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Lt Governor addresses seminar on the legacy of Chandragupta Maurya's good governance in shaping the modern administrative framework

JI NEWS SERVICE

GHAZIPUR, UTTAR PRADESH, MAY 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed a seminar on "the legacy of Chandragupta Maurya's good governance in shaping the modern administrative framework".

The Lt Governor, in his address, highlighted the remarkable contribution of Chandragupta Maurya, founder of the Maurya Empire, in pro-



moting ideals of equity, inclusiveness, responsiveness, rule of law and

citizen participation. "Chandragupta Maurya is the symbol of

India's pride and progress. He had awakened national consciousness

by building a united and prosperous India and set the stage for our country to occupy the position of Vishwa Guru," the Lt Governor said.

He said the governance system of Chandragupta Maurya, the creator of united India and famously known as the ideal emperor, influenced the development of modern citizen-centric administration in which the welfare of people and empowerment

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Hopeful no ceasefire violation take place on LoC to disrupt elections in Kashmir: CEO Pole

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 5

Chief Election Officer (CEO) of Jammu and Kashmir P K Pole on Sunday hoped that there will be no ceasefire violations from across the border on the polling day in the areas falling near the Line of Control (LoC).

"We are hopeful this time the elections will be conducted peacefully due to prevailing ceasefire on the LoC from the past five years now",



Pole who was attending a program under SVEEP (Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation) in north Kashmir's Bandipora district told media persons on

Sunday. He said the areas falling near the LoC a plan has already been there and if the Razdan Pass in Bandipora

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Lt Governor addresses Shri Kubernath Rai memorial lecture



JI NEWS SERVICE

GHAZIPUR, UTTAR PRADESH, MAY 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed Shri Kubernath Rai memorial lecture at Ghazipur.

Paying homage to Shri Kubernath Rai, the great essayist, scholar and poet, the Lt Governor remembered his significant contribution to nation-building.

"Kubernath Rai enriched hindi literature and he remains an immense source of intellectual inspiration. His essays provide

an opportunity to the readers to discover new ideas and perspectives," the Lt Governor said.

At the memorial event, the Lt Governor recalled the ideals and values espoused by Shri Kubernath Rai and said that he is a living illustration of soul of Indianness who served the literature and culture with dedication to strengthen the national unity.

Kubernath Rai through his voluminous literary works promoted ancient ideals and values and also

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IAF convoy attack | Several people detained for questioning, search on for terrorists in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE

MENDHAR, JAMMU, MAY 5

Several people were detained for questioning on Sunday as a massive search operation for terrorists behind the Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district entered the second day, officials said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu, Anand Jain and senior officers of the Army and intelligence agencies visited the ambush spot in the



Surankote area. The Army also conducted aerial surveillance using a helicop-

ter, they said. Five IAF personnel were injured in the attack

on Saturday evening near Shahsitar and one of them later succumbed to injuries at a military hospital.

The officials said a well-coordinated joint operation by the Army and the police was underway in many areas, including Shahsitar, Gursai, Sanai and Sheendara Top, to neutralise the terrorists.

The attackers are believed to have fled to a forest after the attack, they said.

Besides AK assault rifles, the terrorists

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PM Modi to file nomination papers from Varanasi LS seat on May 14



AGENCIES

VARANASI (UP), MAY 5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be filing his nomination papers from

the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat on May 14, BJP's city president Vidyasagar Rai said on Sunday.

On May 13, Modi

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Four arrested for murder in Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 5

Four people have been arrested for killing a 45-year-old man around five months ago in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, police said on Sunday. Mohd Rafiq was

found dead outside Jia Baggo Dass village in the district's Chasana area on December 9, they said. The case was solved with the arrest of his neighbours Nazir Ahmed Ruslla, Shabir Ahmed, Nazir Ahmed and Farooq Ahmed, a police spokesperson said.

Officials said Rafiq was attacked by them for allegedly having an illicit relation with the wife of one of the accused.

After killing him, they dumped the body the side of a road, around 500 metre from the scene of the crime, to mislead police, the officials said.

MeT predicts generally dry weather in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 5

The weather department here on Sunday forecast generally dry weather with possibility of thundershower activity in the

afternoon at a few places till May 10.

"Generally dry weather is expected and thundershower activity during the afternoon can't be ruled out at a few places," he said.

On May 11, he said, there is forecast of partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain and thunder at few places.

Generally cloudy weather with light rain/

snow (over higher reaches) has been predicted at many places with thunder activity at few places on May 12.

On May 13, he said, partly to generally

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IAF mourns Corporal Vikky Pahade, as forces continue manhunt for Terrorists

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 5

Amid aerial surveillance in Poonch as the forces continued the massive manhunt to trace the terrorists behind the ambush of its convoy, the Indian Air Force on Sunday mourned Corporal Vikky Pahade, who succumbed to injuries sustained in the attack on Saturday evening.

"The CAS Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and all personnel of (the) Indian Air Force salute the braveheart Corporal Vikky Pahade, who made the supreme sacrifice in (the) Poonch Sector, in the service of the nation.



Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. We stand firmly by your side in this hour of grief," read a post on the official

X handle of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Earlier, on Sunday, security personnel launched a massive manhunt following a terrorist attack on an Indian Air Force convoy a day before, in which one personnel was martyred. Security forces have laid down nakas and checking is going on in the area.

Additional forces of the Indian Army reached the Jarra Wali Gali (JWG) in Poonch on Saturday late at night.

After the ambush, which went down at the Sanai village in the Poonch sector, the injured personnel were

rushed to the Command Hospital in Udhampur. However, one of the injured airmen succumbed to his injuries.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, the local Rashtriya Rifles unit initiated a cordon and search operations in the vicinity, with support from the Army and police, to track down the perpetrators.

The IAF confirmed the incident through a tweet, stating that the targeted convoy was secured and an investigation was underway.

The IAF vehicles were secured inside the air base in the general area near Shahsitar.

One killed, another injured in Rajouri road mishap

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 5

One person was killed and another injured when a cab they were travelling in met with an accident on Sunday in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said that a cab on its way from Jammu to Rajouri skidded off the road and met with an accident near Thalka in the Nowshera belt of Rajouri.

They said that one person identified as Zabeer Ahmed, 20, the driver of

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PoJK is very much a part of India...we were made to forget about it: EAM Jaishankar

AGENCIES

CUTTACK (ODISHA), MAY 5 (AND)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday said that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is part of India and added that there is a resolution of the Indian Parliament which states that PoJK is part of the country.

He noted that people were made to forget about PoJK, however, it is now back in the consciousness of the people of India.

Asked about India's plans for PoJK during an interactive session in Cuttack, Jaishankar responded, "PoJK has never been out of this country. It is part of this country. There is a resolution of the Indian Par-



liament that PoJK is very much a part of India. Now, how did PoJK, how did other people get control? You know, when you have someone who is not a responsible custodian of a house, someone steals from outside. Now, here you have allowed another country."

"You know, it was because we did not pursue the vacation of Pakistan from these territories in the early years

of their independence that this very sorry state of affairs is continuing. So, what will happen in the future? Very difficult to tell. But, I always tell people one thing today PoJK is in the consciousness once again of the people of India. We had forgotten about it. We were made to forget about it. That it is today back definitely, the fact you are asking me a question is, I think, something which is very good," he added.

He also spoke about the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and stressed that it should have been abrogated a long time back. Jaishankar noted that a feeling of

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Lt Governor addresses seminar on Modern Education and Indian Culture & Tradition

JI NEWS SERVICE

GHAZIPUR, UTTAR PRADESH, MAY 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed a seminar on the "Role of modern education in preserving Indian Culture & Tradition", at Ghazipur today.

In his keynote address, the Lt Governor

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Congress expresses grave concern over steep rise in terror activities

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Congress has expressed deep concern over steep rise in terrorists incidents in Jammu region especially Rajouri - Poonch where series of attacks have taken place on the armed forces in recent past causing loss of several precious lives.

Strongly condemning the terrorist attack on IAF vehicle in Poonch and expressing grave concern over the repeated attacks on our forces leading to several casualties of jawans & officers, Senior Congress leaders sought swift, calculated & equal measure of response to

the grim situation to check it from further spreading.

Terming the yesterday's attack as cowardly, the party condemned the attack in strongest words and sought strongest planned response to the repeated targeted attacks on our brave forces & civilians and to check reviving militancy.

JKPCC Chief Vikar Rasool wani, Working President Raman Bhalla, Senior Vice President & Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma & former Chairman Legislative Council Jahangir Mir have expressed grave concern over the escalated attacks by terrorists on our forces in the recent

past in various parts especially in Rajouri-Poonch, resulting in to huge loss of several precious lives of our jawans and officers as well as innocent civilians.

The government of India has failed to check the rising targeted attacks on our forces and increased activities of terrorists in Rajouri Poonch and elsewhere in Jammu region as well as in Kashmir. The militancy have fully revived in twin border districts of Poonch Rajouri and in several other parts of Jammu region adjoining chenab region.

They cautioned the government and security agencies about the grave

threat on ground & urged to fully gear up to counter the greater threat of terrorism in recent times to defeat the nefarious designs of terrorists at the behest of Pakistan, which wants militancy to fully revive.

The party saluted the martyred Jawan & his family & expressed sympathies and solidarity with the injured jawans and their families and prayed for early recovery of the injured..

The repeated attacks on our forces need to be responded strongly to ensure check on the rise in terror activities and attacks on our forces, they added.

'Kashmir people should vote for some honest candidate, BJP will win Ladakh'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BILLAWAR, MAY 5

Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has condemned the terrorist attack on Indian Air Force (IAF) warriors in which one warrior was martyred and five others injured.

Speaking at a sports event in Billawar tehsil of district Kathua, Khatana said that the terror attack is the outcome of frustration among militants ranks who are being continuously eliminated after the government led by PM Modi has given a free hand to security forces by adopting zero tolerance policy against ter-



rorism. Appreciating the people of Billawar the MP lauded the brotherhood and amity existing in the area.

He assured all the required developments in the area for the welfare of the people of Billawar.

"In the last 10 years of BJP rule led by PM Modi every nook and corner of our country has seen his-

toric developments," he maintained adding: "The third term of PM Modi to helm the affairs of our country will see more developments."

Answering to a reporter Khatana said that people of Kashmir should vote to an honest candidate in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections and they should not elect the traditional parties

which have only brought bloodshed and uncertainty in Kashmir.

The senior BJP leader expressed confidence that BJP will emerge as a winner from the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat.

"People of Ladakh know that Congress during its long tenure in the country has done nothing for Ladakh so the people of Ladakh don't believe the big promises of either Congress or other members of INDI alliance," Khatana further said.

He said that BJP will cross the mark of 400 Lok Sabha seats this year which will pave the way for PM Modi to take the reins of the country for one more time.

Short Cut: Natrang's devised Hindi play reveals the consequences of greed and deception

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Natrang presented a Hindi devised and improvised play 'Short Cut' here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its weekly Sunday Theatre series. The play was devised and directed by Neeraj Kant. The play Short Cut is the story of a couple who rob people in an attempt to become rich overnight and are finally caught.

As the play begins, a young couple is seen fighting with each other in their house over dowry. Kajal accuses her husband Akash of lying to her family that their son is a doctor. Actually, Kajal is very regretful about her husband being an animal doctor. She says that her husband's family had demanded a motorcycle



from them as dowry. During their fight, noise of slogans along with drumming is heard from the locality. Just then Vibhu enters with a box of sweets in his hand and tells that he has got the title of best doctor and has bought a new house and a new car. On this, Kajal curses her husband that while treating animals, he has not even bought a scooter with

his own money. Vibhu's wife praises Kajal's saree and necklace. On this Kajal says that due to fear of thieves, she has kept all her jewelry hidden in her husband Akash's clinic. As soon as they come to know about this, Vibhu and his wife leave from there.

After this, since there are no patients in Akash's clinic, his brother-in-law is seen having fun. And then

a couple enters who have come to steal the jewelry from Akash's clinic on the pretext of getting treatment. Both of them try to render Akash unconscious by inhaling chloroform, when Akash's brother-in-law catches them. And these two are Akash's neighbours Vibhu and his wife who had become rich by robbing people in the same way. In this way, the short cut method of Vibhu and his wife is exposed and they are handed over to the police.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Mehak Chib, Anand Verma, Vishal Sharma, Aadesh Dhar, Lalita Devi and Vandana Thakur. The lights were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

India alliance wave sweep Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency: Rattan Lal Gupta

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

The wave of support for the India alliance has swept through the Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, signaling a resounding endorsement of the Alliance's vision and values by the electorate. As the Lok Sabha polls progress, the Alliance stands as the beacon of hope and progress for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, offering a promising vision for a brighter future.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President J&K National Conference after concluding four days visit of Rajouri district in a statement issued here today.

The senior NC leader emphatically asserted

the presence of a significant wave in favor of the India Alliance candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls within the Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary constituency. He mentioned that the public meeting conducted in Kotranka and Thanamandi in district Rajouri seems to be historical as thousands and thousands of people marked their presence and showed solidarity with the NC candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed. He emphasized the Alliance's unwavering commitment to represent the hopes and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the national stage. He said people have high regard for NC candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed in the Parliamentary Constituency.

He said, "The BJP has already conceded defeat by not fielding its candidates in all the three Parliamentary constituencies of Kashmir valley, and it is evident that the B and C Teams of BJP hold no relevance in the hearts and minds of the people." He elucidated on the India Alliance and National Conference's unwavering dedication to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir, promising to prioritize their people's welfare, unemployment and development in the forthcoming polls.

As the Lok Sabha polls progressing, the National Conference remains steadfast in its resolve to uphold the principles of democracy, constitution of India, justice, and equality, providing a voice to the aspirations of

the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The provincial president appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah by supporting all three candidates of the National Conference from the Kashmir valley: Omar Abdullah from Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency; Aga Syed Rahullah from Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, and Mian Altaf Ahmed from Anantnag - Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls in Kashmir. He emphasized that there is no better option for J&K people than to wholeheartedly support and vote for National Conference candidates in the Lok Sabha polls.

Knowledge of Preventable CVD risk factors among masses- Tip of iceberg: Dr Sushil

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Continuing his drive and passion to transform the society into cardiac friendly and to educate the masses about the measures to promote cardiac health Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma conducted a day long cardiac awareness cum health checkup camp at Bhagwan Shri Parshu Ram Bhawan, Parade Jammu. The camp was organized in collaboration with Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha on the eve of celebration of Birthday of Bhagwan Shri Parshuram Ji with main focus to strengthen the measures already in place for primary prevention of cardiac ailments right from primary to tertiary healthcare levels and to enlighten masses to further attend such camps in future to make them aware of policies to enhance cardiac health and measures to achieve them.

While interacting with the People Dr Sushil Stated that Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are well established as leading contributors to the burden of diseases in the developing countries, as well as the developed world. An estimated 29.2% of total global deaths, result from the various forms of CVDs, many of which are preventable by action on the major primary risk factors such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and smoking. Eight risk factors of CVDs account



for 61% of cardiovascular deaths and they include alcohol use, tobacco use, high blood pressure, high body mass index/adiposity, high blood cholesterol and glucose, low fruit and vegetable intake, and physical inactivity. While individual choices play a part in these behaviours, government and policymakers also play an important role in ensuring people have access to the tools they need to live a healthy life, including clean air, affordable healthy food, and well-planned urban spaces that encourage an active lifestyle. Health policies that create environments where healthy choices are not only available, but also affordable, are essential for motivating people to adopt and sustain healthier lifestyles.

He elaborated that knowing your numbers is an important part of keeping your heart healthy. Checking your blood pressure, cholesterol levels and blood sugar levels on a regular basis is important to help determine and control your risk of developing cardiovascular

disease. High blood pressure, or hypertension, is one of the biggest causes of heart attack and stroke. It usually has no symptoms, so it's important to get it regularly checked and, if needed, take the necessary measures to lower it, which may include dietary changes, increased physical activity, and medication. High levels of cholesterol in your blood also increase your risk of cardiovascular disease, including heart attacks and strokes. Blood cholesterol can normally be controlled through a healthy diet and, if necessary, by appropriate medication.

Dr Sushil Sharma in his concluding remarks told that there are deficiencies in CVD knowledge among general population, which could turn into insufficient preventative behaviours and suboptimal patient outcomes. There is an apparent need to establish more wide-spread and effective educational interventions, which should be sensitive to the perceptions, attitudes, and abilities of targeted individuals. There is urgent

need to establish more wide-spread and effective educational interventions, which should be sensitive to the perceptions, attitudes, and abilities of targeted individuals, He said.

Management Committee of the Sabha Vaid Prakash Sharma, Verinder Magotra, Nanak Sharma, Rajesh Bagotra, Davinder Sharma, P C Sharma, Subhash Shastri and Reetiz Khajuria appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil Sharma and his team for conducting cardiac Awareness cum health Check up camp and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this humane effort included Dr S K Bali (Nephrologist), Dr Venkatesh Yellupu and Dr Dhaneshwar Kapoor. Paramedics and Volunteers who were part of the team included Kamal Sharma, Raghav Rajput, Ranjeet Thakur, Nitish Mahajan, Rohit Nayyar, Amish Jamwal, Rajinder Singh, Arun Singh, Jatinder Bhasin, Rajkumar, Maninder Singh, Jatinder Bhasin, Paramveer Singh, Gourav Sharma and Vikas Kumar.

Natrang organises 'World Cartoonist Day' at Kala Kendra Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

World Cartoonist Day was celebrated here today by Natrang at Kala Kendra, Jammu featuring the son of the soil International acclaimed cartoonist Chander Shekhar. The honours were done by Triambak Sharma, Editor Cartoon Watch by inaugurating this exclusive exhibition. Triambak Sharma came all the way from Raipur (Chattisgarh) to attend this world event in jammu. He was joined by Sunil Mehta Ex IG BSF. Earlier the host of the event Natrang Director Balwant Thakur informed that May 5th is National Cartoonist Day, a world-wide celebration of cartoonists and their work. The National Cartoonist Society declared the date in the 1990s to promote support for the cartooning industry, and to recognize the impact they have had on society. Chandrashekhar a pride of Jammu who is credited for bringing Jammu in the International lime-light through his creative endeavours made it possible that Jammu gets this global recognition by holding this event in the city. A record number of 64 (Sixty-Four) caricatures by Chandrashekhar featured in this mind blowing exhibition featuring the prominent personalities of Jammu including Dr. Karan Singh ji, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ji, eminent film-maker and writer Ved Rahi, well known



painter Suman Gupta ji, prominent singer Jitendra Singh, Doctor JP Singh ji, former Jammu Doordarshan director Dr. Naseeb Singh Manhas, Pradeep Dutta ji of Times Now, Natrang Director Balwant Thakur, Rakesh Anand, Abhimanyu Sharma, Israar Khan, Sandhya Gupta, Tarun Uppal, Pawan Sharma, Suriender Sharma, Neeraj Rohmeera, Harbans Nagagokey, Mohan Singh, Rohit Shastri, Prakash Premi, Rakesh Singh Jamwal, Uttam Singh Uttam, Gaurav Gupta, Kripal Singh, Raman Bhalla, Kuvender Gupta, Vivek Suri, Sanjeev Gupta, Ajay Khajuria, Ravinder Raina, Lalit Magotra, Pushpendra Kulsrestha, Shamsher Singh Chakral, Praveen Sharma, Umraan Mallik, Junaid Hashmi, Harshvardhan, Sunny Dua, R J Raunak, Trimbak Sharma, Rakesh Badyal, Rajeshwar Singh Raju, Naresh Kumar, Indraj Singh, Brij Mohan, Ashish Kohli, Dr Vikas Padha, Romalo Ram, Deepak Khajuria, Rakesh

Sharma, Aziz Hajani and many others. Shekhar Cartoonist, who has achieved his position in the world of cartoons for the last 30 years has the credit of having organised and participated in many national and international exhibitions in India and abroad. This is the first time that different prominent personalities of Jammu have been depicted in cartoons through their caricatures. Chandrashekhar has the plans to travel with this exhibition to various other parts of the region and desired the civil society to come forward and support his endeavours.

Prominent figures who attended this world event included Javaid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra Society, Ajay Khajuria, Suman Gupta, Satish Chalotra, Naseeb Singh, Shamsher Singh Charak, Tarun Uppal, Rajeev Luthra, Rakesh Sharma, Rajeshwar Singh Raju, Kripal Singh, Suresh Sharma, Manoj Chopra and Sandhya Gupta.

Sunil leads Anti-Pakistan protest and demands statehood mission for J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Sunil Dimple president mission statehood, leads a strong anti Pakistan protest against the militants attack on an army convoy, in which 5 injured and one martyred. protest was anti ISI, militants infiltration rally in Jammu, against the ongoing, terrorist everyday encounters

Dimple burnt Pakistan flags effigies of the ISI, hafeez sayeed, azahar masood, lasker, for the encounters, killing and operating modules in j&k Addressing the rally Sunil Dimple demands PM to start surgical strikes and war with pakistan and make POK, Gilgit, Bhatistan part of Jammu Kashmir & India

Dimple warned and pledged that he will not tolerate the Pakistan militancy, anti national activities, attacks on our security forces and targeted killings in j&k.

He said two day our five army jwans seriously injured and on IAF jawan sacrificed his life.

He alleged two days earlier the militants attacked shadra shrief, martyred SWD employee, infiltrations, ammunitions, modules of Pakistan are active in jammu region. Dimple demands and appealed the DG director general of j&k police and the security forces, to start operation all out clear & elimination of ISI modules operating in J&K.

Rangyug unveils its programs for year celebrating 40 years of excellence in performing arts (1984-2024)

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

In a press conference held today, Rangyug, the pioneer theatre group of Jammu known for its dedication to Theatre for Self-realization and Social Change, proudly announces a series of programs marking its 40th anniversary.

The press conference was attended by Deepak Kumar, Founder/Director Rangyug, Dr Priya Dutta renowned Kathak maestro, Pankaj Pradhan, a renowned classical singer, RJ Juhie Mohan, Raj Kumar Behrupia, Ashish Sharma, Soham Gupta besides other members of Rangyug.

Established in 1984, Rangyug has now expanded its horizons, encompassing music and dance, and has emerged as a Performing Arts Foundation nurturing the next generation of artists.

The year-long celebration will feature a range of initiatives, including regular acting and weekend classes tailored for individuals above 16. Additionally, performance-oriented workshops such as the Summer Theatre Camp for Children during summer vacations and a Winter Theatre Camp during winter vacations will be conducted, for the



age group of 9 to 15.

In addition, Rangyug will host Music classes three times a week and Dance classes twice a week besides Classical Dance workshop in the coming summer vacations which is open to aspirants of all age groups. The aspirants may Register and reserve their seats by filling the on line form at: <https://forms.gle/t391h8K7mFwHxY37> or Visiting the Studio at Trikuta Municipal Complex, lower Dogra Hall road, Jammu between 3 pm to 7 pm.

To commemorate its journey, Rangyug will showcase exhibitions featuring photographs, costumes, press reviews, and other memorabilia. A special highlight of the anniversary celebrations will be the release of a Souvenir in the form of a Coffee Table Book on the Foundation Day this year.

Committed to education, Rangyug aims to initiate Theatre in Education programs for students and children, enriching their learning experiences through the performing and plastic arts.

Rangyug is dedicated to revitalize and enrich the cultural landscape of the Jammu region, striving to breathe new life into its fading cultural ethos of social harmony. Since 1984, Rangyug is actively engaged in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, committed to self-realization, social change, education, theatre training, conflict resolution, and addressing issues affecting vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Through its endeavours, Rangyug has made significant strides in achieving its objectives, leaving a lasting impact on the region's cultural and social

fabric. Throughout its journey, Rangyug has conducted popular awareness theatre performances on streets, organized seminars, conducted research and surveys, and participated in conferences and performed its highly acclaimed plays in prose-niums in several national and international festivals across the country and abroad.

A notable achievement by Rangyug includes invitation by the Lahore Art Council, Pakistan, and AJOKA to initiate people-to-people contact through the performance of a Dogri play in an international festival in Lahore in 2005. This initiative, a first of its kind by the civil society of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir, aimed to foster peace and harmony between two neighboring countries since 1947. Additionally, Rangyug was invited by the US Department of Cultural Affairs, Washington DC, in 2008 to promote and disseminate the concept of tolerance and peace through Arts.

Rangyug extends a warm invitation to all enthusiasts and aspiring artists to join in celebrating 40 years of Artistic Excellence and to participate in the array of programs and activities scheduled throughout the year.

Second convocation of LAW foundation in Srinagar: A Resounding Success

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 5

The Law Foundation celebrated a significant milestone with the successful culmination of its Second Convocation held in Srinagar, Kashmir. The event took place at SKICC, Srinagar, on the 20th of April, 2024, and was attended by esteemed dignitaries, alumni, students, families, and well-wishers who came together to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the LAW Foundation to the youth of Kashmir.

The event began with opening remarks by the Founder Trustee, Talha Salaria, setting the tone for a morning filled with inspiration and reflection. This was followed by an address from the chief guest, Retd Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, whose words resonated deeply with the audience. The chief guest emphasized the importance of helping each other and taking small initiatives. He further added that we need laws in the land so that people can



be free. He also quoted a famous quote from Dr B.R Ambedkar, "If something fails, it will not be because of this constitution but it will be because we will fail the constitution". He encouraged the students by saying that there is no dearth of talent in the state, but the young lawyers/law students lack professional guidance and experience. He ended his speech by making a call to students to work towards Justice.

During the convocation program, tributes were paid during the alumni remembrance segment, honoring the

success stories of alumni Urba Farash, and Syed Umi Fatma who secured coveted jobs in top-notch companies and law firms. Cohort 2, which was being honored, celebrated it with a song, testimonials, and memories. Students also had the opportunity to share their reflections, providing insights into their journey and aspirations within the legal profession.

Family members were invited to share their feedback, underscoring the crucial role of familial support in nurturing aspiring legal minds. Certificates were then presented to

the students with special awards for the top three students from cohort 2 namely Osheeba Bashir, Syed Yusra and Bashash Mahmood.

The evening culminated in a soul-stirring musical performance by Yawar Abdal - Echoes of Kashmir, filling the venue with melodies that captured the essence of Kashmiri culture.

The LAW Foundation enables a practical approach to law, embedded in the theory of law. It marries education with skill development to take the students to the next level, including providing internship opportunities to the students.

The Second Convocation of the Law Foundation in Srinagar, Kashmir, served as a testament to the organization's commitment to excellence in legal education and its enduring impact on the community. As the Foundation looks towards the future, it remains steadfast in its mission to empower the next generation of legal professionals.

Adv. Purnima advocates skill education for youth empowerment

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Education is the cornerstone of progress, and institutions like Career Abacus Coaching Center play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our nation by imparting quality education and nurturing the potential of tomorrow's leaders.

This was stated by Adv. Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor Jammu while speaking at the prize distribution function organized by Career Abacus Coaching Center at Abhinav theatre in Jammu. Parmod Kapahi District President, Rajesh Gupta District Spokesperson BJP, Rajinder Gupta, Surinder Anand and Brig Gupta were also present.

Adv Purnima commended the dedication and hard work of the children, as well as the relentless efforts of the faculty and management of Career Abacus Coaching Center in fostering a conducive learning environment. She also extended her heartfelt congratulations to all



the award recipients and wished them continued success in their academic and personal endeavors. She stressed upon parents to teach this kind of skill to each and every child. She blessed the children and prayed for their bright future.

Purnima Sharma underscored the significant role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in ushering in the New Education Policy, recognizing it as a monumental step towards transforming the Indian education landscape. She emphasized that the New Education Policy lays a strong emphasis on promoting skill development and vocational training, aligning perfectly with the imperative of equipping students with practical, job-relevant skills.

The senior BJP leader

reiterated the importance of aligning educational practices with the evolving needs of the industry and society, and she applauded Prime Minister Modi's unwavering dedication to realizing this vision through transformative policy initiatives.

Earlier, Career Abacus Coaching Center, a leading Abacus Teaching Institute, awarded prizes to its meritorious students in a function held at the Abhinav Theater in Jammu. The event commenced with a welcome address by Samridhi Mahajan.

Atul Mahajan, Director of Career Abacus Coaching Center, enlightened parents about the benefits of learning Abacus. A captivating demonstration of Abacus by young children left the audience spell-

bound with their remarkable speed and accuracy.

Ananya, Jason, Armaan, and Ayush shared their success stories achieved after joining Career Abacus Coaching Center. Additionally, graduation degrees for the completion of the Abacus course were awarded to Ayush, Armaan, and Pranya.

Parents expressed their high appreciation for the quality of education imparted by the institute.

The event also featured a beautiful dance performance by a student of the institute, and approximately 100 prizes were awarded to students across different stages of their academic journey.

The function was very well coordinated by Shruti Gupta and Aakarshan Mahajan.

Tony urges LG Sinha to take stern action against high-profile sharks running land mafia in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Taranjit Singh Tony, DDC Suchetgarh urged the Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha, Director General of Police (DGP), and Chief Secretary to address the escalating issue of land disputes perpetrated by corrupt revenue officials in collusion with land grabbers. He emphasized the urgent need for a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising top-level officials and individuals known for their integrity and dedication in Jammu district to probe these disputes thoroughly.

In a statement issued here today, Tony strongly condemned the brutal, cold-blooded murder of Avtar Singh, S/o Balbir Singh in Greater Kailash area that occurred in broad-day light in presence and under the connivance of Sub-Inspector Puneet Sharma and Sta-



tion House Officer Harvinder Singh.

Expressing grave concern over the rampant corruption plaguing the administration, Tony advocated for swift and decisive action to hold accountable those responsible for perpetuating this injustice. He stressed the imperative of establishing a deterrent against such nefarious activities, which have led to tragic incidents of daylight murders in the presence of law enforcement.

In his plea to LG Sinha, Tony underscored the necessity of conducting a comprehensive combing operation to root out corrupt elements from public service and treat them with the severity they deserve. He urged the compilation of a list identifying corrupt rev-

enue, police, and influential bureaucrats complicit in land grabbing schemes targeting vulnerable communities with legitimate land ownership.

Highlighting the plight of innocent citizens who have fallen victim to these fraudulent practices despite completing the requisite legal procedures, Tony called upon the government to take stringent action against high-profile individuals involved in such malfeasance. He sought action against such persons orchestrating land grabbing in J&K similar to the government's proactive measures against narco smugglers and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir by seizing their properties.

Tony asserted the imperative of establishing specialized investigative teams in every district to alleviate the suffering inflicted by the pervasive land grabbing scams. He mentioned the involve-

ment of influential figures from the judicial system, law enforcement, and civil and revenue administration in perpetuating the land mafia's activities, calling for a comprehensive dossier to be prepared for scrutiny by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

In a decisive move to expose the individuals behind the land mafia, Tony disclosed to convene a press conference imminently. He pledged to unveil the identities of those masquerading as guardians of the law while preying on the vulnerable, urging the public to stand united against this insidious threat to justice and equity. Tony sought stern action against the big sharks of the land mafia, whoever they may be, whether from the Police or Revenue Department, emphasizing the necessity of weeding them out to restore the faith of the people in the government.

Shiv Sainiks from Jammu and Kashmir Kick start campaign in Mumbai



JI NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, MAY 5

A team of Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders who reached Mumbai from Jammu and Kashmir today Kick start their campaign in favour of their party candidates.

A team of state leaders including Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni campaign in favour of party candidates. Where they participated in a huge road

show organised by party candidate Anil Desai from Mumbai South Central in Mahim and also campaigned in favour of party candidate Amol Kirtikar from Mumbai North West in Lokhandwala. Voting is to be held on 20 May, the fifth phase, on 6 Lok Sabha seats of Mumbai. The team of Jammu and Kashmir will go door to door and campaign in favour of all its party candidates in Mumbai.

Sham Langer expresses grief over Martyrdom of IAF Warrior in Surankote

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Sham Lal Langar, Convener of BJP Trade Cell, Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed profound grief and shock over the tragic martyrdom of an Indian Air Force (IAF) warrior in Surankote tehsil of Poonch district. The loss of a brave soldier serving the nation is deeply lamentable and our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family during this difficult time.

In addition to mourning the loss, Sham Lal Langar vehemently condemned Pakistan for its continued support to terrorism and its relentless efforts to facilitate the infiltration of terrorists into the Union Territory. Such cowardly acts aimed at destabilizing peace and harmony in the region are unacceptable and deserve the strongest condemnation from all quarters, he added.

Sham Langar emphasized the need for unity

and solidarity in the face of such cowardly acts of terrorism. He stands in solidarity with the armed forces and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at countering terrorism and ensuring the safety and security of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

While strongly condemning the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, which is against the basics of humanity and would achieve nothing except death and destruction, Sham Langar said that the whole nation stands with the families of these martyrs sharing their grief in this hour of great distress.

Saluting the sacrifice of IAF Warrior and expressing sympathies with his family, relatives and colleagues, he said: "The loss of precious lives of an officer is unbearable and the nation shall ever remain indebted to him and his family".

DPAP advocates for Punjabi inclusion in J&K Education and Job opportunities for Sikh Communities

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) urged upon the government to introduce Punjabi as a subject in Schools and Colleges curriculum and provide job opportunities to Sikh communities as per their population proportion in J&K.

In a meeting held here under the Chairmanship of Ch. Gharu Ram former Minister, President Jammu Central Zone in presence of former Legislator, Vice



President Jammu Province and Member Working Committee, DPAP Mr. Ashok Sharma. The meeting unanimously resolved to support DPAP candidate from Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat Mr. Mohd

Saleem Parray, Advocate under the leadership of former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad. The participants urged upon the people of Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat to vote and support. Promi-

nent among those who participated in the meeting were Zonal VP Kamalpreet Singh, Surinder Singh Shindi, Phinder Singh, Raftaj Singh, Harvinder Singh, Joginder Singh and Baldev Singh.

Arogya Bharti Jammu Kashmir Ladakh organizes Abhayaas Prant Varg (one day workshop) at Bhartiya Vidya Mandir, Ambphalla Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

To spread awareness among common masses regarding health and healthy lifestyle Arogya Bharti organized one day workshop at Bharti Vidya Mandir School, Ambphalla Jammu.

Formed on 2nd November, 2002, Arogya Bharti is a selfless Sewa Sangathan working to spread awareness in society regarding Swastha Sewa, Life Style Disorder, Holistic Health Approach, Kishori Vikas, Vyasan Mukti, Spiritual Health and all other aspects of healthy life.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Varshney, National Organizing Secretary of Arogya Bharti is his inaugural address spoke of challenges being faced by society in terms of mental and physical health and energized the Arogya Mitras (karyakartas) to do selfless service for the society by working together to take masses from illnesses to Wellness to Happiness.

Dr. Yash Pal, chief guest of today's program welcomed all the Speakers (Mukhya Vakta) of the Academic Session of



this prestigious workshop. More than 100 karyakarta of Arogya Bharti from Jammu Division participated in this one day orientation workshop.

Speaking about KISHORI VIKAS, Dr. Shaveta Kohli, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Central University J&K highlighted the strategies to be adopted for Adolescent Development to empower Young Indians especially Nari Shakti and achieve Viksit Bharat goal by 2047. Dr. Shaveta also gave useful tips for building and strengthening Kishori Vikas.

Importance of Swastha Poshan in daily life is necessary for healthy life. Dr. Archana Bhat Sharma, Department of Home Sci-

ence, Government College of Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu stressed that awareness must be created among masses for achieving healthy and aware society. Dr. Archana threw light on various misconception on various myths prevalent in society, due to misleading fake knowledge streamed on social media. How to read Food Label is equally necessary for creating awareness regarding various food products available in market. She culminated her session with the Sanskrit verse "Annam ne nidyat, tad vrotam" (Never Abuse the food, that is the rule).

Vasant Mukti is the need of the hour to spread awareness regarding Substance Abuse.

Dr. Arun Gupta, Medical Officer, Ayush J&K spoke on drug de-addiction and informed audiences why addictions are increasing in India. Dr. Arun said that we should not hate drug addicts but help them to overcome their addiction and become valuable part of society again.

Spiritual Health Master and motivational speaker, Dr. Deepak Pathak a multifaceted personality through his discourse enlightened the karyakartas of scientific knowledge available within Indian Knowledge System. Dr. Pathak also gave detailed introduction of Yagyapathy and its importance in daily life to attain Spiritual Health.

Satradhaksh, of today's

Academic Session, Dr. Bopesh gave heartfelt thanks to all the speakers. Dr. KD Gupta, Dr. Ashok Varshney, Dr. Vikrant Sharma founder Member of Arogya Bharti Prant unit also conducted the Question-Answer session to settle the queries of the audience.

Yojnatmak Satr was coordinated by Sh. Anil Vasudev and Sh. Abhishek Sharma.

Dr. K.D Gupta made important announcement regarding changes in formal structure of the Arogya Bharti Prant structure.

Dr. Vikrant Sharma founder Member of Arogya Bharti rejuvenated the Arogya Mitra and stressed how to achieve Swastha Jeevan Shali and role Arogya Bharti can play to achieve it.

Vote of thanks (Dhanyvaad Gyapan) was given by Shashikant Lakhnupal (Sachiv) in which he gave hearts felt thnx to all the National Executive Members, Arogya Mitras, Volunteers, Speakers, Guest who made today's workshop a grand success.

IHRSC excels at 5th Ranking National, produces two national champions, wins 18 medals



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Indian Hawks Roller Skating Club (IHRSC) excelled in 5th National Ranking Roller skating Championship, Amritsar 2024 by producing two national ranking champions and clinching a total of 18 medals.

The skating club's stellar performance was highlighted by the exceptional achievements of its players, who showcased unparalleled skill, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the championship. Notably, skaters Uday

Narayan and Puneesh Puri from IHRSC secured the coveted titles of National Ranking Champions in under 17 and under 14 age categories respectively, bringing great pride and honor to the club and its well wishers. The skaters' success was undoubtedly attributed to their relentless dedication to training, expert coaching, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Ashok Gandotra (Chief Engineer Retd.) President IHRSC while applauding the momentous feat of these skaters encouraged them to remain consistent

towards the game claiming that dedication and seriousness will help them to achieve more landmarks in the days to come.

The medal tally includes seven gold medals, eight silver and three bronze medals. The medal winners include Tabish Haider Chib (1 Bronze), Tamana Saini (1 Gold, 1 Silver), Vanshaj (1 Silver, 1 Bronze), Puneesh Puri (2 Gold, 1 Silver) (National Champion), Kartikeya Puri (1 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze), Samarjot Singh (3 Silver) and Pra-greet Kour (1 Silver).

Police arrests 02 drug peddlers in Baramulla; Contraband substances recovered

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 5

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 02 drug peddlers in Baramulla besides recovered huge quantity of contraband substances from residential house in Shopian.

In Baramulla, a police party of Police Post Wagoora headed by Incharge PP Wagoora at a checkpoint established at Takiya Tapper Baramulla, intercepted a person identified

as Aqib Ahmad Parray son of Bashir Ahmad resident of Vijipora Bandipora. During search, 30 grams of contraband Charas like substances was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station Kreeri where he remains in custody. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Kreeri and investigation has been initiated.

Moreover, a police party of Police Station Uri headed by SHO PS Uri at

a checkpoint established at Parampeelan Uri, intercepted a person identified as Arif Jungwa son of Mohd Hussain resident of Machikrundi Uri. During search, 1.60 Kgs of Cannabis powder & 34 grams of Charas were recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Uri where he remains in custody. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of



law have been registered at Police Station Uri and investigation has been initiated.

In Shopian, Police Post Wachi received information through reliable sources that one person namely Mohd Saleem Koka son of Abdul Hameed Koka Resident of Melhura has

concealed charas like contraband substance in his residential house. Accordingly, a police party from Police Post Wachi alongwith Executive Magistrate raided the said residential house.

During search, Charas like substance, weighing about 6Kg 308grams concealed in two nylon polythene bags was recovered from the said residential house. However, the accused person managed to flee from the spot and efforts are on to nab him. Accordingly, a case FIR No.

35/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Zainapora and investigation has been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Lt Governor addresses...

of marginalised section of society was paramount. Chandragupta Maurya placed new economic policies for inclusive development and public welfare at the center of the governance system. With the ultimate aim of equality and social justice, he made the institutions accountable to the public. With the help of 8 main departments he built a prosperous country and the citizens were expected to perform their inherent duties through public participation, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also shared the views of Chanakya on Chandragupta Maurya's Governance System.

Chanakya had highlighted that during the rule of Chandragupta Maurya, the happiness of the citizens was supreme. He dedicated himself for public welfare and policies were formulated on the basis of public dialogue and consensus, the Lt Governor said.

Apart from infrastructure development, Chandragupta Maurya laid emphasis on education and special attention was given to art and spiritual-cultural development to awaken the national consciousness, he further added.

At Kush Smarak Balika Vidyalaya, Dildarnagar, Ghazipur, the Lt Governor also felicitated the students conferred with Medhavi Chhatra Samman. He called upon the students to make their important contribution to India's development journey.

Hopeful no ceasefire...

district remains closed due to inclement weather or any other reason, the Indian Air Force will transport the polling material, EVM machines and polling staff.

"If there is any attempt from across the border to disrupt the polling activities here for that a plan has also been initiated", Pole added.

He said normally there has been ceasefire on the borders for the past five years and it does not seem that there would be any attempt from across the border to disrupt the polling here.

"We are fully prepared that the polling will happen peacefully and if there will be any attempt the polling will be conducted even that", he added.

He said after seeing the enthusiasm of the people especially from the youngsters during SVEEP, a large number of voters will overwhelmingly come out to exercise their franchise on May 20 in Bandipora to cast their vote. (Agencies)

IAF convoy attack | Several...

also used a US-made M4 carbine and steel bullets to cause maximum casualties, the officials added.

The IAF has identified the fallen hero as Corporal Vikky Pahade and expressed condolences to his family.

"The CAS (Chief of Air Staff) Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari & all personnel of Indian Air Force salute the braveheart Corporal Vikky Pahade, who made the supreme sacrifice in Poonch sector, in the service of the nation. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. We stand firmly by your side in this hour of grief," it posted on 'X'.

The officials said teams of the Army's Para Commandos were also pressed into service in the search operation.

There has been no "contact" with the terrorists yet, they said, adding that several people were detained for questioning in connection with the attack, the first major incident in Jammu region this year.

The officials said checking of vehicles has been intensified across the district which is going to polls in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha election on May 25. Poonch is part of the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency.

The border district of Poonch, along with adjoining Rajouri, has witnessed major terrorist attacks over the past two years. The region was peaceful between 2003 and 2021. (AGENCIES)

Lt Governor addresses...

encouraged new ideas by breaking old concepts. In his works, he gave new dimensions to the country's progress and emphasised on people's role in development, peace and harmony, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor called for dedicated efforts to ensure his works are available to readers from other regions and it is translated in different languages so that a larger number of readers have access to his great works.

PM Modi to file...

will hold a roadshow in the constituency, and preparations for it are underway, he added

"The route for the roadshow has been finalised. On May 14, Prime Minister Modi will file his nomination from the Varanasi seat," he said.

The Congress has fielded its Uttar Pradesh chief Ajay Rai in Varanasi and the BSP Athar Jamal Lari.

Elections in Varanasi will be held on June 1 in the seventh and last round of the general elections.

MeT predicts...

cloudy weather is expected with light rain at few places.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 11.2°C against 11.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 11.6°C against 10.0°C on the previous night and it was 3.1°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 3.7°C against 6.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 10.3°C against 8.6°C and it was 1.9°C above normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 7.0°C against 9.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 3.0°C against 3.5°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.3°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 19.6°C against 22.1°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 3.0°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 13.2°C, Batote 13.0°C and Bhadrawah 9.0°C, he said. (Agencies)

PoJK is very much...

separatism and extremism existed in Jammu and Kashmir when Article 370 remained in effect.

Addressing the critiques of the abrogation of Article 370, Jaishankar said that it was a temporary provision in the constitution and it had to be removed. He stated that Article 370 continued in Jammu and Kashmir as people had a vested interest.

Jaishankar said, "The biggest problem we had was Article 370. It was a problem because so long as Article 370 continued, in Jammu and Kashmir, a feeling of separatism, of extremism, sometimes I would even say support for violence, was created. This was done because of political interests of some parties, some parties at the center and some parties in Jammu and Kashmir and this step which happened in 2019 should have happened a long time ago."

"Unfortunately, we did not have a Modi Sarkar till recently. And it was frankly an agenda that should have been done because it was a temporary provision of the constitution. You know, people debate saying, was it

right? Was it wrong? In the constitution, it was written there, this is a temporary provision. What does temporary mean? That it comes to an end. This was to happen. Unfortunately, it was continued because people had vested interest," he added.

Earlier in April, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh asserted that considering the development taking place in India, the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoJK) will themselves demand to be with India.

"Don't worry. PoJK was, is and will remain ours," Singh said, addressing a rally at West Bengal's Darjeeling on Sunday, where the BJP had nominated sitting MP Raju Bista.

"India's power is increasing...India's prestige is increasing around the world, and our economy is fast progressing. Now our brothers and sisters in PoJK will themselves demand to come with India," Singh further said.

One killed, another...

the vehicle, died in the mishap, while another occupant, namely Wajid Hussain Shah, 25, sustained injuries and was rushed to the hospital.

The police have taken cognizance into the matter.

Lt Governor addresses...

highlighted the importance of the modern education system in preservation and promotion of culture and traditional knowledge & practices.

"Culture is the voice of society. India is witnessing a resurgence of cultural values and modern education is enabling the young generation to compete with global world while preserving ancient values," the Lt Governor said.

Modern education has maintained a fine balance between traditions and technology, between science and sanskar. The National Education Policy too focuses on the overall development of the youth while ensuring they have access to best global standards of education, he said.

The Lt Governor also spoke on reform in education sector and its impact on School and Higher Education.

Reform in education has given new impetus to the cultural revival and the foundation of a bright future has been laid through the modern education system. There is a renewed interest towards Indian culture, ethics and moral values and a new consciousness is taking shape, he said.

Encouraging Young and first-time Voters: Chief Electoral Officer UT Ladakh Unveils Election Song

JNEWS SERVICE
LEH, MAY 5

In a bid to inspire and engage young and first-time voters for their maximum participation in casting votes on the poll day, Chief Electoral Officer UT Ladakh, Yetindra M. Maralkar, unveiled an electrifying election song which is composed by the State SVEEP icon, Phunchok Ladakhi.

The event was graced by the presence of CEO UT Ladakh, Yetindra M. Maralkar as chief guest, State SVEEP icon, Phunchok Ladakh as guest of honour, Returning Officer 1-Ladakh Parliamentary Constituency, Santosh Sukhadeve, District SVEEP icon, Stanzin Gya and Joint CEO and Assistant CEO of Election Department Ladakh. The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and officials from different departments of



UT Ladakh and students from the Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School, Leh, Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Leh, Lamdon School, Leh and Mahabodhi Residential School, Leh.

Joint CEO UT Ladakh, Sonam Chosjor in his welcome address, appealed participants and general public to actively participate in casting vote on 20th May. Returning Officer, Sh. Santosh Sukhadeve, District SVEEP icon, Stanzin Gya and one first time voter also addressed the event, appealing young and first-

time voters to cast their votes on the upcoming Election Day.

The unveiling ceremony was a vibrant affair with cultural show and dances by cultural teams. As the election season unfolds, the unveiling of the election song marks a significant milestone in the journey towards encouraging voter participation, especially among the youth. It not only aimed to foster a sense of civic responsibility among young voters but also highlighted the importance of active participation in the

democratic process. The event concluded with vote of thanks from the State SVEEP Nodal Officer Dr. Tsewang Morup. As the event drew to close, CEO UT Ladakh, Yetindra M. Maralkar, State SVEEP Icon, Phunchok Ladakhi and RO/DEO, Santosh Sukhadeve emphasized on 100 percent voter turnout in this election and encouraged young voters to exercise their franchise judiciously and responsibly, underscoring the significance of every vote in the democratic fabric of the nation.

Delphic council, J&K released poster of Kalaanjali



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

The Delphic Council of J&K (Registered Society) which works for promoting Arts & Culture in J&K, today inaugurated its new zoom series of episodes of Kalaanjali (Art & offerings). Sh. Sham Lal Sharma, Former Minister, J&K and Vice president of BJP was the Chief Guest at DRS, Kids, Gandhinagar, Jammu on the occasion who released the poster of the Kalaanjali and paid tributes to Late Sh. Bishan Dass, JK who left for the heavenly abode on 7th April. He also appreciated the Delphic Council of J&K for the steps being taken for promoting Art & Culture in the UT.

Er. Ashok Singh, President of the Delphic Council of J&K and Secretary General of Indian Delphic Council appraised Artists of J&K that 26 episodes of the Virasat-e-Jammu & Kashmir were completed successfully wherein Pad-

mas, Academicians and Art lovers participated which was a great success and everyone in India appreciated it.

Sh. Sham Lal Sharma, Er. Ashok Singh along with Ms. Vijay Puri and Mr. Shabir Mujahid, Advisors of the Council, Directors, Deputy Directors and other office bearers of the Council paid floral tributes to Late Sh. Bishan Dass ji. A Cultural Programme was also presented by 3 sons of Late Mr. Bishan Dass and Ms. Asha Kesar, renowned Dogri folk Singer who performed the songs sung with Sh. Bishan Dass ji in his memory.

Mr. NN Pandey, President, Indian Delphic Council, Mr. Ramesh Prasana, Secretary General, International Delphic Council, Mr. Ajay Mishra and Ms. Sreya Guha-IAS, President of the Delphic Council of Rajasthan also paid online tributes to Late Sh. Bishan Dass ji and highlighted his achievements for the Delphic Council of J&K.

Mr. Ayash Arif, Vice president, Er. NN Thusu

Treasurer, Dr. Ghara Choudhary, Mr. Vinod Verma, Dr. Anila Singh, Ms. Sheetal Verma (AD Media), Mr. Ajeet Singh, Managing Director of DRS Kids and more than hundred Artists of J&K also paid tributes and highlighted the achievements of Late Mr. Bishan Dass ji.

Dr. Amrisha Sarup Kohli, Assistant Professor, GMC Kathua moderated the event who threw light on the importance of the Kalaanjali which shall be a fortnightly zoom episode wherein, other States of India will also participate in it and a platform shall be provided to the Artists of J&K in India through Kalaanjali to showcase their talent.

The vote of thanks was presented by Ms. Vijay Puri, Delphic Advisor & Mr. NN Thusu who thanked the Chief guest and Artists on release of the poster of Kalaanjali and for offering floral tributes to Late Sh. Bishan Dass ji. They also thanked Mr. Ajeet Singh for providing DRS Kids School for the event.

BJP mukt J&K is our Avowed Pledge: Harsh Dev

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 5

After the seizure of its symbol by ECI in pursuance of a conspiracy hatched by BJP and its stooges, the Panthers Party led by Harsh Dev Singh has been allotted a new name and symbol by the apex poll body of the country. The Panthers Party headed by Harsh Dev Singh has now been re-christened as J&K National Panthers Party (INDIA) and has been allotted the symbol of 'Truck' by the Election Commission of India. This was stated by the Party Chief Harsh Dev Singh at a press conference held in Udhampur today where he vowed to oppose, expose and finally depose the saffron regime for its politics of duplicity, deceit and debauchery.

Maintaining that BJP had lost the confidence of the people in view of its multiple betrayals, Mr. Singh said that it had no right to continue in office. He said that having dismantled the oldest historical dogra state of J&K and downgraded it to UT level, the BJP govt had extended several draconian laws to it without the nod of legislature. Opening of multiple Toll Plazas and limitless Liquor shops and Bars, introduction of Smart meter, enactment of Property tax, sky-rocketing prices of essentials, burgeoning employment, patronized all pervasive corruption, settlement of Beharis and UP people in UT and politics of hate seemed to be the only notable achievements of BJP rule, said Mr. Singh.

While rising prices had made the lives of people miserable, the BJP govt was resorting to extortion in the form of increased cesses, duties, tolls and taxes. Several Toll Plazas had been installed in the Jammu region to loot the people of their marginal incomes despite the condition of roads being highly pathetic. He said that Sarore Toll Plaza and Ban Toll Plazas had been assured to be removed by BJP including its central leaders which however turned out to be mere hyperboles. And contrarily the Toll was enhanced at Lakhampur, Ban and Nashri plazas thereby causing massive resentment amongst the general masses.

Likewise, the opening of several liquor shops despite people's opposition in the cities of temples had further created massive resentment amongst the locals particularly the women-folk. And while the region faced chronic crisis in power and water sectors, the govt came up with the proposal of installation of Smart meters as if to rub salt on the wounds of people, said Mr. Singh.

Harsh Dev said that having failed to redeem its promises, the BJP was now indulging in divisive politics and creating hatred by invoking caste, colour, creed and religion in the affairs of govt thereby denting its own reputation beyond redemption. It needed to be dismissed lock, stock & barrel, said Mr. Singh and urged upon the people to support and strengthen JKNPP (INDIA) and make J&K 'BJP mukt'.

Gulab, a spectacular first of its kind Night soiree at Hari Niwas Palace

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

In a dazzling display of creativity and community spirit, Kuwarani Ritu Singh, unveiled the first-ever Gulab - A Spectacular Night Soiree at the iconic Hari Niwas Palace. This transformative event, held on May 4th, 2024, immersed guests in a celebration of Jammu's art, culture, and entrepreneurial prowess.

The ambiance of Hari Niwas Palace provided the perfect backdrop for Gulab, which unfolded into a captivating marketplace featuring 68 stalls showcasing the vibrant tapestry of Jammu's cultural heritage. Among these, 16 stalls were put up by AWWA (Army Wives Welfare Association), offering a glimpse into the talents and endeavours of military families.

Gulab showcased an array of diverse brands that illuminated the cultural and entrepreneurial landscape of Jammu. From the intricately crafted designs of Chitrana to the delectable flavours of Vanilla Beans, each brand offered a unique glimpse into the region's rich heritage and innovative spirit. The participating brands included Chitrana Heal Alchemy Numaish by Shikha Vanilla Beans Virtues Khatta Mitha Poshak Designer Studio Kiyari Plant Nursery October Poshak Bridal Emporio by Monika Bhatia The Kansvin Nazrana by Ridhima & Parakh Label Nidhi Aggarwal Jewels by Pooja Khurana Joggmaya Creations Traditions Boutique I Said Yes Sama Organics Tumble Town D Decor Dubai Prints by Max Spark Designs Maple & Ivy Renuka Cakes Goyam Foods Trend by Sanah Malhotra House of Liggey Pans and Pots Co. Artistic Living by RG Label Ashwi Mahajan. Label Lehnaaz from Amritsar. Bean Verse PP Concepts by Pooja Puri Chander Bhaga by Sarita Dharini. Jammu Motor Vehicles - Mahindra Angad Creations Rawish Designs Tarot by Rashi Bali Studio Kava Kyaari Brew Birds Art City by Lyoti Crafts of India The

Choco Junction. 16 Pop Up by AWWA Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) stalls dotted the landscape, offering a glimpse into the talents and endeavours of military families. These stalls not only showcased exquisite hand-crafted goods but also symbolised the resilience and creativity of those who serve alongside the armed forces. Their presence underscored the significance of bridging gaps between civilians and armed forces, fostering a spirit of inclusion and unity within the community.



The event not only showcased the artistic and culinary talents of the region but also provided a platform for budding entrepreneurs to shine. Young innovators seized the spotlight, connecting with a diverse audience and showcasing their ventures, echoing Kuwarani Ritu Singh's vision of bringing J&K on the world map.

Culinary delights took centre stage at Gulab, with stalls offering a delectable array of dishes representing the finest cuisines of Jammu and Kashmir. From traditional delicacies to modern interpretations, the culinary offerings delighted the palate of every guest, elevating the cultural experience. The evening was enlivened by the melodies of

the renowned singers Sonali Dogra and Rikki. The rhythms of local musicians, artisans, and dancers from Ramnagar Kudh and bhadrawah in collaboration with cultural academy who captivated attendees with their performances. Their artistry served as a testament to the cultural richness that defines Jammu and its people.

With over 4000 guests in attendance, including dignitaries and representatives from various chambers of commerce and industry, Gulab - A Spectacular Evening Carnival served as a testament to the vibrant spirit of Jammu.

Distinguished guests, including Mr. Bhatnagar, Advisor to Governor, Mrs Bhatnagar, Major General Gaurav Gautam GOC, Dr. Shakti, Director AIIMS, Ms. Anu Malhotra - Director General Rural Sanitization J&K Ms. Indu Chib Anisa Nabi graced Gulab with their esteemed presence. Their support underscored the importance of collaboration between civilians and the armed forces in promoting economic growth and community development.

Gulab was made even more special by the generosity of its gifting partners, who added an extra touch of luxury and delight to the soiree. Glamour by Esha Creations, Photography Partner Klick It

Production, Amar Mahal Museum and Library, Baniya Super Shopper Toy World and Thyrocare provided thoughtful gifts that complemented the festive atmosphere, leaving guests with cherished memories.

As the night unfolded, visitors, including children and families, revelled in the festivities until midnight, enjoying shopping, entertainment, and culinary delights. Laughter echoed through the toy zone area as children played, adding to the joyous atmosphere of the soiree.

The event garnered widespread attention, with numerous media houses present to cover the festivities, highlighting its significance as a cultural milestone and a testament to the vibrancy of Jammu's creative community.

Gulab - A Spectacular Pop-Up Night Soiree is an initiative led by Kuwarani Ritu Singh, aimed at celebrating the art, culture, and entrepreneurship of Jammu. Through vibrant events and initiatives, Gulab seeks to promote local talent, foster entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

The first of its kind Night Soiree at the iconic Hari Niwas Palace illuminated a path towards a future where creativity thrives, and unity prevails.

Batwal Ekta Manch Punjab felicitates Navpreet Kaur Lakhotra for achieving excellence in education

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

The Batwal Ekta Manch Punjab members today felicitated Navpreet Kaur Lakhotra in a brief function at Mukerian for bringing grace to her family and community by securing 94.17% marks in her exam.

Manch's members said to Neha, "Your hard work and dedication to your education is incredible and we know at times very trying...." Members also congratulated Navpreet's father S. Hira Singh Lak-



hotra on her daughter's tremendous achievement, and wished Navpreet much more success ahead. Prominent among those who were present

on occasion included President Surinder Pal Kaithi, General Secretary Ashwani Kumar Chanjotra, Legal Advisor Tarsem Chanjotra and Babba.

RMMC Jammu organizes four cataract eye surgery camps

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 5

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre, Jammu, concluded a series of four Cataract Eye Surgery Camps from 20 February 2024 to 27 April 2024. The camps aimed to provide much-needed eye care services to the local community and tackle the prevalent issue of cataract-related vision impairment.

During the camps, a total of more than 600 patients were screened, highlighting the significant demand for accessible eye care services in the region. As part of the initiative, Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre collaborated with Goel Eye Clinic and Retina Centre, a renowned eye care facility, to conduct the cataract surgeries.

Swami Yajnadharananda, Secretary of Ramak-



rishna Mission, Jammu, said "We are proud to announce that 37 patients successfully underwent cataract surgery free of cost, a commendable effort in helping individuals regain their vision and improve their quality of life. The expertise and dedication of the medical professionals involved ensured the surgeries were conducted efficiently and with utmost care."

"These cataract surgery camps were a remarkable success, enabling us to positively impact the lives of numerous individuals

in need. We are grateful for our collaboration with Goel Eye Clinic and Retina Centre, which played a pivotal role in providing these services," he added.

He said Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre remains committed to delivering high-quality healthcare services and addressing prevalent health issues in the community. The success of these cataract surgery camps underscores our dedication to serving the underprivileged and promoting optimum eye health, he added.

EDITORIAL

Leh vs Kargil in Ladakh's political landscape

The withdrawal of nomination papers by senior Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) leader, Sajjad Kargili, in favor of the National Conference (NC) candidate, Haji Hanifa Jan, marks a significant shift in the political dynamics of Ladakh. This decision, aimed at consolidating unity within the Shia Muslim-majority Kargil district, has reshaped the electoral landscape, setting the stage for a direct confrontation between Leh and Kargil districts. Kargil, historically a stronghold of Shia Muslims, has rallied behind Haji Hanifa Jan, positioning him as the sole contender from the district. Meanwhile, Leh district sees competition between two Buddhist leaders: Tashi Gyalson of the BJP and Tsering Namgyal of the Congress, shaping the electoral battle into a triangular contest. Sajjad Kargili's decision not only boosts the NC's prospects in Kargil but also underscores the unity and strategic alliances shaping the political narrative. Qamar Ali Akhoo, former minister and additional general secretary of NC, expressed hope that this move would further cement unity among the people in Kargil district. However, it's noteworthy that the alignment along religious lines in Kargil has drawn criticism from some quarters. Chering Dorjay Lakrook, the newly elected president of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), lamented the polarization, emphasizing the need to transcend religious divides in politics. The appreciation poured in for Sajjad Kargili's decision from various social, religious, and political organizations in Kargil district reflects the recognition of his leadership and sacrifice for the greater unity of the region. The people underscore the importance of leadership dedicated to the welfare of the community above personal ambitions. This development also sheds light on the intricate electoral history of Ladakh, where the BJP has held sway in recent years. The BJP won the Ladakh Parliamentary seat for two successive Lok Sabha elections. In the 2014 Lok Sabha election, veteran politician Thupstan Chhewang won this seat as BJP candidate by a margin of only 36 votes. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP candidate Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, who was then sitting Chairman-cum-CEC of LAHDC Leh recorded an impressive victory margin of 10,930 votes over NC, PDP, and Islamiya School Kargil joint candidate, Sajjad Kargili. Namgyal polled 42,914 votes as against Sajjad Karigili's 31984. However, the current shift in alliances and the rallying of support behind specific candidates hint at a potential change in the political tide. As Ladakh braces for another electoral showdown, it's crucial to uphold the principles of inclusivity and unity, transcending religious and regional divides. The decision by Sajjad Kargili and the ensuing reactions underscore the evolving dynamics of Ladakh's political landscape, emphasizing the need for collaboration and solidarity to address the diverse challenges facing the region.

SUDHIR HINDWAN

At a time when the world political landscape is dealing with a number of regional conflicts such as Israel-Palestine, Russia-Ukraine, skirmishes in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, trans-national terrorism has hogged the limelight world over during the last few years. Similarly at the domestic level terror organisations from across the border have unleashed a wave of terror in Kashmir to attract attention from the media to upturn the diminishing morale of the mercenaries. Seen in this recent perspective are the latest sinister designs of the terror forces in different parts of the world whether in Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Red Sea, Israel, Palestine, Scandinavian Countries, Central Asia or Russia. In the past few days, the insurgency has resulted in numerous killings of innocents and the martyrdom of several Army soldiers in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir on the domestic front in India.

International terrorism, though comparatively less in volume than the domestic variety, has crossed all limitations despite increased Government efforts to combat it. Much blood, if not ink, has flowed since terrorists struck the World Trade Centre and Pentagon in the US This was followed by an upsurge in terrorist

activities across the globe. Repeated terror attacks over the years sometimes after a brief lull have not only exposed the security and intelligence network but also robbed confidence of modern nations in controlling the menace.

Whether terrorism is unleashed at the local, regional, national or international level, it cannot survive for long without international support and collaboration. In a globalised world, the matrices of power turn on the highly visible, inequalitarian structure of the international economy and as such inter-relationships between socio-economic conditions in different parts of the world are becoming more and more obvious. At another level, the post-Cold War international political-economic order is still a victim of the power game that was thrust on the world by the then-big powers. Many seasoned international experts on violence and terror are of the opinion that the power network woven by the hegemonic mighty in the entire West Asian region has provoked the ire of the opposition forces in almost every State where they had an interest-based relationship.

Thus, as societies globalise and curtains of opacity are raised through increased inter-societal interaction at the international level, people in under-developed coun-

tries are holding the big powers responsible for their inferior socio-economic positions. The Cold War Era leading to interference in crucial areas such as Afghanistan, South-East Asia, Gulf and Latin American countries has resulted in the development of peculiar trends that provided breeding grounds for terrorist activities. Talibanisation of Afghanistan would never have taken place had the powerful nations handled the situation well in the beginning.

The consequences of the failure to diagnose this social disease (terrorism) at the early stage can be pernicious for the various countries. The strategies of imposing arms and economic sanctions on the so-called rogue nations during the last few years have been counter-productive and rather helped these nations to gain international sympathy. Although the hope of a permanent solution to the problem of terrorism is still far away, one hopes that the powerful nations will develop a more mature understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism that has assumed alarming proportions. The rapid international transportation and use of sophisticated weapons like AK 47 assault rifles and plastic explosives (RDX) have helped to facilitate the expansion of terrorist networks around the world. Besides, the new suicide squads of ter-

rorists have left the entire security apparatus of the affected States in a State of shock. The recent incidents cannot be viewed in isolation.

A leading anti-terrorism expert, Mr Brian Jenkins, believes that though more articulate and multiplied effort by the police and intelligence can tell us about a possible terrorist attack, there is still confusion over whether such a mechanism is successful in dealing with terrorists driven by fundamentalism. Gradually, religion is becoming the main motivating force for terrorism across the globe. There is a growing nexus between terrorists and internationally organised crime networks. Mr. Alison Jamieson, a British analyst on organised crime and political violence, commented that the distinction between terrorism and organised crime has become very blurred recently.

An Italian organised crime expert, Professor Ernesto, says: "The terrorist's goal is an ideological one, while organised crime's goal is financial, but the instrument is the same.

They both need money and arms". In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Tigers engage in drug trafficking to finance their struggle, in north-eastern India guerrillas kidnap tea planters and hold them to ransom to help fund their fight for independence. In Chechnya, the secessionists

were heavily involved in drug distribution.

These days terrorists are more confident than ever before of their access to the vulnerable points before carrying out any of their attacks and they plan their attacks in a heroic manner for the justification and fulfillment of a cause that they think is just. Thus, they attempt, by their acts, to inspire and manipulate fear to achieve a variety of purposes. For effective administrative measures, various sources of terrorism must be found first. There is a need for a truly effective preparedness programme at the Government level.

First, we must know about the people involved in terrorist activities and their motivations.

Dealing with a terrorist incident and mitigating its consequences need to be carefully thought out. Sufficient data about the terrorist-hit area could be of immense use. Intelligence should be able to provide information about terrorist targets, timing and site in advance. But the Government alone cannot do much to stop it. Individuals and groups can make a significant contribution towards improving the general security environment. On the other hand, there is a need for sophisticated security procedures that can go all the way from airport screening to the border area.

Some kind of positive programmes which can

alleviate the frustration of terrorists can prove effective. There is also a need to promote open institutions, including political institutions to absorb the ethnic, religious and political pressure and allow terrorists to vent their feelings in a proper way.

This will change their mind and thus encourage them to settle their differences in a peaceful way. Since present-day terrorists are very well organised and more professional than their counterparts a decade ago, new concepts of safety and security should arise. A vigilant and assertive police and paramilitary network should replace the old one. There is an apprehension that with the availability of biological and chemical weapons, terrorists could start their campaign with a renewed vigour.

No civilised political system can progress until terrorism is wiped out, but terrorism cannot be eliminated unless there is a political solution. The need of the hour is the political will to solve problems that generate terrorism. The States affected by terrorism should open up avenues for a negotiated settlement of disputes and exhibit genuine willingness to resolve long-festering problems.

(The author, a recipient of the Bharat Gurav award, is a professor and expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

Global tapestry and impact of terrorism

The price of information

ROGER MARSHALL

If you are an avid follower of all that has been going on in the IT world, I am sure you did not miss the news about Google planning to charge users for granting them access to the company's AI-enabled web searches. There is an underlying presumption on the part of Google that AI-enhanced search algorithms can provide better results than their vanilla search algorithms and that users would be happy to fork over significant sums of money to that end. Much like beauty, it is all in the eyes of the beholder. X has also been operating along the same principles - charging the gullible twitterati for an 'enhanced experience' on Elon Musk's social media channel. Unlike Google,

the algorithms employed by X do not need to be supplemented by AI since such artificial intelligence is already supplied by the subscriber and, better yet, this intelligence is constantly evolving. Generative AI at its very best.

As has been reported in the press, both Open AI (the creator of ChatGPT) and Google have run out of publicly available data such as to be found in websites such as Wikipedia and assorted governmental and non-governmental agencies. Wikipedia data, in particular, submitted by a worldwide community of users on a purely voluntary basis, is extensively curated and, if necessary, periodically updated. Since Open AI and Google are unwilling to pay users for their data, they have now resorted to using the 'new' data created by their

AI programmes to generate even more new data, which can then be used to create even more data, ad infinitum. This is also a version of generative AI, also at its best. As I see it, money and the reliability of the new data are the driving forces in today's internet, both of which seem to be in short supply. But not greed.

Consider what would happen if a valid segment of information is corrupted by even a small piece of fake information or misinformation, which the AI programme fails to recognise and rectify. AI programmes and their creators have yet to explain how a particular result was arrived at. Over time, erroneous conclusions based on data contributed by ignorant or malicious users and those generated by AI learning algorithms

through probabilistic and/or inferencing mechanisms will simply result in chaos in the internet information space. Isn't this how gossip and rumour-mongering operate, to wreak lives and weaken societies? Isn't this how a single cancerous cell, if allowed to metastasize, has the capability to kill a person rather quickly?

When one comes across any news item on the internet, the authenticity and veracity of the news item rests on who or what the primary source is. If the primary source is unavailable or inaccessible, the news item should be regarded as mere hearsay. From this perspective, it is unfathomable why Google would choose to block links from local news outlets appearing in search results other than to prevent them from

charging Google usage fees for their journalism. Isn't this a form of censorship and blackmail rolled into one? Meta, aka Facebook, in response to legislation in Canada requiring social media companies to pay print news media for content, cut off all news links to Canada. It was merely aping Google's playbook. Meta is also heavily involved in incorporating AI into its products for 'enhanced' user experiences.

Given Google's plan to charge customers for AI-enhanced search options, it is not inconceivable that in the future, the company may decide to charge users for using its search engine. The airline industry offers a good example. These days, when you buy an airline ticket, you have to pay extra for checked luggage, meals, and choice of seats

- items that once used to be free. When faced with severe financial pressures brought on by government legislation, Meta, like X, may decide overnight to start charging subscribers. Since users across the world have become accustomed and addicted to Google and Google has captured 89% of the search engine market, the company is in no danger of losing too many users. The same reasoning can also be extended to Meta.

Internet users lost the privacy war some time ago. They are now on the verge of losing the data war.

In retrospect, the comment made some 50 years ago by an IBM-Australia vice president, viz., "Whoever controls information will control the world" doesn't seem all that far-fetched, does it?

SHAINY SHARMA

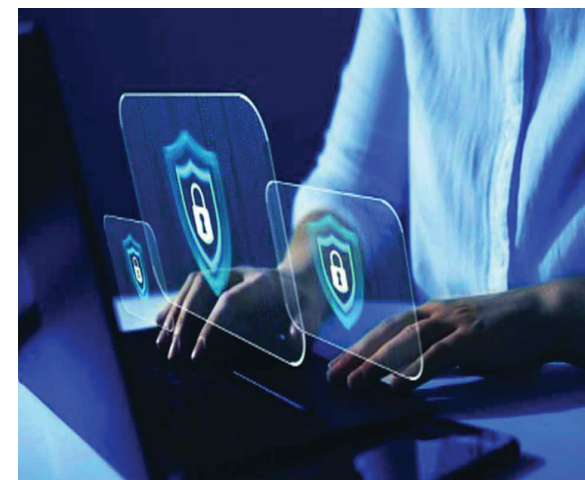
With the proliferation of connected devices, cloud computing and various other digital platforms, the attack surface of the threats ranging from individual hackers to organised cybercriminal groups has expanded significantly. In the age, where technology pervades every facet of our lives, the importance of cybersecurity cannot be over Stated and with the advent of technology, it has been deemed to have the emergence of new threats.

Cybersecurity measures, such as encryption, access controls and data loss prevention, help prevent unauthorised access, theft and misuse of confidential information. In an era of widespread digital connectivity, maintaining privacy, safeguarding personal information and communications from

unauthorised surveillance, identifying theft and invasive data collection practices are crucial not only for individuals but for organisations too. The motto 'Protecting our digital world' is a responsibility we all share.

Cybersecurity researchers cover a wide range of topics be it understanding the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) of cyber adversaries or focusing on developing methodologies, tools and best practices to integrate security into the software development lifecycle; are aimed at addressing current and emerging challenges in protecting digital assets and infrastructure. Cybersecurity researchers investigate software and hardware vulnerabilities to understand their root causes.

Safeguarding cybersecurity is imperative across all sectors of work be it business or education.



Cybersecurity is integral to national security and defence strategies, as cyber threats pose risks to sovereignty, economic stability and public safety in shaping India's economic growth and global competitiveness, particularly in the realm of cybersecurity, the Indian Government has implemented various initiatives and policies such as Cyber Surakshit Barat; Cyber Swachhta

Kendra and many more to combat the cybersecurity challenges in India. These initiatives are aimed at generating awareness about the latest cybercrimes, detection and removal of malicious programs from devices and ultimately combat cyber threats by creating a secure cyber ecosystem.

The digital landscape is constantly evolving, with cyber threats becoming

more sophisticated and pervasive. Cybersecurity measures, including threat detection, incident response and vulnerability management help identify, mitigate and contain cyber threats such as malware, phishing, ransomware and denial-of-service attacks.

Effective cybersecurity will build trust and confidence among stakeholders, including customers, partners, investors and the public at large. By demonstrating a commitment to cybersecurity best practices and compliance with regulations, organisations enhance their reputation and credibility in the digital marketplace.

The need for cybersecurity has increased due to the evolving threat landscape, technological advancements, digital transformation initiatives, regulatory requirements, geopolitical tensions and societal reliance on digital technologies. Cybersecu-

ity is not just about safeguarding the data rather it's about safeguarding trust, privacy and freedom in the digital age. It requires a comprehensive and proactive approach involving technology, policies, education, collaboration and investment to address the evolving challenges posed by cyber threats. One needs to stay vigilant, informed and proactive in keeping online space secure. Strong passwords, regular updates and staying cautious of phishing attempts are just a few steps toward cyber resilient community. Despite advancements, cybersecurity does face a lot of challenges, including the constant evolution of cyber threats, the shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals and the global nature of cybercrime.

(The write is an educator; views are personal)

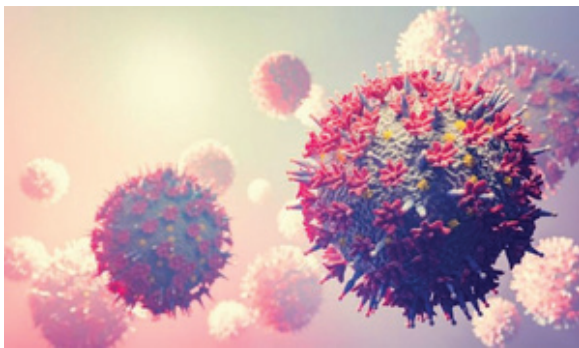
New Covid variant 'FLiRT' capable of evading the immune system: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

The new Covid-19 variant 'FLiRT', which is spreading fast in the US, is capable of evading the immune system due to a trans substitution of amino acids between two spike proteins, the experts said on Sunday.

FLiRT, which belongs to Omicron's JN.1 lineage, is rapidly replacing the previous variant, Eris, in the US, the UK, New Zealand, and South Korea, according to Rajeev Gupta, Director of Internal Medicine at the CK Birla Hospital (R), Delhi.

"A recent increase in hospitalisation rates in



these countries has been attributed to this variant; however, it has remained a relatively small wave. The overall mortality rate has not increased," Gupta told IANS.

According to the Infectious Disease Society of America, the nickname 'FLiRT' is based on the

technical names for their mutations.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reclassified it as a variant of interest and advised close monitoring.

According to Dhiren Gupta, a Pediatric Intensivist at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, these new strains

will keep emerging.

"Fortunately, none of the Omicron lineage is able to induce significant lung damage as delta strain did but limited to the upper respiratory tract. The surveillance and vigilance should be kept for major drift in virus," he said.

According to the experts, the increased use of monoclonal antibodies could be driving this mutation. The symptoms of the new variant are similar to those of other Omicron subvariants, such as sore throat, cough, fatigue, nasal congestion, runny nose, headache, muscle aches, fever, and possible loss of taste and smell, the experts mentioned.

Study calls for making cardiorespiratory fitness a part of annual check-up

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

Making cardiorespiratory fitness a part of your annual health checkups can help you gauge your health status and understand the risk of underlying disease as well as predict mortality, according to a study. Cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF), also known as cardio or aerobic fitness can be defined as the ability of the heart, lungs, and blood vessels to supply oxygen during sustained physical activity.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), an individual's aerobic fitness level can indicate factors such as smoking, hypertension, and high cholesterol.

The study, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, suggests the need to incorporate



this measure in routine clinical and public health practice. It comes amid reports of even seemingly healthy and fit people succumbing to heart disease, among others.

"Apparently 'healthy' adults can take the cardiorespiratory fitness test under medical advice and supervision annually. In 'healthy' adults, it has the power to predict the risk of cardiovascular disease (heart attacks, strokes),

and is an even stronger predictor of mortality than diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, smoking (tobacco abuse)," Sanjay Chugh, Associate Director and Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiology at Narayana Hospital Gurugram said.

"It also predicts risk of developing diabetes, cancer or mental illness," he added. In the study, a high CRF measure was found to lower the risk of

death from cardiovascular disease (CVD) and cancer, while a low CRF indicated the risk of developing chronic conditions such as hypertension, heart failure, stroke, atrial fibrillation, dementia, and depression in the future.

The test measures maximum oxygen uptake (VO2 max) and how it's used during intense exercise.

Sanjay noted that in patients planned for surgery, "the test predicts the surgical risks of complications and death from surgeries and helps risk stratify, prognosticate, and guide patient management."

"Cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF) measurement should be routinely included in clinical practice," Sudhir Kumar, a neurologist at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, wrote in a post on X.

Apple Watch saves Delhi woman's life by alerting abnormal heart rhythm

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

Apple watch has saved yet another life, this time a 35-year-old woman from the national capital who suffered from Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) -- a rapid and abnormal heart rhythm.

Speaking to IANS, Sneha Saha, a policy researcher, said that late in the evening on April 9, she started experiencing a rapid heart rate.

She ignored it, dismissed it as a panic attack due to stress, and started doing deep breathing exercises and drinking water, but had no respite.

When the heart palpitations persisted, she used her Apple Watch Series 7, which she bought in 2022, to assess her condition. It

showed a high heart rate and advised visiting a doctor.

She again ignored it as it was nearing midnight. However, later, the Apple Watch alerted Sneha of extremely high heart rate (230+ bpm) and onset of AFib.

Sneha, who lives in Munirka, was then rushed to the Emergency at the nearby Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj, where doctors could not read the blood pressure in her body.

Assessing her condition further, they had to administer three delivery of direct current (DC) shocks (50+50+100 joules) to revive her heart's sinus rhythm. Subsequently, she was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

"Had the Apple Watch not alerted me of the serious heart condition, I would not have gone to the hospital in the middle of the night and would have lost my life," Sneha told IANS, noting that the watch has now become her "constant companion."

"I would not have measured my heart rate, had the watch not been there. Whatever I had to say to the doctors was based on Apple Watch readings," added Sneha, who is on her way to recovery.

The doctors diagnosed her condition to be a type of Tachycardia -- an increased heart rate for any reason -- which can get triggered by exercise or stress.

After returning home, she wrote to Apple CEO

Tim Cook on April 23, thanking him and the Apple team "for making such an advanced and precise recording ECG app."

Within a few hours, he responded: "I am glad you sought the medical attention and treatment you needed. Thanks so much for sharing your story with us."

"After the harrowing experience, I realised it is very important for us to understand our health, our sleep patterns, our heart rates as we all deal with stress," Sneha said.

"Smartwatches are a very good way of keeping track of your daily activities, your heart rate," added the Ph.D. degree holder in Science Policy Studies from the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Obesity, poor diet & physical inactivity driving early onset of cancers: Health expert

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

Obesity, poor diet, and physical inactivity are driving the onset of several cancers including gallbladder, colon, kidney, and pancreas, according to a top health expert from the University of Sydney, Australia.

Once known to affect the elderly, the last three decades have seen an enormous surge in early onset of cancer, occurring even before people turning 40 or 50.

Various studies have provided evidence that the cancer surge seen globally, including in India, is driven by an unhealthy lifestyle, including high consumption of junk food rich in sugar, salt, and fat combined with a lack of exercise, among others.

"Globally there has been a significant rise in some types of cancer in younger people. For instance, in the 30- to 39-year-old age group in the period 1991 to 2021, the rate of cancers of the gallbladder has increased by 200 per cent, uterine by 158 per cent, colorectal by 153 per cent, kidney by 89 per cent, and pancreas by 83 per cent," said Robyn Ward, Executive Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor Medicine and Health at the University of Sydney, said.



"The reasons proposed for this increase include obesity, poor diet, and physical inactivity," she added, noting that "young millennial adults are three times more likely to get cancer than the same age group born in the 1940s".

Who is more at risk?

Robyn noted that "overall, the incidence is higher in men than women and men are more likely to die".

Cancer incidence does vary by organ type, for example, prostate, lung, and colorectal cancer occur the most in males,

while breast, lung, and colorectal cancer are predominant in females, the Professor noted.

What are the commonly occurring 'early' cancers? How to prevent it?

In the majority of cancers like cervical, and colorectal, the chance of cure increases with early detection. But for some like brain cancer, early detection makes no difference.

The best proof of prevention is cervical cancer and colorectal (bowel) cancer, said Robyn.

Cervical cancer is pre-

ventable through vaccination and treatable if detected early. Infection with specific strains of human papillomavirus (HPV) is the primary driver (95 per cent) of cervical cancer, which is preventable by vaccination.

On the other hand, increasing screening national screening programmes for breast, cervical, and colorectal (colon) cancers can help boost treatment as well as a decline in mortality rates.

"For the right cancers, early screening will assist, for example cervical, bowel, and breast. But the current screening programmes for these population-based programmes are based on age not risk," the professor said.

Some younger people may be at higher risk of cancer while elderly may not. So age-based screening programmes may not help, but modern technologies like genomics, big data, and artificial intelligence (AI) may play an important role.

"A huge opportunity with modern technologies like genomics, big data, and AI is to develop genetic stratification, incorporated with health records to develop risk-based screening. This helps create personalised screening programmes," she said.

Study shows how E. coli causes urinary tract infections

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

A team of scientists has found how the bacteria Escherichia coli, or E. coli can cause urinary tract infections (UTIs) in healthy people.

Women are more prone to UTIs than men and almost half of them are affected at some point in their lives with uncomfortable and often painful symptoms. It usually occurs in the bladder or urethra, causing pelvic pain, increased urge to urinate, pain with urination and blood in the urine. It can also lead to serious infections in the kidney causing back pain, nausea, vomiting and fever.

The study published in the journal PNAS exam-



ined how E. coli uses host nutrients to reproduce at an extraordinarily rapid pace during an infection.

The team from the University of Michigan in the US used mouse models to decode the bacteria's mechanism.

They identified bacterial genes that may be important for establishing infection by looking at mutant strains that were not as good at replicating in the mouse models.

The team found a group of genes controlling transport systems, which if inhibited can help stop the rapid growth of E.coli.

"When bacteria need something to grow, say an amino acid, they can

Study shows how to boost lung health of premature babies

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

Extending continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) -- a type of breathing device -- for two weeks among premature babies, can help in their lung growth, finds a study.

Lungs of premature babies, born before the 37th week of pregnancy, are not fully formed and this leads to altered lung development and breathing issues that can last longer, into adulthood.

Researchers at the Oregon Health & Science University in the US found that extending CPAP treatment for two weeks can help increase "lung volume and lung diffusion capacity".

While the treatment is commonly used for preterm infants suffering from breathing issues, the team noted "there is no consen-



sus on optimal treatment length when the preterm infant is doing well".

"Extending CPAP treatment may be a simple and safe approach to improving preterm infant lung function and breathing in the absence of a lung growth therapy," said Cindy T. McEvoy, Professor of paediatrics at

Oregon. "The study's findings solidify CPAP treatment as beneficial for preterm infants without requiring pharmaceuticals," she added.

For the study, the team kept a group of preterm infants on CPAP treatment for an additional two weeks. Six months

later, the preemies who received the extra treatment had larger, healthier lungs than those who did not.

The findings, to be present at the ongoing Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) 2024 Meeting, in Toronto, can help clinicians determine an appropriate length of treatment.

FSSAI terms reports of allowing 10x more MRL in herbs, spices 'baseless'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Sunday denied reports in a section of media, claiming that it permitted higher pesticide residues in herbs and spices.

In a press statement, the FSSAI called the reports "false and malicious" and emphasised that India has

one of the most stringent Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) standards in the world. It also mentioned that the MRLs of pesticides are established differently for various food commodities based on their risk assessments. The Centre's clarification comes after the Hong Kong food regulator banned particular spice blends from two prominent Indian brands -- MDH and Everest, due

to reported residues of pesticide ethylene oxide in their samples.

Pesticide regulation in India is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through the Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee. This organisation was established under the Insecticide Act of 1968 to supervise the manufacturing, import, transportation, and stor-

age of pesticides, as well as their registration, banning, or restriction.

The FSSAI's Scientific Panel on Pesticides Residues works closely with the Committee and conducts comprehensive risk assessments on data to recommend appropriate MRLs. The Committee have registered more than 295 pesticides to date, of which 139 are specifically approved for use in spices.

Tillu Tajpuriya gang shooters behind Gogi gang member murder arrested: Delhi Police

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

Two sharpshooters and an informant associated with the notorious Tillu Tajpuriya gang, involved in the recent killing of a member of the rival Gogi gang in Alipur area, have been arrested by Delhi Police's Outer North district and Special Cell personnel, in two separate operations, an official said on Sunday.

Police officials said that the murder was planned and orchestrated from a city prison to assert dominance and to avenge gang leader Tajpuriya's death in jail by Gogi gang members.

The accused were identified as Vishal, a resident of Haryana's Sonapat, Happy, a resident of Alipur, and Bharat Kumar aka Babu, a resident of Haryana's Charkhi Dadri district. Additional Commissioner of Police, Northern Range, Rajeev Ranjan Singh said that on April 22, Narendra Malik aka Dhilla, a resident of Dhu-liya colony, Alipur was shot dead while Tarun Yadav, sustained injuries after unidentified persons opened fire on them near a bus stop.

During the inquiry, it was revealed that Malik's



brother, namely Suren-der aka Monu, is an active member of the Gogi gang and has been in jail for the last four years in a murder case. Malik, along with his associates, joined the Gogi gang and became an active member after the arrest of his brother.

The Additional Commissioner of Police said that inter-gang rivalry was suspected as Malik was connected with the Gogi gang, but all angles were being investigated.

However, during the investigation, it was ascertained that this murder was the result of an old rivalry between the Tajpuriya and the Gogi gangs.

"The team analysed the CCTV footage near the spot and found that a total of five assailants opened fire on the tempo in which

the deceased and injured were sitting," said Singh.

All five assailants arrived on two motorcycles, and after committing the crime, they swiftly fled towards Jindpur in Alipur.

"Thereafter, the team, based on technical surveillance and local intelligence, successfully apprehended two persons, namely Happy and Vishal," the Additional CP said, adding that Vishal is an active sharpshooter of the Tajpuriya gang who, along with his four associates, namely Sumit aka Jhumka, Sagar, Neeraj, and Bharat Kumar, opened fire on Malik and Yadav, killing the former and injuring the latter.

Further, it was also revealed that accused Happy was present at the spot and was continuously

providing information to the assailants through a mobile phone about the movement of Malik.

"During interrogation, accused Vishal disclosed that on the instructions of jailed gangster Amit aka Dabang, they, along with their associates, namely Sumit aka Jhumka, Sagar, and Neeraj, opened fire on Narendra and injured Tarun Yadav," the Additional CP said.

Vishal also disclosed that he came into contact with Amit through one of his friends.

"In March 2024, Amit provided a safe house to him and his associate Sagar for the murder of a member of the Gogi gang, and said that the name of the gang member would be provided to them later on," the police official said.

A day before the crime, the other accused joined them in Nathupura in the Sonapat border area. Sumit provided pistols and cartridges to other assailants, while the two motorcycles used in the crime were also provided by henchmen of Amit near Hanuman Mandir, Alipur.

In a parallel operation by the Special Cell on Sunday, Bharat Kumar was nabbed from Outer Ring Road, Vikaspuri.

Cong manifesto reflects the needs of our women, youth and farmers: Supriya Shrinete

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, MAY 5

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete on Sunday highlighted key issues, stressing the need for an issue-based politics, in Gujarat's Ahmedabad. While addressing a rally, Shrinete also urged for a shift away from divisive rhetoric and towards addressing crucial concerns like employment, education, and health-care.

Highlighting the Congress manifesto, Shrinete emphasised, "Our manifesto reflects the needs of our women, youth, farmers, and soldiers. It's a revolutionary manifesto. Where are the jobs for our youth? Simply suggesting selling pakodas is not enough, especially considering the rising oil and gas prices. Our



manifesto promises real jobs and apprenticeship opportunities for the youth."

Regarding agricultural policies, Shrinete promised, "We will ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) payments are made directly to farmers at procurement centres. APMCs (Agricultural Produce Market Committees) will be digitally crediting farmers' bank accounts, streamlining the process and benefiting farmers directly."

Shrinete also blamed the BJP's endorsement of specific candidates like Prajwal Revanna, who is involved in an obscene video scandal in Karnataka. She said, "He has harmed many women, exploited them, and yet our Prime Minister seeks votes for him? The women of this country are losing faith in the government." During her address, Shri-

nate attacked the Prime Minister, stating, "For 10 years, you have been the Prime Minister. Please fight an election where you focus on employment, education, or healthcare. You can't rely solely on divisive issues like Hindu-Muslim relations and Pakistan. Our Prime Minister travels to Greece and America but neglects to visit Manipur. This neglect is causing harm, especially to the poor."

Shrinete also addressed issues specific to Gujarat, saying, "Paper leaks are a concern for the people of Gujarat. Over 50 lakh students take these exams, and what about their dreams when papers are leaked? Seats are allocated to politicians' relatives, denying deserving candidates. We will fight for the rights of these youths."

BSF seize two Chinese drones along Pakistan border in Amritsar

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, MAY 5

Two Chinese drones were recovered on Sunday from two locations in the border area of Punjab's Amritsar district in search operations launched on information by the Border Security Force's (BSF) intelligence wing.

The operations resulted in the recovery of a China-made DJI Matrice 300 RTK drone from the courtyard of an abandoned house of Hardeo Ratan village in Amritsar,



the BSF said. Another Chinese-made DJI Mavic 3 Classic drone was recovered from a harvested field adjacent to Nestha village.

Reliable information and alertness of BSF troopers successfully helped to foil the desperate attempts of drone handlers and drug smugglers from across the border, it added.

Punjab shares a 553-km barbed-wire-fenced border with Pakistan which is under the vigil of the BSF.

Fresh Jolt to Congress: National media co-ordinator Radhika Khera quits party

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

There is no let-up in the series of known faces and top leaders snapping their ties with Congress party, over their alleged ignorance and insulting treatment by the top brass.

Radhika Khera, the National Media co-ordinator with the AICC Communications Department, is the latest big shot to bid 'goodbye' to the party.



She shot off a letter to party President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday and announced her decision

to resign from all posts as well as primary membership of the party.

In her resignation letter to Kharge, she blamed the party's abhorrence to those leaders attending the Ram Mandir's Pran Pratistha ceremony and also shared her travails after doing the same.

"I served the party, right from NSUI days to now. I spent a total of 22 years serving the party with full devotion but for

some days I have been subject to cruel treatment. My only fault was that I couldn't restrain myself from visiting the Ram Temple," she wrote in the letter to Kharge. She said that it was because of her love for Lord Ram that she was slighted at the party office in Chhattisgarh.

"Hence, I was left with no choice than to resign from all posts and also primary membership of the party," she said.

INDIA bloc has no PM candidate: Amit Shah criticises Opposition, targets Jagan in Andhra rally

AGENCIES
ANANTAPUR (ANDHRA PRADESH), MAY 5

Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the INDIA bloc has no candidate for the post of Prime Minister, adding that the country has decided to give Prime Minister Narendra Modi a third term.

Addressing an election rally at Dharmavaram in Sri Sathya Sai district along with Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N. Chandrababu Naidu, he sought to know who was the prime ministerial candidate of the INDIA bloc.

"God forbid, if you were to come to power, who would you elect as your Prime Minister? Will Sharad Pawar be the PM? Will Mamata Banerjee become (the PM) or MK Stalin Or Udahav Thackeray? I will take another name. Please don't laugh. Can Rahul Baba become the PM?" he wondered while addressing the rally.

Stating that two phases of the Lok Sabha elections were already over, he said with a century (of votes) in these two phases, PM Modi is ahead of the Opposition.

The Home Minister said that in the third phase, he will take a step further towards the target of crossing 400 seats.

HM Amit Shah said that electing Narendra Modi as Prime Minister means making the country safe and secure, eliminating terrorism and extremists, making India the third-largest economy in the world, making 3 crore 'Lakhpati Didis', providing shelter to 4 crore home-



less, giving 10 crore people free electricity with Surya Ghar Yojana and giving 11 crore farmers Rs 3 lakh crore in five years.

He claimed that the BJP has entered an alliance with the TDP and the Jana Sena to end crime, goondaism, rampant corruption, land mafia from Andhra Pradesh, to make Amaravati once again the capital of the state, to reinstate the power of God Tirupati Balaji and to protect Telugu language.

HM Amit Shah alleged that the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led Andhra Pradesh government wants to end Telugu language to introduce English in primary education.

He also criticised both Rahul Gandhi and Jagan Mohan Reddy for not attending the Pran Pratistha ceremony of Ram Mandir and asked people if they would vote for such people.

The Union Minister appealed to the people of Andhra Pradesh to elect candidates of the National Democratic Alliance for all Lok Sabha seats and also give the alliance a two-thirds majority in the state Assembly.

Appealing to people to make N. Chandrababu Naidu the Chief Minister and Narendra Modi the

Ahead of LS polls in Gujarat, 200 Congress members join BJP

AGENCIES
RAJKOT, MAY 5

A total of 200 Congress members switched to the BJP on the final day of campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections in Gujarat.

"These leaders are pillars of Congress, coming from the grassroots. However, Congress seems like a sinking ship, focusing solely on divisive caste politics," remarked a BJP spokesperson.

"Amid a leaderless Congress and its waning presence in Gujarat, we have decided to join the BJP, aligning ourselves with their vision for nation-building. Additionally, we pledge our full support to Purshottam Rupala and the BJP," said a Congress leader who switched the party.

Earlier on May 4, Ashok Dangar, former Rajkot Mayor and a senior Congress leader, officially joined the BJP in a ceremony attended by BJP Pradesh Vice President Bharat Boghra and local BJP candidate Parshottam Rupala. Dangar thanked the BJP leadership for the warm welcome, marking his return to the party for the second time.

In a synchronised move, Boghra, Rajkot's former Deputy Mayor and ex-Chairman of the Congress State OBC Cell, and three Mahamantri from the Rajkot Congress, also switched their allegiance to the BJP.

Gujarat Congress leader Paresh Dhanani will contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from the Rajkot seat.

Do not vote for SP, they are terrorist supporters: UP CM Yogi Adityanath

AGENCIES
HARDOI (UP), MAY 5

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has cautioned people against supporting a political party that espouses support for terrorists and displays disrespect towards revered figures like Lord Ram.

Addressing a rally in Hardoi district, he said: "During its tenure, the Samajwadi Party exhibited a keen interest in withdrawing cases against terrorists. Notably, they sought to withdraw cases against individuals implicated in attacks on significant sites, including the CRPF camp in Ayodhya, Rampur, Sankat Mochan Temple in Kashi, Lucknow, Ayodhya, and the Varanasi court. The High Court even rebuked the party, saying that their next could possibly be conferring Padma Award on terrorists."

The Chief Minister urged people to actively participate in shaping India's future. He said: "The recently concluded second phase of elections indicated that our goal of 'Abki Baar 400 Paar' will



soon be realised, with Uttar Pradesh poised to contribute to this objective substantially. Over the past decade, the country has witnessed monumental transformations, lead-

ing to widespread support for re-electing PM Modi."

Highlighting plans for infrastructure development, the Chief Minister added: "The Textiles Park, equipped with cutting-

edge facilities, is going to be built in an expansive area spanning 1000 acres between Hardoi and Lucknow.

This initiative is expected to generate employment opportunities for thousands of youth in the region. Furthermore, Hardoi has received significant investments, including establishing a new district and a medical college, which indicates the government's commitment to enhancing healthcare and administrative facilities."

He emphasised the ongoing development trajectory within the framework of 'new India'. "Under PM Modi's leadership, there has been a remarkable acceleration in infrastructure development, exemplified by the construction of double the number of highways built before 1947 and a corresponding increase in the number of airports," he added.

Yogi Adityanath underscored the stark contrast between the current era of progress and the challenges faced during the rule of previous regimes, notably the Samajwadi Party.

South Korean govt appears to shelve punitive measures against mass walkout by doctors

AGENCIES
SEOUL, MAY 5



The South Korean government appears to have shelved a plan to take punitive measures against a prolonged walkout by trainee doctors and have pulled back slightly from its plan to increase medical school admission quotas amid a standoff with major doctors' associations, according to officials on Sunday.

Still, the doctors' associations remained adamant over the issue and renewed their call for the government to revisit the medical reform from scratch, despite some signs of an internal split, reports Yonhap News Agency.

During a media briefing last week, Second Vice Health Minister Park Min-soo said the government has decided to grant local universities autonomy in deciding their medical school quota by a range of 50 to 100 per cent for the 2025 academic year in a bid to break the months-long deadlock, the officials said.

Additionally, the government has delayed the suspension of licenses for

doctors who have been inactive for months under its "flexible disposition" policy since late March.

No executive order has been issued for medical school professors who have resigned alongside their students.

These measures were seen as a compromise, considering the government's initial push for a total increase of 2,000 medical school admissions starting in 2025, as part of its effort to deal with potential problems stemming from the country's low birthrate and rapid aging, including a lack of medical services in rural areas. The government's decision triggered a protest from over 90 per cent of the country's 13,000 trainee doctors, who walked away from their

duties at general hospitals since February.

However, doctors' organisations have united in their calls for the government to scrap the planned hike and draw up a new plan from scratch, despite some signs of division in their internal coordination.

Lim Hyun-taek, the new head of the Korean Medical Association (KMA), a well-known hardliner, has repeatedly slammed the government in strongly worded statements and insisted on invalidating the increase in admissions.

"The plan to increase enrollment by 2,000 medical school students is not a solution for problems in the medical sector," Lim said in an event on Saturday, highlighting the need for a comprehensive

reevaluation of the proposed policies.

Park Dan, the leader of a trainee doctors' group and known for his hawkish stance, criticised Lim for trying to form a consultative body of trainee doctors and medical students in an effort to start a dialogue with the government without their consent.

"Our trainee doctors' groups haven't discussed the issue," he said. "We are worried about Lim's arbitrary decision."

He added that trainee doctors and medical students will make their own decisions and go independent.

As the walkout of trainee doctors at hospitals has lasted for more than two months, medical professors, who are senior doctors at major hospitals and have filled in the vacancies, started to take a day off last week, expressing fatigue from the prolonged walkout of junior doctors.

Some professors at Samsung Medical Center, Severance Hospital and Seoul National University Hospital also suspended surgeries and treatment for outpatients for one day last week.

Annual anti-Semitism report finds worst outbreak since World War II

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV, MAY 5



In the seven months following Hamas' shocking attack on Israel, the world has seen the worst outbreak of anti-Semitism since World War II, an annual report released on Sunday said.

If this trend continues, Jews in many countries will no longer be able to live their identity in safety and freedom, according to the report by the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in the US.

Last year, for example, there was an average of around three bomb threats per day against synagogues and Jewish institutions in the US.

"The year is not 1938, not even 1933," said Professor Uriya Shavit.

"Yet if current trends continue, the curtain will descend on the ability to lead Jewish lives in the West - to wear a Star of David, attend synagogues and community centres, send kids to Jewish schools, frequent a Jewish club on campus, or speak Hebrew."

Anti-Semitism had been steadily increasing in the months and years leading up to the massacres by Hamas and other Palestin-

ian extremist groups, the report notes, but "October 7 helped spread a fire that was already out of control."

In the US, for example, where some 6 million Jews live, a total of around 3,500 anti-Semitic incidents were counted between January and September 2023, but almost 4,000 in the last three months of the year.

The picture is similar in other countries, such as Germany, where 1,365

anti-Semitic incidents were tallied from January to September last year and 2,249 from October to December.

Other countries with large Jewish minorities - including France, Britain, Australia, Italy, Brazil and Mexico - also saw increases. The report entitled "Concern for the Future of Jewish Life in the West" warns against explaining the trend as a reaction to the humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip.

That is because some of the most vile anti-Jewish statements in connection with the conflict were made in the first days after October 7, it said.

The authors wrote that anti-Semitism rears its head on both the extreme right and extreme left - and spreads to the centre of society, often via social media.

Cannot accept Hamas's demand to withdraw from Gaza, assets Netanyahu

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV, MAY 5



Amid ongoing talks for a 'pause' and mounting demands for the release of hostages, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday asserted that his country will not accept Hamas's demands to end the Gaza war, reports said.

"We are not ready to accept a situation in which the Hamas battalions come out of their bunkers, take control of Gaza again,

rebuild their military infrastructure, and return to threatening the citizens of Israel in the surrounding communities, in the cities

of the south, in all parts of the country," he said, the BBC reported.

"Israel will not agree to Hamas' demands," he reiterated. His statement came as negotiations resumed in Egypt to strike a deal for a pause in Israel's Gaza offensive in return for the release of hostages taken by Hamas.

The prime dispute is whether the pause - pegged to be around 40 days for the release of hostages and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli

jails - will be permanent, as Hamas wants - or not. Netanyahu contended the proposed deal would keep Hamas in control of Gaza, and remaining a threat to Israel, the BBC said.

A Hamas official, who is an adviser to senior leader Ismail Haniyeh, said the group was looking at the latest proposal with "full seriousness" but repeated their demand that any deal explicitly includes Israel forces withdrawing from Gaza and a complete end to the war.

Torrential rains lash multiple cities in China

AGENCIES
GUANGZHOU, MAY 5

Torrential rains have lashed multiple cities in south China's Guangdong Province including Zhongshan and Zhuhai, with 58 rainstorm alerts in effect across the province.

From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, seven townships and sub-districts in Guangdong recorded precipitation of over 250 mm, and 65 townships and sub-districts recorded 100 mm to 250 mm, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the Guangdong meteorological observatory.

A township in the city of Zhongshan recorded the highest precipitation of 385.9 mm. Of the 58 rainstorm alerts in

effect by around 3 p.m. Saturday, five were red alerts and 14 were orange alerts, according to the provincial meteorological authorities. China has a four-tier, colour-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow, and blue.

The meteorological authorities in Zhongshan issued a red alert for rainstorms covering the whole city at 4:05 p.m. Saturday, with the precipitation in two areas within three hours reaching 100 mm. Local authorities have ordered the temporary closure of parks.

The rains have led to the temporary suspension of some bus services and the

closure of some scenic spots in Zhuhai. One meteorological station recorded precipitation of 315.8 mm in six hours to noon. Another meteorological station recorded precipitation of 141 mm within one hour, the largest one-hour rainfall since records began in 1962.

On Saturday afternoon, police authorities in Zhuhai closed part of an expressway as there is a risk of a landslide.

In Guangzhou, the provincial capital, 46 departure passenger flights had been delayed by more than one hour and had not taken off by 6:09 p.m. Saturday, according to the Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport. The provincial meteorologi-

cal authorities ordered precautions against flash floods and geological disasters as further rainstorms are expected in the coming days.

The provincial transport department has ordered a sweeping check-up for potential geological risks for the roads, waterways and railways.

Since April, Guangdong has been hit by sustained heavy rains rarely seen in history, leaving some water conservancy projects damaged and water levels in 113 reservoirs still above the warning level, said the provincial water resources department. It has ordered check-ups of the water conservancy projects for potential safety risks.

'Incitement channel' Al Jazeera will no longer broadcast from country: Israeli PM Netanyahu

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, MAY 5

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday announced that his government has decided to close Al Jazeera channel's operations in the country.

"The government headed by me unanimously decided: the incitement channel Al Jazeera will be closed in Israel," Netanyahu posted on X, thanking his Minister of Communications, Shlomo Karhi.

Last month, Netanyahu had accused the Qatar-based channel of "harming" Israel's security and "actively participating" in the October 7 massacre incited against IDF soldiers.

"The terrorist channel Al Jazeera will no longer broadcast from Israel. I intend to act immediately in accordance with the new law to stop the chan-

nel's activity. I welcome the law promoted by Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi with the support of coalition members led by coalition chairman Ofir Katz," Netanyahu said on April 1 after the Israeli Parliament passed a law to act against foreign media content that harms national security.

On Sunday, Karhi stated that after the Cabinet's approval, he had immediately signed the orders against Al Jazeera.

"Our orders will go into effect immediately. Too much time has passed and too many unnecessary legal hurdles for us to finally be able to stop Al Jazeera's oiled incitement machine that harms the security of the country. For months, I did everything and will continue to do everything so that they can no longer operate from Israel," he posted on X.

Islamic Jihad commander killed in Rafah: Israeli army

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, MAY 5

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has announced that Aiman Zaarab, a senior commander of the Islamic Jihad Rafah Brigade, was killed in an airstrike on the southernmost Gazan city of Rafah. Zaarab directed the Islamic Jihad's elite forces during the October 7 onslaught on Kibbutz Sufa and the Sufa military post bordering the Gaza Strip, the IDF was quoted as saying on Saturday by Xinhua news agency. Zaarab had "commanded and directed" several attacks, and over the past few days, he led the Islamic Jihad's preparations for combat in the southern Gaza Strip against the Israeli military, according to the IDF statement. Along with Zaarab, two other Islamic Jihad operatives were killed during the strike, the IDF added.

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Hamas, Qatar teams reach Cairo for talks on Gaza deal: Sources

AGENCIES
CAIRO, MAY 5

Teams from the Palestinian militant group Hamas and mediator Qatar have arrived in the Egyptian capital for further talks on a ceasefire and hostage release deal with Israel, sources at the Cairo airport said.

Both teams arrived aboard a flight from Qatar on Saturday, they added.

Egypt's state-affiliated broadcaster al-Qahera News also reported the arrival of a Hamas delegation in Cairo and cited "significant progress" in negotiations to reach the deal.

The broadcaster, citing what it termed as a high-level source, said the Egyptian security team engaged in the negotiations had reached a "consensus formula" on several contentious issues. No specific details were given.

Israel, meanwhile, is reportedly not sending a team to Cairo. A delegation will only be sent to Egypt once Hamas has responded to the current

proposed ceasefire agreement, Israel's Kan radio reported on Saturday, citing a government representative.

Israel plans to send a delegation to continue indirect negotiations with Hamas if the militant organization agrees to the draft deal presented, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz quoted a high-ranking Israeli official as saying.

Israel has been bombarding the Gaza Strip from the ground and air since Hamas militants launched an unprecedented attack on Israel in October that left about 1,200 people dead.

As part of the latest mediation efforts, Hamas, which abducted some 250 people from Israel on October 7, was presented with a proposal for a ceasefire in return for the release of remaining hostages. A response is still pending.

More than 100 hostages were released during a six-day truce in November. It is unclear how many of those remaining in captiv-

ity are still alive.

As of Friday, the Hamas-controlled Health Ministry said the death toll in Gaza from Israeli attacks launched in response to the October 7 attacks stood at 34,622.

Months of mediation by Egypt, Qatar and the United States in indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas have yet to result in a breakthrough. A diplomatic push to clinch a deal has picked momentum over the past few days.

Late Friday evening, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at an event in Arizona that it was challenging to understand Hamas' thought process.

"The leaders of Hamas that we're indirectly engaged with through the Qataris, through the Egyptians, are of course living outside of Gaza, living in Qatar or living in [Turkey], other places, and the ultimate decision-makers are the folks who are actually in Gaza itself with whom none of us have direct contact," he said.

Blinken said if Hamas was really concerned about the well-being of the Palestinians, then agreeing to the ceasefire deal that is on the table should be a "no-brainer."

On Saturday, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it carried out an airstrike on a rocket launch site in the southern Gaza Strip.

Fighter jets hit the militant site near the city of Khan Younis after a rocket was fired from there toward the Ein HaShlosha kibbutz on Friday, the IDF said.

A mortar launching site in central Gaza was also destroyed, a statement said. The Israeli navy has also conducted strikes along Gaza's coast over the past day.

According to Palestinian security services, the Israeli army attacked a building in the village of Abasan in the east of Khan Younis and shelled refugee camps in the central part of the Palestinian territory.

It said at least one Palestinian was killed in the Israeli navy strikes.

South Korea to take part in US-led cyber exercise amid rising security threats from North Korea

AGENCIES
SEOUL, MAY 5

South Korea's Cyber Operations Command will participate in a US-led multinational cyber exercise this week to boost its capabilities to counter malicious cyber activities, Seoul's defence ministry said on Sunday, amid growing security threats from North Korea.

According to the defence ministry, nine personnel from South Korea's military will join the Cyber Flag exercise to be held from Sunday

through Saturday (local time) in the US state of Virginia.

The online exercise is designed to sharpen skills for multinational cooperation in countering cyber threats and share intelligence against enemies' cyber activities, reports Yonhap news agency.

Since 2011, the US Cyber Command has conducted the cyber exercise annually to improve the readiness of Washington, its allies and partner countries against security threats in the online domain.

Death toll in Afghanistan rainstorm, floods reach 10

AGENCIES
KABUL, MAY 5

At least 10 people were killed in western Afghanistan due to a new round of heavy rains and flash floods over the past couple of days, officials said on Sunday. Heavy rains and flash floods killed seven people in Herat province over the past couple of days, provincial director for the disaster management authority Musa Ashhari confirmed, Xinhua news agency reported. Similarly, the rainstorms and flooding claimed one life in Herat's neighbouring Farah province and two in Ghor province over the period, local officials said. Storms and floods had killed more than 70 people and injured about 50 others elsewhere in Afghanistan in April.

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Driver dies after vehicle crashes into White House gate

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, MAY 5

A vehicle travelling at high speed collided with a gate at the White House, leaving the driver dead, the US Secret Service said. "Shortly before 10:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) on May 4th," the vehicle crashed into "an outer perimeter gate on the White House complex," the federal law enforcement agency said Sunday in a statement published on X, Xinhua news agency reported. "Security protocols were implemented as officers cleared the vehicle," it said, adding that "there was no threat to the White House." Limited traffic closures remain in effect as the agency and the local police department investigate the incident, said Anthony Guglielmi, chief of Communications for the agency, in a post on X.

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Sharp movements ahead, trade cautiously

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

The week went by and had four trading days with a mid-week holiday on May 1, thereby making it two periods of two days each. The volatility witnessed was several notches higher than usual. Surprises one to note that just about 10 days ago, India VIX, which is the volatility index, crashed to a new low. Maybe it was the lull before the storm.

On Tuesday and Friday, NIFTY made new highs and then fell sharply, closing in the red. Not sure how one should read it, but the scene is not comfortable. At the end of the week, BSESENSEX gained 147.99 points or 0.20 per cent to close at 73,878.15 points, while NIFTY gained 55.90 points or 0.25 per cent to close at 22,475.85 points.

The broader indices saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 0.55 per cent, 0.70 per cent and 0.61 per cent respectively. BSEMIDCAP was up 1.99 per cent, while BSE-MALLCAP was down 0.10 per cent. Plenty of mixed signals in the marketplace. Markets gained on two sessions and lost on two. Incidentally, gains and losses alternated with Monday and Thursday gaining while Tuesday and Friday were losing days.

The Indian Rupee lost eight paise or 0.10 per cent to close at Rs 83.42 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones was on a roller coaster ride with gains on four days and losses on one day. Wednesday saw the FED meet for its policy review meeting, where

they decided on expected lines to keep interest rates unchanged.

After the meeting, the commentary spelt out very clearly that inflation higher than 2 per cent will not see any rate cuts. This saw markets rallying sharply on Thursday and Friday. One wonders why markets in the US are hell-bent on just a rate cut. One needs to see that economic data is red hot and points to a booming economy. Things could not be better. Why bother about a rate cut at all?

Coming to our markets and the crazy movement we witnessed last week. Tuesday, April 30, saw NIFTY make a new lifetime high at 22,783 points. The previous day's close was 22,643 points.

After the high, markets fell sharply and closed at 22,604 points and closed in the red, losing 39 points. BSESENSEX made a high at 75,111 points but did not make a new high. The previous day's close was 74,671 points. From there, the market fell to 74,488 points, losing 183 points.

Friday, May 3, was even more volatile.

NIFTY made a new lifetime high yet again at 22,794 points against the previous day's close of 22,648 points. It fell very sharply to close at 22,475 points, a loss of 319 points from the high and 173 points from the previous day's close.

BSESENSEX made a high at 75,095 points against the previous day's close of 74,611 points. From there, it fell very sharply to lose 1,217 points from the



high and 610 points from the previous day's close. Indeed, very volatile and a bit scary.

The week ahead has three primary issues tapping the capital markets. Indegene Limited is tapping the markets with Indegene Limited tapping the capital markets with its fresh issue for Rs 760 crore and an offer for sale of 2,39,32,732 shares in a price band of Rs 430-452.

The issue would open on Monday, May 6, and close on Wednesday, May 8. The fresh issue and offer for sale would raise Rs 1,841 crore at the top end of the price band.

The company provides digital-led commercialisation services for the life sciences industry, including bio-pharmaceutical, emerging biotech and medical devices companies, that assist them with drug development and clinical trials, regulatory submissions, pharmacovigilance and complaints management, and the sales and marketing of their products.

Indigene is an integrated solutions provider, and almost 85 per cent of its revenues come from its US subsidiary.

The company reported revenues of Rs 2,306 crore for the year ended March 23, an EBITDA of 19.69 per cent, and a Profit after-tax margin of 11.54 per cent. In absolute terms, the profit after tax was Rs 266.09 crore. The EPS on a fully diluted basis was Rs 11.97. At this EPS, the PE band for the issue is 35.92-37.78.

There is no comparable company or peer set in the Indian space, while there are some comparable foreign companies globally. The share offers an opportunity for investors with a medium to long-term outlook. There could be listing pop, as well as available considering that markets are at lifetime highs or thereabouts.

The second issue is from Aadhar Housing Finance Limited. The issue is entirely an offer for the sale of Rs 2,800 crore. The price band is Rs 300-315. The selling shareholder is the promoter. This company was acquired from the DHFL group when they fell on bad times around 2016-17.

The company acquired was clean and had no issues while the group was struggling with various issues. The issue will open

on Wednesday, May 8, and close on Friday, May 10. The company is a housing Finance company focused on the low-income housing segment with a cap on ticket size at Rs 15 lakh.

In terms of performance, the company reported a gross AUM of just under Rs 20,000 crore at the end of the nine-month period ended December 2023. A mix of the clients they serve is 60 per cent salaried and 40 per cent self-employed. The average ticket size is between Rs 9 lakh to 10 ten lakh.

The company reported an EPS of Rs 13.8 for the year ended March 2023, and the PE band would be 62.19-65.39 on this EPS. There is no comparable peer in India in this space, and the listed players are basically online travel players like Make My Trip, Easy Trip and Yatra Online, who would be using the platform provided by TBO TEL Limited.

The issue offers scope on listing and in the medium to long term as well. Coming to the markets, we are at a crossroads once again. On the upside, I would go long only if 22,800 on the NIFTY and 75,200 on the BSESENSEX are crossed and sustained. On the downside, immediate support exists at 22,100 points on NIFTY and 72,800 points on BSESENSEX. It is time to be cautious, as the wild gyrations last week are not giving comfort. The strategy would be to sell on any rallies and buy on sharp dips.

The company operates an online B2B travel portal

distribution platform that connects buyers and sellers. It is present in the airline and hotel business currently. It earns a commission from the airlines whose tickets are sold on the platform while it charges a markup on the rooms sold on the platform.

The company is in a negative working capital cycle as it pays after receiving the money. It is adding new offerings on the platform and has recently added the Eurail on its platform recently.

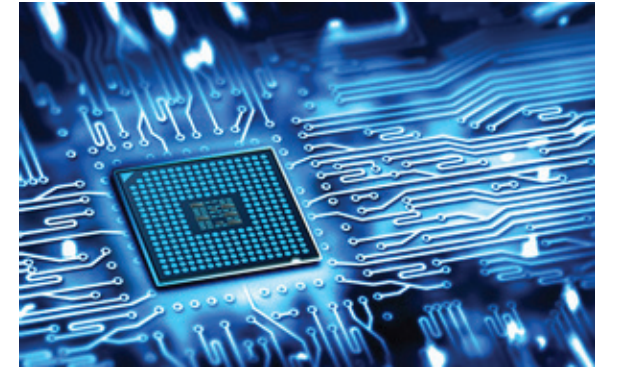
The company reported an EPS of Rs 14.07 on a fully diluted basis for the year ended March 2023, and the PE band would be 62.19-65.39 on this EPS. There is no comparable peer in India in this space, and the listed players are basically online travel players like Make My Trip, Easy Trip and Yatra Online, who would be using the platform provided by TBO TEL Limited.

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Trade cautiously.

\$100 billion worth chips needed for India's \$300 billion electronics production goal by FY26



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

As India aims to reach \$300 billion electronics production by FY26, it will trigger demand for semiconductors worth \$90-\$100 billion, largely driven by domestic mobile manufacturing -- an opportunity the country must tap.

The current electronics manufacturing at nearly \$103 billion translates to a semiconductor requirement of \$26-\$31 billion, considering the industry average of 25 to 30 per cent of chip components in any electronics product's bill of material (BOM).

"With the expected rise in electronics production (\$300 billion by 2026), this number is set to rise substantially to \$90-\$100 billion," according to the data by the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). Mobile phone production contribution in the overall electronics manufacturing jumped from 10 per cent to a whopping 44 per cent in the span of the last seven years. In FY23, the total import of integrated circuits (ICs) reached \$16.14 billion (out of which \$12 billion was only for mobile phones).

According to the ICEA, processor chips, which are advanced chips specifically for high-end

phones, may require some time before India can produce them at a competitive level.

"However, there is a commercial viability in fabricating processor chips for entry-level smartphones in India. This could be a consideration for the new semiconductor fabs," said the apex industry body.

The data showed that with a monthly output of around 1.5 million units (10-14 nm) of chipsets -- assuming 15,000 wafers of 300mm at 70 per cent yield from a fab, and considering the number of dies per wafer to be 148 -- the annual output could be approximately 18 million chipsets.

Therefore, the critical task before all the stakeholders is to translate the burgeoning semiconductors requirement into domestic production and reduce dependency on imports.

"This transition would boost domestic procurement and increase the viability of the semiconductor fabs in India," said the ICEA.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March laid the foundation stone for three semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore.

The first 'Make in India' chip is set to arrive in December this year from the Micron semiconductor plant in Gujarat.

CERT-In finds multiple bugs in Google Chrome, GitLab

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), which comes under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, has warned users of multiple vulnerabilities in Google Chrome and GitLab (an open-core company) which could allow an attacker to obtain sensitive information, bypass security restriction and cause denial-of-service (DoS) conditions on the targeted system.

The affected software includes Chrome versions before 124.0.6367.118/119 for Mac and Windows and Chrome versions prior to 124.0.6367.118 for Linux.

For GitLab, the affected software includes -- GitLab Community Edition (CE) and Enterprise Edition (EE) versions before



16.11.1, 16.10.4 and 16.9.6. "Multiple vulnerabilities have been reported in Google Chrome which could be exploited by a remote attacker to trigger remote code execution and DoS conditions on the targeted system," said the CERT-In advisory.

According to the cyber agency, these vulnerabilities exist in Google Chrome due to the user-after-free flaw in Dawn and Picture in Picture components.

On the other hand, multiple vulnerabilities such as authentication bypass vulnerability, security

restriction bypass, and denial of service exist in GitLab due to improper authentication mechanisms, flaws in handling domain-based restrictions when processing crafted email addresses, path traversal vulnerability and an inefficient regular expression, respectively.

As mentioned by the cyber agency, an attacker could use "these vulnerabilities by persuading a victim to visit a specially crafted website."

The agency suggested users apply appropriate security updates as mentioned by the companies.

Large cap stocks impacted by FII selling

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

The performance of large cap stocks has been impacted by FIIs remaining net sellers in the market. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said the ongoing results season will be a key factor for investors to align their portfolios. The market will also remain vigilant about the BoE policy and GDP data from the Eurozone.

"We expect a degree of consolidation in the market due to expensive valuations and any election-led jitters," he said.

The FIIs continued to remain net sellers in the market, which has impacted the performance of large cap stocks, he added.

A marginally better-



than-anticipated Q4 earnings and a correction in oil prices led to a positive start to the domestic market during the week. However, a mixed trend in the global market after the release of a status quo FED policy with caution about sustaining a high inflation trend led to a broad-based correction in the domestic market, he said.

The positive commentary from the auto com-

panies on recent volume numbers led the sector to outperform. Additionally, stock-specific action was visible in banks and the power sector on account of positive Q4 results and increased power demand, he said.

Siddhartha Khemka, Head, Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said: "We expect the market to consolidate in a broader range."

County Group delivers Noida's first ultra-luxury project; flats cost up to Rs 20 cr

AGENCIES
NOIDA, MAY 5

Real estate developer County Group on Sunday announced the delivery of its project 'County 107' -- the first ultra-luxury project of Noida, with the price of the apartments ranging from Rs 7 crore to Rs 20 crore.

With this, the group has also become the first developer to deliver three projects -- County 107, Ivy County and Coco County -- within 12 months in Noida and the Greater Noida area, a region known for real estate litigation and

homebuyers distress. Coco County (12.21 lakh sq ft) is located in Sector-10, Greater Noida (West), Ivy County (14.74 lakh sq ft) is located in Sector 75, Noida, and County 107 (14.78 lakh sq ft) is located in the posh Sector 107, Noida, the group said in a statement.

The three projects together have delivered an area of over 41 lakh sq ft with 1,600 inventories, it said.

"This achievement underscores our unwavering dedication to delivering high-quality results before time. Delivering

more than 1,600 units across three projects, that too one year before its committed RERA timelines reflects our commitment to County home-owners," Amit Modi, Director of County Group, said. The developer has previously delivered projects like Orange County, Olive County, Cherry County, Coco County, besides Noida's first luxury project Cleo County, it said.

Also, the group had recently announced a Rs 5,000-crore investment in Sector 115 Noida to develop a 28-acre luxury project 'Ivory County'.

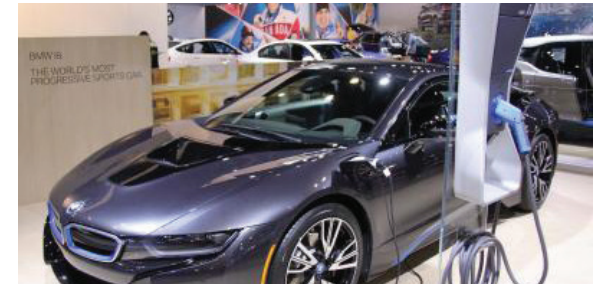
Eco-friendly cars' sales cross 100,000 in South Korea in Q1

AGENCIES
SEOUL, MAY 5

Sales of eco-friendly cars surpassed 100,000 units in the first quarter in South Korea on booming demand for hybrid vehicles, industry data showed on Sunday.

A total of 101,727 environment-friendly cars made by five South Korean carmakers, including Hyundai Motor and Kia, were sold during the January-March period, up 8.7 per cent from a year earlier, according to the data.

Out of this total, 85,828 units, or 84.4 per cent, were hybrid cars, soaring 42.4 per cent from



the same period last year, reports Yonhap news agency. Sales of electric vehicles, meanwhile, plunged 51.4 per cent on-year to 15,237 units in the first quarter. There has been a global slowdown in EV sales. Even Elon Musk has said that EV adoption rate globally is "under pressure" and a lot

of other auto manufacturers are "pulling back on EVs and pursuing plug-in hybrids instead."

By model, Kia's Sorento Hybrid was the best-selling model in the first quarter with 19,729 units sold, followed by Hyundai's Santa Fe Hybrid with 15,981 units and Kia's Carnival Hybrid with 12,203 units.

India has 'unexplored' opportunities: Warren Buffett

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, MAY 5

Billionaire investor Warren Buffett said that the Indian market has "unexplored" opportunities which his conglomerate holding company, Berkshire Hathaway, would like to explore "in the future".

Buffett's remarks came at Berkshire's annual meeting on Friday when Rajeev Agarwal of Door-Darshi Advisors, a US-based hedge fund that invests in Indian equities, asked him about the possibility of Berkshire exploring in India, the world's fifth-largest economy.

"It is a very good question. I am sure there are loads of opportunities in countries like India," he said.

"The question, however, is whether we have any advantage or insights into those businesses in India or any contacts that will make possible transactions that Berkshire would like to participate in. That is something a more energetic management at Berkshire could pursue," the co-founder, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway said.

Buffett, 93, said Berkshire has a great reputation around the world. He said, his Japanese experience has been fascinating enough.

"There may be an unexplored or an unat-



tended opportunity...but that may be something in the future," he said about India.

Buffett said the question is if Berkshire has some kind of advantage in pursuing those unattended opportunities, particularly against people who are managing other people's money and getting paid based on assets.

During a Question and Answer session, Buffett answered several questions related to some of the key investment decisions taken by Berkshire Hathaway lately.

Decidedly reducing stake in Apple was one of the key topics. Buffett clarified that it had nothing to do with the long-term view on the stock and Apple will probably remain one of their largest holdings despite the recent slowdown.

He also told shareholders that Vice Chairmen Greg Abel and Ajit Jain have proven themselves the right people to lead Berkshire after he departs.

Women's T20 WC: India to open campaign against NZ on Oct 4; to face Pakistan on Oct 6

AGENCIES
DHAKA, MAY 5

India will be opening its 2024 Women's T20 World Cup campaign against New Zealand on October 4 in Sylhet, said the International Cricket Council (ICC) while releasing the tournament schedule on Sunday.

India's highly anticipated match against Pakistan will be held on October 6 in Sylhet. India are in Group A alongside New Zealand, Pakistan, Qualifier 1 and Australia, who they will face on October 13 in Sylhet.

"I'm thrilled at the prospect of competing in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh later this year. The growth of women's cricket over the past few years and especially Women's World Cups have been incredible. I am sure this event will be no different with competitive and high energy cricket to entertain the world," said Harmanpreet Kaur, India captain, in an ICC statement.

Group B comprises of hosts Bangladesh, England, South Africa, West Indies and Qualifier 2. The 2024 Women's T20 World Cup will be held from October 3-20 in Bangladesh, the second time it is hosting the tournament



after 2014.

Ten teams will play 23 matches over 18 days, at two venues - the Shere Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka and the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in Sylhet. 2023 World Cup runners up South Africa will play England in the opening match of the tournament.

It is followed by hosts Bangladesh facing Qualifier 2 in the evening match in Dhaka. Australia, the defending champions and the most successful team in the event's history, will start their campaign on October 4 in Sylhet against Qualifier 1.

Top two teams from Group A and Group B will qualify for the semifinals, scheduled for October 17 in Sylhet, and October 18 in Dhaka. The T20 World Cup champions will be crowned at the Shere

Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka on October 20.

"We are thrilled at the announcement of the fixture schedule for the ninth ICC Women's T20 World Cup. For the country, it's an honour to host such a prestigious event, where our passionate fans can experience the best of international women's cricket firsthand.

"The event has the potential to galvanise the women's game not only in Bangladesh but also across the world. Our team has worked hard to improve, and playing in home conditions adds to our determination. We urge our fans to support us; their motivation fuels our performance," added Nigar Sultana, Bangladesh captain. There will be 10 warm-up matches from September 27 to October

1, all taking place at BKSP in Dhaka. Qualifiers 1 and 2 for the mega event will emerge from the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier in Abu Dhabi, UAE, with the final being played on May 7.

The winners of semi-final matches in the qualifiers between Sri Lanka, UAE, Ireland and Scotland will claim the last spots for the Women's T20 World Cup 2024. "We are thrilled to announce the fixture schedule for the ninth ICC Women's T20 World Cup. It will be great to have an ICC World Cup back in Bangladesh, a country with such a large and passionate fan base who will be able to enjoy an ICC event first-hand.

"We have seen the impact and success of each of the Women's World Cups over the last few years, building significant momentum for women's sport. This Women's T20 World Cup has the potential to transform women's cricket in Bangladesh, whilst creating a new generation of fans and participants across the globe. As a strategic priority, we are excited to see the positive impact it will have on and off the field in South Asia and across the world," concluded Geoff Allardice, ICC CEO.

Talks for hosting world chess championship in advanced stages with Singapore, India: FIDE

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, MAY 5

The International Chess Federation (FIDE) is in advance talks with India and Singapore for hosting the World Chess Championship Match to be played later this year, a senior official said. He also said that FIDE is likely to get more than one formal bid while no formal bid has been received till now.

The World Chess Title Match will be played between the reigning champion and Chinese Grandmaster (GM) Ding Liren and the world's youngest chess title challenger Indian GM, 17-year-old D. Gukesh.

"No formal bids have arrived, but we stage intensive talks with several countries, with Singapore and India being on the most advanced stage. It is likely that we will get more than one formal bid," GM Emil Sutovsky, CEO, FIDE, told IANS.

Last month, the All-India



Chess Federation (AICF) President Nitin Narang told IANS that the federation is assessing the possibility of hosting the World Chess Title Match in India.

As per FIDE, the World Championship Match consists of 14 games and the player who scores 7.5 points or more wins the Match, and no further games are played. If the score after 14 games is equal, the winner is decid-

ed via tiebreak games. The FIDE had recently called for bids from interested parties to host the World Chess Championship Match provisionally scheduled between November 20 and December 15, 2024.

According to FIDE, 31.5.2024 is the last day for submission of bids.

The other details are:
a) Total duration of the event - up to 25 days

b) The Regulations shall be approved by July 1, 2024.

c) Minimum total budget of the event - \$85,00,000
d) Minimum prize fund - \$25,00,000

e) FIDE fee - \$11,00,000
f) Payment for commercial, sponsorship and broadcasting rights will be specified according to the bidders' proposals.

g) The Organiser shall respect the rights of the FIDE sponsors and partners, including those for the video broadcast.

Interestingly Gukesh is now ranked sixth in the Open category, while Liren is ranked seventh.

"I believe Gukesh will be the slight favourite against Ding Liren. The world champion is a very good player. However, he has not been very active and his form is not at its peak," GM Susan Polgar former women's world champion (1996-99) told IANS when queried about the Indian player's chances of becoming a world champion.

ISSF World Cup Baku: Trap shooter Vivaan misses final, bows out in shoot-off

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 5

Vivaan Kapoor bowed out 2-3 in a shoot-off with Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Matthew John Coward-Holley of Great Britain, as none of the Indian trap shooters made the title round at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Vivaan shot 120 in qualification to get into a three-way shoot-off for the sixth and final qualifying spot with Ireland's former junior world champion Ian O'Sullivan, besides Coward-



Holley.

While Ian missed his opening attempt in the shoot-off to exit first, Vivaan fought on only to miss his third shoot-off shot as Coward-Holley nailed all three targets to go through. Vivaan had to settle for seventh place.

The other India scores of the day are:

Women's Trap - Rajeshwari Kumari (score 108, rank 23rd), Shreyasi Singh (score 107, rank 29th), Manish Keer (score 105, rank 38th)

Men's Trap - Prithviraj Tondaiman (score 117, rank 24th), Bhowneesh Mendiratta (score 116, rank 39th).

CSK pacer Matheesha Pathirana returns to Sri Lanka for hamstring injury recovery

AGENCIES
DHARAMSALA, MAY 5

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) said on Sunday said fast-bowler Matheesha Pathirana will be returning to Sri Lanka for further recovery from a hamstring injury.

Pathirana made his CSK debut in IPL 2022 season, and played a pivotal role in their title-winning run in 2023.

"Chennai Super Kings pacer Matheesha Pathirana is nursing a hamstring injury and will be returning to Sri Lanka for further recovery. Chennai Super Kings wishes Pathirana a quick recovery," said the franchise in a statement.

Pathirana played six matches for CSK this season, picking up 13 wickets at an economy of 7.68, including a four-wicket haul against Mumbai Indians. He currently sits as CSK's second-leading wicket-taker in IPL 2024 behind Mustafizur Rahman's 14 scalps.

The Sri Lankan is the second CSK pacer to be dealing with injuries this season after Deepak Chahar pulled his hamstring and went off the field after bowling the first two balls of the Punjab Kings' chase at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on May 1.

In ten matches of IPL 2024, defending champions CSK have lost five and have won as many games. The Rituraj Gaikwad-led side are currently placed at fifth position on the points table and need a win over their ongoing match against Punjab Kings at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala to keep their IPL 2024 play-offs chances alive.

IPL 2024: Siraj's 'never-say-die attitude' is his real strength, says Sunil Gavaskar



AGENCIES
BENGALURU, MAY 5

Indian batting legend Sunil Gavaskar, in a discussion about Mohammed Siraj's contribution to Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) victory against Gujarat Titans (GT), called the right-arm pacer's "self-belief and the never-say-die attitude on the field" as his real strength as a player.

In Saturday's match against GT, Siraj showcased his skill by making the ball swing both ways during the powerplay, leading to the dismissal of Wriddhiman Saha. He further induced Shubman Gill to play a shot that resulted in a catch at deep point off a leading edge.

Siraj's impressive performance concluded with figures of 2-29, earning him the Player of the Match award following RCB's four-wicket victory.

"Every time you see Mohammed Siraj, you know that he's going to give his heart out. Remember the time when his father passed away when he was in Australia. He carried on. A lot of people would want to go back because your parents are so dear to you. They've brought you up and they've given you everything. But I think he realized that playing for India was important," Gavaskar said on Star Sports.

"Also, he was not established at that stage. An established player would 100% have gone back. When you're not established, and you're looking to get your place in the team, you stick around. And that's what he did.

"And remember how spectacularly he bowled in that Gabba test match. Getting somebody like Steve Smith out when he was on 55 because getting Steve Smith out when he's just coming to bat is one thing, but when he is set and then getting him out is another thing. So, this is the real strength of Mohammed Siraj, the self-belief and the never-say-die attitude on the field," he said.

After fast bowlers' impressive show bowl out GT for a below-par 147, Virat Kohli (42), Faf du Plessis (64) gave RCB a blazing start with a 92-run opening stand coming in just 35 balls. Although there were a few nerves during the run-chase, RCB were comfortable as they chased the target down with 6.2 overs to spare.

Former England cricketer Paul Collingwood discussed RCB's performance last night, particularly highlighting Virat Kohli's contribution, "I believe tonight's performance was as impressive as any RCB fan could have wished for. The intensity displayed by RCB with the ball was

commendable. Even while chasing a modest total, seeing Virat Kohli stepping out of his crease and effortlessly flicking a delivery for six on just the second ball indicated their aggressive intent. This signals danger for their opponents.

"Despite their position near the bottom of the table, RCB didn't hold back tonight. They showed clarity, bravery, and aggression, particularly in the middle order. Although they lost wickets, I commend their aggressive approach. In a bid to improve their net run rate, they unselfishly took on the opposition, which was fantastic to watch," he said.

Ex-Australia cricketer Aaron Finch shared his thoughts on Du Plessis's batting performance and said, "In a small run chase all it takes is one or two overs to really break the back of the innings. Faf did that from ball one when he was on song. RCB was acutely aware of their net run rate, crucial for their chances in the final four. They understood the importance of chasing the target swiftly.

"Despite some unselfish batting in the middle overs, they aimed to accelerate the chase as much as possible. The brilliant start provided by Faf and Virat Kohli set the tone for their innings."

MLS 2023-24: Messi sets assists record as Inter Miami trounce NY Red Bulls

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, MAY 5

Lionel Messi set a new Major League Soccer (MLS) record of five assists in a single match as leaders Inter Miami romped to a 6-2 home win over New York Red Bulls. Luis Suarez's hat-trick was relegated to a support act as Messi, who also scored a goal, continued his outstanding run of form for the Florida outfit on Saturday.

New York went ahead on the half-hour at Chase stadium through Dante Vanzeir, who thumped home a first-time effort after Wikelman Carmon's shot cannoned off the far post.

Matias Rojas put Inter Miami on level terms by receiving Messi's pass before curling a 20-yard effort into the top-right corner, reports Xinhua.

Rojas and Suarez then linked up before the latter's deft pass released Messi, who gave his side the lead by firing home from 12 yards.

Inter Miami extended their advantage just after the hour through the impressive Rojas, who ran onto Messi's sublime through ball and sent a delightful chip over the head of goalkeeper Carlos Coronel.

The almost telepathic understanding between



Messi and Suarez was on display as the Uruguayan striker sent an acrobatic volley into the far corner after the Inter Miami captain's lofted cross.

The former Barcelona teammates were irreplaceable, and they again exchanged a series of slick passes before Suarez stroked home his side's fifth goal.

Suarez, who joined Inter Miami on a free transfer in January, added to New York's misery by running onto Messi's pass and rounding Coronel before threading home his third goal from the tightest of angles.

The visitors grabbed a late consolation goal when Emil Forsberg converted from the spot after Marcelo Weigandt's mistimed chal-

lenge on John Tolkin. The result leaves Inter Miami three points clear of second-placed Cincinnati in the Eastern Conference standings while New York Red Bulls remain fourth with 17 points.

Messi has now scored 12 goals and provided 11 assists in 11 games for Inter Miami this season while Suarez has 12 goals and seven assists in 15 outings.

Martino hails Messi-Suarez double act

Inter Miami manager Gerardo Martino hailed the attacking partnership of Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez in the team's 6-2 home rout of New York Red Bulls on Saturday.

"Messi always makes the difference," Martino told a news conference after the match at Chase Stadium in

Fort Lauderdale. "Today the partnership between him and Luis in the second half worked very well, like in old times. They really were very influential in the game."

The other player to impress for Inter Miami was Paraguayan midfielder Matias Rojas, who scored twice and also showed a remarkable understanding with Messi. "The truth is that everyone had a phenomenal impact in the game, but Leo probably did something historic with five assists and a goal," Martino said.

"I always say the same thing: it is redundant to talk about him [Messi] because it seems like he always does something new. If something was missing it was this: having an impact on the six goals that a team scores. It's going to be difficult to see something like this again."

Despite the emphatic nature of the win, Martino said his team had plenty of scope for improvement. "I think that in the first half, we couldn't find the passes between the lines," he said. "We couldn't advance on the outside either because of the way they were set up. We knew we had to take some more risks and move the ball with more authority, which we did in the second half," the Argentine coach added.

JKAACL organises 'Ru-Ba-Ru Meet the Eminent' on Punjabi writer Harbhajan Singh Sagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 5

Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organized 'Ru-Ba-Ru, Meet the Eminent' programme on Punjabi writer Harbhajan Singh Sagar under the able guidance of Secretary JKAACL.

Sahitya Academy Awardee Khalid Hussain was the Chief Guest on this occasion whereas S. Kanwal Kashmiri presided over the programme.

S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, well known intellectuals, writers and family members of Sagar attended the programme.

In his address, Khalid Hussain, shared his experiences in the field of literature, with H.S Sagar. He said that some of the short stories of H.S Sagar like Pension Case, Lalded



Diyan Asthiyan, Badshah Kithey Hai?, are having a world class standard level.

In his presidential address, S. Kanwal Kashmiri elaborated on the life work and contribution of S. Harbhajan Singh Sagar.

In his address, Popinder Singh Paras welcomed all the guests, writers and others on the occasion. He said that JKAACL has organized a number of literary events, including Meet the Eminent programmes, during the last year.

S. Ajit Singh Mastana, Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn and Joginder Singh Pandhi also expressed their views in the programme.

A collection of articles on literary criticism, titled 'Harbhajan Singh Sagar Di Sahitk Drishti', compiled and edited by S. Popinder Singh Paras, was released on the occasion. The articles in the book are based on the life, personality and works of various writers of Jammu & Kashmir.

S. Harbhajan Singh Sagar, a renowned Urdu and Punjabi short story writer of Jammu & Kashmir was blessed with the practice of short story writing as well as literary criticism. He started writing in Urdu and his stories were published in many Urdu magazines like Aaj Kal, Beesvin Sadi, Paaswaan, E Adab, Ruby etc. Afterwards, when he got interactions with other well known Punjabi writers of Kashmir, he started writing short stories in Punjabi. He has presented his short stories in a number of conferences in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and New Delhi.

Three books of short stories, titled 'Yatri', 'Dayira' and 'Band Darvaaje Da Birtaant', written by Harbhajan Singh Sagar have been published so far. He has been awarded with Best Book Award twice by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 RO Srinagar PC inspects Strong Rooms, Collection/Distribution centres



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 5

The Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Sunday visited Strong rooms, Distribution and Collection centres established for the General Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

During the visit, the Returning Officer oversaw the commissioning of EVMs, and took a detailed assessment of arrangements put up for the safety, surveillance and security of Election-related material and machinery kept at these centres for the Lok Sabha elections in 02-Srinagar

Parliamentary Elections.

While interacting with the concerned AROs and other staff at Strong Rooms established at SP College and SP Higher Secondary School, the Returning Officer instructed them to ensure all safety measures and adherence to the guidelines of the Election Commission of India in letter and spirit for the protection of election-related material and machinery at these centres.

The RO also stressed on proper handling and management of the EVMs and other Election related material, besides ensuring efficient and secure mechanisms for its storage.

DC Samba inspects condition of National Highway

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, MAY 5

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Abhishek Sharma today inspected maintenance of National Highway stretch from Gaghwal to Bari Brahmana and asked the Executing agencies for better upkeep of the road for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Yatra-2024.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Suresh C Sharma, SSP Traffic police and Officers of NHA accompanied the DC.

The Deputy Commissioner asked construction agencies to expedite the pace of work on the Highway stretch and complete the same before the commencement of Amarnath Yatra. He directed to prioritise the construc-

tion works, install signboards at diversions and identify and fill potholes within 7 days along the stretch. The DC Samba informed that 26 lodgment centres have been set up at different locations in district Samba for ease of yatrias which can be used as transit camps.

The work of fly-over bridges at some locations was also reviewed and construction companies were instructed to expedite the same in a planned way so that these are completed as per timeline. Further, the Deputy Commissioner formed Sub Division level committees headed by concerned SDMs to monitor works of construction companies and to resolve issues of public as well as construction companies.

DC Srinagar inspects NEET Exam Centers



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 5

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Sunday undertook a visit to NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) Centers in the district to have first-hand appraisal of the facilities made available for smooth conduct of the examination.

The DC inspected various examination centers including SP College, Amar Singh College where he enquired about the facilities made available for the students, and

inspected the arrangements. It was informed that about 15000 aspirants appeared in the NEET examination at 31 exam centres.

During the visit, the DC expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by the concerned authorities

Notably, Magistrates were deployed at all the examination centers by the District Administration, besides District Police had also put in place all necessary security arrangements for smooth conduct of the examination.

DDC reviews PMAY implementation in Reasi District



JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 5

District Development Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan on Sunday chaired a review meeting to comprehensively assess the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the district. The meeting, held in the DC office complex, aimed to evaluate the physical and financial advancements under the centrally sponsored scheme.

Joint Director Planning Narinder Gupta provided an overview of the current status, highlighting both the physical and financial progress achieved in the district.

The DDC emphasized the importance of timely construction of allotted houses, stressing that beneficiaries who have received their installments but failed to initiate work would be served notices. "They will be given a grace period of one week to commence work; failure to do so will result in necessary recovery measures" he added. Additionally, DDC Mahajan directed authorities to complete the pending housing projects by 31st of July.

Joint Director Planning Narinder Gupta, EO Municipality Reasi and Katra, DIO (info), BDO's and other concerned officers were present.

SVEEP: Thematic Nukkad Natak engages thousands at busy Sunday Market, Lal Chowk

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 5

Continuing the series of voter awareness programmes about mass electoral participation in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024, the Chief Electoral Office today organized a thematic Nukkad Natak (Street Play) at the busiest Sunday Market, here which became the center of attraction for thousands of people present.

On the occasion, local theatre artists performed an impactful act that proved to be the vibrant voter awareness.

Nodal Officer Media, Chief Electoral Office UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Sapna Kotwal said that such awareness programs are significant for mass participation in nation-building through elections.

She said a well-informed electorate ensures a vibrant and representative democracy.

The initiative resonates with the commitment of the Chief Electoral Office



to inspire the young voters towards the electoral process and strengthen the democratic setup to empower citizens, Sapna Kotwal added.

The Nodal Officer Media further said that starting tomorrow, voter awareness jingles will be played in TRC buses to reach the maximum number of

voters. Through initiatives like the Nukkad Natak at Lal Chowk and the upcoming jingles in TRC buses, we aim to engage and educate voters from all walks of life," stated Akhtar Hussain Qazi, Nodal Officer SVEEP.

Artists and spectators said it was the first time people had witnessed a street play in a busy Sunday Market.

On occasion, noted folk singer and National Awardee, Gulzar Ahmed Ganai said that the program was aimed to enhance understanding of voting-related processes and promote electoral literacy, especially among first-time voters, preparing them for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

This is pertinent to mention that Election Commission (EC), through the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, is making an unprecedented attempt to reach out to different sections of society in the three constituencies.

SDH Bheaderwah drubs DHS Doda team in Dr Tariq Masood memorial Cricket match

JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 5

District Health Society, in collaboration with District Administration Doda, today hosted a one day cricket exhibition match to pay tribute and homage to the late legendary Cricketer and former DHO Doda, Dr Tariq Masood for his remarkable contribution to the game of cricket. The match was played at Sports Stadium Doda under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan between SDH Bheaderwah team and DHS Doda team, in which the former thrashed the later by 4 wickets.

Earlier, before the start of the match, the event was formally inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh along with CMO Dr Om Kumar, Inam ul Haq (Son of Late Dr Tariq Masood) and other dignitaries. A two minute silence was also observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

The District Health Society Doda team was led by Harvinder Singh, who is Deputy Commissioner, while the SDH Bheaderwah team was led by Captain Dr Mohammad Ashraf (BMO Bheaderwah).

SDH Bheaderwah, after winning the toss, elected to field first.

Batting first, DHS Doda was all out for just 91 runs in 13.4 overs. Ashok Shan was the top scorer with 23 runs, while Harvinder Singh scored 13 runs



for the team. From SDH Bheaderwah, Naveed Khan scalped 3 wickets, while Dr Subhash Sharma and Kulwant Singh took 2 wickets each.

While chasing the target, SDH Bheaderwah super striking first batting order and with the help of some middle order batsman helped the team to achieve the target with one over left by losing their 06 wickets.

Dr Touseef Malik was the highest scorer who made 20 runs, while Dr Mohammad Ashraf and Arshad Zaffar contributed 19 and 14 runs respectively. From DHS Doda, Irshad Malik grabbed 3 wickets while Jahangir Mehta and Ajay Singh shared 01 wicket each.

Naveed Khan of SDH Bheaderwah was declared

as Man of the Match for brilliant all-round performance.

The prize distribution ceremony was attended by ADC, Sudershan Singh, CMO, Dr Om Kumar, Chief Accounts Officer GMC, Mohammad Iqbal Ganai, BMO Ghat, Dr Ab Gafoor, EO MC Doda, Amit Sharma, BMO, Dr Mohammad Ashraf, besides family members of Late Dr Tariq Masood, Civil Society Members and officials from Health Department Doda who distributed prizes among both the teams.

Later, ADC along with CMO presented an Award of Appreciation and Memento to Inam ul Haq Son of Late Dr Tariq Masood, in recognition of his selfless and dedicated services in the depart-

ment and social work. On this occasion, a pledge on Nasha Mukht Bharat was also taken by both the teams and dignitaries present during the match.

CMO Dr Om Kumar, in his speech, thanked the district administration and other allied departments for their support in making the event a resounding success and also recalled the dedicated services rendered by Late Dr Tariq Masood.

ADC lauded the efforts of CMO Doda and congratulated both the teams for exhibiting their cricketering skill in the match.

The match was officiated by Ifroz Hussain, Parmod Singh, Vinod Kumar, Khalid Hussain, Nehaan Butt and Javed Ahmed Butt.

SMC undertakes Cleanliness Campaign in Zone South, Ward No. 30 of Srinagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 5

In a bid to enhance cleanliness in the city areas, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) today conducted a cleanliness in Zone South Ward No. 30 of Srinagar.

The massive cleanliness drive was led by SMC offi-



cial in and around L.D. Hospital and embankment.

The objective of this initiative was to elevate the standards of cleanliness and advocate for hygiene practices by employing effective waste collection and disposal

techniques, while also focusing on the removal of unwanted vegetation and grass.

By actively involving the local community in these endeavors, the SMC aims to nurture a sense of civic responsibility among residents, encouraging sustainable and hygienic behaviors.