scientific understanding of muscular dystrophy, potentially benefiting affected individuals globally.

The cooperative approach, involving local authorities, healthcare professionals, international organizations like the WHO, and support from Mr. Reyaz and Mr. Balbir from DLSA, Reasi, underscores a strong commitment to address-

ing this health crisis. The support from District Hospital Reasi comprising Dr. Yusuf Khan, Dy CMO, Dr. Bilal, Dr. Adil, Dr. Meenali Rajput, has been pivotal in facilitating fieldwork and ensuring patients receive necessary medical attention. Dr. Ajmat From WHO did further investigation from disease perspective. As the investigation continues, there is hope that the findings will lead to significant breakthroughs in understanding and combating muscular dystrophy. The dedication of the research team is expected to bring new insights into the genetic underpinnings of this disease, offering hope to the affected families and contributing to global medical knowledge. Dr. Rakesh along with his team of Dr. Ruchi, Mr. Rajeshwer and Mr. Bhawani thanked the prompt action of CMO Reasi Dr. Ravinder Singh and Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honourable Vice chancellor of SMVDU, Katra for mitigating this local health burden.

Mega Ayush Yoga Camp held at Govt College of Education Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

Directorate of AYUSH, on the directions of Director Dr. Mohan Singh and supervision of DAO Dr. Vandana Dogra, organized a Mega Yoga Camp on "Yoga For Women Empowerment" here at Government College of Education Jammu. The Mega yoga Camp was organized under the guidance and supervision of Principal Dr.(Prof.) Jyoti Parihar

The event was organized to raise awareness among students about the benefits of yoga. The female staff and girl students practiced different asanas and learnt different methods of meditation.

The Program was conducted by Dr. Himani Bhyutal; Dr. Sandeep Bhagat, Dr. Chetan Singh (Medical officers Ayush) and their team Ishan Mansotra, Jyoti Bali and

Sheetal Khajuria (Yoga Instructors). Dr. Himani bhyutal delivered a lecture on "Personal and Menstrual Hygiene." She explained in detail the Dos and Don'ts of Personal Hygiene, how to manage hygiene during periods. Queries by girl students related to this topic were clearly explained and answered by her.

In her address, Dr.(Prof.) Jyoti Parihar (Principal) highlighted the importance of Yoga and appreciated the team members of Ayush Department for organizing the event. She further said that the people have widely accepted the effectiveness of Yoga as a form of therapy.

Dr. Rajinder Kour (M.Ed Coordinator), Dr. Shubhra Jamwal (Convener Women Development Cell), Prof. Sarita Dogra (NSS PO), Prof. Priyanka Mahajan organized the program.

June 2024 Term-End Examinations of IGNOU to start from June 7, 2024 across the Country

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

The June 2024 Term-end Examinations of the Indira Gandhi National Open University for various Academic Programmes offered by the University are commencing from 7th June 2024 across the Country including Jammu province. The examinations will conclude on 15th July 2024.

Under the Jammu Region, 31 Examination Centres have been established including three Examination Centres in District Jail Ambphalla, District Jail Udhampur and Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu exclusively for Jail inmates and also one Examination Centre in Northern Command Udhampur exclusively for Army personnel.

A total of 32,000 eligible students have filled their examination forms under the Regional Centre Jammu who are appearing in the exams in around 1,90,000 sittings throughout the course of examinations. The examinations are being conducted in two sessions every work-



ing day. The morning session would be from 10AM till 1PM and evening session would be from 2PM to 5PM. There would be no examination on Sundays and Govt. gazetted holidays.

The students may download the Hall Tickets from the University website. Direct online Link for downloading the Hall Ticket is as follows <https://hall.ticket.ignou.ac.in/hall0624/ignouhallticketjun2024.aspx> available on IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in on the Front Page.

The Students must possess the valid Photo Identity Card issued by the University/Government during the Examination. Mobile phones and any other electronic gadgets are not permitted inside the examination halls.

Army organizes "Saga of Valour"- Motivational Lec By Gallantry Awardee

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 4

With an aim to motivate the future of the nation, towards joining Armed Forces and to instill a sense of patriotism, the Indian Army organized a motivational talk by Gallantry Awardees on the occasion of 25th Kargil Vijay Divas at Higher Secondary School, Thanamandi. The gallantry awardees delivered inspiring motivational talk where in, first-hand experience of the saga of bravery and undoubting spirit of valour that the soldier of Indian Army exhibit when called for duty to protect their motherland was



shared, the journey and life stories which involved the accounts of dedication and courage motivated the student. This event also served as tribute to the heroes of Kargil War, who defended our country. This motivational talk acted as a source of motivation for the aspiring youth who aim to join the Armed Forces. A sense of

patriotism was felt in the environment while motivational talk was being delivered by the Gallantry Awardee. Motivational talk had a deep impact on young generation and motivated them to work hard and overcome all odds to be successful in their lives and become responsible citizens of our country.

Army organizes Youth Mela for Gujjar, Bakarwal at Pir Topa, Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 4

A Youth Mela was organised for youths of Gujjar & Bakarwals community at village Pir Topa. Aim of the event was to create awareness amongst the resident populace about important societal issues including educating the residents and children about importance of peaceful living

and co-existence in the society and various educational and scholarship schemes, employment campaign/ various initiatives for employment by State and Central Govt. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Nehru Rozgar Yojna (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty

Eradication Programme (PMUIPEP). This gesture and effort by Indian Army were highly appreciated by AWAM. This endeavor by Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between JAWAN and AWAM.

Geology & Mining Dept rebuts news report

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JUNE 3

Geology & Mining Department has refuted a news report appearing in a section of the press claiming illegal mining in Samba District.

Officials termed the report published with photos of mining near Chichi Mata ji with 50 feet deep trenches as misleading. "There is no denying of the fact that some defaulters, during odd hours, may resort to mineral theft but such a story devoid of any facts can't undermine the efforts and achievements of the district administration," the officials added.

Adding further, the officials said that the district administration has devised an effective mechanism with the Multi departmental task force cell at district and Tehsil levels, besides a control room with a contact number, to ensure prompt response to illegal activities in the district.

"With the joint efforts of multiple departments, as many as 895 vehicles were penalized in the last two years and a penalty amounting to Rs 1.45 Crore was imposed and collected by the mining department. In addition to this, in this Financial year in the month of April, 43 vehicles were penalized and penalty amounting to the tune Rs 7,10,545 was collected besides generating revenue of Rs 22 lacs" the officials of the Department added.

The officials further stated that the Police department detained around 170 vehicles involved in illegal mining in the district at different locations and recovered a penalty amounting to the tune of Rs 25 lakh.

Terming the news as misleading, the department said that it projects an unfair and misleading narrative that maligns the image of the entire district administration. Such reporting undermines the

significant efforts made by the administration to control and prevent illegal activities. "We request that the erroneous news item be retracted or corrected to reflect the true situation. Accurate reporting is crucial to maintain public trust and ensure that the reputation of Samba administration is not unfairly tarnished" the officials added.

While acknowledging isolated incidents of mineral theft during odd hours, the department said "The district administration employs rigorous monitoring and enforcement measures to prevent such activities. Multi Departmental District Level and Tehsil Level Task Force Cells are in place and these are keeping continuous watch and taking cognisance of violations which is evident from the seizures and fines imposed by Geology and Mining Department in collaboration of civil and police administration."

One Day Awareness Programme organized by Civil Defence, Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU JUN 4

One day awareness programme was held at NCC camp Nagrota, which was organized by Civil Defence, Jammu under the supervision of Dy. Controller Civil Defence Jammu. Awareness about the basic knowledge of First Aid, Fire fighting especially on drug addictions. They were also made aware of all possible ways to avoid heatstroke during summer season. The main aim of the awareness programme



was to educate students with regard to preventive measures during disaster.

The programme was organized in the premises of the NCC Camp, Nagrota where 500 NCC cadets/staff have participated. Col. M. K Sharma 2nd J&K

(I) Company NCC Bhadarwah appreciated the role of Civil Defence organization and thanked the Civil Defence team for organizing such important awareness-cum-demonstration programme.

Director Agriculture Kashmir visits Kulgam Areas

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

The Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited different areas of Kulgam district and took stock of the ongoing agriculture activities besides reviewing the crop status of different agriculture crops.

Speaking to the farmers at different places, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of vertical expansion in the cultivation of different agriculture crops. He said that vertical expansion in resonance with the latest technologies is the depart-

ment's focus. He said that amid the changing climate scenario and use of land resources for non-Agricultural purposes, vertical expansion is the only way out.

Director Agriculture asked the farmers to avail benefits from HADP and other programmes being implemented by the department. He exhorted upon the concerned officers to raise awareness among the farmers regarding the different initiatives by the department.

He was accompanied by some senior officers of the department.

Shiv Saniks celebrate its performance, Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena is real one

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit distributed sweets and celebrated the landslide victory in Maharashtra, especially on the four seats of Mumbai and the better performance of the party in the entire state and raised loud slogans of Shiv Sena and Uddhav Bala Saheb Thackeray Zindabad.

The Shiv Sainiks gathered under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni congratulated each other. Sahni said that Lok Sabha 2024 was an election to prove its existence.

As part of efforts to eradicate us, we were divided into two factions, our name, even the election symbol was snatched away. Party party chief Uddhav Saheb Thackeray, following the footsteps of Vandania Bala Saheb Thackeray, fought the



election with full fearlessness and hard work, won the trust of the people and succeeded in giving better results.

Sahni said that the unity of Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra proved to be stronger than the two dozen rallies and road shows of Prime Minister Hon'ble Narendra Modi. The people have reject-

ed dictatorship and the politics of arrogance and hatred. On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, President Kamgar Wing Raj Singh, Vice President Shashpal, Secretary Rakesh Handa, Mangu Ram, Sham Lal, Rohit Kumar, Munish Kumar, Harjeet Singh, Ashok Kumar and many others were present.

NIT Srinagar organizes Annual Cross Country Run, 250 participated

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

The Students Activity and Sports Centre, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organized a Cross Country Run, in which around 250 participants took active part across the three categories.

Prof. Abdul Liman (DSW) flagged off the boys' run from Nishat Garden to the NIT Campus, while Prof. Yashwant Mehta (Dean P&D) flagged off the run for girls, staff, and faculty from Duck Park to the NIT Campus. The top three position holders in each category were awarded trophies and appreciation certificates. In the boys' category, Ravi Choudhary (Enrollment No. 2021BMME014) secured the 1st position, Aditya Kumar (Enrollment No. 2021BCIV136) took 2nd place, and Mohammad Sofyan (Enrollment No. 2021BCIV145) came in 3rd.

In the girls' category, Miss Pooja (Enrollment No. 2022BMCE060) won 1st place, Miss Krite Mora (Enrollment No. 2023MHPHY006) claimed 2nd



place, and Miss Anjale (Enrollment No. 2023MELEEP001) secured 3rd place.

Among the staff and faculty, Mr. Yasir Ahmad Mir (Director's Office) took 1st place, Mr. Mus-

taffa Zargar (Technical Officer) won 2nd place, and Dr. Farhad (Assistant Professor) finished in 3rd place.

Prof. Yashwant Mehta (Dean P & D) congratulated the winners

and stated that such events are important to develop a vibrant academic system on the campus.

"Participating in sports activities develops valuable skills among individuals that extend beyond the playing field. The ability to plan ahead, understand consequences, make informed decisions, and learn from mistakes can be applied to various aspects of life," he said.

Prof. Mehta also appreciated the efforts of the Students Activity and Sports Centre at NIT Srinagar for organizing the cross-country run and making other arrangements for the participants.

On the occasion, Dr. Srinibash Mishra, SAS Coordinator, expressed his gratitude to the DC administration Srinagar, SSP Srinagar, SP Traffic City, SHO Nigeen, SHO Nishat and SDPO Zakura for regulating the traffic and ensuring the success of the cross-country event.

He also thanked all the security personnel of NIT Srinagar for their efficient and dedicated service in making the event successful.

IUST convenes Finance committee meeting



JI NEWS SERVICE
AWANTIPORA JUNE 4

Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor chaired the meeting of the Finance Committee of Islamic University Science and Technology today, which was attended by Shri Santosh D Vaidya, IAS Principal Secretary to Govt., Finance Department, Shri Shahzada Bilal, DG Planning Development and Marketing Department, Dr. Mohd. Ismail Parray, Former Director EDI, Shri Pankaj Gour, CFO JKBFSL, Shri Mushtaq A. Mir, Director WizKid, Prof A H Moon Dean Academic Affairs, Registrar, Finance Officer and Deputy Finance officer.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Romshoo talked about different initiatives underway at different levels and thanked the Government of J&K for their support. He said that university is committed

towards achieving excellence in research, academics and community engagement.

The committee discussed at length different aspects of university's functioning and appreciated the initiatives taken particularly with regard to the consultancy model devised for generation of revenues, establishment of Endowment Fund created to support students from financially disadvantaged families, implementation of GFR 2017, incorporation of CIED as Section 8 Company and others. Prof Romshoo said regarding endowment fund that a part of annual revenue is earmarked towards the Corpus to make the scheme sustainable and accomplish equity and accessibility as emphasized in NEP 2020. The committee also reviewed the accounts and discussed the budget estimates for 2024 -25 to execute different plans.

Azad's flight grounded before take-off

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 04

The first ever elections for Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has proved disastrous as his party has lost from all the three seats it contested and even lost the security deposit all over.

Even before the take off, the DPAP crash landed in its own backyard.

Azad's most trusted and close aide Ghulam Muhammad Saroori has lost badly from Udhampur parliamentary constituency.

As per the data provided by the election commission of India (ECI), the DPAP candidate has only been able to get over 40,000 votes from over 11 lakh votes polled for the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency. Bharatiya Janata Party's candidate Dr. Jitendra Singh won with a thumping majority of over 1.24 lakh votes whereas Congress candidate Choudhary Lal Singh remained runners up.

According to the news agency, Udhampur Lok Sabha seat is the home seat of former union minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, who left Congress party in 2022 due to differences with Rahul Gandhi, and he hasn't been able to get votes from his native dis-

trict for his party's candidate. Azad had unsuccessfully contested the 2014 Lok Sabha elections from Udhampur seat on Congress mandate.

Saroori even lost in the Inderwal Assembly segment of Kishtwar district from where he had won three consecutive Assembly elections. This time Saroori has remained at the third place in Inderwal with Choudhary Lal Singh getting highest votes followed by Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Since the beginning of Lok Sabha elections, DPAP got the tag of playing as B-team of the ruling BJP and opposition parties like Congress and National Conference (NC) alleged Azad of fielding candidates from Udhampur to cut secular votes which either would have gone to Congress candidates.

With the final result it has been observed that DPAP has been able to give the Congress party a dent by securing over 39,000 votes. Though the winning margin between BJP and Congress has remained over 1.24 lakh votes, these 39,000 votes would have meant nothing for Congress party in achieving the target but these votes would have certainly brought the margin below one lakh votes.

YRS visits Baba Accho Dev Sthaan in Kaleeth to pay obeisance

JI NEWS SERVICE
KALEETH, JUNE 4

Members of Yuva Rajput Sabha paid a respectful visit to Baba Accho Dev Sthaan in Kaleeth, where they offered their obeisance and reverence. The visit provided an opportunity for the members to meet and greet the esteemed President of All India Bhau Rajput Sabha (AIBRS), Narinder Singh Bhau, as well as interact with other Sabha members.

Present at the gathering were notable figures from Yuva Rajput Sabha, including President Vikram Singh Vicky, Former President Rajan Singh Happy, Senior Vice President Mukesh Singh Bhau,



Mandeep Singh, senior members, and all stakeholders. The visit not only served as a gesture of respect towards the spiritual significance of the place but also fostered camaraderie and goodwill among the

members. The event was marked by a spirit of unity and cultural enrichment, as both Yuva Rajput Sabha and AIBRS members engaged in meaningful conversations and shared mutual respect.

Such gatherings play a crucial role in strengthening the bonds of kinship and tradition within the Rajput community, ensuring the preservation of heritage and values for generations to come.

NC activists start plantation drive across Jammu City

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

The activists of J&K National Conference (JKNC) today started a plantation drive at different locations of Jammu City to promote environmental resources.

The event was inaugurated by Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC Ankush Abrol, who was the chief guest on the occasion. The programme was organized by Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District Urban, Dr. Vikas Sharma with the aim to enhance the green cover and promote sustainability in the region.

Ankush Abrol appealed to all the citizens of Jammu City to come forward and actively participate in the Plantation drive to make the drive a great success.

He said that the plants are the lifeline of people as they provide needed resistance to neutralize pollution having crossed



the admissible limits especially in urban sectors. Besides, plantation of trees enhances the level of oxygen and provides a fresh air which mitigates the impact of global warming, rain deficit and poor air quality.

While stressing on

protecting nature, Abrol appealed to the general public to come forward and plant at least five trees to improve greenery for a pollution free atmosphere.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma claimed that trees are also the natural habitats

for birds & several other creatures like honey bees etc, he emphasized adding that it is the necessity of the hour to double our efforts to intensify the drive for tree plantation on a war footing to tackle increasing pollution.

During the drive, a large number of saplings of different categories including ornamental, herbal etc were planted in different parks as well as in vacant areas of the city.

The plantation drive was attended by Vikram Gupta, Ashwani Dubey, Roshan Sharma, Abishek Uppal, Vineet Gupta and others.

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

In a momentous celebration, Nitish Mahajan, Co-incharge of the Social Media Department, BJP, Jammu & Kashmir, today felicitated BJP candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma on his unprecedented victory, securing a third consecutive term as the Member of Parliament for the Jammu Reasi Lok Sabha constituency.

Nitish Mahajan, while congratulating Sharma, highlighted the significance of this victory for the Party. He said, "Jugal Kishore Sharma's consistent success is a reflection of his dedicated service and the positive impact of our par-

ty's policies in Jammu & Kashmir. We are proud of his achievements and confident that he will continue to champion the interests of his constituents with the same vigour and commitment."

Nitish also emphasized the role of social media in connecting with the electorate and amplifying the party's message. "Our social media team has played a crucial role in engaging with the youth and addressing the concerns of the people effectively. We will continue to leverage digital platforms to strengthen our outreach and foster transparent communi-

Nitish felicitates Jugal for historic third term win in Jammu-Reasi LS seat



cation," he added. Expressing his gratitude, Jugal Kishore Sharma stated, "I am deeply humbled by the continued faith and support of the people of Jammu Reasi. This victory is a testament to our collective efforts and the shared vision for progress and development. I am committed to working tirelessly for the betterment of our constituency and ensuring that we continue to move forward on the path of growth and prosperity."

Tarigami greets winning candidates from Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 04

CPI (M) leader Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami Tuesday conveyed greetings to Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and Engineer Abdul Rashid for getting elected to the highest and prestigious institution of the country. Hope they will steadfastly represent the people of Kashmir and raise their voice in defence of the legitimate rights and aspirations of the people, Tarigami said in a statement issued to the news agency.

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-TENDER NOTICE		
Tender Notice No.- 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR-63-2024-25-ADEN-LDH & 64-2024-25-ADEN-JRC acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 26.06.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.		
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date / Time
03.06.2024	12.06.2024	28.06.2024
Sr. No.	Details of Tender	
1	63-2024-25-ADEN-LDH	
Provision/Replacement of 02 Nos New SMC overhead tank of 225KL capacity in staff colonies and DSI shed including replacement of old corroded existing pipelines and provision of boring with pump house etc at Ludhiana under ADEN-LDH.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Validity of Offer
27774146.91		60 Days
		Period of Completion
		06 Months
2	64-2024-25-ADEN-JRC	
Scour monitoring of bridge no 188 at Km 89/9 to 90/7 (Span 14X45.72M) on JRC-PTKC section in the Jurisdiction of ADEN-JRC.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Validity of Offer
1994972.67		60 Days
		Period of Completion
		16 Months
1656/24		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

PM Modi set for...

around 230 seats, while the NDA was ahead of the majority mark with leads on over 290 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

Though the BJP looks well positioned to form the government at the Centre, the electoral 'setback' prompted a multitude of reactions from the Opposition parties, which called it a rejection of the Modi government by the electorate.

They also claimed that the Congress-led INDIA bloc has thrown a spanner in the BJP's gameplans and thwarted its dream run.

Even if one sees the results as a setback, there are two clear reasons for the BJP to cheer. The first is BJP's 'highest' vote percentage in all three terms since 2014, and the second is PM Modi readying to become the only Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to get a record third straight term in office.

The biggest takeaways from the elections are BJP's return to power for a record third straight term, the party managing to keep its vote share intact at around 37 per cent, and a resurgent Opposition under the INDIA bloc banner making a valiant comeback.

The Congress put up a strong fight against the BJP's electoral might to double its tally as compared to 2019, fetching close to 100 seats on its own.

Together with the allies, the INDIA bloc is placed comfortably with around 230 seats, just 40-45 seats short of the magical mark of 272.

The BJP, on the other hand, looks like the 'biggest loser' because of its lowest number of seats in all three terms since 2014. Together with its allies like the JD(U) and TDP, the NDA alliance is best suited to get around 290-95 seats, still falling short by at least 100 seats as against its '400 paar' target.

This also prompted pointed jabs from the INDIA bloc, with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge dubbing NDA's performance as a 'political and ethical' setback for PM Modi, as the "elections were fought in his name only".

The party which once looked 'overwhelming and overpowering' for its rivals is now being viewed as vulnerable, apparently because of coalition compulsions.

However, by breaking down the numbers, one gets to know that it is not as disappointing or discouraging as it sounds.

The BJP's vote share in the 2014 general elections stood at 31 per cent, which rose to 37.36 per cent in 2019. In the latest elections, the BJP is projected to record a similar polling percentage at 36.66 per cent (as per EC figures). Number-wise, the party bagged 282 seats in 2014, 303 seats in 2019, and is slated to get around 240 seats this time.

While the party may be losing out on at least 60 seats this time as compared to 2019, the polling percentage clearly shows that it is in the driver's seat.

While the polling percentage doesn't translate into mammoth numbers, the BJP-led NDA is still comfortably placed to form the next government for a third consecutive term. Moreover, PM Modi is set to create history by becoming only the second Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to become the PM for a third successive term.

Jawaharlal Nehru was elected as the Prime Minister three times in a row -- in 1952, 1957, and 1962.

Now PM Modi equalling that record will mark a new high for the BJP and set new benchmarks for the country's political class.

On the other hand, Congress' jubilation over its 'best performance in years' is seen by many as overstated and overhyped. While it is seen poised to win about 100 seats, it is still far short of its own showing in the pre-2014 era.

In fact, the party hasn't breached the 225 mark in past 20 years.

When the Congress dislodged the BJP government in 2004, it fetched only 145 seats, while in 2009, it bagged 206 seats.

Its vote share stood at 26.53 per cent and 28.55 per cent in 2004 and 2009, respectively. In 2024, the party ranks much lower than its own vote percentage of 2004 and 2009.

As per EC data, the party is fetching close to 21-22 per cent vote share, much lower than its own standards of the pre-2014 era.

People have reposed...

and congratulated them for tremendous performance in their respective states.

"The NDA has also swept the states - Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh - where Assembly elections were held. The Congress has been wiped out in these states.

The BJP for the first time will form the government in Odisha. It has also performed exceptionally well in Lok Sabha polls in Odisha," said the Prime Minister.

Attacking the I.N.D.I.A bloc, he said, "Even if our opponents were united, they could not win as many seats as BJP alone has won in this Lok Sabha election".

"I would like to tell the BJP workers present in every corner of the country, your hard work, your sweat in this heat inspires Modi to work continuously" he added.

Recalling the Congress rule before 2014, "Ten years ago, the country gave us a mandate for change. That was the time when the country had sunk into the depths of

despair".

Modi also thanked the Election Commission of India for organising a successful election, which created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating.

"This was my first election since my mother had passed away. India's mothers and daughters didn't let me feel her absence", the Prime Minister said.

People don't want PM Modi...

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to run the country anymore.

He thanked the people of the country and said that they have sent a clear message through the mandate that they don't want Narendra Modi and Amit Shah in running this country.

Addressing a jam packed press conference at the AICC headquarters here which was also attended by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Chairperson of Congress Parliamentary Party Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi said, "We fought this election not just against one person or one party but against the governance system of the country, the institutions like the CBI, IT and ED which were captured by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister".

Thanking the people of Uttar Pradesh, the Senior Congress leader said that the people of the state have now understood the politics of the country and came out in large number and voted for INDIA bloc.

Stating that this election was a fight to save the Constitution, Gandhi said, "When the Modi government froze our bank accounts, put our Chief Ministers in jail, broke up parties. I was sure and it was in my mind that the people of the country will not tolerate this and unitedly fight for their Constitution. And this proved out to be true".

When asked about whether he would stake claim to form the next government, the former Congress President said, "We are going to have a meeting of INDIA bloc tomorrow and these questions will be raised there and a decision will be taken. We respect our alliance partners and we cant give any information to the media without a meeting with them".

On a question of retaining one of the two Lok Sabha seats, Rahul Gandhi thanked the people of Wayanad and Rai Bareilly and said that he has not yet decided which seat he will retain.

Jailed Er Rashid...

From Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Aga Syed Ruhulla Mehdi emerged victorious by a huge margin of 1.80 lakh votes.

According to the details available with the news agency, Aga Ruhullah has secured 356866 and defeated his rival from Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) with a margin of 188416 votes, who bagged 168450 votes. Apni Party candidate, Muhammad Ashraf Mir however secured only 65954 votes.

However, the NC candidate from Anantnag-Rajouri seat, Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi bagged 521836 votes and defeated his close rival and PDP chief, who is also a former chief minister of erstwhile J&K state, Mehbooba Mufti with a margin of 281794 votes.

Mehbooba secured only 240,042 votes, followed by Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas, who bagged 142195 votes only.

The Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency where the close contest was expected between former chief minister Omar Abdullah and former minister and Peoples Conference (PC) leader Sajad Gani Lone however witnessed a different scene as the independent candidate and a jailed leader Er Rasheed emerged victorious from the seat.

Er Rasheed is a former two-time MLA from Langate in North Kashmir. He has been in Tihar Jail for five years facing terror funding charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). He leads the Awami Ittehad Party, but he chose to contest as an independent candidate. He bagged 472481 votes and defeated his close rival Omar Abdullah by a margin of 204142 votes, who secured a total of 268339 votes while Sajad Lone got only 173239 votes. The credit for Er Rasheed's victory is being attributed to the "vigorous and emotional election campaign" run by his two sons Abrar Rasheed and Asrar Rasheed across the North Kashmir LS seat. The siblings emerged as crowd pullers and attracted a large number of youth to their rallies where they sought support and votes for their jailed father, which ultimately bore the fruit.

Meanwhile, KNO correspondent spoke to the winning candidates, who thanked the voters for putting trust in them by casting their ballots in their favour.

Mian Altaf told KNO that he was very optimistic about his victory. "During my election campaign, I saw the interest of people in me and was sure about my win," Mian Altaf said.

Altaf vowed to fulfil all his promises made during the election campaign. "This victory was by a very high margin. Anantnag-Rajouri was a prestigious seat in Lok Sabha elections. All eyes were on this seat," he said. Altaf thanked the people of his constituency for this opportunity.

NC's winning candidate from Srinagar Parliamentary constituency, Aga Ruhullah, said that he will strongly raise the issue of whatever was snatched from the people of J&K and also its restoration as well. "My stand cannot change in a night. I will stick to my ideology for which people have voted in my favour," he said.

On Omar Abdullah's defeat, Ruhullah said that the verdict thrown by the people had to be accepted. "I will also raise the issue of youngsters, who are behind the bars and will come up to the expectations of the people," he added. KNO

2 Ex-CMs Omar...

3,01,369, while Omar was second with 1,63,757. Sajad Lone of the People Conference was in the third position with 1,01,990 votes.

Omar took to social media to accept his defeat.

"I think it's time to accept the inevitable. Congratulations to Engineer Rashid for his victory in North Kashmir. I don't believe his victory will hasten his release from prison nor will the people of North Kashmir get the representation they have a right to but the voters have spoken and in a democracy that's all that matters," Omar posted on X.

Omar also congratulated Mian Altaf and Aga Ruhullah who are likely to emerge winners from the two Lok Sabha seats of Anantnag-Rajouri and Srinagar.

The other chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party's Mehbooba Mufti was trailing behind Mian Altaf Ahmad of the National Conference by 2,36,730 votes in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency.

Mian Altaf has polled 4,59,199 votes, while Mehbooba Mufti polled 2,22,469 votes even as counting is underway.

"Respecting the verdict of the people I thank my PDP workers & leaders for their hard work & support despite all the odds. My deepest gratitude to the people who voted for me. Winning & losing is part of the game & wont deter us from our path. Congratulations to Mian sahab for his victory," she posted on X.

Hat-trick for BJP's...

Despite that people showered their blessings and I managed to get 4.46 lakh votes which shows the resentment of youth and poor against the present government. I am 100% sure the first time voters and the educated class voted against the current regime," Choudhary Lal Singh said and accepted his defeat.

Out of the 18 assembly segments of Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency, Jitendra managed to get leads in 13 segments whereas Lal Singh only managed to get leads in five segments and that too of Chenab valley. The Congress candidate couldn't perform well in his own bastion of Kathua district whereas the neutral Udhampur district stood behind BJP like in 2019 and 2014.

Both Dr Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma have made a hat-trick of victories and have given an important two seats to BJP to get a chance to form government at the center.

Post abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, this was the first general election being held in J&K and Jammu seems to be happy with what the BJP has done.

The victory of BJP on both the seats of Jammu region is certainly going to boost the confidence of the saffron party as in a few months from now the election commission of India is expected to hold Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir in this election recorded its highest poll participation in the last 35 years. The Combined Voter Turnout at the polling stations for the entire Union Territory was 58.46 per cent.

Meanwhile, in Ladakh Parliamentary constituency, Independent candidate Haji Haneefa Jan secured 65259 votes while Congress party's Tsering Namgyal bagged 37,397 votes while BJP's Tashi Gyalsong got 31,956 votes. Official figures suggested that Haji won with a margin of 27,862 votes. KNO

Jitendra Singh scores...

with nine other candidates have forfeited their security deposit for failing to secure the minimum one-sixth of the total valid votes polled in the constituency.

Amid the bursting of crackers and showering of flowers, Singh was taken in a victory procession from the counting centre in Kathua town by joyous BJP workers. He straightway went to Mukerjee Chowk and paid homage to Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerji.

Singh expressed gratitude to the people of the Udhampur-Doda constituency for the victory. "First of all, I want to thank the people of Udhampur-Doda constituency from the core of my heart. They have given their full support and again gave me this responsibility once again," he said.

"This seat will add to the tally to make a government led by Prime Minister Modi for the third time," he said. In 2019, Singh defeated Congress candidate Vikramaditya Singh by a margin of 353,272 votes. In 2014, he won against former Union minister

Tawi Trekkers J&K resumes Dharamshala Himalayan Trekking Programme with St. Xavier Students



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 6

After a hiatus of few weeks Tawi Trekkers J&K, the premier trekking organisation of J&K resumed its Dharamshala Himalayan Trekking Programme today with 44 students including 34 girls of St Xavier Senior Secondary School, Barnai, Jammu, leaving for Dharamshala to participate in the prestigious adventure activity. The group being led by President of Tawi Trekkers Shawetika Khajuria and Vikas Singh, a senior member also includes two teachers of the school namely Sukanshi Sharma and Bharti Dubey.

During their sojourn in Dharamshala area the trekkers would visit Mcleodganj, Chamunda, Dalai Lama Temple, the headquarters of Tibetan Government in exile; Bhagshunag, Water fall, Dharamkot, popularly called mini Israel; Gallu temple, the beautiful Dharamshala stadium, Norbulinga Monastery and Tapovan besides Nagini Devi enroute their return journey to Jammu.

However, the special attraction of the programme is a visit to a sprawling tea garden and a tea manufacturing company where the students shall learn the complete process of production

of tea. Earlier, the group was flagged off by Mridhu Padha, Vice Principal of St. Xavier Sr. Secondary School, Jammu in the presence of Shawetika Khajuria, President of Tawi Trekkers J&K, staff of the school and a large number of parents of the participants.

The next group comprising students of Oriental Academy Sr. Secondary School shall leave for the trek on 9th June followed by other groups of The Shri Ram Universal School, Govt College for Women, Parade, Jammu, Aryan Oriental Convent Higher Secondary School, Udhampur and some other institutions.

23 Kishtwar Women Farmers leave for exposure visit to SKUAST-K under ATMA

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 4

A group of 23 women farmers and members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) today left for a five-day exposure tour to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The objective of the tour is to enable these farmers to learn best agricultural practices.

The tour was organized on the directions and guidance of District Development Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav by the Agriculture Department under Central Scheme ATMA and flagged off by the Chief Agriculture



Officer Amjad Hussain Malik. The exposure visit includes a special focus on saffron cultivation. The itinerary includes a visit to the advanced research center in the Dussu area of Pampore, known for its pioneering work in saffron research.

Addressing the tour group, the Chief Agriculture Officer encouraged the women farmers to make the most of this opportunity by learning from the scientists and experienced farmers at

SKUAST-K. He emphasized the importance of adopting innovative and sustainable farming practices. The CAO advised the farmers to interact with farm scientists, experts, and extension functionaries during the exposure tour to gain the latest knowledge in crop cultivation techniques.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by officials of the Agriculture Department, concerned officers, and the women farmers/SHGs.

J&K embraces digital...

solutions in the region, marking a significant shift towards cashless transactions and financial inclusivity.

The AePS, a bank-led model that enables online interoperable financial transactions at point-of-sale (PoS) through the business correspondent of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication, has emerged as a pivotal tool in advancing financial inclusion efforts across the country.

The Aadhaar-enabled Payment System facilitates various banking services, including balance inquiry, cash withdrawal, cash deposit, and fund transfer, using Aadhaar authentication.

The report also indicated a similar trend in the Northeastern states as Meghalaya tops the chart with a 1000 per cent growth in AePS transaction value and 712 per cent increase in the number of transactions, showcasing the region's rapid acceptance of financial services, followed by Nagaland and Assam.

In addition, transaction value at Micro-ATMs of Mizoram and Meghalaya grew by 55 per cent and 43 per cent respectively, whereas volume grew by 33 per cent and 43 per cent respectively, it stated.

Experts attribute this significant growth in AePS transactions to multiple factors, including the growing penetration of smartphones, improved digital infrastructure, and increased awareness among consumers about the benefits of digital payments. KNO

KP migrant voters...

Some of them were of the opinion that both NC and PDP have been tested in the past but it yielded no result. They had said that BJP has been doing good work for the welfare of the community and they have voted for the parties which were being supported by the saffron party.

The counting day proved it and in all the three constituencies KP voters kept their promise with the ruling BJP and voted on their direction. KNO

Will 'see' BJP in upcoming...

adding, "I am 100% sure the first time voters and educated class voted against the current regime".

Lal Singh also claimed that he managed to give a tough fight despite all the odds.

"Before elections he (Dr Jitendra Singh) claimed a lead of 4-5 lakh, which was reduced with effective fighting," he said. Lal Singh claimed that seats in first phases will suffer but after a few phases the discourse of election has been changed and Prime Minister's speeches derailed from the main topics to ridiculous things like 'Mujra' and INDI Alliance manage to touch people's issues and get good performance.

Singh also said that the present election acts as a launching point for upcoming assembly elections, where the Congress party will outperform and comfortably defeat BJP. KNO

BJP-Led NDA to form...

fully confident that we will win both the seats comfortably".

Jyeshtha Amavasya on Thursday, June 6: Rohit Shastri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

Amavasya occurs once a month. The lord of the Amavasya date is Pitru Dev. This year, Jyeshtha Amavasya is on Thursday, June 6, 2024. The chairman of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya, explains that Jyeshtha Amavasya is observed on the Amavasya date of the Krishna Paksha in the month of Jyeshtha. The Jyeshtha Amavasya date will start at 7:56 PM on Wednesday, June 5, and will end at 6:08 PM on Thursday, June 6. Since the Amavasya date is prevalent during sunrise on June 6, it will be observed on Thursday, June 6. Activities such as bathing, donating, chanting, and penance should be performed on Thurs-

day, June 6.

Bathing in holy rivers and pilgrimage sites like Haridwar holds special significance on Amavasya. If one cannot bathe in holy rivers, mixing Ganga water in the bath at home can also confer merit. It is also essential to donate something to the needy around you on this day.

Fasting on Amavasya for the peace of ancestors not only pleases the Pitrus (ancestors) but also gratifies Brahma, Indra, Surya, Agni, Vayu, Rishis, animals, birds, and spirits.

On the Amavasya date, bathing in holy rivers or ponds at sunrise and donating according to one's capacity can absolve all sins and confer merit.

Donating sesame, milk, and sweets made from sesame can eradicate poverty.

On every Amavasya, remember your ances-



tors. Offer raw buttermilk, some Ganga water, black sesame, sugar, rice, water, and flowers to a Peepal tree while chanting 'Om Pitribhyah Namah'. Reciting the Pitru Sukta afterwards yields auspicious results.

On Amavasya, offer Arghya to the Sun God three times using a copper vessel filled with red sandalwood, Ganga water, and pure water, while chanting 'Om Pitribhyah Namah'.

Reciting the Neelkanth Stotra, Sarpa Sukta, and Shri Narayan Kavach on

Amavasya, followed by feeding Brahmins with the deceased's favorite sweets and giving donations according to one's capacity, is beneficial.

Childless individuals can find indications of childbirth in their horoscopes. Fasting on this day can negate the ill effects of Rahu if it is positioned adversely in one's destiny.

In the evening, light a ghee lamp in the northeast corner of the house using a red thread for the wick.

To eradicate poverty, attain children, or progress in business, donate a small silver Peepal leaf.

Those with Kaal Sarp Dosh should worship silver serpents after bathing in the morning and then immerse them in flowing water with white flowers.

Hoist a flag at the Vishnu temple and offer kheer with nuts to Goddess Lak-

shmi for her blessings.

According to astrology, the moon is considered the deity of the mind. On Amavasya, the moon is not visible, affecting emotional people the most, especially women.

The absence of the moon on this day causes agitation in our bodies. Negative thinkers are particularly susceptible to negative influences.

On Amavasya, avoid consuming any tamasic items, practice celibacy, abstain from alcohol and other intoxicants, avoid cutting hair and nails if fasting, and refrain from wearing leather items or black clothing. Hurting someone's feelings is considered the greatest violence, and wrongdoing has negative effects on both your body and future.

On this day, Shani Dev Jayanti and Vat Savitri Vrat are also observed.

ABGRF delegation meets

DC and SSP Samba



Demands strict action against bovine smuggling

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JUNE 4

A delegation of Akhil Bhartiya Gaushal Research Foundation (ABGRF), Jammu and Kashmir, today met with the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Samba and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Samba under the direction of Advocate P.S Chandel, In-charge ABGRF, J&K UT.

The delegation was led by State President Dr. Vikas Bhardwaj and State General Secretary Sunil Magotra, along with DDC

Gagwal Suresh Kumar, former Sarpanch Sudarshan Khajuria, ABGRF State Vice President Ravi Abrol, District President Kathua Ravindra Singh, and State Youth President Vikram Mahajan, accompanied by a large number of youth supporters.

The delegation presented a memorandum to DC Samba and SSP Samba, demanding stringent action against cattle smuggling and the cessation of related permissions. This marks the second major success for the ABGRF, which previously succeeded in halting permissions in Kathua.

Dr. Vikas Bhardwaj raised serious concern over

the recent surge in cow smuggling activities. He emphasized the necessity for decisive action against this illegal trade. "For us Hindus, Gaumata (Mother Cow) holds immense significance. Our Foundation is dedicated to fighting for protection of cows. Following the meeting with DC Samba, a detailed discussion was held with SSP Samba, Vinay Sharma, who assured that no offender would be spared," he added.

The ABGRF expressed gratitude to both DC Samba and SSP Samba for their commitment to stopping the permissions and taking strict actions against cattle smuggling.

People defeated dynastic politics by showing doors to Omar, Mehbooba: Kavinder

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday declared that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have decisively rejected dynastic politics, as evidenced by the resounding defeat of National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah and People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti.

In a statement issued to media persons, Kavinder expressed his elation over the BJP's significant victories in Jammu and Udhampur Lok Sabha constituencies. He noted that the electorate's clear dismissal of these prominent political figures signals a crucial shift in the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that the electoral outcomes reflect the citizens' desire for a break from the entrenched political dynasties that have historically dominated the Union Territory's political arena.



Kavinder emphasized that the time has come for the dynastic leaders of Jammu and Kashmir to reconsider their political strategies, as the electorate has unequivocally rejected the notion of political entitlement based on family lineage. He stated that the victory of the BJP in Jammu region, along with the Party's promising performance across the country, demonstrates the public's preference for governance that prioritizes merit and performance over hereditary politics.

The senior BJP leader lauded his party colleagues for their hard work and dedication, which he credited for the electoral success.

Indian Army conducts Yoga Camp at Doda



J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 4

Yoga has emerged as one of the most trusted means to boost physical and mental well-being. Regular practice of yoga can also alleviate chronic pain and improve posture. To promote 'Yoga' Indian Army organised a Yoga Camp for youth at Doda. People from all walks of life were invited to take part in the celebration to perform yoga exercises, asanas and pranayama to celebrate the day. Plans were afoot to involve maximum number of people in Yoga Day celebration in the district. 36 civilians took part in the said event. The Yoga Camp featured sessions led by experienced yoga instructors, designed to cater to both beginners and seasoned practitioners. Attendees

had the opportunity to engage in a variety of yoga practices aimed at improving flexibility, strength, mental clarity and relaxation. The session was later followed by an interaction between the participants and representative of Indian Army in which various health benefits of yoga were discussed. The Yoga Instructors shared with the gathering that Yoga embodies unity of mind, body, thought and action. It not only brings harmony between man and nature but also inculcates holistic approach to health and well-being. They also shared that the benefit of Yoga is not restricted at the physical level, but is an ideal unification of the mind, body and breath. Yoga could significantly contribute to peace and development globally.

Silence at NC headquarters Nawa-e-Subh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 4

Unlike 2019, the Central office of National Conference Nawa-e-Subh wore a deserted look on Tuesday as there were no celebrations due to the defeat faced by the party's vice president Omar Abdullah from north Kashmir seat.

As per details gathered by the news agency, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) headquarters at Nawa-e-Subh remained silent and no celebration was seen despite the party winning two seats in the 2024 Indian parliament election—Srinagar and Anantnag-Rajouri.

After the announcement of NC former chief minister candidate Omar Abdullah's defeat from Baramulla, a pall of gloom descended on the NC headquarters.

The National Conference won all three seats from Kashmir in 2019 and the party headquarters at Nawai-e-Subh celebrated the success in a grand way. However, this time, despite winning two seats, the headquarters remained silent.

Lastly, the victory of jailed leader Engineer Rashid from Baramulla coupled with Omar's defeat has cast a pall of silence over Nawai-e-Subh. Meanwhile, Omar Abdullah, in an earlier press briefing, said he intended to speak to the media after receiving his winning certificate from Baramulla, but as fate would have it, it was not to be. He accepted the people's verdict—(KNO)

Indian Army organizes Motivational Lecture at Chhatru, Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 4

A motivational lecture was organised aimed at inspiring the students of Chhatru village to consider a career in the Indian Army. The event highlighted the high moral standards, sense of obligation and unparalleled opportunities that come with a career in the Indian Army. The goal of lecture was to ignite the

spirit of patriotism and encourage young minds to envision themselves as future defenders of the nation. A total 67 students from village Chhatru participated in the event. The Indian Army is dedicated to building a close relationship with all communities around the nation, promoting a feeling of patriotism and motivating youth to actively participate in the defense of country.

EDA announces annual summer vacation dates

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

The Executive Body of the Association of Electric Dealers, Jammu convened on June 3, 2024, to address the upcoming annual summer vacations. In a unanimous decision, it was agreed that all Electric Shops under the association's purview will remain closed on June 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 2024, corresponding to Thursday, Friday, and Saturday respectively. This decision aligns with the longstanding tradition observed by the association during the summer break. Members of the association are urged to comply

with this directive, ensuring the closure of their shops and establishments on the aforementioned dates. The Association extends its sincere request to the general public to plan their purchases accordingly, taking into account the closure dates of Electric Shops. The meeting, presided over by Sh. Dinesh Gupta (President), and attended by esteemed members including Sd. Kanwaljeet Singh Bindra (Vice President), Sh. Atul Sharma (General Secretary), Sh. Vishal Mahajan (Treasurer), and Sh. Lekh Raj Gupta (Patron), concluded with the firm resolution to uphold the association's commitments and traditions.

AP, DPAP candidates lose security deposit

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 04

In their first major electoral battle, the candidates fielded by new parties launched in Jammu & Kashmir have lost their security deposit. All the candidates fielded by Jammu & Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) have forfeited their security deposit in the Lok Sabha polls, the results of which were declared on

Tuesday.

According to details available with news agency, Muhammad Ashraf Mir and Zafar Iqbal Manhas of JKAP have lost their security deposit as they failed to secure a minimum of one-sixth of the total valid votes polled in their respective constituencies.

While Mir polled 9.77 percent of total votes cast in Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, Manhas secured 13.86 percent of the total votes

polled in Anantnag-Rajouri segment.

According to details, GM Saroori fielded by DPAP forfeited his security deposit as he managed to secure only 3.56 percent of total votes polled in Udhampur Lok Sabha seat.

Two other candidates fielded by Ghulam Nabi Azad-led party also lost security deposit in their respective constituencies.

While Muhammad Saleem Parrey secured a

meager 2.47 percent of total votes polled in Anantnag-Rajouri seat, Amir Ahmad Bhat polled only 2.24 percent of votes polled in Srinagar Lok Sabha seat. Interestingly, PDP candidate Baramulla Lok Sabha seat, Mir Muhammad Fayaz also lost his security deposit. As per the Election Commission of India, Mir polled only 2.66 percent of votes polled in Baramulla Lok Sabha seat.

Jammu Students Excel at 2023-24 Olympiad Awards

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

Three students from Jammu have secured top ranks in the SOF Olympiad exam for 2023-24. Atharv, a first grade student from Oriental Academy Sr. Sec. School, achieved the first rank in the International General Knowledge Olympiad, earning an international gold medal and a merit certificate. Rohinya Proch, a second grade student from Jodhamal Public School, also claimed the first rank in the International General Knowledge Olympiad, receiving an international

gold medal and a merit certificate. Waniya Beig, a first grade student from K.C. International School, claimed the first rank in the International Mathematics Olympiad, receiving an International gold Medal and a merit certificate.

This year's SOF Olympiad saw participation from approximately millions of students across 70 countries, including over 23,813 students from Jammu. Notable schools from Jammu, including Jodhamal Public School, Heritage School, K.C. International School, were among the top participants.

The Science Olympiad



Foundation hosted an awards ceremony at New Delhi to honor the winners, their teachers, and principals for the academic year 2023-24. The event celebrated the top three worldwide rank holders from grade 1 to 12 who

participated in seven different Olympiad exams. Distinguished guests like former Chief Justice of India, Justice Dipak Misra, and renowned author and screenwriter Chetan Bhagat graced the occasion.

At the ceremony, former

Chief Justice of India, Justice Dipak Misra addressed the gathering of over 700 attendees, he said, "Competition or the effort to compete doesn't end here, that is the beauty of competition in Life. When you talk about competition, success follows it because everyone competes to succeed. Success is the real achievement.

He further highlighted that one may not be able to master the 'time' but they should be determined to manage time. Time management is a major step toward success. On the path of success one may, sometimes, face certain

difficulties and at that time, do not react in a manner that will show weakness of mind. The young students should always keep in mind where they have studied and never forget their Alma Mater. He underscored that the unique experience and intellect of a human mind can never be replicated by artificial intelligence.

During the event, 66 international rank-1 winners received a cash prize, a gold medal, and a merit certificate. The 66 rank-2 winners were given a silver medal and a merit certificate along with a cash prize, while the 66 rank-3 winners received a bronze

medal, a merit certificate, and a cash prize. Additionally, the top 26 principals and top 60 teachers from 70 participating countries, whose students performed exceptionally well, were honored with monetary awards, mementos, and citations.

Moreover, SOF announced the launch of International Hindi Olympiad to encourage the Hindi language among the younger generation, nurturing a deeper appreciation and proficiency in their mother tongue. This new Olympiad aims to promote linguistic and cultural pride among students globally.

Peepal tree holds great spiritual and environmental importance: R.L.Kaith

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

Peepal tree is famous for its therapeutic properties in equal measures. It grows nearly 98 feet with its trunk diameter spreading out for around 3 meters, can withstand various altitudes, tolerates extreme weather temperatures and grows deep roots in all kinds of soils including the spaces in between rocks in the mountains. It can survive up to 1500 years even.

Peepal tree emits oxygen throughout day and night while absorbing carbon dioxide which is harmful for all living human beings.

Peepal leaves, bark, shoot, seeds and its fruit have multifarious remedial benefits which are being put in use since ancient times to heal many diseases such as stomach pain, skin diseases, eczema itching, cracked heels, gastric problems, blood disorder, liver and spine diseases, eye pain, tooth diseases and various lung related ailments. Leaves of peepal serve as an expectorant, diuretic, ointment and their juice brings down nausea, clean digestive system especially kidney and maintain skin health.

Being strongly astringent in properties, peepal leaves when heated exude purgative properties are recommended for those with severe digestive issues. Brown in colour, thick and rough to touch. Peepal tree bark is a powerhouse of vitamin K and the extracts perform a wide range of functions related to skin health. The bark extract when applied on dull skin, heals bruises, pigmentation, acne and scars.

EDITORIAL

Preserving Ladakh's cultural heritage!

Ladakh, a region famous for its breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage, stands at the brink of a historic preservation initiative. The local administration, in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), has set in motion efforts to bring several more of its historic monuments under the category of protected sites. This move is both timely and necessary, given the significance of these monuments and the threats they face from neglect and natural degradation. Currently, Ladakh has only two State Protected Monuments, both located in the Kargil district: the Chamba statue in Sankoo and the rock sculpture of Matrika Buddha at Apati. These were granted protection in 2012 and 2013, respectively. In contrast, there are 15 Centrally protected monuments across the region, including notable sites such as the Buddhist Monasteries at Lamayuru, Likir, and Alchi, as well as the ancient palace in Leh and the Hemis Gompa. The Department of Archives of the Union Territory of Ladakh has now submitted proposals to declare additional sites as State Protected Monuments. Notable among these are the Chiktan Fort and the stone carvings in Sankoo block of Kargil. Chiktan Fort, a 16th-century structure built by Balti craftsmen, served as a royal residence for centuries and, despite its current dilapidated state, continues to attract visitors for its spectacular backdrop of snow-capped mountains. The fort is steeped in local legends, featuring tales of magical creations and dramatic events, underscoring its cultural and historical importance. Similarly, the ancient art of stone carving in Sankoo, which has flourished in Ladakh for centuries, showcases the region's intricate craftsmanship. Protecting these carvings is crucial for preserving this traditional art form for future generations. In addition to these local efforts, the ASI has also prepared a proposal to declare six more monuments as Centrally Protected. These monuments, located in Nubra and around Leh, primarily consist of rock carvings that require conservation. If approved by the Ministry of Culture, this initiative will pave the way for comprehensive conservation efforts. The process of declaring monuments as protected is detailed and involves public consultation. Once a monument is proposed for protection, objections and suggestions from local communities are considered before the final declaration is made. This ensures that the preservation efforts are inclusive and take into account the views of those who live around these historical sites. This meticulous procedure, though lengthy, is essential for ensuring that Ladakh's rich cultural heritage is safeguarded. As the region continues to evolve, balancing development with the preservation of its historical and cultural assets is crucial. The local administration and ASI's proactive steps in this direction are commendable and reflect a deep commitment to protecting Ladakh's unique heritage. Ladakh's ancient monuments and cultural heritage are invaluable assets that tell the story of its past and shape its identity. Protecting these sites ensures that future generations can continue to learn from and be inspired by this rich history. As such, the ongoing efforts to bring more monuments under protected status are not just administrative actions but vital steps towards preserving the soul of Ladakh.

Total knee replacement is a quantum leap towards pain relief

VIPUL KUMAR GUPTA

A 46-year-old woman faced the challenges of bilateral knee degeneration due to a rare congenital condition. Her knees had deteriorated significantly, causing chronic pain and limited mobility. After careful evaluation of her condition and medical history, she was recommended bilateral total knee replacement surgery (TKR) as the most suitable option. Following the surgery, she experienced a remarkable transformation. Today, she enjoys a newfound sense of freedom and vitality. Whether it's walking, hiking, or pursuing her passions, she does so with confidence and ease.

Knee pain affects millions of individuals in India, hindering basic activities like walking and stair climbing. However, TKR is a breakthrough re-

olution in this direction, and a study published in the Journal of Arthroplasty reports that over 90% of TKR patients experience significant pain relief and improved mobility post-surgery.

TKR, also known as knee arthroplasty, is considered a quantum leap towards pain relief for patients suffering from severe knee pain, often due to arthritis or injuries. This surgical procedure involves replacing the affected parts of the knee joint with artificial components to normalcy.

Women often face knee problems because of their body structure and changes like menopause hormones. This can make everyday tasks harder due to joint weakness and extra knee pressure. That's why doctors suggest knee replacement surgery. It's a way to fix the knee for improved and painless



functionality. Unlike conventional treatments, surgery tackles the root cause and enables the person to enjoy a normal and painless life.

TKR isn't just for seniors anymore; it's also a lifeline for younger adults, addressing various conditions beyond sports injuries. It's also beneficial for patients with traumatic injuries or fractures leading to irreparable knee damage. TKR addresses

these issues, provides long-term relief, and restores knee function. Eventually, it empowers younger individuals to lead active lives. Factors such as activity level and implant durability are carefully evaluated to ensure optimal outcomes.

TKR is a transformative solution for those with knee pain and coexisting health issues like diabetes or obesity. By tackling the root cause of pain, TKR

not only restores mobility but also improves overall health. Reduced pain and enhanced mobility support, increased physical activity, aiding in weight management and blood sugar control.

Total Knee Replacement involves replacing the whole knee joint with artificial parts, which is useful for widespread arthritis or severe damage. On the other side, Partial Knee Replacement (PKR) targets only the damaged part of the knee, keeping healthy tissue and bone intact. Both surgeries aim to reduce pain and improve movement, but they differ in how much of the knee they address. TKR is a comprehensive solution for serious knee issues, while PKR focuses on specific areas of damage. The choice between the two depends on the severity of the injury and the patient's overall health.

Physical therapy is crucial before and after TKR. Before surgery, it strengthens muscles and improves flexibility, preparing patients for the procedure. After surgery, therapy helps reduce swelling, regain mobility, and rebuild muscle strength. Continued therapy ensures optimal knee function, prevents stiffness, and enhances the quality of life.

TKR offers hope to people regardless of age, gender, or health challenges. With advancements in medicine, TKR has become a game-changer in treating knee problems as a reliable solution for improving knee function and reducing pain. It's a choice that can truly change their lives for the better!

(The writer is a senior. Joint Replacement Surgeon at Shalby Hospital, Lucknow; views are personal)

Enlightenment or political theatre?

CAPT G R GOPINATH (RETI)

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari to sit in meditation for two days, I was reminded of a delightful poem by Rabindranath Tagore. Here it is in his own translation:

In the depths of the forest, the ascetic practised penance with fast-closed eyes; he intended to deserve Paradise.

But the girl who gathered twigs brought him fruits in her skirt, and water from the stream in cups made of leaves. The days went on, and his penance grew harsher, till the fruits remained untasted, the water untouched; and the girl who gathered twigs was sad.

The Lord of Paradise heard that a man had dared to aspire to be as the Gods.

Time after time he had fought the Titans, who were his peers, and kept them out of his kingdom; yet he feared a man whose power was that of suffering.

But he knew the ways of mortals, and he planned a temptation to decoy this creature of dust away from his adventure.

A breath from Paradise kissed the limbs of the girl who gathered twigs, and her youth ached with a sudden rapture of beauty...

The time came when the ascetic should leave the forest for a mountain cave, to complete the rigour of his penance.

When he opened his eyes in order to start on this journey, the girl appeared to him like a verse familiar, yet forgotten...

The ascetic rose from his seat and told her that it was time he left the forest.

'But why rob me of my chance to serve you?' she asked with tears in her eyes...

That night, remorse kept the girl awake. She began to dread her power and hate her triumph, yet her mind tossed on the waves of turbulent delight.

In the morning she came and saluted the ascetic and asked his blessing...

He gazed on her face in silence, then said, 'Go, and may your wish be fulfilled.' For years, he sat alone till his penance was complete.

The Lord of the Immortals came down to tell him that he had won Paradise.

'I no longer need it,' said he.

The God asked him what greater reward he desired.

'I want the girl who gathers twigs.'

That seemingly easy thing to do - to sit tight and



banish all thoughts from your mind - is most difficult. Within a few minutes after shutting one's eyes, the fickle mind flits from one thought to another, from one image to another. It's an unbridled wild horse. As you try in vain to dive deep into your soul, unable to locate it, and attempt to penetrate into the mysteries of creation, like the sages of yore, in the end 'realisation' dawns that all that you know is that you do not know. And whatever it was that you strove for all this long, you want something else now.

So, I wondered what thoughts may have passed through the mind of Modi, sitting alone in contemplation for two days at the fag-end of this election season, having uttered all that he did during the campaign, inside an enclosed monument, in front of Swami Vivekananda, immortalised there in stone, surrounded by the sound of lapping waves, howling monsoon winds and lash-

ing rains? Modi was, in a way, a prisoner of his trappings - under observation by surveillance and media cameras, waited upon by dour and bare-bodied, ash-smeared male priests, in the company of battalions of uniformed security forces, secret service agents and commandos hovering in the shadows, with no prospects of tantalising Apsaras to tempt and tease him out of his penance.

Notwithstanding the social media attacks on him for hypocrisy and theatrics to hoodwink people, and criticism of the humongous expenditure to be borne by the State - with thousands keeping guard and naval ships cordoning off the southern tip of the peninsula - to allow one man to indulge in the luxury of meditation, the nation can indulge Modi even if his meditation costs the exchequer a few hundred crores if something good comes out of it.

As it is impossible to focus on God or 'Brahman', the ultimate reality, beyond a couple hours, it is fair to assume that Modi's mind will have wandered on myriad issues facing him and the nation - the criticism over majoritarian politics; on the diminishing autonomy of institutions like ED and CBI, and including the Election Commission now; on the vitiated Hindu-Muslim relations and the nation's social fabric; on crony capitalism and the rising inequality between the few rich and the millions and millions of the poor and middle class; on the marginalisation of Dalits and tribals; on the rising unemployment; on the strained Centre-State relations; on the still-simmering conflict in Manipur; on the challenges of creating Hindu Rashtra as his hordes demand; on the Chinese still menacing our borders...

Now that Modi is predicted by the exit polls to win a historic third term, and he will be 79 by the time it ends, the thought of what legacy he would want to leave behind will have naturally entered his meditations. What accomplishments would he like to be remembered for? Does he want to be valourised for

putting India on the path to becoming a Hindu Rashtra, one where Hindus may come to dominate the polity and all the minorities will live insecure lives as second-class citizens without rights, as the Hindutva ideology desires, leaving the nation on the edge and on a short-fuse, waiting for a violent resolution?

What about his global standing? Will he be extolled as a statesman like Jawaharlal Nehru if he ends up being seen as a bigot and an autocrat who trampled on democracy? The world hailed him when he told Vladimir Putin "This is not the era of war." These thoughts may have floated past him during his reflections.

For years, Modi has worn Savarkar and Golwalkar on one sleeve, and Mahatma Gandhi and Vivekananda on the other, whose preachings are antithetical to one another. Modi is a zealous votary of the Hindutva ideology of Savarkar and Golwalkar but he also pays homage to Gandhi and invokes Vivekananda, whose pantheistic Hindu philosophy is incompatible with the Hindutva ideology. Whose path will he take if he wins a third term? In Kanyakumari, did Modi receive enlightenment from Vivekananda or intimations from Savarkar?

(The writer is a soldier, farmer and entrepreneur)

Crime and Conscience

RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

The whole nation was jolted by a recent hit-and-run tragedy, wherein a teenager, reportedly intoxicated behind the wheel of a luxury car, collided with a motorbike, claiming the lives of two promising young IT professionals. As per criminal psychologists, before a crime can be said to have occurred, it has to be committed. So, without action, there can be no crime. Hence, they say that in most of the cases, a person commits a crime in a moment of high tension, irresistible temptation, uncontrolled passion, deep infatuation, extreme provocation or utter frustration or in answer to an undying call of conviction or conscience. So, according to them if he/she could withstand the pressure of these conditions of restlessness

for even a couple of minutes or perhaps, even for a few seconds, he/she would have, perhaps, been out of the crime zone and be free at least from any charge of a cognisable offence. Considering it from another perspective, it could be said that, if a man's rational sense, his self-respect, his control over the emotions, his sober judgement, his noble sentiments and his spiritual or ethical sense had not forsaken him, then, perhaps, the blinding storm of negative forces would have subsided and subdued and he would have refrained from the actual committal of crime and would thus have been saved from the traumatic experience that generally follows the crime. Once a gory crime has been committed, the gentle spirit in man has to go through a humiliating and excruciating experience even before he is jailed for a criminal



offence or has to pay a heavy amount as punishment, under the relevant act for his civil offence, or has to suffer both. Not only does he feel depressed and carry a heavy burden on his chest but also, he is unable to face his conscience, stand before a mirror and see his face as before. We have to consider does the law cover all acts that may cause injury to public welfare? Hence

one can say that there is no objective, simple definition of crime. Because the meaning of crime is affected by the particular society in which we live.

Like, there are crimes that occur within strict legal definitions and those that relate to codes or conventions known as normative definitions. They are usually formal moral codes such as religions, or informal codes such as socially

acceptable behaviour. The acts of crime and the punishment by the court go on as usual. However, one important question to which no government or judiciary has seriously and assiduously addressed itself lingers on. The question relates to the state of mind of a person before he commits the crime and after he has done the act. It is common knowledge that the forces that goad a person to committal of crime are none other than the maddening feelings of anger, consuming fires of hatred, jealousy, rivalry, vengeance or enmity, expanded greed, aroused strong passion, inflated or injured ego, surge of emotional attachment or grave fear of the unknown. We cannot reduce crime or have a crimeless society unless and until we have greatly reduced or fully removed these negative traits from the minds of the citizens.

It is unfortunate that pre-natal and post-natal aspects of crime have never been adequately dealt with by our society. It is hardly realised that what is required, in fact, are such measures that increase the psychological and spiritual immunity of the citizens to situations of stress and strain or to tempests of greed, ego and passions. This cannot be done except by spiritual education and guidance in Meditation. Because it is meditation which can burn the hidden roots of anger, hatred and other negative and criminal tendencies in a person. The over-all expenditure and the manpower and effort required for this will be "far far less" than is involved to keep the clogged wheels of law oiled and moving.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher and a popular columnist; views are personal)

If rotten fish smells like roses to you, you have a genetic mutation to blame

NEW DELHI: Whenever we are around a dumpster or somewhere we know it smells awful, we wish we were lucky to be able to switch off our noses, and not smell the awful smell. For some people, it seems, genes have ensured to make it possible.

According to a new study published in *Current Biology*, it was found that a rare genetic mutation can make some people immune to the nauseating aroma of rotten fish, as reported by the *Nature News*. Here is what the study says 11,000 people participated in the study. They provided DNA samples, and put their noses to test. When presented with a box of six odours, the participants each took a whiff and tried to identify it. For some people, the rotten fish smell was unpleasant and easy to identify, while a small group of people labelled it as "neutral". Researchers further looked into their DNA and found that the small group of people shared a genetic mutation in common. They reportedly had

at least one broken version of a gene called the TAAR5. "I can assure you I do not have



identify a rank chemical called trimethylamine, or TMA, which is also found in faeces, blood and bad breath. TMA is a red flag for iffy food, and people's disgusted reaction to its sickening smell helps them avoid danger. "TAAR5 is a very conserved gene, so it's very

similar across species, probably because it has been important to protect us against harmful microorganisms," says deCODE neuroscientist Rosa Gisladdottir to *New Scientist*. The researchers further asked the participants to smell samples with synthetic odours. These consisted of cinnamon, peppermint, banana, liquorice, lemon, and rotten fish. They found that the success of identifying these smells reduced with age, but even young people could confuse between certain smells. They were also asked to rate how unpleasant the smell was, and rotten fish won, hands down.

However, for people with the broken TAAR5 genes, the rotten fish smelled neutral. While some could not smell it at all, some identified it as potato, caramel, ketchup, or even roses. This study was conducted in Ireland, where a large number of people have the genetic mutation, as compared to other places in the world.

Excessive use of hand-sanitisers may boost antimicrobial resistance, warns AIIMS



By 2050, about 10 million human lives can be at risk every year if we do not manage the increasing drug resistance, say experts

New Delhi, Oct 10: Increased usage of antibiotics during Covid-19 can lead to more antimicrobial resistance, health experts of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences said, adding that the widespread use of hand-sanitisers and antimicrobial soaps can further worsen the situation.

Antimicrobial resistance is the ability of a pathogenic microbe to develop a resistance to the effects of an antimicrobial medication. It has been estimated that by 2050, about 10 million human lives could be at risk every year if drug resistance is not managed.

Various aspects of antimicrobial resistance were discussed in a two-day international webinar on antibiotic resistance jointly organised by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and American Society for Microbiology.

The webinar was organised by Dr Rama Chaudhry, Professor and Head of AIIMS's Department of Microbiology, International Ambassador of American Society for Microbiology to India and her team - Dr Bimal Kumar Das, Dr Sarita Mohapatra, Dr Gagandeep Singh, Dr Hitender Gautam and Dr Nishant Verma.

In the webinar, the health experts talked about how the Covid-19 pandemic has jolted the entire world and significantly impacted the focus of health facilities towards antimicrobial resistance.

"It has been estimated that as we reach the year 2050, about 10 million human lives could be at risk every year if we do not manage the increasing drug resistance. The widespread use of hand sanitisers and antimicrobial soaps which has especially increased manifold during the Covid-19 pandemic can worsen the situation," said the experts.

They went on to say that antibiotic-resistant organisms have become rigidly established in our environment with many infections failing to respond to currently available antimicrobials. The antimicrobial resistance has outpaced the development of newer antimicrobials. The health experts added that there is an urgent need to explore the alternative therapies. "The importance of these non-conventional and alternative therapeutic approaches like bacteriophages, endolysins, nanoparticles, probiotics and antimicrobial peptides are needed."

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the biggest challenges of modern medicine. It mounts problems beyond the geographical as well as species barriers and can transmit from animals to humans.

Facebook 'Emotional Health' tool now available in India

The partners in India are mental health campaign 'OK to Talk', iCALL Psychosocial Helpline and The Live Love Laugh Foundation

New Delhi, Oct 10: Facebook on Saturday said its centralised resource centre called Emotional Health, launched this week to help people cope with growing mental health issues in the pandemic, is now available with locally relevant information from its Indian partners.

The partners in India are mental health campaign 'OK to Talk', iCALL Psychosocial Helpline (Tata Institute of Social Sciences), and The Live Love Laugh Foundation that will provide mental health helplines and resources catering to the local needs of users.

"Our Covid-19 Information Centre and Emotional Health,



launched ahead of the Mental Health Day on the Facebook app, provides people with access to tips and information from leading experts," said Ajit

Instagram, along with partners," he said in a statement.

On Mental Health Day on Saturday, Instagram launched a 'The Real Talk' content series in partnership with the Under25 community and The Artidote.

It's a three-part video series, hosted by the founder of The Artidote, Jovanny Ferreyra, a global mental health advocate.

"While mental health tools, resources and community guidelines are powerful and necessary components of making the social media experience a positive one, the majority of interaction still happens between members of a community," Mohan said.

Regeneron's antibody cocktail may offer protection against COVID-19: Study

NEW YORK, OCT 10: The experimental antibody cocktail which US President Donald Trump received when he tested positive for COVID-19 offers benefits against the novel coronavirus infection, according to a new study in animal models which provides more evidence of the clinical potential of the therapeutic.

While earlier studies had shown that the cocktail of two antibodies targeting the coronavirus spike protein could be used to neutralise the pathogen, scientists from the American biotechnology company Regeneron noted that further research in multiple animal models is needed to test the effectiveness of the formulation.

In the current study, published in the *Journal Science*, the researchers tested REGN-COV2 in rhesus macaques, which manifest mild COVID-19 symptoms, and in golden hamsters, which show symptoms that are much more severe, including rapid weight loss.

They found that when the cocktail was administered three days before challenging the macaques with the virus, the treatment almost completely blocked establishment of infection.

According to the scientists, this ability of REGN-COV2 "matches or exceeds the effects recently shown in vaccine efficacy studies using the same animal models." "These findings highlight the therapeutic potential of (this approach) to both protect from and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease," the researchers noted in the study.

When the macaques were treated with the drug one day after infection, they said there was faster viral clearance than in controls who had not been treated with the cocktail.

In the hamster model, the study noted that the animals treated with the drug two days before infection exhibited a "dramatic protection from weight loss," and decreased viral load in the lungs.

Can iron deficiency affect your menstrual flow? 5 iron-rich foods you must add to your diet



New Delhi, Oct 10: Menstruation is one of the most natural processes in the female human body. However, since the subject remains tabooed in various societies around the world, people often shy away from speaking about it, even when it can have a direct impact on the reproductive and overall health of the females. Various factors such as lifestyle choices, deficiencies, or existing health conditions can cause abnormalities in your monthly period or menstrual cycle. These abnormalities can range from heavy bleeding, less bleeding, excruciating pain in the abdomen, excessively long periods, short periods, delayed, or missed periods and others. The causes of these can vary from person

to person. Many females, who often suffer from a lot of pain during their cycle, or have abnormalities in their flow, are told that they are deficient in a certain nutrient - iron. However, is there truly a link between the two?

Iron deficiency and menstrual cycle - How are they related?

Iron deficiency, also known as iron deficiency anaemia and menstruation have a two-way link. People who get heavy periods are said to have a higher risk of getting iron deficiency. At the same time, women who have iron deficiency are said to have complications in their menstrual cycle.

Since women lose blood during their menstruation, they are also likely to use iron content from their body. This can increase the risk of iron deficiencies or iron deficiency anaemia in women. However, just because women bleed once a month does not mean it always leads to a deficiency. This only happens when the lost iron is not replaced with more iron consumed from their diet. Iron deficiency is also common during pregnancy, due to the high requirement of the nutrient in the body.

Make this easy and tasty Eggs Shakshuka recipe for a nutritious dinner with your family

New Delhi, Oct 10: We all know the many health benefits of eggs. Eggs are not just super easy to make, they are also rich in many nutrients and minerals - protein, vitamins, iron, and fats, to name a few. Eggs make for a good part of a balanced diet and are also used in diets for weight loss, diabetes management, and improved heart health.

Second Friday in the month of

September is celebrated as World Egg Day, which falls on the 9th of October, this year. The day is observed to raise awareness about the nutritional value of eggs, and the part they play in human health. If you are a lover of the creamy and yummy eggs, here is a healthy dinner recipe that you must make. This recipe will ensure that you have a healthy, light,

but filling dinner. Eggs can be consumed for dinner as they do not have high carb content, but at the same time, ensure that you are satiated and do not feel hungry very soon.

Eggs Shakshouka or Shakshuka Recipe - A healthy, easy dinner idea

INGREDIENTS
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, chopped

Peppers of your choice, deseeded and chopped
3 tomatoes, diced
1/2 cup vegetable broth
1 teaspoon cumin
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
Show more
In a deep pan, heat the oil.
Add onions and peppers. Cook till the onions become translucent.

Add tomatoes, vegetable broth, cumin, paprika, oregano, and salt and pepper; simmer for 20 to 22 minutes or until thickened.
Crack the eggs evenly over the sauce. Do not stir. Let it cook for 6-8 minutes if you like a runny yolk. If you want the yolk to be firmer, cook for 10-12 minutes.
Garnish with coriander leaves and cheese. Serve with bread

Kharge's son-in-law clinches Kalaburagi LS seat in Karnataka

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, JUNE 4

In a significant electoral victory, Radhakrishna Doddamani, the son-in-law of Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge, emerged triumphant from the Kalaburagi Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka.

His victory, with a notable margin of 27,205 votes, underscores the enduring strength of the Congress party in the region.

Doddamani's formidable opponent, Umesh Jadhav of the BJP, who previously held the seat, faced a tough challenge but fell short in this election. Doddamani garnered an impressive 6,52,321 votes, while Jadhav secured 6,25,116 votes.

The decision by the



81-year-old Kharge to refrain from contesting, citing his age and his pivotal role in steering the party's national agenda and coordinating with the INDIA bloc, paved the way for Doddamani's candidacy. A seasoned businessman with a commitment to education, Doddamani brings a fresh perspective and energy to the political landscape. This victory

not only solidifies the Congress party's presence in Karnataka but also signals a new chapter in Kalaburagi's representation in the Lok Sabha. As Doddamani prepares to assume his responsibilities, all eyes will be on him to deliver on the promises made during the campaign and to serve the people of Gulbarga with dedication and integrity.

Pak PM departs for China with hopes of more loans & advance CPEC projects

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, JUNE 4

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has departed to China with ambitious hopes of more loans, infra deals and to speed up the ongoing projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Shehbaz Sharif's five-day trip will include crucial meetings with the top leadership in Beijing. He will visit Beijing, Xi'an and Shenzhen. Pakistan is increasingly reliant on its important alliance with China and looks towards inking more investment agreements, speeding up delayed projects under the CPEC and seeking more loans to stabilise Islamabad's crippling economy.

CPEC remains a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The \$62 billion project was formally launched in 2015 and was termed as a game changer for the cash-strapped Pakistan's econo-



my. The project includes the flagship Gwadar Port, power plants and road networks across Pakistan. Shehbaz Sharif aims to expedite the stalled and delayed projects during his visit to China and look for more linked initiatives of investments.

"An important aspect of the Prime Minister's visit will be meetings with corporate executives of leading Chinese companies dealing in oil and gas, energy, ICT and emerging technologies. In Shenzhen, he will address the China-Pakistan Business Forum with leading businesspersons, entrepreneurs, and investors from both countries," read a press release of the Pakistan Foreign Office.

"The two sides will

undertake discussions to further strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership; upgrade the China - Pakistan Economic Corridor; advance trade and investment; enhance cooperation in security and defence, energy, space, science and technology, and education; and promote cultural cooperation and people-to-people contacts, thus setting the future trajectory of Pakistan-China friendship," the statement added.

A day before the Prime Minister's visit to China, a bullet payment to Chinese power plants was ensured, aimed at reducing the outstanding dues to the Chinese companies, with an aim to break the ice and also be in a better position to seek more financing for infrastructure projects along with a commercial loan of \$600 million.

In order to provide room for making payments to the Chinese power plants, the Minis-

try of Finance released a total of Rs 225 billion to the Energy Ministry out of the budgeted subsidies.

Shehbaz Sharif is looking forward towards making progress in various projects related to energy, including the Mainline project of the CPEC, Kohala Hydropower Project, Azad Pattan Hydropower project and Kakarkoram Highway expansion.

Pakistan is also aiming to get at least \$600 million in commercial loans from China. Notably, China had previously refused the loan amount to Pakistan due to Islamabad's failure to honour the energy framework agreement.

Shehbaz Sharif aims to give complete assurance to the Chinese leadership on the safety and security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan and affirms that incidents like the Besham attack, claiming the lives of five Chinese nationals will not be allowed to happen again.

With increasing govt support, next 5 years hold great potential for EV sector: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

With increasing governmental support, infrastructural advancements, and growing consumer awareness, the next five years hold immense potential for the electric vehicle (EV) sector, experts said on Tuesday.

According to Anil G, Co-Founder and COO at Bounce Infinity, some key policies the government has implemented over the years have brought in a lot of "stability in how the economy is today and how businesses operate today".

Looking forward to the next government, he told IANS, "We expect a similar sort of consistency in policies that can give confidence for businesses to think long-term and put more investments."

As per Fortune Business Insights, the Indian EV market is projected to grow from \$23.38 billion in 2024 to \$117.78 billion by 2032, exhibiting a CAGR of 22.4 per cent during the forecast period.

According to Akash Gupta, Co-Founder and CEO, Zypp Electric, India's economic landscape has witnessed a transformative surge with technology at its helm in the past five years.

In addition, the experts mentioned that policies such as the PLI scheme, which the government has put in place, must continue to operate consistently.

After the euphoria, the disaster

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

Monday, June 3 saw markets record their best performance in recent times, with NIFTY gaining 733.20 points on the back of Exit Polls for the general elections 2024, where the pollsters in a 'poll of polls' gave the ruling NDA around 370 seats.

The high on NIFTY was at 23,338.70 points. NIFTY closed at 23,263.90 points. On BSESENSEX, the gain was at 2,507.47 points to close at 76,738.89 points. The high for the day was at 76,468.78 points. These incidentally were new lifetime highs at closing and intraday levels.

Today, Tuesday, June 4, was a reversal, a terrifying and scary one. The lows made on BSESENSEX were at 70,234.43 points and 21,281.45 points on NIFTY. The intraday point fall on BSESENSEX was roughly 6,200 points, and 2,000 points on NIFTY.

What caused it? Simply the fact that the NDA fell short at below 300 seats or about 293 seats. The final closing today was BSESENSEX, down 4,389.73 points to close at 72,079.05 points, while NIFTY lost 1,335.70 points at 21,928.20 points.

What from hereon is the key question. The BJP, along with its allies, has managed to become the



largest faction and is ahead of the opposition by about 60 seats. The NDA should be able to form the government, and things would be as usual as far as current economic policies are concerned. This will not impact the current policies.

What would change is the reform agenda of the party where they wanted to bring about a common civil code and other such measures which would need a much bigger majority. The euphoria and the disaster are both behind us, and they have happened within a mere 24 hours of each other.

Going forward, the highs made on Monday at 76,738 and 23,338 on NIFTY would act as medium-term resistances, while lows made on Tuesday at 70,234 and 21,281 would act as strong supports. The range is a massive 6,500 points on BSESENSEX and 2,150 points on NIFTY. This is a huge range and looks like holding till big news

flow happens over the next four to six months.

With the market range specified, the next question is about the direction of the market. There would be political stability in the time to come as the mandate is not small and fairly clear. The government would be able to run its regular policies without any hindrances but would not have the majority that it had over the last two terms.

With such a mandate, it would be business as usual for all regular business and tough times for structural changes. For investors at the markets, it's more or less business as usual, and FPIs who were sellers are likely to remain negative to neutral on the markets in the short to medium term.

In conclusion, markets would remain volatile and choppy in the immediate short term. Expect stability once government formation and getting back to normalcy is achieved.

Trade cautiously.

Foreign policy under Modi 3.0 will be crucial for the entire region: Lankan experts

AGENCIES
COLOMBO, JUNE 4

As India has completed its elections and results are out, foreign policy experts and academics have viewed the results as proof of India's strong democracy while the re-election of Prime Minister Modi's government is proof of strong India which is an advantage for Asia and South Asia.

Former diplomat and media and political analyst in Asia, Ranga Kalansooriya viewed India's general election results as a sign of vibrant democracy.

"This is a sign of a healthy democracy because you need checks and balances in a healthy democracy. India will have a strong opposition as well," Kalansooriya told IANS.

He said that in the regional context a strong India, or politically strong India is an advantage because the region is looking at India as a regional power and regional leader.

"India is rising up as a leader of the global south. So strong India is an advantage for Asia and South Asia," said Kalansooriya, who was also the former Director General of the Department of Government Information in



Sri Lanka.

He added that as Sri Lankans and also citizens of South Asia people should be happy about India's successful completion of elections and also on the victory of the BJP.

"Congress has also done quite well, more than expected," he said.

Sri Lankan academic, geopolitics and foreign policy analyst Prof. Asanga Abeyagoonasekera said that in the backdrop where China has reached, the foreign policy of Prime Minister Modi's third term would be crucial not only for India but for the entire region.

"Foreign policy of Modi 3.0 will be crucial for the entire region of South Asia and Southeast Asia. Beijing has made concerted moves in India's immediate periphery in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, Mal-

dives and Bhutan," Abeyagoonasekera, Executive Director of South Asia Foresight Network (SAFN), The Millennium Project Washington DC explained.

Abeyagoonasekera said that the hybrid operations with civil and military nexus are already visible in both South and Southeast Asia regions.

"Submarine bases in Bangladesh such as the BNS Sheikh Hasina submarine base at Pekua in Cox's Bazar and in Cambodia Ream Port to Chinese research vessels in Sri Lanka and Maldives are clear military manoeuvres by Beijing," he warned.

He said that PM Modi's third term will be much more challenging than his previous tenures due to China's ambitions and aggression in the region. "A delicate balance is required in India's foreign

policy, working with US Indo-Pacific strategy and also using India's 'strategic autonomy' to work with other nations such as Iran and Russia," said Prof. Abeyagoonasekera, who was also the former founding Director General of the Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka (INSSSL).

An academic, defence analyst and researcher Nilanthan Niruthan that PM Modi's coming to power for the third time, the trajectory of the India-Sri Lanka friendship, of the India-China rivalry and of India's engagement with the world in general is likely to continue in the same path.

Nilanthan Niruthan said that in terms of the impact PM Modi will have on India's engagement with the world, with the region or Sri Lanka, there is unlikely to be a significant shift in this third term.

"We should remember that foreign policy is something that has a certain level of party consensus in India at the moment. So regardless of who the Prime Minister is many of the long-term plans that India has for the region regarding China, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, this is not likely to change much," he said.

Two soldiers killed in plane crash during military training

AGENCIES
ANKARA, JUNE 4

Two soldiers were killed in a plane crash during military training in the central Turkish province of Kayseri on Tuesday, said the Turkish Defense Ministry.

"An SF-260D type training aircraft of our Air Force Command, which took off from the 12th Air Transportation Main Base Command in Kayseri for training/testing, was involved in a crash due to an unknown reason," the ministry said in a statement.

According to the local governorate, the plane crashed in the Hasan Arpa neighbourhood of the Kocasinan district in Kayseri province, reports Xinhua news agency.

US-based geoscience firm keen on oil exploration project in South Korea

AGENCIES
SEOUL, JUNE 4

The owner of US-based geoscience research company Act-Geo said on Tuesday he was traveling to South Korea to discuss Seoul's newly envisioned offshore oil and gas exploration project on the east coast.

President Yoon Suk Yeol earlier said that South Korea will push to embark on the project in the East Sea after a study suggested significant oil deposits may be buried in the deep sea off the coast of Yeongil Bay in Pohang, about 260 kms southeast of Seoul, reports Yonhap news agency.

The decision came after the government commissioned Act-Geo to conduct a study in February last year, which reported that the deposits could hold between 3.5 billion and 14 billion barrels of gas and oil.

Vitor Abreu, the owner of the Houston, Texas-based research firm told Yonhap News Agency via Facebook that he was on



South Korean oil project during his stay.

Claims have surfaced online that the address of the company headquarters was that of a residential house in suburban Houston, raising questions over whether Act-Geo was a properly equipped research entity.

Act-Geo's official website has also remained inaccessible since the government's announcement.

Amid the controversy, the KNOC issued a press release detailing Abreu's background and past career experiences.

The KNOC said Abreu was a veteran of 30 years in the field of deep sea exploration, and previously served as the head of the geology division at ExxonMobil and the president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

The company also said during his days at ExxonMobil, Abreu played a leading role in the exploration of the largest deep-sea oil field in Guyana, South America.

Anurag Thakur wins Hamirpur seat for fifth time

AGENCIES
SHIMLA/HAMIRPUR (HP), JUNE 4

Information-cum-Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur of the BJP won the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat with a resounding margin of about 1,82,357 votes.

He defeated Satpal Raizada of the Congress party in almost a one-sided affair.

Thakur got lead in sixteen out of seventeen assembly segments of his Hamirpur constituency.

So much so that HP Chief Minister S S Sukhu could not save his seat and rendered lead to Thakur in the contest.

Thakur is the elder son of former HP Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal. His younger brother Arun



Dhumal is the IPL (Indian Premier League) chief.

While Thakur got 6,07,068 votes, Satpal Raizada got 4,24,711 votes. All other ten candidates who were in the field from this seat lost their security deposits.

A massive welcome was accorded to Thakur when his victory was announced. Party workers danced

in joy and took Thakur on their shoulders and sang songs amid dancing.

Thakur thanked the people of the constituency and the party workers for his resounding victory and said he would do as per their expectations in the coming five years for which he had been voted for the fifth time in succession.

Six railway workers dead after being hit by freight train in China



AGENCIES
HARBIN, JUNE 4

Six workers have been confirmed dead after they were hit by a freight train in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on Tuesday morning, according to China Railway Harbin Bureau Group Co., Ltd.

The accident occurred around 1:55 a.m. when the

workers were on the track of a railway section on the outskirts of Jiamusi City, sources with the company said.

Two of them died on the spot, while the other four died after rescue efforts failed, reports Xinhua news agency.

The cause of the accident is not known yet, and the investigation continues.

NCP (SP) supremo expresses happiness with his party's performance in LS election

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JUN 4

NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar on Tuesday expressed happiness with the way his party has performed in this Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, the counting of votes and declaration of results are currently underway.

Speaking at a press conference here, he said, "Many good things have happened in today's election process. We contested 10 seats under leadership of state party president Jayant Patil. But the current picture shows that we are leading in seven seats. This means our party's strike rate has been good."

He further said that he believed in his daughter Supriya Sule's vote share in Baramati, who got more than one lakh votes at end of 15th round of counting.

"Thanking people of Maharashtra, the NCP chief



observed that a kind of transformation has started in the state.

The election result that has come out in Maharashtra is conducive for a change at other places also, he noted.

"Fortunately, the picture across the country is also promising. Especially in Uttar Pradesh, there has been a different result than what was being claimed," he said.

"Another feature of this election result is that earlier BJP's success rate in Uttar Pradesh and other areas was higher. But they got few seats today, that too with a

small margin of votes. This means that if we and our colleagues pay more attention at the country level, today we see a favourable picture to change the face of the North," he said.

When asked about Nitish Kumar's role, Pawar denied that he has spoken to him as yet, saying that "I have not had any conversation with him though I have good relations with him."

"I have not spoken to Chandrababu Naidu or anyone else. Today, I had a discussion with some colleagues and spoke to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury," he said while expressing possibility of a meeting tomorrow (on Wednesday) in Delhi.

"The final message about the Delhi meeting will reach me and other colleagues by this evening and then we will decide on next plan of action collectively," he added.

Over 300 Afghan refugee families return home from Pak, Iran in two days

AGENCIES
KABUL, JUNE 4

More than 300 Afghan refugee families have returned home from Pakistan and Iran over the past couple of days, reported the state-run Bakhtar news agency on Tuesday.

A total of 303 families who used to stay as refugees for years in the two neighbouring countries returned to their homeland a couple of days ago, added the state-controlled media outlet in its report without revealing the exact number of the



returnees, reports Xinhua news agency.

More than one million Afghan refugees, with the majority of them undocumented migrants, have reportedly returned home from the two countries since last November.

The Afghan caretaker government has been repeatedly calling upon Afghan refugees to end living abroad as refugees and return home to contribute to the rebuilding process of their war-torn homeland.

Investors lose Rs 30 lakh crore in single day in biggest market fall in 4 years

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JUNE 4

Jitters of counting day led the Indian indices to experience their biggest fall in the last four years on Tuesday with the investors losing nearly Rs 30 lakh crore in a single session.

As the counting for the Lok Sabha polls entered the final phase, Sensex closed 4,389 points down, or 5.74 per cent, at 72,079, while Nifty shed 1,379 points, or 5.93 per cent, to close at 21,884 on Tuesday.

Nifty Bank suffered a loss of over 4,051 points, or 7.95 per cent, to close at 46,928.

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), Hero Moto Corp, Britannia, Nestle, and Divis Labs were among the top gainers on Nifty, while ONGC, Coal India, and SBI suffered the most.

Except for FMCG stocks which outperformed on a poor day for investors, all other sectoral indices



traded in deep red, with realty, telecom, metal, oil & gas, power, and PSU bank down more than 10 per cent each.

The BSE midcap and smallcap indices were down 7-8 per cent.

Experts said that the market, which had begun to price in a landslide victory for the NDA, witnessed a significant correction due to margin calls, as the retail investors were carrying heavily leveraged positions.

"Immediate support is visible at the psychological level of 22,000, below which the index might fall further towards 21,400-

21,500. Recovery looks possible once the trend moves in favour of the BJP winning the elections comfortably," said Rupak De, senior technical analyst at LKP Securities.

The unexpected outcome of the general elections sparked a wave of fear selling in the domestic market, reversing the recent substantial rally.

According to experts, despite this, the market maintains its expectation of stability within the coalition led by the BJP as the major election winner, thereby mitigating a substantial downside in the medium term.

Mamata demands resignation of PM Modi and HM Amit Shah

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, JUNE 4

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday demanded resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on moral ground for failing to get full majority.

She thanked the INDI Alliance partners and congratulated the people of the state to repose faith once again the state ruling party.

"As I had declared, the exit poll was made a Modi poll and my word has come true though there are efforts to rig the poll in the state," Banerjee told a media conference after winning the election in 2024 and since 2009.

She said that her par-

ty's general secretary Abhishek Banerjee is likely to represent in the INDI Alliance next meeting as he won the Diamond Harbour seat by a record margin

"I will be busy in the state since I cannot leave the state at the hands of CAPF and tell Abhishek Banerjee to talk to all the party leaders individually and then go to INDI Alliance next meeting," Banerjee said.

She said the BJP had maligned the ruling party on the Sandeshkhali issue in which TMC candidate Haji Nurul won by record over 2 lakh votes over BJP's Rekha Patra.

She said there was huge alleged conspiracy to defeat the TMC with the help of Central agencies

like CBI, ED, NIA, Income Tax and Central forces.

She claimed the Congress and CPI(M) helped the BJP to win whatever the seats the saffron brigade won, besides the counting observers as well as the ECI.

"We will politically fight the BJP tooth and nail along with the INDI Alliance," Banerjee said.

"We do not want NDA, we want INDI Alliance to lead the country. We want justice for Bengal as well as for India," Banerjee said.

The Trinamool Congress storm literally decimated the saffron brigade in Bengal, romping home in three seats and leading in 26 seats and restricted the BJP to lead in 12.

The Congress managed to win only one seat.

Mandate is not as expected: Giriraj

AGENCIES
PATNA, JUNE 4

Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Tuesday said that he accepts the mandate which was not as expected in the Lok Sabha election.

Giriraj Singh, who is comfortably leading against his nearest rival



Awdhesh Kumar Roy of CPI in Begusarai told a section of the mediathat he accepts the mandate,

however it was against the expectation.

The BJP leaders said that in Bihar too, the result was not as per the expectations.

Singh, however said that development of Bihar was his prime focus and he would continue to work on this agenda.

'Strong AI policy enabling adoption, skill development & innovation must be area of focus'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

As generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and other AI skills become more common in all use cases such as education, the workplace, research and development, and others, experts on Tuesday said that a strong AI policy enabling adoption, skill development and innovation must be an area of focus.

Jaideep Kewalramani, COO & Head of Employability Business, Team-Lease Edtech, told IANS that the new government should make it a priority to capitalise on the trifecta of "demographic, digital and AI dividend to forge



unprecedented growth".

"India will probably be the only nation to become developed in the age of digital and AI," he added.

As per the International Trade Administration, the AI market in India is projected to reach \$8 billion by 2025, growing at a CAGR of over 40 per cent from 2020 to 2025.

According to Ajay Goyal, Co-Founder and CEO, of HRTech startup Erekrut,

the sector has seen a "huge boom not just in the AI but the machine learning blockchain and how it is helping the HR operations".

He further mentioned that India's past five years have made a very solid foundation and next upcoming years are even seeing greater promises, not just in the HR tech industry "but all the other sectors and industries coming soon".

India's foodgrain production rises by 211 lakh million tonnes in 2023-24

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

The country's total foodgrain production is estimated at 3288.52 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) for 2023-24 which is 211.00 LMT higher than the average foodgrain production of the last 5 years (2018-19 to 2022-23) of 3077.52 LMT, according to the third advance estimates released by the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday.

However, the estimate is slightly lower than foodgrain production of 2022-23 as some crops were impacted by an erratic monsoon in 2023-24.

However, the fact that the total production was higher than the five-year average reflects the resilience of the Indian agriculture sector, according to experts. The total rice production in 2023-24 is estimated at 1367.00 LMT as compared to 1357.55 LMT in 2022-23, showing an increase of 9.45 LMT while



the production of wheat is estimated at 1129.25 LMT which is higher by 23.71 LMT compared to the corresponding figure of the previous year, the estimates showed.

The production of Shree Anna (millets) is estimated at 174.08 LMT showing a marginal increase of 0.87 LMT over 2022-23.

The production of Nutri/Coarse Cereals is estimated at 547.34 LMT which is higher by 46.24 LMT compared to the average Nutri/Coarse Cereals production.

The production of pulses went up during the year with the production of Tur estimated at 33.85 LMT which is marginally

higher by 0.73 LMT than the production of 33.12 LMT in 2022-23. The production of lentils is estimated at 17.54 LMT which is higher by 1.95 LMT than the previous year's production of 15.59 LMT.

The production of Soybean is estimated at 130.54 LMT and the production of Rapeseed & Mustard is estimated at 131.61 LMT which is higher by 5.18 LMT compared to last year's production. The production of cotton is estimated at 325.22 Lakh Bales (of 170 Kg each) and the production of sugarcane is estimated at 4425.22 LMT, the figures showed.

Two Palestinians killed by Israeli army in West Bank

AGENCIES
RAMALLAH, JUNE 4

Two Palestinians were killed by Israeli army gunfire in the West Bank city of Tulkarm on Tuesday, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said in a statement.

The victims were identified as Abdel Fattah Jabara and Ahmed Rajab, the ministry said, without providing further details of the incident.

A Palestinian security source told Xinhua news agency that both Jabara and Rajab were from the refugee camp of the city and



their bodies were seized by Israeli forces.

The source, who requires anonymity, said that Israeli forces opened fire on the vehicles at a military checkpoint west of the city, obstructing ambulances from reaching the scene.

Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that

Israeli residential communities.

More than 500 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli gunfire in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since the outbreak of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on October 7, 2023, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

BJP wins Tripura East, poised to win other LS seat

AGENCIES
AGARTALA, JUNE 4

The ruling BJP in Tripura secured a landslide victory in the Tripura East parliamentary seat and is poised to win Tripura West, and has won the assembly by-election to the Ramnagar constituency, defeating its CPI-M and Congress rivals.

However, the victory did not make the state party leaders and cadres happy because of the BJP performing below expectations in West Bengal and at the national level.

Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha and BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee congratulated the people of the state for the massive mandate for the BJP candidates.

The two leaders said the BJP-led NDA is set to form the government at the Centre and Narendra Modi will be the Prime Minister for the third time in a row scripting history.

Although the BJP hasn't performed as expected in some states, the overall performance of NDA was satisfactory and enough for forming the government, Bhattacharjee said.

He added, "INDI Alliance toiled hard to win the elections but the people of the country didn't feel safe to give the responsibility to them. They must remain in the opposition and help the government to make the country prosperous."

Regarding BJP's result in West Bengal, Bhattacharjee said: "There is no democracy in Bengal. Trinamool Congress snatched the people's choice by massive rigging, violence, and terror tactics. The people's mandate has not been reflected in the result, which certainly the party leadership will look into. But the party won't leave the ground but fight tooth and nail to restore democracy and citizens' rights until they defeat the corrupt and anti-people government in West Bengal."

All the senior BJP leaders including Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha and his cabinet ministers campaigned hard for a month in West Bengal for the BJP candidates and hoped the saffron party would cross at least 20 seats there. However, the saffron party has performed much below their expectations, which has jolted the party rank and file.

There was no report of violence and terror from any part of the Tripura, which has a tradition of post-result violence on opposition party supporters, taking place at the counting halls which continues for at least a week after every election since 1988. This seems to have stopped from this election.

According to the results, BJP candidate in Tripura West constituency, former Chief Minister and sitting Rajya Sabha MP Biplab Kumar Deb is leading in the seat by a margin of about 6,11,578 votes, over his nearest rival of INDI bloc from Congress Ashish Kumar Saha. While Deb has secured 8,81,341 votes Saha is trailing with 2,69,763 votes, as per latest trends.

In the East Tripura parliamentary constituency, BJP nominee Kriti Singh Debbarman has won by a margin of 4,86,819 votes, defeating her nearest rival INDI bloc candidate from CPI-M Rajendra Reang. Debbarman polled 7,77,447 lakh votes while Reang secured 2,90,628 in the final tally.

In the Ramnagar by-election, BJP candidate and Mayor of Agartala Municipal Corporation, Dipak Majumder has won the seat by a margin of 18,014 votes, defeating CPI-M candidate Ratan Das. While Majumder secured 25,380 votes, Das got only 7,366 votes.

Ramnagar was won by the BJP in 2023, but in December last year, its MLA Surajit Datta died after prolonged illness, necessitating the by-election.

Australian Defence Force recruitment to be opened to non-citizens



AGENCIES
CANBERRA, JUNE 4

Foreigners who have lived in Australia for at least 12 months will be eligible to join the nation's armed forces from 2025, the federal government has announced.

Richard Marles, the minister for defence and deputy prime minister, and Defence Personnel Minister Matt Keogh announced the initiative on Tuesday in Canberra, saying it would help grow the Australian Defence Force (ADF), Xinhua news agency reported.

Under the expanded eligibility criteria, New Zealanders who are permanent residents of Australia and have lived in the country for at least 12 months will

be able to join the ADF from July 1.

Starting in 2025, citizens from all other countries who meet the same criteria will become eligible to serve in the ADF.

Applicants must not have served in a foreign military in the previous two years and will be subject to ADF entry standards and security requirements.

Keogh said in a joint statement with Marles that expanding eligibility would help reverse ADF recruitment shortfalls. According to the National Defence Strategy, which was launched by Marles in April, the ADF is currently facing a shortage of 4,400 enlisted personnel after achieving 80 per cent of recruitment targets between 2020-21 and 2022-23.

Sri Lankan cabinet calls for probe into recent floods, which killed 17

AGENCIES
COLOMBO, JUNE 4

Sri Lanka's cabinet of ministers, on Tuesday, authorised the investigation of the cause of the recent floods, which left 17 dead and thousands displaced as heavy rains and strong winds lashed out across many parts of the country.

The President's Media Division said in a statement that the cabinet had authorised the Urban Development Authority and the Irrigation Department to launch an immediate probe to prevent such disasters in the future, reports Xinhua



news agency.

According to statistics from the Disaster Management Center released on Tuesday noon, 17 people have been killed from the

heavy rains since last Sunday, while 13 people were injured. Altogether, 161,290 people were affected, with 8,212 people evacuated to safer locations.

Iraq arrests vandalisers of American, UK companies in Baghdad

AGENCIES
BAGHDAD, JUNE 4

The Iraqi Interior Ministry announced on Tuesday that its forces had arrested some individuals responsible for attacking branches of American and UK companies in the country's capital, Baghdad.

According to a ministry statement, sabotage incidents occurred on May 26, 27, and 30, targeting American restaurants Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) and Chili House, as well as Lee's, a language education centre of the British Cambridge Institute, and American heavy machin-

ery company Caterpillar, reports Xinhua news agency.

Following an investigation, security forces identified and arrested some of the vandalisers after issuing arrest warrants, the statement noted.

It said that the detainees confessed to participating in acts of sabotage alongside other fugitive defendants, stressing that arrest warrants were also issued to hunt other vandalisers.

The Interior Ministry expressed its regret that some of the vandalisers were affiliated with the security services, noting that they carried out the

sabotage under the pretext of undermining US interests in Iraq.

The statement did not mention the attacks carried out on Monday evening by some "protesters" who again stormed the KFC restaurant on Palestine Street and the Chili House and Lee's restaurant in the Jadriya neighbourhood. Responsibility for the attacks remains unclaimed. However, local observers speculate a connection to the ongoing conflict in Gaza, suggesting that the targeted companies could be perceived as representing countries supporting Israel.

Electoral setback is very disappointing: BRS working prez KTR

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, JUNE 4

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president K T Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday termed as "very disappointing" the results of the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana which showed the party faring very poorly.

"Today's electoral setback is certainly very disappointing," he posted on X. The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) led by K

Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) had lost power in the Telangana Assembly elections in November 2023.

For the party, the poor showing in the Lok Sabha polls is a double whammy as it is not leading in any of the 17 parliamentary seats in the state.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BRS had won nine of the 17 seats, while BJP won four seats and Congress three and Asaduddin Owaisi was the only AIMIM candidate to emerge victo-

rious from his Hyderabad constituency. In a post on micro-blogging site X, KTR said "We will continue to toil and will rise from the ashes again like a Phoenix."

Being a regional party it won two consecutive state elections (63 seats in 2014 Assembly elections and 88 seats in 2018) with a good majority, he tweeted.

Currently, it is the principal opposition in the state, with one-third seats (39 seats out of 119 assembly constituencies in the 2023

Fruit production rise, vegetables decline in 2023-24

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

The Agriculture Ministry's second advance estimates of 2023-24 for the area and production of horticultural crops in the country released on Tuesday reflect an increase in the output of fruits while a decline is seen in the production of vegetables.

Estimates of production of various horticultural crops have been compiled on the basis of information received from States/UTs and other governmental source agencies. Some vegetable crops such as onion and potato appear to have been impacted by the erratic weather.

The highlights of the estimates are:

The horticulture production in the country in 2023-24 (Second Advance Estimates) is estimated to be about 352.23 million tonnes, which represents a decrease of about 32.51 lakh tonnes (0.91 per cent) over 2022-23 (final estimates).

The production of fruits, honey, flowers, plantation crops, spices, aromatics and medicinal plants are estimated to increase while the output



of vegetables is seen to be lower.

The production of fruits is expected to reach 112.63 million tonnes, mainly due to increases in the production of bananas, lime/lemon, mango, guava and grapes. On the other hand, production of apple and pomegranate are expected to decrease as compared to 2022-23.

Production of vegetables is envisaged to be around 204.96 million tonnes. An increase is expected in the production of bottle gourd, bitter melon, cauliflower, pumpkin, tapioca, carrot and tomato, whereas, a decrease in production is envisaged in onion, potato, brinjal and other vegetables.

Production of onion is expected to be at 242.12 lakh tonne in 2023-24 (Second Advance Estimates) compared to 302.08 Lakh Tonne last year, a decrease of about 60 lakh tonne.

Potato production in the country is expected to be around 567.62 lakh tonne in 2023-24 (Second Advance Estimates) that is, a decrease of about 34 lakh tonne, mainly due to decrease in production reported in Bihar and West Bengal.

Production of tomato is expected to be around 212.38 lakh tonne in 2023-24 (Second Advance Estimates) compared to around 204.25 Lakh Tonne last year, an increase of 3.98 per cent lakh tonne.

Rijiju, Gao retain Arunachal LS seats

AGENCIES
ITANAGAR, JUNE 4

In a repeat of the 2019 general elections, both the BJP candidates in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday won the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to retain their respective seats.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju registered an emphatic victory from Arunachal West Lok Sabha seat, defeating his nearest rival Nabam Tuki of the Congress, election officials said.

The Union Minister of Earth Sciences and Food Processing Industries trounced the State Congress president by a margin of 1,00,738 votes, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

This was Rijiju's third consecutive win from the seat and his fourth, overall.

Rijiju garnered 2,05,417 votes, which accounted for 51.37 per cent of the total valid votes, while his opponent Tuki polled 1,04,679 votes, securing the vote share of 26.18 per cent.



Independent candidate Techi Rana got 33,314 votes with the vote share of 8.33 per cent to be at distant third place, followed by the lone female candidate, Toko Sheetal of the Gana Suraksha Party who secured 30,530 votes (7.63 per cent) to be at fourth place.

On the other hand, sitting MP Tapir Gao outclassed his nearest rival from the Congress, Bosiram Siram by a margin of 30,421 votes to bag the Arunachal East seat for the second successive time.

Gao polled 1,45,581 votes securing the vote share of 45 per cent. Siram got 1,15,160 votes, 35.60 per cent of the total valid votes.

Independent candi-

dates Tamat Gamoh and Sotai Kri secured 27,603 (8.53%) and 14,213 (4.39%) votes, to be at third and fourth positions, respectively.

Voting for the two Lok Sabha constituencies in Arunachal Pradesh was held in the first phase on April 19. Altogether eight candidates were in the fray for Arunachal West seat and six for Arunachal East constituency.

Meanwhile, Rijiju has extended his thankfulness to the people of Arunachal Pradesh for reposing their faith in him once again.

He extended his sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for giving him the opportunity to serve the country. He also thanked all the party karyakartas and well wishers "for the amazing support given to me".

Rijiju said that for him "leadership is not about power & privilege, it is about responsibility".

"I'll serve my nation to the best of my ability as MP from Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

Independent Haneefa Jan wrest Ladakh LS seat from BJP

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

In a setback to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Ladakh, a rebel National Conference leader and Independent candidate Mohammad Haneefa Jan won the Parliamentary constituency seat defeating his nearest Congress candidate Tsering Namgyal by a margin of 27,862 votes.

This was the first Lok Sabha election after Ladakh was carved out as a separate Union territory in August 2019.

According to the officials Haneefa, defeated his nearest rival Tsering Namgyal of Congress and Tashi Gyalson of BJP in a triangular contest. Haneefa wrested the seat from BJP.

The winning candidate Haneefa bagged 65,259 votes, while his nearest rival Namgyal bagged



37,397 votes. BJP's Gyalson stood third and secured 31,956 votes.

BJP's Tashi Gyalson, who is also the chief executive councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Leh), had replaced the sitting MP Jamyang Namgyal.

In both 2014 and 2019 elections, the BJP had won the Ladakh seat, then a part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the last two years, Ladakh witnessed a series of protests over the demands of Statehood

and constitutional guarantees under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed happiness for Haneefa.

"@HajiHanifa I'm really very happy for you today. A few months ago you tasted defeat in the hill council elections & now you will represent Ladakh, especially the marginalised people of Kargil in the Lok Sabha. Your victory cost @JKNC_it's Kargil unit but it was well worth the price", Omar said in a Tweet on X.

Omar was referring to mass resignations of its Kargil unit after the party directed its cadre to support Congress candidate in Ladakh.

'Expansion of digital ecosystem will empower fintechs to provide better financial solutions'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

Further expansion of the digital ecosystem while addressing key challenges such as interoperability, policy frameworks, cybersecurity, and others will empower the fintech sector to provide out-of-the-box financial solutions to a broader audience, experts said on Tuesday.

According to Gaurav Jalan, founder & CEO of mPokket, in the next five years, growth is expected to keep up at this pace and even accelerate further.

"The major development is going to be the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Given the rapid advances in AI, there are going to be many new business models that become viable, and customer needs are going to be met even more efficiently," Jalan told IANS.

As per a recent report by Tracxn, a leading market intelligence platform, India secured the third position globally in terms of funding raised for the fintech sector in the first quarter (Q1) of this year.

In addition, Rishabh Goel, co-founder & CEO of Credgenics, said, "We look forward to policies that further enable ease of doing business, nurture tech startups with sustained access to funding, and safeguard the intellectual property."

He also mentioned that the focus on sustainable infrastructure development, large-scale skill enhancement, and bridging the gaps in digital connectivity will "provide the necessary impetus for businesses to scale and thrive".

Over Rs 8K cr added on Zerodha's Kite app on Lok Sabha election results day

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

More than Rs 8,000 crore in funds was added on Zerodha's Kite app on the Lok Sabha election results day, according to a chart shared by the brokerage firm's co-founder and CEO Nithin Kamath on Tuesday.

Kamath, in a post on X, shared the activity chart with the caption, "Activity

today on Kite". As per the chart, nearly 34.5 million orders were placed on the Kite app.

The app also witnessed more than 8 million logins and over 1 million GTT triggered.

However, jitters of counting day led the Indian indices to experience their biggest fall in the last four years with the investors losing nearly Rs 30 lakh crore in a single

session. As the counting for the Lok Sabha polls entered the final phase, Sensex closed 4,389 points down, or 5.74 per cent, at 72,079, while Nifty shed 1,379 points, or 5.93 per cent, to close at 21,884 on Tuesday.

Nifty Bank suffered a loss of over 4,051 points, or 7.95 per cent, to close at 46,928.

South Korea to use loudspeakers near North Korean border after suspension of military pact

AGENCIES
SEOUL, JUNE 4

South Korea's military on Tuesday said it remains ready to immediately operate mobile loudspeakers near the border with North Korea as Seoul took steps to fully suspend a 2018 inter-Korean military pact.

Earlier in the day, the Cabinet endorsed the suspension of the Comprehensive Military Agreement in response to the North's trash-carrying balloon campaign and jamming of GPS signals in recent days, Yonhap news agency reported.

The motion will be sent to President Yoon Suk Yeol for signing, and the suspension will allow South Korea to resume large-scale military training near the border and restart loudspeaker propaganda broadcasts toward the North.

Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung-jun said various measures could be taken after the suspension, noting that

the military has operated both fixed and mobile loudspeakers on the front lines.

"Fixed loudspeakers need to be connected to power, and installing them could take hours to a few days," Lee told a regular briefing. "Mobile loudspeaker operations can be conducted right away."

The loudspeakers used to blare criticism of the Kim Jong-un regime's human rights abuses, news and K-pop songs, drawing angry responses from Pyongyang.

A government source said there appears to be no plan to immediately install the fixed equipment as such activities could heighten military tension, noting that the military will likely operate the mobile equipment first if such broadcasts are resumed.

Meanwhile, Lee declined to elaborate on the measures the military could take after the pact's suspension but noted that they would depend on North Korea's actions.

Before dry day, Tamil Nadu's TASMAC registered Rs 200 crore business on Monday

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, JUNE 4

The Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Ltd (TASMAC), a company owned by the Tamil Nadu government which has a monopoly over wholesale and retail vending of alcoholic beverages in the state, registered a Rs 200 crore liquor business in a single day on Monday, according to a statement issued by the corporation.

The liquor shops in Tamil Nadu were closed on Tuesday due to the counting of votes.

There are 5000 liquor shops in the state under TASMAC and every day the business touches Rs 80 crore to Rs 100 crore. However on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays the business used to touch Rs 120 crore to Rs 130 crore.

TASMAC sources told IANS that on a regular Monday, the sale would have touched Rs 100 crore but on June 3 the sales doubled and touched Rs 200 crore. This was due to the fact that Tuesday is a dry day on account of counting of votes.

TDP breaks all records, registering unprecedented election victory in Andhra

AGENCIES
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 4

The Chandrababu Naidu-led Telugu Desam Party is set to register an unprecedented landslide victory in Andhra Pradesh, in both the assembly and Lok Sabha elections, while the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP is starting at a rout.

The Telugu Desam Party has swept seven districts. The TDP has won 90 MLA seats and is leading in 47 other constituencies. The Jana Sena party which is part of the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance, has won 17 seats and is leading in four seats. The BJP has won seven Assembly seats and is leading in one seat.

Interestingly, the Jagan Mohan Reddy-headed YSRCP which won 151 Assembly seats in the 2019 elections, has won only five seats while its candidates are leading in four constituencies.

In the Parliamentary election, the TDP has won one seat and is leading in 16 LS constituencies, the Jana Sena candidates are leading in two LS constituencies, and the BJP candidates have won two seats and are leading in two other constituencies.

The ruling YSRCP is leading only three LS constituencies. Among the prominent TDP leaders who

have been elected to the Assembly are N Chandrababu Naidu, his son Nara Lokesh, Naidu's brother-in-law N Balakrishna, TDP state president K Achenaidu and TDP Mahila president V Anita.

Film hero-turned politician and Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan was elected from Pithapuram constituency by over 40,000 votes majority. He is entering the Assembly for the first time.

Meanwhile, except for Minister for Energy Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, all the ministers of the Jagan Reddy cabinet were defeated. Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has been elected from Pulivendula while Chandrababu Naidu has been elected from Kuppam.

Meanwhile, the TDP, JSP and BJP cadres started celebrating the election victories in a big way. Many relatives and family members of Chandrababu Naidu went to his residence to congratulate him. Naidu, his son Lokesh and wife Bhavaneshwari cut a cake in celebration and exchanged pleasantries.

Pawan Kalyan reached the JSP state office in the evening and will meet Naidu at his residence later at night. A large number of activists were seen bursting crackers and taking out rallies at various places.

T20 WC: Afghanistan outclass Uganda with dominant 125-run win

AGENCIES
BRIDGETOWN, JUNE 4

Afghanistan showcased their cricketing prowess with a resounding 125-run victory over Uganda in a lopsided contest here on Monday. The match was highlighted by a stellar display of batting from Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, whose explosive opening partnership set the tone for Afghanistan's dominance.

Gurbaz, who hammered 76 off 45 balls, including four fours and four sixes, ignited Afghanistan's innings with an aggressive start, blazing through the powerplay. His partner, Zadran, matched his intensity, scoring 70 off 46 balls with nine boundaries and a six, forming an imposing opening stand of over 150 runs. Even though Uganda managed a late surge in their bowling, claiming some key wickets towards the end of Afghanistan's innings, the damage was already done. Afghanistan posted a formidable total of 183, a challenging target given their lethal spin and pace attack. The early onset of dew further tilted the balance in Afghanistan's favor, making it an even tougher chase for Uganda.

Afghanistan's bowling attack was spearheaded by Fazalhaq Farooqi, who delivered a game-changing performance by taking wickets on consecutive deliveries in his first over, setting the tone for Uganda's downfall. Mujeeb Ur Rahman quickly followed with another wicket,



and Naveen-ul-Haq compounded Uganda's troubles with a double strike, leaving them in tatters.

Uganda's innings saw a brief period of stability, but Farooqi returned with renewed vigor, achieving a remarkable hat-trick by claiming three wickets in a single over, effectively sealing Uganda's fate. The final nails in the coffin were hammered in by Rashid Khan, who cleaned up the tail to wrap up Uganda's innings.

Earlier in the match, Afghanistan appeared poised for an even larger total. At 154 for no loss in the 15th over, they were cruising towards a potential 200+ score. Gurbaz had set the tone with a six off the second ball of the innings, and Zadran

had capitalized on this momentum, at one point hitting Bilal Hasan for four consecutive boundaries.

The openers brought up their fifties and kept the scoreboard ticking with a risk-free approach, offering no chances to the Ugandan fielders. However, the game took a dramatic turn when Uganda's captain Brian Masaba bowled Zadran as he attempted a big shot. This breakthrough sparked a spirited comeback for the African side, who claimed four crucial wickets in the next four overs, including Gurbaz, Gulbadin Naib, and Najibullah Zadran for single figures.

The momentum shifted, and Afghanistan managed only 27 runs in the last five overs, falling short of the

200-mark that had seemed within reach. Despite this late stumble, their total proved more than sufficient as their bowlers dismantled Uganda's batting lineup with ruthless efficiency.

Afghanistan's comprehensive victory underscored their all-round strength and left Uganda with much to ponder as they reflected on a match where they were outplayed in all departments.

Brief Scores: Afghanistan 183/5 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 76, Ibrahim Zadran 70; Brian Masaba 2-21, Cosmas Kyewuta 2-25) beat Uganda 58 in 16 overs (Fazalhaq Farooqi 5-9, Naveen Ul Haq 2-4, Rashid Khan 2-12) by 125 runs

Afghanistan coach lifts the lid on his side's secret playmaker

AGENCIES
GUYANA, JUN 4

Afghanistan's statement win in their opening group match shows they have the goods to make a deep impact in this edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The Asian side's openers showed solid form, while speedster Fazalhaq Farooqi ran through Uganda's batting line-up. Such was their impact, that even ace spinner Rashid Khan wasn't needed to do Rashid Khan things to win it for Afghanistan.

The team continues to grow in cricketing power-proving potent with both bat and ball - in a performance that matched their eye-catching efforts from last year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

And they have an added advantage in this competi-



tion, a dash of local knowledge in the form of bowling consultant Dwayne Bravo. Speaking after his side's first-up win, coach Jonathan Trott credited the contribution of Bravo, who has brought about a change in the approach of Afghanistan bowlers, an ICC report said.

"DJ (Dwayne Bravo) coming into the side, fantastic," Trott said. "Having quality coaches also with huge experience as players [is great], but also vast

franchise experience in this format of the game."

"It's only a brilliant thing to have a player like him coming to the side as coach and it makes your job a lot easier but it also makes the coaching more enhanced, especially with the bowlers," he said.

"We've seen the start of his first game with us and we saw the bowlers bowl really well, so credit to Dwayne," Trott said.

"So a nice start for the boys," he said.

While Uganda was outplayed by the much-fancied Afghanistan, it was a huge learning experience for the African side - the nation's first ever T20 World Cup match. And captain Brian Masaba was focusing on the positives.

"Pretty special moment for us, hearing our national anthem and seeing our flag at the World Cup," Masaba said after the match.

"First game at the World Cup, a lot of nerves, so good to get that out of the way," Masaba said. "Something I will cherish for the rest of my life. We will look to come out and play better next game."

They got off to a pretty good start and then it was about fighting back.

"It was very important how we fought back and full credit to the boys for that," Masaba added.

T20 WC: India aim for strong start against well-prepared Ireland

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, JUNE 4

The echoes of past disappointments fade as cricket enthusiasts eagerly anticipate the dawn of a new chapter on the pitch. The stage is set in New York for the much-anticipated World Cup, offering a chance for redemption and glory, especially for Rohit Sharma and his resolute Men in Blue.

Group A showcases an eclectic mix of cricketing prowess, with India and Ireland poised for battle alongside formidable opponents like Pakistan, USA, and Canada. As preparations intensify, contrasting fortunes in practice matches add an air of unpredictability, with India's triumph over Bangladesh juxtaposed against Ireland's setback against Sri Lanka.

The Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York, a venue with just two matches under its belt, promises a balanced pitch. Cloudy weather is expected during the game, likely aiding pacers with additional movement. The pacers have claimed the majority of wickets here, with the pitch continuing to support bowlers in the middle and death overs, making high scores a challenging feat.

For Indian cricket aficionados, this tournament marks a joyous reunion with a full-strength squad, including the long-awaited returns of stalwarts like Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, and Rishabh Pant from injury hiatus.

Rohit Sharma is set to lead, likely opening with Yashasvi Jaiswal. Virat Kohli is expected to bat at number 3, though he might also open. India has a wealth of options, with Suryakumar Yadav at number 4, known for his explosive batting. Pant, who scored a half-century in the practice match, is back in form. Pandya, along with either Jadeja or Axar, will bolster the lineup. Hardik's recent brilliant inning against Bangladesh has set high expectations.

The bowling lineup sees competition between Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, with Kuldeep having had a strong IPL season. Arshdeep Singh and Mohammad Siraj will



spearhead the pace attack alongside the in-form Bumrah.

Ireland enters the World Cup well-prepared, having won a tri-series against the Netherlands and Scotland but lost to Sri Lanka in their final warm-up match.

Andrew Balbirnie, now opening, and Lorcan Tucker, the new vice-captain, bring significant changes to the team. Harry Tector, George Dockrell, and Gareth Delany strengthen the middle order, with Delany also contributing as a bowling all-rounder. Skipper Paul Stirling and Balbirnie aim to capitalize on the powerplay, while Curtis Campher anchors at number five.

Josh Little, known for his T20 World Cup hat trick, and Mark Adair, with over 110 T20I wickets, lead Ireland's bowling attack, supported by Craig Young

and Barry McCarthy.

With both teams primed for action, an exciting clash awaits. Let the games begin!

Squads
India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj. Reserves: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan

Ireland: Paul Stirling (captain), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andrew Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Neil Rock, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White, Craig Young

Phil Salt eyes off 'full circle' title run in homecoming tournament

AGENCIES
BARBADOS, JUNE 4

England opener Phil Salt was in Barbados to watch England win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup back in 2010. He was living there.

The hard-hitting opener returns to the country that helped make him, looking to cap off a full circle title tilt with England.

This year's T20 World Cup has special meaning for the world's No.2 ranked T20I batter as he attempts to help England to back-to-back titles.

Salt will spearhead the nation's top-order, leveraging Caribbean experience that only team-mates Chris Jordan and Jofra Archer can relate to - he moved to Barbados as a 10-year-old and resided on the island for the next five years, before returning to the UK.

As an emerging talent, he was eligible to play for either England or the



West Indies.

His connection to Barbados runs deep, an ICC report said.

"Everything about the place suits me," he told the media ahead of England's tournament opener against Scotland on Tuesday.

"Pretty laid back, a lot of cricket, a lot of sport and I've still got a lot of friends on the island," Salt said.

Salt was a part of England's T20 World Cup winning team two years ago in Melbourne and, late last year, became the first English player to smash back-to-back T20I

centuries - both coincidentally against the West Indies.

And despite witnessing England's success firsthand 14 years ago, going on to represent his country wasn't in any of Salt's wildest dreams.

"I watched England here, watched them win it," he continued.

"I think every kid in the crowd would have gone, that's going to be me one day, or I'd like that to be me one day, but you never believe it," Salt said.

"So now to be here in an England shirt, with the opportunity to do something special in the

next month is incredible really," he said.

"I got a touch of the trophy that day," Salt said. "That's the thing that always sticks with me when I think about that day," he said.

Idolising the likes of Craig Kieswetter and Chris Gayle has propelled the 27-year-old to match-winning heights at the top of England's batting line-up.

"When I was a kid, anybody who hit the ball hard or kept, I'd watch them on YouTube and just try and try and emulate them," he added.

"I want to be the person winning more games for England," Salt said. Despite his Barbadian background, Salt is trying to take fate out of the equation, for now. While England's title defence is only just starting, he's very aware the final, like in 2010, is in Bridgetown.

"There's a bit of a way to go, but that's absolutely the goal," he said.

Hockey India inducts R K Roy Hockey Academy as new Academy Member

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

Continuing its dedicated efforts to discover and nurture young talent at the grassroots level, Hockey India announced on Tuesday that the R K Roy Hockey Academy has been inducted as a new Academy Member.

Located in Patna, Bihar, the R K Roy Hockey Academy was established by Abhishek Kumar and Arunima Roy, who share a passion for advancing the sport of hockey in



their region. The academy is committed to fostering excellence in hockey across various age groups, providing structured training programs, and creating opportunities for young athletes to develop

their skills and compete at higher levels.

This new addition is expected to bolster the development of hockey in Bihar, contributing to the overall growth of the sport in India.

Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey, expressed his enthusiasm about the inclusion of the new Academy Member, stating, "We are thrilled to welcome the R K Roy Hockey Academy into our family. Their commitment to nurturing young talent aligns perfectly with our vision of promoting hockey at the grassroots level. We are confident that this partnership will yield exceptional players who will make a mark in the national and international arenas."

Airtel rolls out plans for World's Biggest T20 Cricket Tournament

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, JUNE 4

Bharti Airtel (Airtel) on Tuesday unveiled special packs for customers with World's Biggest T20 Cricket Tournament in mind.

To ensure an uninterrupted and seamless viewing experience, Airtel is offering a three-month subscription to Disney+ Hotstar, the official streaming partner of the World's Biggest T20 Cricket Tournament in India, across its prepaid, postpaid, International roaming, home



broadband and Airtel Digital TV users, according to a media statement here.

Prepaid plans for the T20 Cricket Tournament start at Rs 499 and come loaded with daily access

to high-speed 3GB data for 28 days, along with a three-month subscription to Disney+ Hotstar. The plan also unlocks 20+ OTTs on Airtel Xstream Play for free. There is also an 84-day plan for Rs 839 on offer that provides similar benefits with 2GB of data per day. An annual plan of Rs 3359 has a bundled one-year subscription to Disney+ Hotstar, along with access to OTT platforms on the Xstream app and 2.5 GB of data per day.

Postpaid plans also

comes bundled with a one-year Disney+ Hotstar subscription along with access to over 20 OTT platforms on Xstream App, with Unlimited 5G data and family add-on benefits.

Home customers looking for high-speed internet, entertainment, professional and infinity plans at Rs 999, Rs 1498 and Rs 3999 are provided with a wide range of speed options. In addition to this, the plans also include unlimited Disney+ Hotstar subscriptions and other benefits.

Army organizes Awareness Programme regarding Women Health Issues, Preventive Measures at Thanamandi, Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 4

The discrimination against girl child in remote areas of Pir Panjal plays an important role towards ignoring the health of the females. In many families limited resources available to pay for medical treatment are spent on the men of the household rather than the women. Women are taught to be patient and shy. They are told to endure pains and stress. This leads to serious consequences as the medi-

cal fitness complicate to a stage where they are difficult to be cured. To spread awareness about women health issues and preventative measure, Indian Army organized a lecture at Thanamandi, for spreading awareness amongst girls and women regarding multiple unpredictable health issues that go undiagnosed most of the time. Aim of the event was to spread awareness amongst girls and women about health care in the entire spectrum of a woman's life. At each stage of a woman's

life, there are important preventive health care steps to follow in order to provide early detection of medical problems or to prevent them. Refreshments were also offered to the invitees. This gesture and effort by Army were highly appreciated by AWAM. This endeavor by Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between JAWAN and AWAM.

Community-Based Disaster Response & Awareness Workshop held at GDC Ajas

JNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 4

Govt. Degree College Ajas Bandipora, in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority Bandipora today conducted a community-based disaster response and awareness workshop.

The workshop featured presentations and live demonstrations aimed at educating students and community members about disaster management and response.

Resource persons from JK Disaster Response Force (UTDRF) DPL Bandipora and Fire and Emergency Services Bandipora led the sessions. They shared their expertise and practical knowledge on handling various types of disasters, including natural calamities and fire emergencies.

The resource persons provided insightful presentations that covered essential aspects of disaster management,



including preparedness, recovery. They emphasized the importance of community involvement in disaster response and mitigation, response, and management.

highlighted various strategies to ensure safety and minimize damage during disasters.

Following the presentations, live demonstrations were conducted to provide hands-on experience. These included mock drills and simulations of different disaster scenarios, showcasing effective response techniques.

Participants learned practical skills which included disaster management, common regional disasters, preparedness measures, emergency response, first aid, rescue techniques, community-based risk reduction initiatives evacuation procedures, and the use of fire-fighting equipment.

The workshop not only fulfilled an academic requirement for the students but also played a crucial role in raising awareness about disaster preparedness and response among the broader community.

KVK Kishtwar holds Training for FLD Farmers on Mash Crop

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 4

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar SKUAST Jammu today conducted one day training programme on mash production technology under Front Line Demonstrations on scientific cultivation of mash at Panchayat Ghar Palmar-A of the District. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr Amrish Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu. 50 farmer and farm women of the panchayat attended the programme. During the programme Dr Narinder Paul Incharge KVK Kishtwar briefed the participants about SKUAST Jammu recommended scientific package of practices of mash cultivation including land preparation, seed rate, seed treatment, nutrient doses, weed management, insect pest and dis-



ease management for yield maximization and increasing pulse production in the district.

He informed that the objective of FLDs is to demonstrate the production potential of recommended mash production technology on farmers' field so that farmers at large can witness it and adopt. He pinned hopes that the participants will adopt the recommended production technologies for increasing the yield of mash crop. He added that use of improved seed, nutrient doses, pest management

measures can bring about transformation in pulses cultivation in the district.

Shokat Ali, Babita Devi, Aijaz Ahmad, Shazia Begum, Narinder Parihar, Manoj Kumar and other farmers and farm women participated in the programme. At the end of the programme, Mash seed was distributed for laying out FLDs on their respective fields under the guidance of KVK. Amna Begum former sarpanch lauded the efforts of the KVK in organizing the programme and extended vote of thanks.

Samba Child Welfare Committee, District Child Protection Unit conduct anti-child begging drive at Bari Brahmana

JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JUNE 4

The Child Welfare Committee Samba and District Child Protection Unit conducted an anti-child begging drive here today at Bari Brahmana.

While no children were found begging, six children were found working as rag pickers in different areas of Bari Brahmana.

The deputed team brought these children in a vehicle provided by the District Child Protection Officer Samba. The team informed the Bari Brahmana Police Station to



contact their parents and send them to the Child Welfare Committee Office.

Upon arrival, the children were given proper food and they were

engaged in fun activities by the staff of DCPU. The three children are pursu-

ing education in the Private School at Bari Brahmana.

The CWC warned the parents, counselled them, and had them sign an undertaking to provide proper care to their children.

The CWC Samba also collected their Aadhar cards and instructed the parents to appear before CWC again on 11.06.2024 for further inquiry.

Third Batch of Agniveers Attested in Impressive Ceremony at J&K Light Infantry Regimental Centre



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

The third batch of 75 (Seventy Five) Agniveers were attested in an impressive ceremony on 04 Jun 2024 at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre, Srinagar.

The arduous training of young & determined Agniveers commenced on 01 Nov 2023. The 31 weeks of training was designed to mould them into battle ready soldiers, thereby exposing them to tough & challenging physical and mental conditioning. The Agniveers also imbibed military

ethos, regimental tarteeb, social etiquettes, camaraderie and unrelenting spirit to be a disciplined soldier and a responsible citizen of India.

As a mark of respect, the event commenced with Rastriya Salute to the National Flag followed by marching in and oath taking parade which was reviewed by Brig HS Burn, the Commandant, the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre and pipping of Agniveers. Thereafter, the Bana Singh Parade Ground reverberated with the Regimental song

followed by National Anthem, which electrified the entire environment. Brig HS Burn, the Commandant, JAK LI Regimental Centre extended his compliments to the Agniveers and their instructors for successfully completion of training and expressed his satisfaction towards appreciable training standards achieved by the Agniveers amid the intense schedule. The proud parents were also presented with 'Gaurav Padak' for their selfless contribution of their wards towards the service of the Nation.

Child Line observes Int'l Day of 'Innocent Children victim of Aggression' at Ramban

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 4

Child Helpline Ramban today organized an awareness program on International Day of 'Innocent Children Victim of Aggression' at New Convent High School.

The Program hosted on the direction of District Child Protection Officer Ramban, Rahul Gupta, was aimed to highlight the pain suffered by children through mental, physical and emotional abuse across the world. Through this program students were sensitized to prevent children from becoming the victim of these issues.

During the program JJB Member Anjum Shafi briefed the Children about the International Day of Children Victim of Aggression and working of the Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board and District Child Protection Unit at the District for the welfare of Children.

Suneha Pran educated participants about the services of the special cell, its location in the police station and the role of social workers. Social workers also educated the participants regarding the daily abuse faced by the children and discussed gender sensitization, Cyber Safety, Cyber Crime etc. Speakers informed them about various government running schemes for children and shared the contact number of the Special Cell for Women in Ramban.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5 JUNE 2024

THEME 2024 : LAND RESTORATION, DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT RESILIENCE.



HEALTHY PLANET
HEALTHY PEOPLE

HEALTH EDUCATION BUREAU
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU

DIP/J-955/24 Date: 4-6-24