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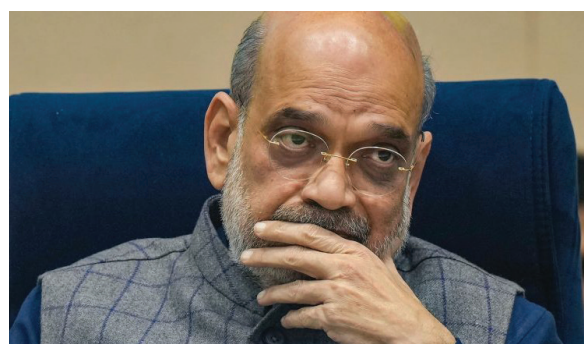
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Successful J&K polls success of Modi govt policy; next step assembly polls, statehood: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the Modi government's Kashmir policy has been vindicated by the successful polling in Jammu and Kashmir, where even separatists have voted "overwhelmingly", as he assured that the assembly elections in the region will be held before September 30.

Once the elections are over, the government will start the process of restoring statehood to the Union Territory, Shah said in an



interview to PTI late Saturday.

"I have said in Parliament that we will give the statehood after the assembly elections," he said, adding that everything is going according to

plan, such as the surveys of the backward classes and delimitation exercise of the Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies.

"We have completed the delimitation process. Because the reservation can be given only after the delimitation process is completed. Because we have to know about the status of various castes (to give reservation). That has been done. Lok Sabha election is also over (in Jammu and Kashmir). Next is the assembly election which will also be held. We will complete the process before the Supreme Court deadline," he said.

On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission of India to conduct elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, 2024.

Commenting on the relatively high polling percentage in the Kashmir valley in the Lok Sabha elections, Shah said he believed that there has been a big change in attitudes there.

"Voting percentage has increased. Some people used to say that people of the valley do not believe in the Indian Constitution. But this election was held under the Indian Constitution because Kashmir's Constitution is no longer there. It was scrapped. Election was held under Indian

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

INDIA bloc wants to turn country's majority community into second-class citizens: PM Modi

AGENCIES
MAU (UP), MAY 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said INDIA bloc parties want to turn the country's majority community into second-class citizens and also accused them of planning to rewrite the Constitution to provide reservation on the basis of religion.

Addressing a public meeting in Ghosi here in Uttar Pradesh's Purvanchal region, he also alleged the opposition grouping will end the reservation given to SC,



ST, OBC and give all of it to Muslims. He accused INDIA parties of making different castes fight among themselves.

Attacking the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress, which are constituents of the INDIA bloc, Modi said they have neglected Purvanchal over the years and turned it into a "region of mafia,"

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Police constable booked under NDPS act dismissed in Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 26

A police constable booked last year under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was dismissed from service in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, an official said on Sunday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Reasi) Mohita Sharma ordered the dismissal of selection grade constable Tariq Hussain Shah for his prolonged unauthorised absence from duties and alleged involvement in drug trafficking, a police

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Heard of work from home, first time hearing about work from jail: Rajnath

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, MAY 26

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday took a dig at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying he had heard about "work from home" but it is the first time that he is hearing of "work from jail".

Addressing an election rally in Khanna for the BJP's Fatehgarh Sahib candidate Gejja Ram Valmiki, Singh said, "Here, AAP is the ruling party. You don't need to be told much about what kind of work it is doing."

"There is also an AAP government in Delhi. But



the AAP leader was jailed in the liquor scam," Singh, said referring to Kejriwal's arrest in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

The defence minister said he thinks every leader should have the moral courage to resign from their post if they face any allegation until being cleared of the charges.

This is morality, he said.

"AAP leader Kejriwal was jailed in the liquor scam. Even after that, he says he will continue

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

10.46 Lakh motor accident claims worth Rs 80,455 crore pending nationwide: RTI

AGENCIES
NOIDA, MAY 26

As many as 10,46,163 motor accident claims worth Rs 80,455 crore are pending across the country and their numbers have increased constantly between 2018-19 and 2022-23, according to an information received through RTI Act.

The details have been provided by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in response to the query filed by Supreme Court advocate K C Jain in April.

In his query to the Ministry of Road Transport

and Highways (MoRTH), Jain had sought to know the total number of motor accident claims pending in the country with state- and district-wise details.

He also sought to know the annual break up of claims instituted, disposed of and remaining during the last five years and the initiatives, if any, taken by the Centre for an early disposal of the motor accident claims.

According to IRDAI's information, at the end of the financial years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23, the number of motor accident claims pending was 9,09,166, 9,39,160,

10,08,332, 10,39,323, and 10,46,163, respectively, with claim amounts of Rs 52,713 crore, Rs 61,051 crore, Rs 70,722 crore, Rs 74,718 crore, and Rs 80,455 crore, respectively.

On regional-level break-up of information, the IRDAI stated, "District-wise and state-wise details of motor third party claims are not available with IRDAI, as IRDAI does not collect or maintain such granular information." Citing the data, the Agra-based lawyer said the number of pending claims has been increasing year by year, and there is also a delay in the disposal

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Goods train derailed in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

A goods train on Sunday derailed in Udhampur near Sangar station in Jammu, a Railway official said.

Movement of trains was disrupted for a brief period on the route leading to Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Katra following the derailment.

"No injury or major damage was reported due to the incident," he said adding that movement of some Katra to Jammu bound trains including Vande Bharat remained hit but the rail traffic was smooth thereafter.

MeT says 'Heatwave' to continue for 3 more days as night temp rises in J&K



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 26

Amid forecast for continuation of "heatwave" in plains of both Jammu and

that generally dry weather is expected till May 28 even through possibility of thundershower activity at isolated places cannot be ruled out.

From May 29-31, he said, partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain and thunder is likely at isolated places towards afternoon.

Overall, he said, there is no significant weather activity expected till the end of this month.

"Heat wave over plains of Jammu & Kashmir divisions and hot & dry weather is likely over hilly districts during next

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Govt extends tenure of Army Chief Gen Pande by one month



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

The government on Sunday extended the tenure of Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande for a period of one month.

Gen Pande was to retire from service on May 31.

"The Appointments Committee of Cabinet on May 26 approved the extension in service of Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj C Pande for a period of one month, beyond his normal age of superannuation (May 31), i.e.

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Leh-bound spicejet plane suffers bird hit; returns to Delhi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

A Leh-bound SpiceJet aircraft suffered a bird hit on Sunday morning and returned to the national capital, according to the airline.

The plane landed back safely and the passengers were deplaned normally. A source said the Boeing 737 plane had around 135 people onboard.

In a statement, SpiceJet said the aircraft operating SG 123 from Delhi to Leh returned back to the national capital after suffering a bird hit on engine



2. "The aircraft landed back safely in Delhi and passengers were deplaned normally," it said.

The airline also said the aircraft made a normal landing and not an emergency landing.

Earlier, the source said that a full emergency was declared at the airport and the aircraft, which took off at around 1030 hours, landed safely at about 11 am. The plane returned due to engine vibrations, the source added.

Cash, Liquor, Drugs worth Rs 95 crore seized during Lok Sabha Polls in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 26

Election authorities in Jammu and Kashmir seized about Rs 95 crore worth of cash and other freebies like liquor that were meant for influencing the minds of voters during the staggered elections to five Lok Sabha seats in the Union territory.

The polling in Jammu and Kashmir was completed on Saturday as

Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency voted for their candidates.

While the voter turnout in the three constituencies of Kashmir has broken decades-old records, attempts were made by some candidates to influence the voters across the union territory using money, liquor and other freebies, officials of the election department said here.

"From the date of announcement of elec-

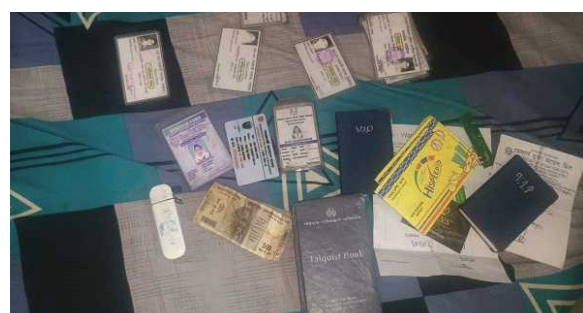
tions to the Lok Sabha, we have so far seized material and cash with a total value of Rs 94.797 crore," the officials said.

Police played the most active role in checking the use of money and freebies as it accounted for Rs 90.83 crore seized during the campaign, they said.

"Cash, liquor, drugs and other freebies have been seized by various enforcement departments. Major department-wise

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Bangladeshi national held near LoC in Jammu



AGENCIES
JAMMU, MAY 26

A Bangladeshi national appearing to be mentally challenged was detained

in a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Pallanwalla area of Akhnoor sub-division here, officials said

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Kashmir's unique 'Panzath Nag' fish-catching festival draws hundreds to Anantnag

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 26

Hundreds of people with their wicker willow baskets took a day off from work to catch fish from Panzath Nag, a centuries-old tradition of local communities, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Sunday.

According to local people, the annual traditional festival is not only limited to catching fish in the spring but also to weed and desilt the Panzath



Nag, to make the water body vibrant and clean.

The local people of Qazigund believe that about 500 springs lie within a radius of 1.5

KM from Panzath village where this annual festival of cleaning springs and fishing is held traditionally every year.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Revocation of Art 370 watershed moment in country's history: Rana

J1 NEWS SERVICE

DINANAGAR GURDASPUR
PUNJAB MAY 26

Describing the revocation of Article 370 as watershed moment in the history of the country, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said the visionary bold decision of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi ji has brought about positivity in the socio-political, economic and developmental landscape of Jammu and Kashmir and the historic turnout in the Parliamentary elections across Jammu and Kashmir in general and the Valley in particular after decades of turmoil will go down in the annals of history with golden letters and is a reflection of the people's resolve to have a peaceful resurgent J&K and reiterates their faith in the Indian democracy and decisive strong willed leadership of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi which has transformed Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing a series of public meetings in Dinanagar assembly constituency alongwith DDC Vice Chairman Jammu Mr. Suraj Singh, in support Mr. Dinesh Singh Babbu the BJP candidate from Gurdaspur Parliamentary Constituency, Mr Rana said the changing Jammu



and Kashmir underscores the transformative vision and resolute leadership of the Prime Minister, acknowledged the world over. His unwavering commitment to empowering every region of India, including Jammu and Kashmir, has played a pivotal role in instilling hope and confidence among the citizens. Under his decisive and strong-willed stewardship, J&K has witnessed a paradigm shift, transitioning from a state of unrest to one of renewal and growth, he maintained.

Rana said the huge participation of electors demonstrates collective resolve of the people to break free from the shackles of the past and embrace a future defined by peace, stability, and inclusive development. It reaffirms their appreciation and endorsement of

the ideals being cherished by the Prime Minister in accordance with his vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. This also reflects people's unflinching faith in democracy and their unwavering belief in the spirit of unity and progress under the decisive leadership, he added.

Devender Rana said this historic moment marks a significant milestone and serves as a poignant reminder of the indomitable spirit of its people and their unwavering resolve to shape a future defined by peace, progress, and prosperity. He exuded confidence that this spirit will be demonstrated in Punjab, going to polls in the last phase, as elsewhere in the country. The vote to the BJP will be the people's decisive mandate to Prime Minister Yashasvi Modi to steer the country

on the path of Viksit Bharat with renewed confidence and vision, he maintained.

Rana said the revocation of Article 370 from the Indian Constitution has not only redrawn the political contours of the country but has also heralded a new era of unity, integration, and progress in Jammu and Kashmir and has opened up new vistas of opportunity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, unleashing their latent potential and empowering them to partake in the fruits of development and progress enjoyed by their fellow citizens across the country.

Rana exhorted the sagacious voters of Punjab to come forward in a big way on the day of polling and support the BJP's mission to make India third economy in the next five years—a prelude to Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Uday Chib inaugurates 'Khurak' Supplement Store & Health Consultancy

Emphasizes importance of health & fitness

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

Uday Bhanu Chib, National General Secretary of Indian Youth Congress, today inaugurated 'Khurak', a new supplement store and health consultancy, at M/s Sajjan Fitness Centre, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Uday Bhanu Chib praised the initiative taken by the Proprietor of M/s Sajjan Fitness Centre. He acknowledged the importance of accessible health and fitness resources in today's fast-paced world. He termed it a significant step towards promot-



ing health and wellness in our community.

Chib emphasized the importance of a healthy lifestyle and urged the youth to prioritize their physical and mental health. "Adopting a healthy lifestyle is essential for our overall well-being. Physical fitness and

mental health go hand in hand, and it is crucial that our youth focus on maintaining a balanced and healthy life," he remarked.

Chib highlighted the urgent need to steer the youth away from the growing menace of drug abuse by encouraging them to engage in sports and phys-

ical activities. "There is a dire need to divert our youth towards the sports sector, especially amidst the rising culture of drug abuse. By fostering a culture of fitness and health, we can help our young generation lead more fulfilling and productive lives," Chib added.

Ranjot Singh, National Sports Coordinator of IYC, also emphasized the importance of sports and physical activities in promoting a healthy lifestyle. He stressed the need for concerted efforts to provide ample opportunities for youth engagement in sports to channel their energy positively and build a stronger, healthier society.

Peace, prosperity & large-scale development results into bumper voting in Lok Sabha elections: Ravinder Raina

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

Peace, prosperity & large-scale development in J&K under Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union government has resulted in bumper voting in Lok Sabha elections, said Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP, accompanied by Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. Chief Minister and Dr. Devender Kumar Manyal, General Secretary, J&K BJP, while addressing a Press Conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina thanked the voters of Jammu & Kashmir for the bumper voting in the Lok Sabha elections 2024.

Raina said that the massive participation of people in the electoral process has resulted in record-breaking voting in J&K. He said that in the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat, more than 72 percent of votes were



polled. Udhampur-Doda seat witnessed more than 68 percent voting. In Srinagar Parliamentary seat 40 percent voting was witnessed. Baramulla Parliamentary seat witnessed near about 60 percent voting. Anantnag-Rajouri Poonch Parliamentary seat also witnessed bumper voting.

BJP congratulates and appreciates the people of J&K for their enthusiastic participation, said Raina, and thanked the Department of Election Commission, government offi-

cial, Army, paramilitary forces, JKP, and all others for their role in ensuring a peaceful election in the whole region.

Ravinder Raina appreciated every voter in Jammu & Kashmir for their role in achieving 58 percent total polling, a record polling that has shattered the previous voting records in the region. He also specially mentioned the first-time voters for their overwhelming participation in the electoral process.

"The bumper voting by enthusiastic people is the

proof of new Jammu and Kashmir which is treading on the path of peace, prosperity, brotherhood, and development under the leadership of Modi whose government was able to create a sense of security in the hearts and minds of the local population," said Raina.

Raina also recalled that more than 50 percent voting is witnessed in the areas that earlier used to witness the meager voting of 2 percent or 4 percent. Raina expressed hope that this trend for bumper participation and voting will also be witnessed in the Assembly elections and other local elections.

"People have celebrated the elections as a festival. A free and fair electoral process in a peaceful atmosphere where every political party was able to campaign freely is a trend of new Jammu & Kashmir. This testifies the improved security and development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi", said Raina.

S. Manjit Singh welcomes CEC's statement regarding hold Assembly Elections in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE

VIJAYPUR, MAY 26

Welcoming the statement of Chief Election Commissioner of India regarding initiation of process to hold assembly elections in J&K, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today asked the Party workers to prepare for elections and strengthen their roots at the ground level across Vijaypur Block.

The review was taken by the Former Minister during a meeting at village Chak Baglan in Block Vijaypur. In this meeting, the participants shared the detailed programs of door-to-door campaigns and educating the people about the Apni Party's agenda of equitable development, peace, and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It's a welcome statement given by the Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar that the Election Commission of India would initiate a process



of holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir very soon following encouraging voter's turnout," said Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh in the meeting.

He said that the statement of the CEC shows that the Election Commission is keen to hold the elections in Jammu and Kashmir which are pending for the last many years.

"The people have had no elected representatives in Jammu and Kashmir for

a long time, and hence, it becomes important to give them a democratic voice to address their issues and restore their confidence in the democratic system," he added.

He said that it becomes imperative for the Commission to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir as soon as possible because the people have lost their faith from the bureaucratic system that listens to no one.

"The bureaucracy has

encouraged the liquor mafia and mining mafia snatching the rights of the people of Jammu as well as Kashmir. The influential mafia system needs to be handled as per the law and the Apni Party is committed to protect the rights of the residents," he added.

He said that the Party will encourage participation of the local contractors in their respective areas and industrial sector to improve the falling graph of Jammu and Kashmir regarding employment.

"We are committed to advertise the vacant posts for recruitment in the Govt services," he added, while expressing concern over the slow pace of development.

He however asked the Party workers to strengthen the party at the ground level and educate people about the policy and programs of the party that would be implemented if the Party forms the next Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.

NC Leader Pushpinder Chadha along with supporters Join BJP



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

NC senior leader Pushpinder Chadha, who is also Block President of NC Sunderbani and NC worker for about 48 years, with his supporters joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP, and Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. Chief Minister welcomed him along with his hundreds of supporters into the party fold.

Ex-Panch Sat Pal Sharma, Khiladi, Mohan Lal, Ashok Kumar, Mali Ram, Tara Mani, Sushil

Ratan, Akram, Kamal Nath, Kali Das, Rajinder, Rakesh Kumar, and others were among the other prominent to join BJP on the occasion. Ravinder Raina, while welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, appreciated Pushpinder Chadha for his active social work spread across many decades for the welfare of the people. He said that now he has made the right decision to serve the people as a worker of BJP. He said that the BJP is committed to making the lives of people easier while improving the security scenario and giving pace to the development works in J&K. He expressed the hope that the new entrants

will now further the mission of the BJP and serve the people with their dedicated efforts.

Kavinder Gupta said that the people-centric policies and the clear intention to serve the people and strengthen the nation have been appreciated by the people across the regions and the religions. He said that the massive voting in this Lok Sabha election has proved that the people's faith in the democratic process has enhanced under the Modi government.

Pushpinder Chadha said that he would leave no stone unturned to serve the people while working as a loyal soldier of the people.

Missing lady along with her minor child traced out within 24 hrs and reunited with her family

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 26.05.2024

An information was received at Police Station Nagrota about the missing of a lady (name Withheld) R/o Distt Chatterpur State MP A/P Jagti Nagrota whose missing report was registered at PS Nagrota on 24.05.2024 vide DD No. 04. Acting upon this, a police team of PS Nagrota led by SHO Nagrota assisted by PSI Masqoor put strenuous efforts and with the help of technical assistance as well as human intervention traced out the missing lady along with her Minor Child today and after completing all legal formalities the said lady and her Minor Child have been handed over to legal heirs. Accordingly, missing report has been closed.

General public has appreciated the swift action of police in tracing out the missing lady.

Electric power cuts in summer continues to plague Jammu district: Kesri

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 26

Shiv Sena Hindustan has expressed serious concern over failure of concerned authorities to address unscheduled power cuts posing significant challenges to the residents and businesses alike. Addressing media persons in Arnia, Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri said that electric power cuts in summer caused discomfort and inconvenience to all the sections of society. Without electricity, essential amenities such as fans, air conditioners, and refrigerators become non-functional, making daily life unbearable, particularly for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and infants and particularly for students who find it hard to prepare for exams and necessary tests.



Kesri further said that businesses reliant on continuous power supply, such as restaurants, hotels, and medical facilities, suffer financial losses and operational disruptions during prolonged outages. On the other

hand poor households are unable to invest in alternative power sources such as inverters, generators, and solar panels to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during outages like rich and affluent persons. While these solutions provide temporary relief, they often come with significant financial implications, making them inaccessible to economically disadvantaged households, added Kesri Kesri observed that

the issue of electric power cuts in summer continues to plague Jammu district, highlighting the need for systemic interventions to address the underlying causes. The local government, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, must prioritize infrastructure upgrades and investment in renewable energy sources to enhance the reliability and sustainability of the region's power supply. Additionally, measures such as demand-side management and energy efficiency initiatives can help alleviate the strain on the existing infrastructure and reduce the frequency of power cuts, added Kesri.

BJP govt's tenure is for a few days more, change will be ushered in on June 4: Bhalla

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, MAY 26

JKPCC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla on Sunday lashed out at the BJP-led Centre, asking why there is no prosperity in the lives of people if the country's economy is growing at a rapid pace. Attending a programme to facilitate booth agents from Badyal Brahmana, Bhalla accused PM Modi of "speaking lies and making hollow promises with the public only to capture power." Attacking BJP government, he said 70 crore youth are unemployed in the country and unemployment is the highest in 45 years. He said 30 lakh posts are vacant in the government sector under the Modi regime. BJP makes big claims that the economy is growing at a rapid pace. I want to ask if it is growing so fast then and if there is progress in the country then why there is no progress in people lives. Why did our children not get employment? Bhalla said.

Bhalla asked why inflation has gone up too much, if the country is progressing fast then why factories here shutting down. Why the industry is being weakened by imposing GST. There is not even



a single scheme for the middle class and for your relief," he said. Progress is only being seen on TV and no progress is taking place in your lives, he said. He accused the BJP of not respecting the public at all. "They do not speak about your problems. They do not tell what they are doing to contain inflation and bring down unemployment," he said. It is only the Congress which speaks about the public, he asserted. He said the BJP government's tenure is nearing its end, boldly predicting a shift in power dynamics on June 4, when the results of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections will be declared.

Bhalla claimed that the BJP-led NDA will be voted out of power in the elections. "The BJP government's tenure is for a few days more, change will be ushered in on June 4," he said. Claiming that the BJP-

led NDA government has "deprived and tormented" the people of the country during its rule, he said this election is to give a befitting reply to the party. He slammed the Govt for its failure to curb escalating prices of essential commodities, ranging from food to petroleum products. He said that everybody need to come forward and be at forefront in the fight to save the Constitution, democracy and freedom in this country. He castigated the present dispensation for neglecting the people residing in rural and remote areas. He asserted the ruling government has miserably failed to stand on the expectations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir despite getting mandate for consecutive two terms.

Bhalla said that during the last 10 years, the price of LPG has more than doubled, unemployment

has broken all previous records with J&K leading in the unemployment chart, Central Govt failed to create 2 crore jobs per year as promised, corruption at peak, recruitment scams are taking a heavy toll, farmers committing suicide, no policies for industries, healthcare facilities at back foot, etc. He asserted that today beneficiaries of Govt schemes are facing inhumane treatment especially the old age citizens who are facing huge harassment in the name of pension cases verification. He said that BJP has befooled the people with its hollow promises before the elections and now the people of Jammu and Kashmir have today realize that they have been totally betrayed by the party. He said that the people across the state are being made to suffer in absence of basic amenities for no

fault of theirs. He asserted that the government has virtually broken the spine of common people due to its anti-people policies the results of which are easily visible to everyone.

Bhalla categorically said that Congress is the party of poor, weaker sections, farmers and underprivileged sections of society which always stood for their rights and cause. He said that people have by now understood well that no other party can ensure their welfare like Congress and therefore its wave is being witnessed across the Jammu and Kashmir leading to restlessness among its opponents. He said that those sitting at helm these days are indifferent towards the poor strata of the society as under their rule inflation is touching the ceiling, jobs have vanished, no policy for youth, handful of recruitment processes have been entangled in corruption cases, industry is on crutches, and peace for which the incumbents are trumpeting from each forum is also in tatters as terrorism graph is up again especially in hilly areas. On this occasion, General Secretary JKPCC Amrit Bali, Kissan Cell Chairmen and BDC Chairman Dalip Kumar, Secretary JKPCC Pawan Bhagat, Inder Sharma besides others were also present.

Adv Purnima terms 53% voter turnout in Anantnag-Rajouri LS Seat a victory for democracy

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

Advocate Purnima Sharma, the Spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, has lauded the Modi Government for the unprecedented and historic 53 percent voter turnout recorded in the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary constituency. This remarkable turnout is the highest since 1984 and signifies a significant victory for democracy in the region.

In a statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader expressed her heartfelt congratulations to the citizens of Anantnag-Rajouri for their active participation in the democratic process, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the values of democracy. She stated, "The historic voter turnout is a testament to the growing political awareness and engagement of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. It reflects their trust in the democratic



process and their desire for a stable and prosperous future."

Praising the efforts of the Modi Government, Adv. Purnima highlighted the various initiatives undertaken to ensure a smooth and secure electoral process. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have witnessed significant improvements in electoral infrastructure and security measures. These efforts have created an environment conducive to free and fair elections, allowing voters to exercise their democratic rights without fear or intimidation."

She further emphasized that the record turnout is a reflection of the government's commitment to

fostering an inclusive and participatory political environment in Jammu and Kashmir. "The Modi Government has consistently prioritized the development and integration of Jammu and Kashmir. The high voter turnout is a clear endorsement of these efforts and a step towards greater political stability and development in the region."

Adv. Purnima also extended her gratitude to the Election Commission of India, local authorities, and security forces for their tireless work in ensuring the successful conduct of the elections. "Their dedication and professionalism have been instrumental in achieving this historic milestone. We owe this success to their unwavering commitment to upholding the democratic process."

The former deputy Mayor said that BJP in J&K is committed towards achieving positive momentum and ensure that UT continues to move on the path of peace and prosperity.

Tube-wells not functional, paddy farmers at verge of committing suicide: Tony

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SUCHETGARH, MAY 26

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of JKPCC and DDC Member Suchetgarh, has raised an urgent alarm regarding the dire situation faced by paddy farmers due to non-functional tubewells and non-availability of irrigation water in the fields.

In a fervent appeal to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Tony sought immediate intervention to avert the looming catastrophe that could drive farmers to the brink of suicide. The crisis stems from the alarming number of non-functional tubewells, leaving paddy farmers without access to essential irrigation water.

Tony revealed that more than 50 tubewells are currently out of order, rendering vast swathes of farmland parched and unproductive. Shockingly, the Chief Engineers and Executive Engineers responsible for these tubewells lack the necessary funds to repair the



defunct infrastructure, bringing crucial irrigation departments to a complete standstill, he added.

Expressing deep concern over the apathy shown towards the plight of paddy farmers, Tony emphasized the urgent need for strong measures to address the crisis. He highlighted the stark disparity in attention given to apple growers of Kashmir as compared to the rice-growing regions, where farmers face neglect and indifference in times of distress.

Tony underscored the critical shortage of irrigation water, exacerbating the challenges faced by

farmers during the crucial phase of paddy cultivation. He stressed that timely intervention from the authorities is imperative to prevent further escalation of the crisis and safeguard the livelihoods of farmers.

In a direct plea to LG Sinha, Tony urged decisive action to allocate necessary funds for the repair of tubewells and ensure the uninterrupted flow of irrigation water to paddy fields. He called for immediate steps to alleviate the suffering of farmers and avert the looming threat of suicides driven by despair and desperation.

As the custodian of the region's welfare, Tony implored LG Sinha to prioritize the concerns of paddy farmers and take swift and resolute measures to address the tubewell crisis. He emphasized the need for solidarity and support from all stakeholders to overcome this pressing challenge and uphold the livelihoods of those toiling in the rice bowl of the nation.

Bali Bhagat rallying support for BJP in Amritsar Lok Sabha Elections

JJ NEWS SERVICE
AMRITSAR, MAY 26

Bali Bhagat, a senior BJP leader and former minister today addressed a series of impactful meetings in the Amritsar North assembly constituency to garner support for Taranjeet Singh Sandu, BJP candidate contesting for the Amritsar Lok Sabha constituency.

During his speeches, Bali Bhagat highlighted the transformative measures undertaken by the Modi government, particularly the historic abrogation of Article 370, which has brought significant positive changes to the region of Jammu and Kashmir. He underscored the government's commitment to development and progress, emphasizing how these bold decisions have reshaped the socio-political landscape of the region

for the better. Expressing his confidence in the BJP's vision and leadership, the former minister stated that the Party is poised to set new benchmarks in the upcoming Punjab Lok Sabha elections. He underscored PM Modi's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to the nation's advancement across various sectors. He cited transformative policies and initiatives undertaken during PM Modi's tenure that have significantly impacted the lives of millions of Indians, fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and social welfare.

Addressing meeting of Polling Booth presidents in Amritsar North Assembly Constituency, Bali Bhagat asked them to strengthen Party's base at booth level to ensure resounding victory in the ensuing Lok



Sabha battle. He asked them to strengthen the organization from the booth-level, and reach out to prospective voters from all segments and age-groups. He asked the booth level workers to disseminate information about Modi government's flagship schemes among

the common masses so that doubts if any can be warded off timely leaving no scope for the opposition parties to take undue benefits by swaying people by misleading them.

The former minister emphasized that it is important to bring the voter to the polling booth

and efforts should be made by the party workers to meet this challenge with utmost ease through strong resolve and conviction. He said that ground level workers are the real ambassadors of the party as their efforts can prove to be the game changer especially to get favourable results in elections.

Bali Bhagat appealed to the people of Amritsar to ensure maximum participation on June 1 polling in favour BJP Candidate Taranjeet Singh Sandu while endorsing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's candidacy for a third term to sustain the nation's progress.

Later, the senior BJP leader Bali Bhagat interacted with famous film star Preeti Sapru Ji and discussed about formulating the policies and programmes of BJP in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

AJMS Punjab felicitates Ch Manmohan Singh for selfless service to Jat community

JJ NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MAY 26

All India Jat Maha Sabha (AIJMS), Punjab unit, held a significant meeting in Chandigarh, organized by Harpal Singh Harpura, National Vice President of AIJMS and President of the AIJMS Punjab unit.

In the meeting, Choudhary Manmohan Singh, President of AIJMS, Jammu & Kashmir, and former Mayor of Jammu, was the Chief Guest and Ch. Avtar Krishan from Kathua was the Guest of Honour. Ajaib Singh Boparai, Incharge General Secretary, S. Sukhbir Singh Manahas Advisor Punjab, Avtar Singh Kalair District President Pathankot, Kanwar Partap Singh Bajwa Youth President Punjab, S. Mehar Singh Chotalla President Tarantaran, S. Gurpal Paggi President Amritsar,

S. Gurpartap Singh Bhullar and S. Sikanderbir Singh were also graced the occasion.

During the meeting, Harpal Singh Harpura felicitated Choudhary Manmohan Singh with a Saropa and a Pagri, acknowledging his decades-long efforts in securing OBC status for the Jat community and border reservation benefit for the community's youth.

Harpal Singh emphasized the importance of drawing inspiration from Choudhary Manmohan Singh's achievements, particularly highlighting his role in organizing the Women Adhivehsan in Jammu, an event that saw participation from women across India.

Harpal Singh called for the formation of district-level committees to support National General



Secretary Yudhvir Singh in his efforts. He urged community members to unite in securing OBC status for the weaker sections of society in Punjab, reinforcing the Sabha's commitment to upliftment and representation. Ch Manmohan Singh, in his address, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Hartal Singh for felicitating him and recognizing his contributions. He extended thanks to all state bodies of AIJMS for their support in achieving OBC status for the community.

Highlighting current challenges, Ch Manmohan Singh mentioned

that the Jat community is facing severe issues in Jammu and Kashmir. He underscored that several Jat community members, who were allotted custodial land during their migration in 1947, 1965, and 1971 by the then governments of Jammu & Kashmir, are still deprived of ownership rights. He sought support from the Presidents of Jat Maha Sabha from across the country to secure these ownership rights so that every single member of the Jat community can live their life with full dignity in the Jammu region.

Later in the press conference organised by the

AIJMS Punjab unit in Chandigarh, Gujeet Singh Talwandi was nominated as the National Secretary of AIJMS. Both Harpal Singh and Choudhary Manmohan Singh felicitated him with an appointment letter.

Gujeet Singh Talwandi assured senior functionaries of Jat Maha Sabha that he will work diligently towards strengthening the organization across the country, aligning with the broader goals of AIJMS.

The meeting concluded with a strong sense of unity and determination among the attendees, who resolved to continue their collective efforts for the welfare and rights of the Jat community. The AIJMS reaffirmed its dedication to addressing the issues faced by the community and working towards their resolution.

CUJ placement records new high of 10.5 LPA

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

The Central University of Jammu organized the campus placement drive for the session 2023-24 for their students. CUJ placement cell said in its statement that Management and Science students have achieved a significant milestone this year, securing the highest annual package of 10.5 LPA. This outstanding accomplishment reflects the high caliber of our students and the excellence of our academic programs.

Students from MBA Marketing secured 10.5 LPA, M.Sc Zoology 10.5 LPA, MBA (TTM) 8.5 LPA, M.Sc Botany 7.5 LPA, MA (English) 7.5 LPA, M-Tech 6 LPA, M.Sc Mathematics 5.5 LPA, MBA(MSCM) 4.75 LPA, B.VOC 3 LPA these

packages received students from Talent Serve, Satguru Travels, EaseMyTrip, Jaro Education, Planet Spark, Kalvium, HDFC life, Gainers India, APML, India Mart, Niva Bupa, Safe Express, Uflex, IJRDO, Urban Money - Hiring companies on campus.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu congratulated the selected students, faculty and placement cell on this remarkable success and for conducting the drive successfully. Prof. Jain expressed his delight at this significant achievement and said that "We are immensely proud of our students for achieving this considerable milestone. It is a testament to their hard work and the quality of education

at Central University of Jammu. We are dedicated to continuing our efforts in enhancing the employability of our students through industry collaborations, skill development programs and to provide exceptional opportunities and support for our students," said Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

This year's placement season has been exceptional, with numerous students receiving impressive offers from leading companies. Students highlighting their exceptional skills, dedication, and academic performance. This achievement underscores the university's commitment to providing top-tier education and preparing students for successful careers in a competitive global market.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Successful J&K polls...

Constitution. People who sought a separate country, those who want to go with Pakistan – even they cast their votes overwhelmingly, both at the organisation level as well as individual people,” he said.

Shah said “it was a very big victory for the democracy and a big success of the Narendra Modi government’s Kashmir policy, which it has been pursuing for the last 10 years.” The three seats in the Kashmir valley – Srinagar (38.49 per cent), Baramulla (59.1 per cent) and Anantnag-Rajouri (53 per cent) – have recorded the highest voter turnout “in many decades”, the Election Commission said on Saturday. When asked why the BJP did not field any candidate in the Lok Sabha elections in the Kashmir valley, he said the party was still working on strengthening its organisation in the valley.

“We will definitely put up our candidates in future. Our organisation is getting expanded and our organisation is under process of strengthening,” he added.

Asked about the possibility of merger of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) with Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said it is his personal belief that PoJK could have been part of India in 1947-48, but it got away because of what he said was premature ceasefire by the Jawaharlal Nehru government in the first war with Pakistan over the region.

“Had the ceasefire been declared four days later, PoJK would have been with us,” he said, adding that the possible merger of PoJK with Jammu Kashmir can only be decided after lots of serious discussions.

“Because this is an issue which is very important for the country,” he said.

He pointed out that the merger of PoJK is part of BJP’s manifesto.

“Besides, there was a Parliamentary resolution on it ... unanimous resolution. The Congress party may not realise that they have also voted for it,” he said.

INDIA bloc wants to...

poverty and helplessness”.

The SP and INDIA bloc are making castes fight among themselves so that they become weak, he alleged, adding this is being done “to divert people’s attention from the real issues”.

“Today, I have come to alert the people of Purvanchal and Ghosi about the big conspiracy of the INDI alliance,” Modi said, and counted the grouping’s three “big conspiracies”.

“First, the people of INDI alliance will change the Constitution and write in it afresh that reservation should be given on the basis of religion in India. Second, these INDI people will end the reservation given to SC, ST, OBC. Third, they will give the entire reservation to Muslims on the basis of religion,” Modi said.

He said, “A third method has been created to circumvent the OBC reservation. They are declaring Muslim castes as OBC overnight. Recently, the Calcutta High Court has rejected OBC reservation for 77 Muslim castes.” The prime minister went on add, “Today, the SP, Congress and the INDI people want to make the majority community in India second-class citizens.” He alleged those associated with the SP kept Purvanchal backward under a conspiracy and the people of the region will continue to punish them for this.

“The families of SP and Congress had their dynastic mindset turn Purvanchal into a region of mafia, poverty and helplessness,” he said.

“The people associated with the INDI alliance who set fire to your houses, encroached on land, who emboldened rioters, who shed tears for the mafia, such people should not be allowed to set foot in Purvanchal,” Modi said.

The rally was held in support of BJP and NDA candidates from Ghosi, Salempur and Ballia Lok Sabha seats.

Referring to the SP and Congress’ previous manifestos, Modi said, “In 2012 (assembly polls), the SP had clearly written in its manifesto that the reservation that Babasaheb gave to Dalits, similar reservation will be given to Muslims.” Modi further claimed the Congress declared educational establishments as minority institutions and gave reservation to Muslims there.

“Before 2014, the Congress changed the law overnight to declare schools, colleges and universities as minority institutions. They declared thousands of educational institutions as minority institutions. Earlier, the reservation SC, ST and OBC students were getting there was completely ended and Muslims got reservation,” he said.

“What can be a bigger betrayal than this of the sons and daughters of Dalits, backward tribals?” Modi asked.

Referring to the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the prime minister said people from across the world are visiting it for a ‘darshan’ of Ram Lalla. But those of the SP and the Congress rejected the invitation for the temple’s consecration ceremony, Modi said.

“They pretend to go to temples during elections. But these people started abusing the Ram temple when such a grand festival (consecration ceremony) of our faith came after 500 years. These people were angry with the construction of the Ram temple,” he said.

He also claimed that these opposition parties talk about reversing the verdict in the Ram temple case just as it was done in the Shah Bano case.

In 1985, the Supreme Court had ruled in favour of Shah Bano, a Muslim woman from Indore who had sought maintenance from her husband after divorce, but the then-Rajiv Gandhi government overturned the judgement through an Act. In November 2019, a five-judge apex court bench had paved the way for construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya, ending a decades-long land dispute.

The prime minister said when “Modi openly exposes them (opposition), they raise slogans of digging Modi’s grave.” “They issue fatwas of vote jihad against Modi but as long as Modi has the protective shield of mothers and sisters of the country and the blessings of all of you, no one can do any harm to Modi,” he said.

NDA partner Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party has fielded Arvind Rajbhar from the Ghosi Lok Sabha seat. The BJP has fielded Neeraj Shekhar and Ravindra Kushwaha from Ballia and Salempur seats, respectively.

Polling in Ghosi, Ballia and Salempur will be held on June 1 in the last phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. (Agencies)

Police constable...

spokesperson said.

Shah was booked under sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act at Jammu’s Bakshi Nagar police station last year.

In her detailed factual report, Sharma observed that the charges of violations of police rules and regulations, absenteeism, grave misconduct, indiscipline and negligence were proved against the constable, making him unfit to serve the department.

“The stern departmental action of dismissal has been taken after the delinquent cop did not pay heed to series of signals, attendance notices and show cause notices which were served upon him,” the spokesperson said. (Agencies)

Heard of work...

to occupy the chief minister’s post. He says he will work from jail,” Singh said.

The Supreme Court granted AAP supremo Kejriwal interim bail till June 1, the last day of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections, and directed him to surrender and go back to jail on June 2.

“We know about work from office, I have heard about work from home but this is the first time I am hearing about work from jail,” Singh said in a dig at the Delhi chief minister.

He also attacked Kejriwal on floating AAP following the Anna Hazare-led movement against corruption.

Singh said when Kejriwal was running the agitation with Anna Hazare, the veteran leader had told him that the movement was against the Congress’ corruption and its success should not be used for political gains and no political party floated.

“But Kejriwal did not listen to his guru. And he formed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP),” he said.

Singh claimed Kejriwal had said that he would never live in a government accommodation if he became chief minister.

“But he later turned the chief minister’s residence into a ‘sheesh mahal’ and used crores of public money on it,” he said.

The veteran BJP leader also referred to the alleged assault on AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal in Kejriwal’s residence by his aide Bibhav Kumar, who has since been arrested in this connection.

“She was badly beaten. And now he (Kejriwal) is giving speeches before the people of the country,” Singh noted.

“You must be thinking why I am speaking in such anger. A mother, a sister can be from any caste, community or political outfit. For us, she is a mother, a daughter,” he said and added respect for women is integral to Indian culture.

Kejriwal maintained silence on the issue for “15 days”, the defence minister claimed.

“Inside your home, your party MP is beaten up and you remain silent. I want to ask you, does such a person have the right to continue as chief minister?” Rajnath said.

He also attacked Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann during the rally.

“The Punjab chief minister comes from this party (AAP) and treats him (Kejriwal) as leader. When his leader Kejriwal can be like this, what must his (Mann’s) situation be? God knows!” Singh said.

Punjab’s 13 Lok Sabha seats go to the polls on June 1. (AGENCIES)

10.46 Lakh motor...

of claims for the dependents of deceased and injured persons in road accidents.

The road safety activist also raised concerns over the “snail pace” of claim settlements, estimating that it takes an average four years for a victim to get financial relief.

“If we look at the pace of claim settlements, the number of pending cases at the beginning of the financial year 2022-23 was 10,39,323, and the number of new claims received this year was 4,54,944. Thus, the total number of pending claims was 14,94,267, out of which only 4,48,104 cases were settled, which was only 29 per cent of the total cases. Therefore, on average, it is estimated that it takes four years to decide a claim,” he said.

In the wake of inordinate delays in adjudication of motor accident claims, Jain said he has filed an interlocutory application in the Supreme Court under writ petition (civil), demanding that considering the delay in decision and payment of compensation in road accidents, an interim payment scheme should be formulated by the central government under Section 164A of the Motor Vehicles Act so that victims can get relief.

“It is suggested that this amount be at least Rs 5,00,000 for fatal cases and Rs 2,50,000 for injury cases, as per the no-fault liability under Section 164 of the MV Act,” he added. (Agencies)

MeT says ‘Heatwave’...

three days,” he said, adding, “People should avoid heat exposure and drink lot of fluid and water.”

Meanwhile, night temperature also continued to stay above normal with Srinagar recording a low of 15.7°C against 13.8°C on the previous night and it was 3.7°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 12.6°C against 10.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 8.3°C against 7.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 13.2°C against 11.1°C and it was 2.6°C above normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 11.5°C against 11.3°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.9°C for the place, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 11.0°C against 9.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 3.9°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 24.5°C against 22.4°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 0.4°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 15.0°C, Batote 18.4°C and Baderwah 15.4°C, he said. (Agencies)

Govt extends tenure...

Up to June 30, under Rule 16 A (4) of the Army Rules 1954,” the defence ministry said in a statement.

Gen Pande was commissioned in December 1982 in the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers).

He held the post of Vice Chief of the Army Staff before taking over the reins of the 1.2 million-strong force in April 2022.

Cash, Liquor, Drugs...

seizures included seizures by the police department valuing Rs 90.831 crore, Income Tax department 42 lakh, excise department 1.01 crore and Narcotics Control Bureau has seized drugs worth 2.32 crore respectively,” the officials added.

In an effort to ensure a level playing field to all contestants, the authorities took action against over 40 government employees who were allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct.

Election authorities received 143 grievances on CVIGIL app out of which over 80

have been resolved while the remaining are under the process of resolution.

To monitor various election-related activities and also check Model Code of Conduct compliance, the election authorities had established a command and control room at the CEO office in Jammu as well as in Srinagar.

“Similar mini-control rooms were also established in every DEO office which were functioning round-the-clock. All electronic media channels, social media platforms were monitored here. Any violation so detected was reported and the concerned RO/ARO issued notice,” the officials said.

They said apart from checking for the MCC violations, the control room also had live feed of all polling stations and GPS vehicle tracking of all vehicles being used for poll parties. (Agencies)

Bangladeshi national...

on Sunday.

An army patrol party saw the person, who seemed to be a vagrant, at Lower Kot Maira in Khour area on Saturday and immediately detained him for questioning, they said.

The person, who disclosed his name as Taffajjal Bablu (36) of Alupotti Natore area of Bangladesh, was handed over to police for further investigation, the officials said.

One Bangladeshi currency note, a coin, three SIM cards, one student card, some bills and a dairy were recovered from the possession of the detained person, they added.

Kashmir’s unique...

The renowned ‘Panzath Nag’ Spring, or (500 springs) has garnered attention from various international media outlets, in the past due to the ‘Panzath Fishing Festival’.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also highlighted this spring in one of his ‘Mann Ki Baat’ radio programme that brings this traditional annual festival before the world.

With its mythological significance documented in the ‘Nilamata Purana’ and ‘Rajatarangini’, the spring holds cultural and historical importance.

“Designating Panzath as a tourist destination would not only recognize its heritage but also promote tourism

Menstrual Hygiene Day observed at Aryans Institute of Nursing

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KASHMIR 26, MAY

To highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene, break stigma around menstruation, and raise awareness about challenges regarding access to menstrual products, Aryans Institute of Nursing, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh observed Menstrual hygiene day. Under the corporate social responsibility, Aryans B.Sc Nursing, GNM & ANM students distributed sanitary napkins and raised awareness.

Principal, Aryans Institute of Nursing Mrs Nidhi Chopra said that every month, more than two billion people around the world menstruate. Although a natural and healthy process, menstruation – or period – interrupts lives, rights and freedoms of millions of women and girls, because they cannot afford or access menstrual products, sanitation, and hygiene facilities, and lack education and awareness to manage their menstrual health and hygiene, she asserted.

Coordinator Nursing, Ms. Aakriti Chauhan informed that the sanitary napkins were distributed in nearby villages, schools & also to patients in the health centers. She mentioned that Menstrual Hygiene Day is an annual awareness day on May 28 to highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene management at a global level.

in the region, creating employment opportunities for our youth”, Umair Gul a resident of Qazigund said.

He said the spring serves as a vital water source for approximately two dozen villages and hosts functional government trout-rearing units also.

“I have been participating in this annual festival since I was a child. Panzath Nag is just about a kilometre away from my home and I used to accompany my friends there,” Gul said,




He said the people usually look for boneless trout fish that they catch and take home to have a feast with families and friends.

“There are people who travel from far away villages to catch the fish, clean the Panzath Nag, or just watch the festival,” he added. Gul said that every year in the third or fourth week of May, villagers pick a day when the apple, almonds, and walnut orchards are full of blossoms. They clean Panzath Nag, spread across a 500 meters area, and also catch fish, a practice they have inherited from their ancestors. This practice of catching fish and cleaning enables the spring to provide clean flowless water throughout the year

Gul said that Panzath Nag irrigates and provides drinking water to over 25 villages of Qazigund including Vessu, Nussu, Bonigam, Babapora, Newa, Wanpora and Panzath. He said to mark the day; people also visit the graveyards where they shower flowers over the graves of their departed kin, a practice believed to soothe the departed soul.

The villagers demanded that the village Panzath, which is just a kilometer away from the Srinagar-Jammu national in Qazigund, should be developed and made a tourist destination which will enable the local people to earn livelihood and increase the job opportunities for the youth.

“J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had announced 75 offbeat new tourist destinations and Panzath was one of them”, Gul said and added “but no development was made during all these years to the village except a park has been made functional”.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, UDHAMPUR
DFO Office, Near Sailain Talab, Udhampur, PIN Code: 182101
Phone: 01992-294067, email: dfo.udh@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Notification of Villages in Udhampur Forest Division as per approved Felling Program of Khair (Acacia Catechu) trees in the proprietary lands for the year 2024-25 – Public Notice thereof:

It is for the information of the general public that for felling of Khair trees growing on the proprietary lands, applications are invited from farmers of following villages for the year 2024-25 in pursuance to approved Khair Management Plan (SRO 111 of 2016 dated: 31/03/2016).

S. No.	Name of Forest Division	Name of Forest Range	Name of the village (s)	Tehsil	District
1.	Udhampur	Udhampur	Lehanu	Udhampur	Udhampur
2.			Dhandal	Ramnagar	Udhampur

Interested farmers shall apply on Form-B which can be obtained from the office of Divisional Forest Officer, Udhampur. The duly filed application form (Form-B) supported with requisite documents as mandated under the Management plan for Khair (Acacia catechu) and SRO-111 shall be received in the office of Divisional Forest Officer, Udhampur upto 31st August, 2024.

Note:

- The application (Form-B) shall strictly be received from the farmers directly, not from any contractor/ agent, etc.
- No application (**Form-B**) shall be entertained after 31st August, 2024.

Sd/-
(Navneet Singh, IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer
Udhampur Forest Division
Udhampur

DIP/J-701/24
Date: 25-5-24

Teen Drug abuse and increased cardiac mortality-Intertwined: Dr Sushil

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

In pursuit of his ongoing efforts for healthier and cardiac friendly lifestyle Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long Cardiac awareness cum health check up Camp at Child Care Institution - Palaash, Poonch with main focus to prevent the upcoming generation from the menace of drug abuse thereby decreasing morbidity and mortality.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated that Substance use disorder (SUD) is a group of diseases characterized by a strong desire to use a psychoactive substance and an impaired ability to control the use in spite of substantial negative consequences. Substance use and SUD has become increasingly prevalent in both developed and developing countries, imposing enormous health, social, and economic burdens worldwide. Most illegal drugs can have adverse cardiovascular effects, ranging from an abnormal heart rate to a heart attack.



He elaborated that injecting illegal drugs also can lead to cardiovascular problems, such as collapsed veins and bacterial infections of the blood vessels and heart valves. Many drugs, such as cocaine, heroin and various forms of amphetamine, affect the central nervous system and can alter a user's consciousness. In addition to addiction, the side effects and risks for your heart associated with the use of these drugs include changes in body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure. The possibility of added substances, such as talc, poisons, herbicides or other particles, which may cause a toxic reaction

like High blood pressure, arrhythmias, cardiomyopathy, peripheral artery disease, increased blood clotting and arterial plaque formation, Ischemia, heart attacks, other acute coronary events and stroke and increased mortality in those with preexisting cardiovascular disease. Dr Sushil Sharma while educating the younger masses maintained that Substance and cardiovascular disease are linked, but one can decrease risk by finding help for substance use. Treatment for addiction can be personalized. Someone with a high risk of cardiovascular disease may be able to learn about fitness, nutrition, and new interests that pro-

mote a healthier lifestyle. An addiction treatment program can help someone break free from drug or alcohol use. Whether poor health is degrading someone's quality of life or they are just beginning to recognize signs of addiction, there is hope. Through methods like medication-assisted treatment, behavioral therapy, and community support groups, one can revive their health and reclaim their life, He said

Chairman Child Care Welfare Committee Poonch Rohit Khajuria and Superintendent CCI-Palaash Nusrat Jabeen appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health check up in their institute and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Kamal Jyot Singh, Adv. Sanjeev Sharma, Prof. Kashyap Sharma, Dr Nitin Sharma, Naresh Chander (Ex- Councillor), Sanjay Khajuria (Ex- Councillor), Adv Sameer Malik, Nirjyot Singh, Amnish Datta and Nirvair Singh Bali.

PhD Scholars Triumph in NIT Srinagar's Inter-Department Cricket Final

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 26

In a thrilling final match of the Inter Department Cricket Tournament (M) 2024 at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, the PhD Team defeated the PG Team by 17 runs.

Batting first, the PhD team scored 173 runs for the loss of 10 wickets in 20 overs. Inam Ul Haq, leading the team, scored a brilliant 45 runs off 31 balls, while Showket Ahmad contributed 30 runs off 13 balls.

From the PG team, Ather Nabi took 4 wickets in his allotted 4 overs, and Sheikh Tanveer claimed 3 wickets in 4 overs.

Chasing a target of 174 runs, the PG team fell short, scoring 157 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in the allotted 20 overs, losing the final by 17 runs.

Adil Iqbal scored 34 runs off 17 balls, and Sheikh Tanveer added 29



runs off 16 balls. Shabaz from the PhD team took 3 wickets in 4 overs.

The tournament was organized by the Department of Physical Education NIT Srinagar.

Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman, Dean Planning and Development, Dr. Yashwant Mehta, Estates Officer Dr. Karthik Dasari, Dr. Srinibash Mishra, SAS Coordinator and other teaching and non-teaching staff members were present on the occasion.

In the post-match ceremony, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman and Dean Planning & Development Dr. Yashwant awarded the Winners & Runners Up trophy to the Winning and losing teams.

In his message, the Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rahman, highlighted the benefits of sports, emphasizing that participation in sports activities promotes health and well-being.

"I appreciate all the players who actively participated in this tournament. In the future, we will organize more such tournaments on the campus," he said.

Prof. Rahman mentioned that NIT Srinagar has developed state-of-the-art sports facilities on campus over the past several years and will continue to expand them.

In the tournament, 12 teams participated, including CED, CSE, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, MME, ECE, IT, Mechanical Engineering, PhD "A", PhD "B", PG "A", and PG "B".

S P Sharma wins Jammu district chess championship



JAMMU, MAY 26

Veteran player and former 7 times State champion S.P.Sharma won Jammu district chess championship here at Nek Hotel, below gumat Jammu, players ranging from 6 year of age to 70 years old participated in this event. Young 10 year old Pazhany Kohli won 2nd place while 3rd place went to Arvind Sharma. Aryan Raj Bali got 4th place and Anurag Singh got 5th place.

Alankrita Sharma got best female award, Rajyavardhan Singh won best U-11 while Aarav Gupta won U-15 best prize and

Manoj Kohli got best veteran award.

For the first time in Indian history world level classical timing's event is organised at district level.

The event was organised with time schedule which is used by FIDE in world level events (90 minutes for first 40 moves + 30 minutes more are added after 40 moves with 30 seconds increment from move 1).The event was organised by Jammu district chess association under the aegis of All J and k chess association under the banner of J&K sports council.

The event was planned

by Atul Kumar Gupta working president AJKCA Baldev Raj president AJKCA supervised all the matches.Arvidu Sharma was organising secretary of this event while Bindu pathania iwas chief Arbiter and Ravi Kumar Sharma Arbiter of this event.

Total 5 matches will be played in this tournament as per latest FIDE laws of chess.

Cash prizes of Rs.20000/- alongwith trophies were distributed among the winners. Certificates and Medals were given to all the participants.

Significant turnout in affirms people's trust in PM Modi's visionary leadership: Sham Langar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

Sham Lal Langar, Convener of BJP Trade Cell, Jammu and Kashmir, has hailed the impressive 53 percent voter turnout in the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat as a clear endorsement of the effectiveness of the policies implemented by the Modi government. He asserted that the significant turnout is a resounding affirmation of the people's trust in the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a statement issued here today, Sham Langar emphasized that the robust participation of voters reflects their rejection of the policies propagated by Kashmir-based political parties. "The remarkable voter turnout demonstrates the people's unwavering commitment to democracy and their unequivocal support for the transformative initiatives undertaken by the Modi government," he stated.

He categorically said that the historic participation of people in this democratic process has underscored the success of the Modi government's policies in restoring normalcy and strengthening democracy in the region. He expressed deep gratitude and commendation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government's unwavering commitment towards J&K.

He further underscored the role of the electorate in endorsing the progressive policies and developmental agenda championed by Prime Minister Modi. "By participating in large numbers, the people of Anantnag-Rajouri have unequivocally voiced their endorsement of the Modi government's visionary leadership and its commitment to inclusive growth and development," he added.

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

In a free and fair election process via both offline and online mode, Kamal Krishan Ganjoo has been elected President of Shri Sanatan Dharam Sabha Sapore Camp Jammu in a two-day election, the result of which was announced two hours after the scheduled closing time of voting here today.

Kamal Krishan has secured 497 votes, out of a total of 964 votes polled in the election, while his rival Maharaj Krishan Koul got 419 votes, thus Mr Ganjoo was declared elected by a margin of 78 votes.

Out of 586 votes polled



online, Kamal Krishan got 298 votes and Maharaj Krishan secured 241 votes, while at Polling Station 'Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra', out of a total of 324 polled votes, Kamal Krishan secured 169 votes and Maharaj Krishan got 154 votes.

At Jagti Township Polling Station, out of a total of 54 votes, Kamal Krishan got 30 votes, while Maharaj Krishan secured 24 votes.

A total of 48 votes were cancelled with 47 online and 01 offline.

"It was simply the vic-

tory of 'Dharma' as one got the feeling that the voters cast their votes with a firm belief in Sanatan Dharma. The voting was held smoothly and successfully," said the Returning Officer Sh Bipan Pandita.

The election was held under the supervision of the Returning Officer, Sh Bipan Pandita; Chairman election board, Sh B.L. Bakshi; Presiding Officer & Online voting Incharge, Sh Sunil Mantoo; Sh Dilip Bakshi, Counting Officer; Sh Ravinder Koul, Polling Officer; Sh Upinder Garoo, Polling Officer; Sh Avtar Krishan Lidhoo, Presiding Officer Jagti Polling Station; Sh S.N. Tak, Polling Officer and Sh Maharaj Krishan Mantoo, Polling Officer.

Indian Army organised Youth Awareness Lecture

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 26 MAY 2024

A youth awareness lecture was conducted at Pinewood School, Sabra by the Indian Army. The primary objective of the lecture was to raise awareness amongst youth on various pertinent issues such as career development, mental health, social responsibility and digital literacy. By addressing these topics,



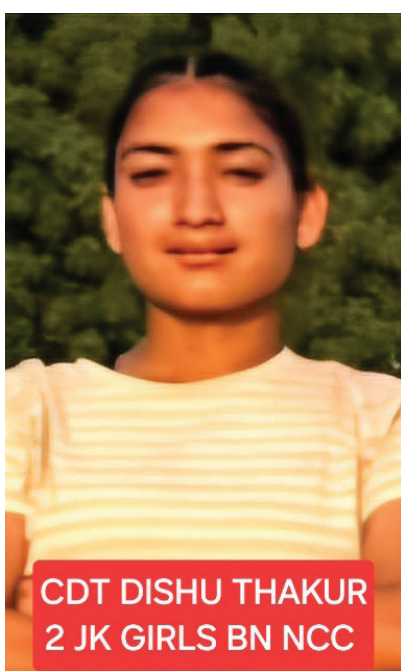
it was aimed to inspire and empower young individuals to make informed decisions and positively contribute to society. The lecture featured interactive sessions, including group discussion, case studies and question & answer segments. These activities encouraged active participation and facilitated peer learning, allowing attendees to share insight and experience.

3 NCC cadets of NCC Group Jammu bring laurels to JK&L NCC Directorate

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU : 26 MAY 2024

Three cadets from the NCC Group Jammu have brought great Laurels to the JK&L NCC Directorate by getting shortlisted for the prestigious Mountaineering Expedition 2024 to Mount Kang Yatse-II. Cadet Arun Singh, son of Sub Amar Singh from SPMR College, Jammu, 2 J&K Boys Battalion, Cadet Mohit Kanathia, son of Mr. Khushi Ram from 4 J&K Battalion, and Cadet Dishu Thakur, daughter of Mr. Rashpal Singh from GGM Science College, 2 J&K Girls Battalion, have achieved this remarkable feat.

The cadets were initially shortlisted at the Directorate level after excelling in the Basic Mountaineering Courses at HMI Darjeeling, where they all received Alpha Grading. They then



CDT DISHU THAKUR
2 JK GIRLS BN NCC

underwent rigorous physical endurance tests and written assessments at the DG NCC Camp in Delhi, emerging amongst the top selected cadets from

hundreds of participants.

This significant achievement was made possible through the timely support and guidance of Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, ADG JK&L Directorate. His leadership and encouragement have been instrumental in preparing these cadets for such high-level accomplishments.

The JK&L NCC Directorate is proud of Cadets Arun Singh, Mohit Kanathia, and Dishu Thakur, and wishes them the very best for their expedition to Mount Kang Yatse-II.

S.P Sharma wins Jammu district chess championship

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

Veteran player and former 7 times State champion S.P.Sharma won Jammu district chess championship here at Nek Hotel, below gumat Jammu. players ranging from 6 year of age to 70 years old participated in this event. Young 10 year old Pazhany Kohli won 2nd place while 3rd place went to Arvind Sharma. Aryan Raj Bali got 4th place and Anurag Singh got 5th place.

Alankrita Sharma got best female award, Rajyavardhan Singh won best U-11 while Aarav Gupta won U-15 best prize and Manoj Kohli got best veteran award.

For the first time in Indian history world level classical timing's event is



organised at district level.

The event was organised with time schedule which is used by FIDE in world level events (90 minutes for first 40 moves + 30 minutes more are added after 40 moves with 30 seconds increment from move 1).The event was organised by Jammu district chess association under the aegis of All J and k chess association under the banner of J&K sports council.

The event was planned by Atul Kumar Gupta working president AJKCA

Baldev Raj president AJKCA supervised all the matches.Arvidu Sharma was organising secretary of this event while Bindu pathania iwas chief Arbiter and Ravi Kumar Sharma Arbiter of this event.

Total 5 matches will be played in this tournament as per latest FIDE laws of chess.

Cash prizes of Rs.20000/- alongwith trophies were distributed among the winners. Certificates and Medals were given to all the participants.

Monthly Sports Day celebrated with great zeal at GHSS for Boys RS Pura

JI NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, MAY 26

Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) RS Pura Boys celebrated its Monthly Sports Day today with immense enthusiasm and vibrant participation from the students. The event saw a large turnout from the local community, including parents and well-wishers, who gathered to enjoy a day filled with competitive spirit and sportsmanship. Koshal Kumar Sharma, Senior Lecturer in the Physical Education department, officiated and managed the sports events, assisted by Rahul Dev Raina, Senior Lecturer in Physics. In his address, Koshal Kumar Sharma highlighted the critical role of sports in students' lives, emphasizing benefits such as physical fitness, mental health, team spirit, and leadership qualities.

EDITORIAL

Need to strengthen legal coordination

The recent directives issued by the Department of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs highlight a significant administrative concern that requires immediate and robust redressal. The lack of coordination between Law Officers posted in various departments and the counsels responsible for representing the Union Territory before the Supreme Court of India has been causing delays in the filing, refiling, and verification of Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) and Reply Affidavits. This issue, deemed critical by the government, reflects deeper systemic inefficiencies that must be promptly addressed to safeguard the interests of the administration. The government's stern warning against the 'unwarranted' conduct of Law Officers is a clear indication of the gravity of the situation. The delays not only hamper the judicial process but also risk undermining the legal standing and interests of the Union Territory. The issued circular explicitly outlines the responsibilities of Law Officers at both administrative and subordinate levels, emphasizing that the mere forwarding of sanction letters does not absolve them of their duties. This directive is a much-needed reminder of the accountability that comes with their positions. The crux of the problem lies in the inadequate communication and coordination between the Law Officers and the counsels (Advocate on Record, Standing Counsels, and Assistant Standing Counsels). The circular mandates prompt handover of factual reports and case records to engaged counsels for the preparation and timely filing of SLPs and Reply Affidavits. This step is essential to ensure that no case is delayed due to bureaucratic sluggishness. The directive to maintain close liaison through emails, WhatsApp groups, and other designated communication channels is a pragmatic approach to streamline this process. Furthermore, the circular's requirement for Law Officers to track cases regularly, maintain comprehensive records, and furnish fortnightly reports on the status and progress of cases is a commendable step towards enhancing transparency and accountability. These measures will enable better monitoring and ensure that any potential delays are identified and addressed promptly. The insistence on holding the administrative level officers responsible for coordinating with engaged counsels until the actual filing of SLPs/Reply Affidavits is crucial. This continuous engagement ensures that the legal processes are not just initiated but followed through to completion without unnecessary delays. Moreover, any delay on the part of the engaged counsel must be communicated to the Department of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, along with reasons and remedial measures. This will help in identifying bottlenecks and taking corrective actions in real time. It is evident that the UT government is taking these issues seriously and the clear message that any delay, laxity, or default from Law Officers will invite appropriate action underlines the commitment to improving the legal administration in Jammu and Kashmir. While the directives issued are a step in the right direction, their effective implementation is crucial. Law Officers must embrace these guidelines earnestly, recognizing their pivotal role in the legal machinery. By fostering a culture of accountability, prompt communication, and thorough coordination, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir can ensure that its legal processes are efficient, timely, and just. This will not only uphold the rule of law but also enhance the credibility and effectiveness of the government's legal pursuits.

Why the World War II Allies commemorate D-Day, 80 years later

MAX HASTINGS

The former Western allies will shortly begin commemorating the 80th anniversary of their greatest World War II achievement, the June 6 landings in Normandy, forever famed as D-Day.

The pomp and circumstance of the grand events to be attended by US President Joe Biden and other national leaders are entirely justified by the magnitude of that endeavor. More than 40 years ago, while writing a book about the campaign, I had the privilege of meeting many veterans – American, British, Canadian, Polish, French, German.

I remember in particular an exuberant New Yorker, a former shipping clerk named Lindley Higgins, who sought to strip the story of an excess of romance: "We were a singularly callous and unfeeling group of young men." Aged 19, in the weeks beforehand, he found it hard to grasp the reality of what was coming: "Me, Lindley Higgins, from Riverdale in the Bronx, was about to invade France. It was a problem that my mind, in its then state of maturity, couldn't possibly cope with."

And so it was for a vast number of the 130,000 men who landed from the wind-whipped sea, plus 20,000 who dropped from the air, on that cloudy day. On the evening of June 5th, the colonel of a parachute battalion about to emplane told his men: "We are histo-

ry." But few of those whom he addressed could think beyond that night, and the chances of their own survival.

British infantryman Wilf Todd wrote to his wife of the pre-dawn hours of June 6: "I prayed that night as I have never prayed in my life...My heart was beating like a triphammer."

When I look back as a historian, like most of my peers, I can see that the odds on D-Day overwhelmingly favored allied success: The Americans and British deployed an awesome superiority of planes, tanks, warships and men. Many of the "Germans" manning the coastal defenses were, in reality, Poles, Russians and Ukrainians dressed in Wehrmacht uniform.

Steven Spielberg's terrific D-Day movie Saving Private Ryan depicts Hitler's forces deploying their biggest Panzers against American troops, yet during the first battles ashore, the only German tanks then on the western flank were recycled French and Czech models. So successful were allied deception operations – much more influential than the air attacks on French railways – that into July Hitler kept some of his best formations in the Pas de Calais, about 200 miles north, awaiting a second invasion.

But all this wasn't known back then to allied warlords and their soldiers, so fearful of the huge prospective consequences of failure. "Why are we trying to do this?", cried Winston

Churchill in a February 1944 spasm of alarm about the planned invasion, which caused him momentarily to propose an alternative landing in Portugal. I have always believed that, had it not been for the ironclad determination of the US chiefs of staff, there would have been no D-Day until 1945.

As it was, minutes after midnight on June 6th, one British and two American airborne divisions began to jump into Normandy, and almost immediately to fight. Paratrooper James Byrom spoke French and was thus tasked by comrades to knock on the front door of the first house they reached: "At the sight of the motherly, middle-aged peasant, the gulf of the years disappeared and I might have been back in 1939, an English tourist on a walking tour dropping in to ask for a glass of cider and some camembert: 'Excusez-nous, Madame. Nous sommes les parachutistes anglais faisant partie de Débarquement Allié.'"

"There was a moment of scrutiny, then the woman folded me in her arms. The tears streamed down her face, and in between kisses, she was shouting for her husband, for lamps, for wine...We found ourselves – an evil-looking group of camouflaged cutthroats – surrounded and overwhelmed by the pent-up emotion of four years."

Two hours after dawn the infantry stormed ashore, on five beaches across a 50-mile front. The American "Bloody

Omaha," where the invaders encountered the toughest resistance from Germans entrenched on bluffs above, still commands much of the popular attention, influenced by the aforesaid Spielberg portrayal. But we should never forget that overall allied casualties on the day – including those on Omaha – proved to be only a fraction of what the planners had feared.

Though one National Guard unit, A Company of the 116th Infantry, lost 100 men, American dead in the first 24 hours totaled 1,465, including losses to the 82nd and 101st Airborne. The overall allied figure was around 3,000 killed, about the same number of fatalities as allied bombs and shells inflicted upon French civilians on June 6th.

The generals were naïve about the inevitable gogginess of most of the tens of thousands who waded ashore, weakened by seasickness. Commando Finlay Campbell recalled that his legs continued to feel "bobbly" for two days.

Twenty-four year-old French commando Robert Piage, whose mother lived in the coastal town of Ouistreham, hurled himself into water that proved chest high, in his eagerness to lead. He had advanced only 10 yards up the beach when a mortar bomb exploded, killing his closest mate and riddling Piage with fragments which he carried to his grave: "I began to cry. Not out of sorrow for myself,

nor because of my wounds, but at the great joy that I felt at being back on French soil." Not for long: He slept that night in an English hospital.

One of the romantic legends of D-Day was created by a local French teenage girl, who moved around Sword beach attempting to succor the wounded, accompanied by wolf-whistles from the invaders around her. She had bicycled from her home to fetch a swimsuit that she had carelessly left by the sea on the previous day. Her name was Jacqueline Noel, and she married a British soldier whom she met a few days later.

Her D-Day experience was shadowed by family tragedy, because her sister was killed by RAF bombs falling on nearby Caen. She cherished a kaleidoscope of memories: "The sea with all the boats was something that you just can't imagine if you have not seen it. It was boats, boats and more boats, boats everywhere. If I had been a German, I would have looked at this, put my weapon down and said 'That's it. Finished.'"

One of Hitler's defenders who surrendered, indeed, said later: "At first I was rather depressed. I, an old soldier, was a prisoner after a few hours of invasion. But when I saw the materiel behind the enemy front, I could only say, 'Old man, how lucky you have been!'"

Despite the carnage that seemed so terrible to those in its midst, the

invasion had succeeded: A secure beachhead was established, and in the days and weeks that followed, far more men died than the 3,000 who perished in the landings. Our parents' and grandparents' generations viewed D-Day as the supreme event of World War II, and the struggle for northwest Europe as the decisive campaign. My father, an eyewitness, sincerely believed that Britain won the war, with the Americans supplying the chewing-gum, the Russians somewhere in Eastern remoteness doing heaven-knew-what.

Modern historians, no longer nationalist fantasists, recognize that the Red Army did most of the dying and killing necessary to smash Hitler's Wehrmacht. They were sustained by American rations and equipment: The Russians marched to Berlin wearing US-made boots. Yet D-Day was assuredly the decisive military event of war in the West. Moreover, for the British people it represented the moment of redemption after suffering so much and enduring so many defeats and humiliations on the long road since the war began on Sept. 3, 1939.

The Normandy landings constituted a supreme feat of organization, planning, skills and courage. We are right this week to commemorate the towering achievement, while the last handful of its survivors remain alive to share the memories.

BLOOMBERG OPINION

Trust in the Supreme Being!

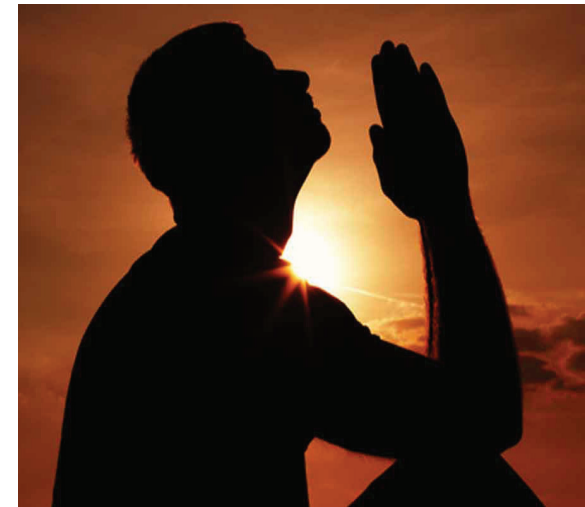
SANJAY CHANDRA

I am not an atheist! But I do believe that there is a supreme power that guides us through the journey that we call life. Yet, there are questions that the rational mind refuses to subdue. One such dilemma that I have not been able to resolve is that we cannot be the only living beings in this vast universe. There have to be others. Would they also look like us?

Probably not my mother was a firm believer in the Gods of the faith that I was born in. She would make it a point to visit the nearby temples every week, accompanied by our father and the three of us children. We would watch her from outside the temple folding her hands in supplication

before each God, praying for our wellbeing. I never asked my father the reason that he would stand at the entry to the temple, not accompanying his wife inside. Maybe it was to keep a watch on my mother's footwear, which had to be left outside.

Even a temple was not immune to missing slippers or sandals or shoes – others were more in need of the accessory. It also might have been because it was a little difficult to untie and then retie the laces on our shoes. As I grew up, I was intrigued by the increase in traffic at the temples, particularly at examination times. Young boys and also girls, could be seen touching the holy steps and then bowing to the deities, sometimes even putting their books reverentially at the feet



of the Gods. I asked a friend, who smirked at my naiveté, before explaining that this helped in securing good marks. I also saw young unmarried women fasting and then visiting the temple on specific days of the week in the hope of getting a suitable husband.

I do not know if they lived a happily thereafter life. As I grew older, I too felt the need to visit the temple, particularly when facing a difficult time – initially when I was a student and then during my professional life. And then I realised the power of trust

in a supreme being. It was this implicit faith, that the Lord above will not forsake me in my tough times, that gave me the confidence. It was a trust in my capabilities, reinforced by faith, that kept me going and kept me working. It sounds clichéd, but I also understood that my God resides within me; I do not need to visit a temple to pray to my God. I can do it wherever I am, whenever I need to. There was an interesting episode in my life recently. I got trolled on the WhatsApp group of my society by the same people who had only in the morning appreciated my writing.

My fault – I had sinned opposing the construction of a temple inside the gated community. I felt there were more pressing issues to be attended. I smiled as I was called

an elitist – the gentleman probably wanted to call me a pseudo-intellectual. These are the persons who have chosen, like me, to live out their lives in this complex – and hence, by default, they are the extended family. Relationships went for a toss. Which brings me to the query of the rational me. If there is a life after death and if there is life on many distant planets, then, I might be reborn in another form somewhere else. In that other life, I might pray to the supreme being in another form or shape. Then, is it really important for us to wear our religion on our sleeves or even to let it divide?

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

Millennium City says 'no development, no vote'

VINOD BEHL

This month Gurgaon has seen protests in several localities with frustrated and disillusioned residents announcing 'Election candidates not welcome, no development, no vote'.

Gurgaon residents are piqued that despite paying taxes (the highest share in the State), they are getting a raw deal. Sensing the mood of the public, both BJP stalwart and five-time MP, Rao Inderjit Singh and Congress candidate Raj Babbar, have made development their poll plank. Interestingly though it is a national election, focus remains on local issues, especially in the absence of a central national poll theme.

Gurgaon may have fancy tags of 'Millennium City' and 'Cyber City' but the city which has made a global mark, lacks badly on physical and social

infrastructure. It presents an ugly face with city waste besides construction debris lying all over, posing a serious health hazard.

It is not just Gurgaon, even the new sectors of the city which are grappling with poorly maintained roads (leading to accidents and dust pollution), inadequate drinking water, power and sewerage infrastructure. In the absence of proper drainage, failure of civic authorities has made matters worse.

The lack of an adequate metro network in the city has created a traffic mess on the roads. The lack of proper parking infrastructure has only made matters worse. A lot of the city's civic infra woes are because of the flawed development model of real estate development preceding infrastructure development. Moreover, unlike in neighbour-



ing Noida where there is a single development authority, Gurgaon lacks on this front. GMDA (Gurgaon Metropolitan Development Authority) constituted to put an end to a multiplicity of development authorities, has proved to be an eyewash with MCG (Municipal Corporation Gurgaon) and HSVP (Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran) around.

Seeking vote on development, Rao Inderjit Singh takes credit for initiating the mega infrastructure and connectivity projects like KMP Expressway, Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (passing through Gurgaon), Sohna Elevated Expressway, Dwarka Expressway, Metro Expansion, Gurgaon Railway Station upgradation.

In rural and Muslim-

dominated Nuh, he is telling voters about the development gains of key infrastructure projects like the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and Orbital Rail. Raj Babbar, on the other hand, is also playing the development card to counter Rao Inderjit, pointing to shoddy development with several civic issues plaguing the city, turning it into a slum. Long delays

in metro expansion, Lack of an Inter-State Bus Terminus and the absence of a suitable Civil Hospital are among the issues he has been raking up among the voters, demanding a fair share of development. He is promising the transformation of Gurgaon.

Though Rao Inderjit Singh may be facing anti-incumbency he has an obvious advantage of a

well-oiled organisation besides the Modi factor. On the other hand, Raj Babbar faces the challenge of being an outsider. Besides he has the disadvantage of being a late starter due to a delay in announcing his nomination.

The Gurgaon electorate seems to be in a mood to give another chance to the BJP, banking on the strong pro-development credentials of Modi. However, they have also shown their displeasure with the political parties. Indeed Gurgaon's infrastructure is not up to the mark and needs an immediate attention. Besides, their anger has led politicians to take notice of their woes and have now started showing interest in infrastructure upgradation.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

Energy drinks may harm your heart: Study

CONSUMING too many energy drinks in a short timespan may increase blood pressure and disrupt heart rhythm, a study has found. For the study, published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, enrolled 34 healthy volunteers between the ages of 18 and 40 years. Participants were randomly assigned to drink 32 ounces of one of two commercially available caffeinated energy drinks or a placebo drink on three separate days.

The drinks were consumed within a 60-minute period but no faster than one 16-ounce bottle in 30 minutes. Researchers at the University of the Pacific in the US measured the electrical activity of the volunteers' hearts by electrocardiogram, which records the way a heart is beating. They also recorded participant's blood pressure. All meas-

urements were taken at the study's start and every 30 minutes for four hours after drink consumption.

Both energy beverages tested contained 304 to 320 milligrams of caffeine per 32 fluid ounces. Caffeine at doses under 400 milligrams is not expected to induce any electrocardiographic changes. Other common ingredients in the energy drinks in the study included taurine (an amino acid), glucuronolactone (found in plants and connective tissues) and B-vitamins. The placebo drink contained carbonated water, lime juice and cherry flavouring.

In participants who consumed either type of energy drink, researchers found that the QT interval was six milliseconds or 7.7

milliseconds higher at four hours compared to placebo drinkers. The QT interval is a measurement of the time it takes ventricles in the heart (the lower chambers) to prepare to generate a beat again. If this time interval



either too short or too long, it can cause the heart to beat abnormally. The resulting arrhythmia can be life-threatening. The results of the study confirm previous findings

and suggest that the QT interval changes are generally sustained over the four-hour monitoring period rather than being a short-lasting effect after consuming 32-ounces of an energy drink. Researchers also found a statistically significant increase in systolic and diastolic blood pressure in participants who consumed the energy drinks.

"We found an association between consuming energy drinks and changes in QT intervals and blood pressure that cannot be attributed to caffeine," said Sachin A Shah, a professor at

University of the Pacific. "We urgently need to investigate the particular ingredient or combination of ingredients in different types of energy drinks that might explain the findings seen in our clinical trial," said Shah.

The study is the largest controlled study of the effects of energy drinks on the heart and blood pressure in young healthy volunteers.

"Energy drinks are readily accessible and commonly consumed by a large number of teens and young adults, including college students. Understanding how these drinks affect the heart is extremely important," said Kate O'Dell, a professor at the University of the Pacific.

"The public should be aware of the impact of energy drinks on their body especially if they have other underlying health conditions," Shah said. "Healthcare professionals should advise certain patient populations, for example, people with underlying congenital or acquired long QT syndrome or high blood pressure, to limit or monitor their consumption," he said.

Exercising at home has positive effect on Parkinson's patients: Study

PATIENTS in the initial stages of Parkinson's disease shall workout regularly for 6 months at home to get positive effect comparable to that of conventional Parkinson's medication.

According to the paper published in the journal, 'The Lancet Neurology,' the Park-in-Shape study, funded by ZonMW (Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development), tested an innovative solution for this challenge. The participants were divided into two groups. Both groups had a motivational app at their disposal, which offered the participants rewards for exercising.

The control group only performed stretching exercises, while the active intervention group was instructed to exercise for 30-45 minutes on a stationary bicycle at home, at least three times a week.

The active group's exercise bikes were also equipped with motivating games, making the program more entertaining and challenging for the participants.

For example, the participants could race against their own previous performance as a "ghost rider" or against a group of other cyclists. The system adjusted the difficulty of the game to the patient's heartbeat, making the challenge just right. The

challenges also became more difficult as the participants got fitter. Thanks to these motivating elements, the participants faithfully complied with the cycling exercise regime three times a week for 6 months.

After the study, cycling patients

The beneficial effect on their motor disability was also large enough to be clinically relevant. As such, exercise is a very useful addition to the medication," said PhD candidate Nicolien van der Kolk.

The fact that this cycling



had significantly better cardiovascular fitness, which has many obvious advantages. The motor disability of the cycling group was also significantly better: according to the gold standard (the MDS-UPDRS score), the cycling group scored on average 4.2 points lower than the control group. This is a rather large effect, comparable to that of several conventional Parkinson's drugs.

"We were pleasantly surprised that people with Parkinson's disease were able to adhere to their exercise regimes so well.

exercise can take place entirely at home is a major advantage for patients, as this greatly enhances the feasibility of the treatment. "This study is very important. We can now start researching whether such more long-term cycling can also slow the disease progression. Also, this new 'exergaming' approach that we have developed is very suitable to achieve long-term improvements in exercise behaviour for patients with a range of other disorders that could also benefit from regular exercise," said Principal investigator Professor Bas Bloem.

Drugs for eye treatment may harm growing infants: Study

RESEARCHERS have found that a few drugs used for treating retinal diseases may mix with breast milk, further causing a safety issue for the growing infants. Ranibizumab and aflibercept are medications used to treat several retinal diseases. They contain an agent called anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF), which blocks the eye's production of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). VEGF is a protein that stimulates the development of blood vessels but is associated with retinal diseases in high quantities.

VEGF is present in breast milk and plays an important role in the development of an infant's digestive system. As a result, anti-VEGF drugs in a nursing mother raise concerns about possible adverse events in a developing infant if the drugs were to pass into breast milk and suppress VEGF. The study published in the journal, 'Ophthalmology' is a first-of-its-kind study led by St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

"As retina specialists, we often tell our pregnant or nursing patients that there's a risk of a small amount of these drugs making its way into the breast milk, but we can't be sure," said Dr Rajeev Muni, co-lead author, a vitreoretinal surgeon at St. Michael's and a project investigator at the hospi-

tal's Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute.

"We don't want these patients to lose their vision so we make a decision, despite limited information," added Dr Muni. Hoping to change this, Dr Muni and Dr Verena Juncal, co-lead author and a retinal fel-

"These results definitively show us that the drug reaches the breast milk," said Dr Juncal. "We realise that some readers may question the small sample size, but if the drug reaches the breast milk in three patients, it'll reach in 30 patients



low at St. Michael's, measured the concentrations of retinal medications in the breast milk of three lactating patients following injection of anti-VEGF therapy. The team found that the drugs were excreted into the breast milk within the first couple days following injection, with a corresponding reduction in VEGF levels.

They also found that the amount of medication detected in the patient who continued to breast-feed was significantly lower than the other two patients, suggesting that the medication was constantly excreted and ingested by the infant.

because it's the same biological process."

As the first study to evaluate the presence of Health Canada approved anti-VEGF therapy in human breast milk, these results provide a resource for ophthalmologists and retina specialists counselling pregnant and nursing patients.

"I'm comforted knowing that other pregnant or nursing mothers with retinal diseases will have the information needed to make an educated decision about whether to consider nursing while receiving these medications," said Lisa, one of the three study participants, who didn't want to reveal her surname.

Poor diet linked to cancer, says study

CONSUMING a poor diet may have more impact on your health than you thought, as a recent study has claimed that a poor diet can lead to a number of health issues, one of them being cancer. More than 80,000 cancer cases in some parts of the world were linked to poor diet, or around 5%, according to a study published in the journal JNCI Cancer Spectrum. The study, conducted by the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts, analysed cancer diagnoses among adults from 2015 along with data from two national surveys on Americans' diets to



determine how many cases were linked to poor diets, especially low in vegetables, fruits, whole grains and high in processed sugar, sugary beverages and red meats. The findings are comparable to the number of cancer cases linked to alcohol consumption, which amount to between 4 and 6%. Excessive body weight is linked to 7% to 8% of cases and lack of physical activity is associated with 2% to 3%.

"Our findings underscore the opportunity to reduce cancer burden and disparities in the United States by improving food intake," said study author Fang Zhang and cancer and nutrition researcher.

Of all types of cancers, colorectal cancer had the highest link to poor diet. Roughly 38%, or 52,000 cases, of colorectal cancer diagnosed in 2015 were related to consumption of poor. That compared to around 14,400 cancer cases of the mouth, pharynx, and larynx, 3,165 cases of uterine cancer, and 3,060 cases of post-menopausal breast cancer.

The study authors, who proposed putting government-sponsored warning labels on red meats and other cancer-linked foods, said our results call for nutrition policies to address cancer burden.

Nano-sized cells of body may help in fighting cancer: Study

THE nano-sized cells that transfer genetic material to other cells in our body may turn into mini treatment transporters to kill cancer cells, suggests a study from Michigan State University and Stanford University. The study published in the journal, 'Molecular Cancer Therapeutics' focused on breast cancer cells in mice.

"What we've done is improve a therapeutic approach to delivering enzyme-producing genes that can convert certain drugs into toxic agents and target tumours," said Masamitsu Kanada, lead author and an assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology in MSU's Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering.

These drugs, or prodrugs, start out as inactive compounds. But once they metabolise in the body, they're immediately activated and can get to work on

fighting everything from cancer to headaches.

Aspirin is an example of a common pro-drug. In this case, researchers used extracellular vesicles, or EVs, to deliver the enzyme-producing genes that could activate a prodrug combination therapy of ganciclovir and CB1954 in breast cancer cells.

Minicircle DNA and regular plasmid two different gene vectors that act as additional delivery mechanisms for DNA were loaded into the vesicles to see which was better at helping transport treatment.

This is known as a gene-directed enzyme pro-drug therapy. They found that the minicircle DNA was 14 times more effective at delivery and even more successful at killing the cancerous tumour.

"Interestingly, the plasmid delivery method didn't show any tumour cell killing," Kanada said. "Yet

the mini circle DNA-based therapy killed more than half of the breast cancer cells in the mice."

According to Kanada, this new approach could effectively become a better cancer treatment option than chemotherapy down the road. "Conventional chemotherapy isn't able to differentiate between tumours and normal tissue, so it attacks it all," Kanada said. "This non-specificity can cause severe side effects and insufficient drug concentration in tumours."

With EVs, treatment can be targeted and because of their compatibility with the human body, this type of delivery could minimise the risk of unwanted immune responses that can come with other gene therapies.

"If EVs prove to be effective in humans, it would be an ideal platform for gene delivery and it could be used in humans sooner than we expect," Kanada said.

Women who suffer childhood trauma likely to deliver first baby earlier life, outside marriage

WHILE childhood trauma is known to have poor impact on a woman's midlife health, a new study has uncovered the reason behind it and found that these females are more likely to have their first child both earlier in life and outside of marriage - factors associated with poorer health later in life.

These results suggest that early trauma - such as the death of a parent, physical abuse or emotional neglect - may affect young people's decision-making in ways that they can't entirely control. "It's easy to tell teens that they shouldn't have kids before marriage, but the message won't be effective if they haven't developed the capacity to do that because of the trauma they experienced in childhood," said lead author, Kristi Williams, professor of Sociology at The Ohio State University.

The findings of this study were published in the Journal of Health and Social Behaviour. Previous research has shown that childhood trauma is strongly associated with multiple health risks, including cancer, diabetes, stroke and early death, Williams said.

Much of this work has focused on how early adversity may have biological and neurological effects that would lead

to worse health throughout life.

"But there hasn't been any attention given to how childhood adversity may affect social and developmental processes in adolescence and young adulthood - factors that we know are also strong



predictors of later health," she added. One of those factors in women is the timing & context of first birth. Data for this study came from the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, which includes a representative sample of people who were aged 14 to 22 in 1979. Participants were interviewed every year through 1994 and once every two years since.

The final sample for this study included 3,278 women. Each participant reported whether she experienced one or more of six adverse childhood experiences before age 18: emotional neglect, physical abuse, alcoholism in the home, mental illness

in the home, death of a biological parent and parental absence. The researchers examined data on how old each participant was when she first gave birth and whether she was married, cohabiting or neither. Finally, participants rated their health at or near age 40.

Findings showed that each additional childhood trauma experienced by the participants was associated with earlier age at first birth and a greater probability for a first birth during adolescence or young adulthood compared to later (age 25 to 39). In addition, each additional trauma was associated with a 24 per cent increase in the probability of being unmarried and not cohabiting at first birth compared to the likelihood that they were married when their first child was born. Researchers then conducted statistical tests that showed early and non-marital births were a key reason why children who experienced trauma were more likely to report poorer health at midlife.

"Childhood trauma leads to social and biological risks that lead to early and nonmarital birth which can lead to health problems later in life," Williams explained.

She added "when people experience traumas early in life, they are less likely to make those positive choices."

ACHIEVING a sense of balance between work and personal life has now become a challenge and the imbalance somewhere leads to stress for which the mind and body pay the price.

Workplace burnout, which is getting more attention lately, has major physical and emotional consequences. Although most people think that being burnt out makes you more irritable and unmotivated, there are serious physical and mental health risks linked to the issue, reported CNN. For most people, their workplace is consistently one of their leading stressors. Earlier this year, the issue was added to the World Health Organization's list of official medical diagnoses.

Burnout can occur when we suffer chronic stress at work, explained David Ballard, senior director of the American Psychological Association's Office of Applied Psychology.

According to Ballard, people are only capable of handling stress in short bursts, so when one faces increased levels of stress at work for a long time, they risk burning out. Ballard noted that not only is it linked to mental and physical health risks, but can also affect job performance, the CNN report stated.

"If it's not managed effectively over time, it can affect job performance. It can leave one feeling exhausted, unmotivated and ineffective on the job. Job performance can also suffer," Ballard said.

Managers and employees both play an equally essential role when it comes to identifying and managing job burnout.

"Employees have to take steps to have effective coping skills to manage stress. Employers can work to create an environment that is conducive to healthy employees: identifying stressors and reducing and eliminating them when they can and making sure they have health and management resources," Ballard said.

Here's a list of potential red flags that managers can spot and take action:

Putting in extra work hours: There are times when one has to put in extra hours during work, which may be harmful to your health if it gets frequent.

"Pushing yourself for a few weeks is okay but after a while it becomes really detrimental to your health and ability to do work at the same quality level," said Leigh Stringer, author of the book 'The Healthy Workplace'.

In order to curb the issue, managers need to establish a tone when it comes to work-life balance.

One should not be afraid to stress the importance of having a life ask about outside-of-work activities and offer flexible work arrangements to help steer busy schedules. Unable to prioritise different tasks: Employees

who might be struggling with workplace burnout could also have a hard time prioritising tasks, not having enough clarity on how to differentiate what's more important.

"When somebody sees everything as being a really high priority, they don't know what to minimize and they don't know when to stop," said Adam Goodman, director of the Centre for Leadership at

Northwestern University. When assigning a new project to a worker, managers should make sure that their employees do not have too much on their plate and offer help in prioritising assignments.

Deteriorating social skills: Employee who often participates in the office meetings and is mostly enthusiastic suddenly becomes unmotivated and quieter, that person could be at risk of workplace burnout.

"Their bodies are at work, but their heart and soul are not, and you are noticing a lower participation rate," Stringer said.

How they take up a project or work on something can also be a sign of burnout.

If you feel that an employee is going through chronic stress or seems distant, try pulling them aside, asking them to grab a cup of coffee or go for a walk. "Take them outside the throes of work and have an off-site discussion that shows you care about them as a person. Reaching out is very important," Stringer suggested.

Experiencing negative feelings all the time: Venting in the workplace is very common and sometimes equally helpful as well. But when a person has negative thoughts all the time without offering solutions, it could be a sign they are going through something serious. So paying attention to any shifts in behaviour could help.

involves setting goals and once they are achieved, celebrating them.

"A lot of managers don't set a clear goal, they just want to achieve," he said.

When it comes to celebrating, it doesn't have to be a big office party, a little bit of recognition could also do the trick.

"Recognize the work or person in a team meeting. A little bit of recognition can really help out."

Cognitive Issues: We all make errors but if they become frequent it may be a sign of a workplace burnout. "If they keep making the same mistake frequently and they aren't in the zone, that could be a sign of experiencing burnout," Fanning said.

Another red flag is when people start experiencing difficulty in concentrating and have a hard time in solving problems with memory or making decisions.

"If someone's work performance is slipping, it gives you the opportunity as manager to have a conversation and point to resources to help support," Ballard said.

Burnout can be prevented by focusing on proper sleep, healthful eating, exercise, social time and making time for creative pursuits outside of work. Consider mindfulness meditations or stretching exercises that can help in keeping you calm.

And, if nothing changes, and your workplace just seems to be a bad fit, then the best treatment is to move on altogether.

WORKPLACE BURNOUT: Here's how managers can spot it & take action



Rahul Gandhi appeals HP voters to oust Adani-Modi Government

AGENCIES
SHIMLA, MAY 26

Senior Congress leader and INDIA Alliance Star campaigner Rahul Gandhi on Sunday appealed to 50 lakh voters of Himachal Pradesh to oust the 'Adani-Modi government', blaming the corporate giant for capturing massive public resources in the last ten years of BJP rule.

At a rally held at Cougan Ground in Nahar, Rahul Gandhi criticised Indian corporate giant Adani, who, he said, is closely associated with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Gandhi accused the Modi government of favoring Adani and Ambani, alleging that public assets, the apple trade, and major infrastructure projects like Airports and land have been handed over to these corporate houses.

Gandhi alleged that public resources were being diverted to benefit a few wealthy individuals. He claimed that the Modi administration has transferred around Rs 2200000 crore from Indian Banks to Adani by providing loan waivers.

Furthermore, he alleged



that MNREGA funds have been redirected to support 22 large corporate houses, while ordinary citizens suffer. He pointed out the government's involvement in creating 22 billionaires, contrasting it with his party's promise to create millions of millionaires by directly aiding the poor.

Gandhi also focused on the plight of farmers, particularly those in Himachal Pradesh. He promised to enact a law to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers and pledged to waive their loans. He criticized the Modi government's policies, which he alleged have adversely affected apple growers in Himachal.

According to Gandhi, the unfair pricing and market control by Adani and Ambani have led to signifi-

cant losses for apple farmers. He argued that these issues stem from the Modi government's favoritism towards these corporate giants.

Gandhi continued his attack on Modi by highlighting the extensive influence Adani has acquired on the current administration. He mentioned that Adani has taken control of major Airports, including those in Mumbai and Lucknow, and that the Indian Ordnance Factory's weapon manufacturing has also been handed over to Adani.

This concentration of resources and power in the hands of a few has been detrimental to the broader population, Gandhi asserted.

Rahul Gandhi introduced the Mahila Naya Scheme Lakhpati Deedi,

an initiative set to launch on July 8, 2024. Under this scheme, every poor woman, particularly housewives will receive Rs 8,500 per month.

Gandhi emphasized that this financial support would uplift millions of women across the country, promising that a list of the poorest families would be compiled, with one woman from each family receiving the benefit.

The rally also saw Gandhi touching on personal connections, particularly the bond between his sister, Priyanka Gandhi, and the people of Himachal Pradesh. He reminded the audience that Priyanka now resides in Shimla and assured them that both he and Priyanka would continue to fight for their rights in Delhi.

Rahul Gandhi aimed to garner support for party candidates in upcoming elections, emphasizing his commitment to addressing the economic and social issues faced by the people of Himachal Pradesh and the broader Indian population.

The rally drew large crowds from 17 Assembly constituencies.

Rajkot gaming zone fire: Death toll rises to 28

AGENCIES
RAJKOT (GUJARAT), MAY 26

The death toll in the massive fire that broke out in a game zone in Rajkot taluka of Gujarat has risen to 28, police said on Sunday.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel visited the accident site here this morning and enquired about the details of rescue operations including the cause of the accident.

Patel has written in a post on X that instructions have been given to the municipal corporation and administration for immedi-



ate rescue and relief work in this incident and also to give priority to the arrangements for immediate treatment of the injured.

The state government will give assistance of Rs 4

lakh to the families of the deceased and Rs 50-50 thousand to the injured.

He has said that it is very important to ensure that such an incident does not happen again.

No negligence will be tolerated in this incident. In this regard, an SIT has been formed and entrusted with the task of investigating the entire case.

It is noteworthy that there was a fierce fire in the TRP game zone on Saturday. As soon as the information was received, fire brigade personnel along with eight fire engines, including the Chief Fire Officer, reached the spot and with hard work, the fire was controlled. During this time the bodies of many people were removed from the spot.

Cyclone Remal to hit WB coast; heavy rain & high winds expected: IMD

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

Severe cyclonic storm 'Remal' over the North Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify further and cross the Bangladesh and West Bengal coasts by midnight today with maximum sustained wind speeds of 110-120 kmph, the India Meteorological Department said on Sunday.

"Severe cyclonic storm Remal has moved nearly northwards at a speed of 13 kmph during past 6 hours and lay centered over the same region today. Currently maxi-



imum sustained wind speed of 95-105 kmph gusting to 115 kmph prevail around the cyclone centre," the IMD said.

"It is very likely to continue to move nearly northwards, intensify further and cross

Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts between Sagar Island and Khepupara, close to southwest of Mongla (Bangladesh) by today midnight as a Severe Cyclonic Storm with maximum sustained wind speed of

110-120 kmph gusting to 135 kmph," the weather department added.

The cyclone is expected to make landfall between West Bengal's Sagar Island and Bangladesh's Khepupara tonight.

Under its influence, heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected to occur in coastal districts of West Bengal and Odisha and Northeastern states till 28th May.

Fishermen are advised not to venture into central Bay of Bengal till today and North Bay of Bengal till tomorrow. Also, fishermen out sea are advised to return to the coast.

11 killed, 10 injured as truck overturns on bus

AGENCIES
SHAHJAHANPUR (UP), MAY 26

Eleven people were killed and 10 others were injured when a truck hit a bus carrying pilgrims in Khutar area of Shahjahanpur district here in Uttar Pradesh, a senior police officer said here on Sunday.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Ashok Kumar Meena said that the incident took place late on Saturday night when the truck loaded with stone



overturned on the stationary bus at a dhaba near Tikunia. "11 passengers were killed in the incident whereas 10 others were

injured," he said. He said that the incident took place when pilgrims from Sitapur district were going to Purnagiri.

"The deceased have been identified as Suman Devi (36), Ajit (15), Aditya (8), Ramgopal (48), Rohini (20), Pramod (30), Chutki (50), Shivshankar (48), Seema (30), Sudhanshu (7) and Sonavati (45)," he said.

He said that the injured have been admitted to the medical college. He said that on the complaint of the family members of the deceased a case has been lodged against the truck driver and further legal action was being taken.

US envoy meets ISRO Chief, discusses various space missions

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, MAY 26

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti met ISRO Chairman S.Somanath and discussed about various space missions and the ongoing cooperation between India and US in the field of space.

The meeting took place at ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru and the Ambassador and the delegation were welcomed by senior officials of ISRO, the Space Agency said in an update.

The visit of Mr Eric highlighted the ongoing cooperation between India and the United States in the field of space.

The discussions included NASA's participation in India's proposal for a G-20 satellite for environment and climate change, an advanced imaging spectrometer satellite as a follow-up mission for NISAR, and encouragement of cooperation between commercial companies from both countries for quicker and more effective outcomes, Gaganyaan cargo module as an option for transfer of cargo to ISS (International Space Station).

The US Ambassador also proposed a QUAD satellite, ISRO said.

Mr Somanath pointed out the opportunity to develop advanced detectors and packaging technologies with US-India academic institutions.

He also emphasized on



building and standardizing docking interfaces across human space programs to enable the utilization of space platforms by other countries and joining hands to build a navigation system on the moon, either in orbit or on the surface.

The discussions highlighted both countries' mutual interests and shared goals in advancing space science, technology and the space economy.

Ongoing associations through various Joint Working Groups, Artemis Accord, NISAR, and the use of the Laser Reflectometer Array on Chandrayaan-3 were also discussed.

The Ambassador expressed his admiration for ISRO's accomplishments and its role in global space exploration.

Future programs, including the exchange visits of both sides' professionals, continuation of balloon experiments,

and identifying milestone events, were discussed.

ISRO emphasized the need to address access to critical components and items to expedite collaborative missions.

Ambassador Garcetti inquired about the role played by the Department of Space in fostering commercial space activities.

Elaborating on this, Mr Somanath said for the first time, payload technology and space-bound hardware are being built in Indian facilities that are outside ISRO labs.

ISRO plans to source payloads and satellites for its programs from Indian companies and enable them to enter the global market. The visit concluded with a commitment to further strengthening the partnership between India and the United States in the field of space.

Both sides expressed optimism about future collaborative endeavors, it said.

Go to schools, educate students: Bais to Ramakrishna Mission

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAY 26

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais made an appeal to Ramakrishna Mission, Mumbai to establish constructive cooperation with schools, go to schools and inculcate values, ethics and humanity among students.

Speaking at concluding ceremony of the year-long centenary celebration of Ramakrishna Math and Mission in western suburb of Khar on Saturday, he said that education without values only increases ego of the individual, therefore, it is necessary to add values, ethics and humanity to education.

Saying that Ramakrishna Mission founder Swami Vivekananda was a great supporter of women's empowerment, the Governor urged Ramakrishna Mission, Mumbai Centre to conduct skills development activities for poor and underprivileged women to make them self-reliant.

He asked the Mission to carry out activities related to skills development, sports development and overall personality development for youth of India.

Bais suggested that a plan should be implemented for empowerment of senior citizens and the disabled.

Indian Embassy in Laos rescues 13 Indians trapped in fake job racket

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI/VIENTIANE, MAY 26

The Indian Embassy in Laos has rescued and repatriated 13 Indians who were duped into working for fake job rackets that forced them to act as cyber criminals. With this, 428 Indians have been rescued so far from Laos, the embassy said, and warned Indians against getting duped by such job rackets.

The Indian Embassy posted on X:

"In our continued work to ensure safety & well-being of Indians as matter of top priority, Embassy successfully rescues and repatriates 13 Indians,



including seven Odiya workers from a wood factory in Attapeu province, and six Indian youth from Golden Triangle SEZ, Bokeo province of Laos."

"So far, Embassy has rescued 428 Indians from Lao PDR. We thank Lao authorities for their cooperation. "For Indian workers

coming to Laos/Lao PDR, do NOT put your safety at risk by getting duped into fake or illegal job offers for cyber scams etc. Read enclosed advisory carefully," the post read.

The Laos operation comes two days after a similar one in Cambodia where the Indian Embassy

repatriated a group of 60 Indian nationals rescued from Sihanoukville by Cambodian authorities, following the rescue operation conducted on May 20. The Indian Embassy posted on X: "Always committed to helping Indians abroad."

"First batch of 60 Indian nationals rescued by Indian Embassy in Cambodia from fraudulent employers return home. Thank the Cambodian authorities for their support."

This initiative follows a significant rescue operation conducted on May 20, said the Embassy in a statement released on Wednesday.

It's time to answer those who exploited the resources of Mirzapur, Sonbhadra: Yogi

AGENCIES
MIRZAPUR (UP), MAY 26

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership people are witnessing the emergence of a new India with enhanced global esteem, which is on its way to becoming a global superpower. Addressing a public meeting and urging to vote in favour of Union Minister and Mirzapur candidate Anupriya Patel, Robertsganj Lok Sabha candidate, and MLA Rinki Kol in the presence of PM Modi, the CM said, "Over the past 10 years, India has secured its borders and achieved new milestones in development. Welfare schemes for the poor have been implemented with the motto 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.' PM Modi treats 140 crore Indians as his family, striving to bring prosperity to every citizen's life."

He said, "The medical colleges have been com-



pleted in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra. A university will soon be set up. Previous governments had a narrow mindset, so they did not think about development. PM Modi alone has provided housing to over one lakh poor people in Mirzapur under PM Awas Yojana. In Mirzapur and Sonbhadra, housing has been provided to people from the Kol, Gaud, Chero, Tharu, and Musahar communities with the goal of 100 percent."

Yogi said, "Before 2014, the people here struggled for every drop of water. This was the situation for 70 years since independence, but in the last 10

years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided every citizen in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra with clean drinking water under the Har Ghar Nal Yojana, Yogi asserted, appealing to people to elect NDA candidates with an overwhelming majority in Mirzapur and Robertsganj."

He said, "Congress has ruled the country the most, and in the state, it has been the SP. Despite this, they left you struggling for every drop of water. Due to their policies, this region fell into the grip of Naxalism. They deprived you of development and gave the mafia free rein to take over resources and mining here.

Now, it is time for you to make them yearn for every single vote."

The CM said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the heritage of the new India is being respected while world-class infrastructure is being built in the country. Mirzapur and Sonbhadra bear testimony to UP's journey of development under the guidance of the Prime Minister.

He said, "The Kashi Vishwanath Dham is now attracting global attention in a new way. After 500 years, Lord Ram has been enshrined in his divine temple in Ayodhya. Previously, during Navratri at Vindhyavasini Dham, people were anxious about what might happen there, but today, the Vindhyavasini Dham corridor project is nearing completion. Now, no Shrivani Kumar will have to carry elderly parents on his shoulders in a kanwar for darshan, as the ropeway is ready."

No jail for those refusing Tory national service plans: UK Home Secretary

AGENCIES
LONDON, MAY 26

Teenagers would not be sent to jail for refusing to comply with the Tories' proposed "mandatory" national service, said James Cleverly, the UK Home Secretary.

The Home Secretary said there would be no criminal sanctions for young people if they defied the plans under a Conservative government.

In the first major policy announcement ahead of the General Election, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who is a member of the Conservative Party, also known as Tories, pledged to get 18 year olds to either join the military for 12 months or do "volunteer" work one weekend a month for a year.

The Prime Minister said the policy would help unite society in an "increasingly uncertain world" and give young people a "shared sense of purpose."

In an apparent pitch to older voters and those who may turn to Reform UK, the Conservatives said volunteering could include helping local fire, police and NHS services, as well as charities, tackling loneliness and supporting elderly people.

Touring broadcast studios on Sunday, Cleverly said the Tories would ensure the scheme "fits with different people's attitudes and aspirations" after questions arose over whether teenagers would be punished for not taking part.

"There's going to be no criminal sanction. There's no one going to jail over this," he told Sky News's Sunday Morning With Trevor Phillips programme.

"This is about dealing with what we know to be the case, which is social fragmentation."

"Too many young people live in a bubble within their own communities. They don't mix with people of different religions, they don't mix with different viewpoints."

Opposition critics have dismissed the plans as unserious, with Labour saying the pledge would never come to fruition and amounted to "another unfunded commitment."

The Prime Minister is seeking to draw a dividing line with Keir Starmer's party on global security following his pledge to raise defence spending to 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product by 2030.

Heightening his attack on Saturday, Sunak said voters would be left "at risk" with the Labour leader in Number 10 because Britain's enemies would notice that he "doesn't have a plan."

Teenagers who choose to sign up for placement in the forces would "learn and take part in logistics, cyber security, procurement or civil response operations," the Tories said.

The Conservatives said they would form a royal commission, bringing expertise from across the military and civil society to establish the details of what they described as the "bold" national service programme.

The party said this commission would be tasked with bringing forward a proposal for how to ensure the first pilot is open for applications in September 2025.

After that, it would seek to introduce a new "National Service Act" to make the measures compulsory by the end of the next Parliament, the party said.

It estimates the programme will cost 2.5 billion pounds a year by the end of the decade and plans to fund 1 billion



pounds through plans to "crackdown on tax avoidance and evasion."

The remaining 1.5 billion pounds will be paid for with money previously used for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), a key part of the Levelling Up agenda, which supports local charities and community groups, the Tories said.

The Prime Minister said: "This is a great country, but generations of young people have not had the opportunities or experience they deserve, and there are forces trying to divide our society in this increasingly uncertain world."

"I have a clear plan to address this and secure our future. I will bring in a new model of national service to create a shared sense of purpose among our young people and a renewed sense of pride in our country."

"This new, mandatory national service will provide life-changing opportunities for our young people, offering them the chance to learn real-world skills, do new things and contribute to their community and our country."

Earlier on Saturday, the Prime Minister suggested a government led by Keir would be marked by

uncertainty and a "more dangerous world."

"The consequences of uncertainty are clear. No plan means a more dangerous world. You, your family and our country are all at risk if Labour wins," he said.

Keir's party pointed out that Lord David Cameron introduced a similar scheme - the National Citizen Service - when he was the Prime Minister.

Cameron's announcement had no military component to it, instead encouraging youngsters to take part in activities such as outdoor education-style courses as part of his "Big Society" initiative.

A Labour spokesperson said: "This is not a plan - it's a review which could cost billions and is only needed because the Tories hollowed out the armed forces to their smallest size since Napoleon."

"Britain has had enough of the Conservatives, who are bankrupt of ideas and have no plans to end 14 years of chaos. It's time to turn the page and rebuild Britain with Labour."

Liberal Democrat defence spokesperson MP Richard Foord said: "If the Conservatives were serious about defence, they would reverse their damaging cuts to our world-

class professional armed forces, instead of decimating them, with swingeing cuts to the number of our regular service personnel."

"Our armed forces were once the envy of the world. This Conservative government has cut troop numbers and is planning more cuts to the size of the Army."

"This would be far better spent reversing Conservative cuts to troop numbers."

Sunak's pledge marks the first major policy announcement from either side ahead of the July 4 General Election that he called in a rain-soaked statement outside Downing Street earlier this week.

The Prime Minister has said he is "pumped up" and enjoying himself on the campaign trail despite a difficult start that saw him encounter several hiccups on a whistlestop two-day tour of the four nations.

His trip included a visit to the Titanic Quarter in Belfast, which invited undesirable "sinking ship" comparisons with his party's fortunes, as well as a brewery in Wales where he made a footballing gaffe about the Euros.

Sunak spent Saturday meeting local veterans in his North Yorkshire constituency of Richmond before joining activists on the doorstep in south-west London.

He is understood to be continuing on the campaign trail in the South East, while Rachel Reeves will give a stump speech to party members in West Yorkshire as she heads out for Labour on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Ed Davey will launch the Liberal Democrats battlebus in a marginal constituency, in the so-called Tory blue wall of southern England.

North Korea warns of military action over alleged sea border incursions

AGENCIES
SEOUL, MAY 26

North Korea on Sunday threatened to take action against South Korea over what it claims are violations of the de facto western maritime border, ratcheting up tensions ahead of a trilateral summit in Seoul.

North Korea's supreme military leadership instructed its army on Friday to take offensive action against the encroachment upon its sovereignty, North Korea's Vice Defence Minister Kim Kang-il said, according to the country's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"We officially warn that we can never tolerate such continued encroachment on our maritime sovereignty and that we may exercise our self-defensive power on or under the water at any moment," Kim said in a statement carried by the KCNA, Yonhap news agency reported.

The statement came hours before South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol will have back-to-back bilateral talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the presidential office.

The three leaders will hold a trilateral summit on



Monday. It marks the first three-way summit among the Asian countries since December 2019, after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and strained Seoul-Tokyo relations over historical disputes.

Tension remains high along the Northern Limit Line (NLL), the de facto maritime border, Yellow Sea. North Korea has never recognised the NLL, demanding it be re-drawn further south.

Waters near the NLL have been a flashpoint between the two Koreas, where three bloody naval skirmishes took place in 1999, 2002 and 2009.

In March 2010, Pyongyang torpedoed a South Korean warship near the sea border, killing 46 sailors on board. In November of that year, the North bombarded South Korea's border island of Yeonpyeong, killing two civilians and two Marines.

North Korea also

accused South Korea and the United States of intensifying their hostile aerial espionage as it vowed to scatter "mounds of waste-paper and filth" over the inter-Korean border areas in retaliation against anti-Pyongyang leaflets.

For years, North Korean defectors in South Korea and conservative activists have sent balloons carrying leaflets critical of the North's leader Kim Jong-un into North Korea. Pyongyang has bristled at the propaganda campaign amid concern that an influx of outside information could pose a threat to the Kim regime.

North Korea blew up the joint liaison office in the now-shuttered inter-Korean factory park in the North Korean border city of Kaesong in 2020 in anger over Seoul's failure to stop North Korean defectors from sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.

Tribal fighter killed in bomb attack in Iraq

AGENCIES
BAGHDAD, MAY 26

A paramilitary fighter from a local tribal force was killed and four others wounded in twin roadside bomb explosions in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, the Iraqi military said on Sunday.

The incident took place at 9:40 p.m. local time on Saturday (1840 GMT) when a roadside bomb ripped through an outpost

of the tribal fighters affiliated with the Iraqi Hashd Shaabi forces near a village in the Khan Bani Saad area south of Baquba, the provincial capital of Diyala, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, according to a statement released by the Security Media Cell, a media outlet affiliated with the Iraqi Joint Operations Command, reports Xinhua news agency.

The first blast caused no casualties. Upon

the arrival of security forces to investigate and pursue the perpetrators, another roadside bomb went off, killing a tribal fighter and injuring four others, according to the statement. The security situation in Iraq has been improved after the defeat of the militants of the extremist group Islamic State across the country in 2017. However, the country continues to grapple with sporadic attacks.

French President heads to Germany for rare state visit

AGENCIES
BERLIN, MAY 26

Emmanuel Macron begins the first state visit to Germany by a French President in 24 years on Sunday, a pomp-filled three-day trip described as a tribute to the Franco-German friendship.

Macron is due to arrive in Berlin at 2 pm (1200 GMT). He will head first to the government district, where the "Democracy Festival" celebrating 75 years of Germany's Basic Law - the democratic constitution adopted in West Germany after World War II - will be held.

At the time, West Germany was under occupation by the victorious Western Allies, which included France, Britain and the United States.

Macron and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will engage in an on-stage discussion at the festival. The French leader will then travel to Steinmeier's nearby official residence, the Bellevue Palace, where he will be greeted with military honours. A joint press conference by the two presidents will follow in the late afternoon.

A walk through the Brandenburg Gate with Berlin Mayor Kai Wagner and a state banquet at Bellevue Palace is scheduled



for the evening.

Sunday's visit comes ahead of European elections to decide the next European Parliament. Far-right EU parties have seen a surge in support in recent years - including in France and Germany - and are expected to do well in the June 6-9 polls.

The relationship between Paris and Berlin has long been seen as the driving force of European policymaking. But frictions began to emerge in 2022, after Angela Merkel left the German political scene, although Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz have recently made efforts to improve cooperation.

The agreement has been found on several issues, including reform of the EU's debt and deficit rules, but other points of contention remain, notably on the type of military aid for Ukraine and the EU's economic policy responses to protectionist measures by China and the United States.

These thorny questions

and others will be discussed at a meeting of French and German ministers on Tuesday.

Macron and his wife Brigitte will be travelling to Dresden on Monday. There, he will give a speech on European policy in front of the Frauenkirche, a monumental domed church and a symbol of post-war reconciliation.

On Tuesday, they will travel to Munster, where Macron will be awarded the Peace of Westphalia Prize. Macron came to power in France seven years ago and cannot run for a third term in the 2027 presidential election. The official state visit is the first by a French president to Germany since 2000, although leaders from both countries regularly meet and visit in less formal ways. Macron had planned to make the state visit last July.

However, the trip was postponed due to nationwide unrest in France following the deadly police shooting of a 17-year-old that shocked the nation.

Zelensky appeals to Biden and Xi to join Swiss peace talks



AGENCIES
KHARKIV, MAY 26

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday appealed to his US counterpart Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping to participate in a planned peace summit in Switzerland in June.

"We do not want the UN Charter to be burnt down just like these books, and I hope you don't want to either," said Zelensky against the backdrop of a printing plant destroyed by a Russian missile attack in the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

"The efforts of the global majority are the best guarantee that all commitments will be fulfilled. Please, support the peace summit with your personal leadership and participation," Zelensky added, addressing Biden and Xi directly in English in a video posted on the social media platform Telegram. Switzerland has

invited around 160 countries to a peace summit on June 15-16 to discuss possible ways to achieve lasting peace in Ukraine. Russia, which invaded Ukraine more than two years ago, has not received an invitation. According to Zelensky, Moscow is currently preparing another attack in northern Ukraine after a recent offensive near the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

Military experts say another Russian offensive in the northern Sumy region is possible. Russia's aim could be to exploit its manpower and material superiority, overstretch the Ukrainian defence lines and thus achieve the collapse of the Ukrainian front line.

Kharkiv, which lies only 30 kilometres from the Russian border, has been one of the worst-hit cities in Moscow's bombing campaign since its invasion of Ukraine in February, 2022.

Nearly 1 million evacuated as Cyclone Remal approaches Bangladesh

AGENCIES
DHAKA, MAY 26

Bangladesh has begun evacuating millions of people ahead of Cyclone Remal, which is expected to bring winds as fast as 130 kmph when it makes landfall.

The cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal is poised to cross the country's coastlines between Sunday evening and midnight, Xinhua news agency reported.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department on Sunday warned of the danger of flooding, landslides and a storm surge.

The great danger signal No. 10 has been sounded for the country's coastal districts and seaports, where fishing boats, trawlers and maritime vessels have been advised to remain in shelter till further notice.

At 9.00 a.m. local time Sunday, the cyclone was centred 295 km south of Bangladesh's Mongla port in the southern Khulna region and 380 km southwest of Chattogram port in southeastern Bangladesh, said the bulletin signed by Kh Hafizur Rahman, a meteorologist at BMD.

Bangladeshi State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief, Md Mohibur Rahman, told Xinhua that at least 8,00,000 people from the ten most

vulnerable districts have already been evacuated to shelters.

He said Bangladesh's navy, coast guard, police, voluntary organisations and political parties were supporting the ongoing massive evacuation efforts.

Television footage showed widespread flooding in the low-lying areas of coastal districts.

Due to the peripheral effect of the severe cyclone and steep pressure gradient, the low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Khulna and Chattogram are likely to be inundated by a wind-driven surge of 8-12 feet height above normal astronomical tide, reads the bulletin.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority has suspended operations of all types of river vessels on all inner routes. Authorities of Chattogram Seaport have ordered to stop unloading of cargo at the outer anchorage and asked all the vessels anchored there to go to the deep sea.

Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram has suspended its flight operation for eight hours from Sunday afternoon.

In 2007, Cyclone Sidr hit the country's southwestern coastal belt, leaving more than 4,000 people dead or missing.

Philippine troops kill suspected militant in clash

AGENCIES
MANILA, MAY 26

Philippine troops have killed a suspected militant in a clash in Maguindanao del Sur province in the southern Philippines, the Philippine Army said on Sunday.

In a report, the Army said that the alleged Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) militant was killed early Saturday morning after a five-minute clash in the village in Datu Salibo town following information from the militants' presence in the area, Xinhua news agency reported.

Troops seized a 45 calibre pistol and explosives from the clashed site, read the report.

The BIFF, a small armed group aligned with the Islamic State group, is blamed for bombings and other atrocities in the Central Mindanao region in the southern Philippines.

The group broke off from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front when the latter agreed to negotiate a peace pact with the government in 2014.

Largest container ship ever to arrive in India docks at Adani's Mundra Port

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, MAY 26

Mundra Port, the flagship of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), has created yet another record by welcoming the largest container ship ever to call at an Indian port, the company announced on Sunday.

The docked vessel, MSC Anna, has a length of 399.98 metres – roughly the length of four football fields – and is among the largest container ships, with the capacity to carry 19,200 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units).

"The arrival of MSC Anna at Mundra not only highlights the port's capac-



ity to handle mega ships but also reflects its pivotal role in enhancing India's maritime trade capabilities," the company said in a statement.

Its arrival draft is 16.3 metres, which can be accommodated only at

Adani Ports, Mundra, as no other port in India is capable of berthing a deep-draft vessel.

During its stay, the expected exchange is 12,500 TEUs, underscoring Mundra Port's capability to manage large-scale cargo

efficiently, the company said.

In July 2023, Adani Ports, Mundra created a record by berthing MV MSC Hamburg, one of the longest container ships in the world, with an overall length of 399 metres and a capacity of 16,652 TEUs.

Adani Ports, Mundra's record-breaking feats continued into the latter half of 2023. In October, it became the first in India to handle 16 MMT cargo in a single month.

"As APSEZ continues to expand and upgrade its facilities, the port is set to play an increasingly significant role in the global shipping and logistics landscape," the company said.

BharatPe, PhonePe settle trademark dispute on using 'Pe' suffix

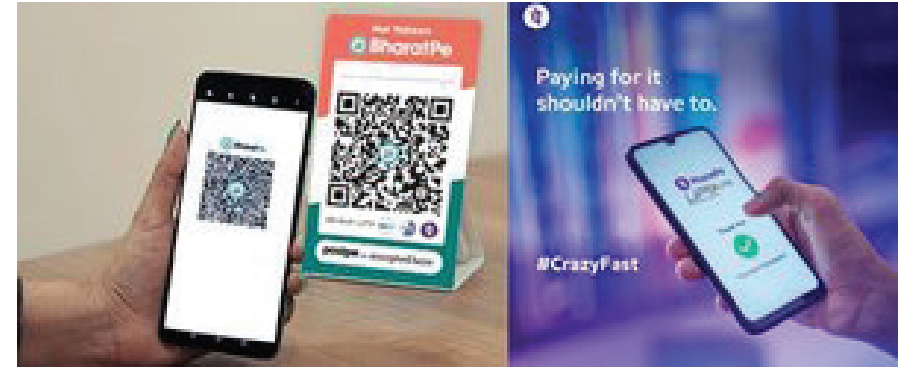
AGENCIES
BENGALURU, MAY 26

The BharatPe Group and PhonePe Group on Sunday announced that they have amicably settled all long-standing legal disputes pertaining to the use of the trademark with the suffix "Pe".

This comes after a long-drawn legal dispute across multiple courts, since the last 5 years.

"The settlement will put an end to all open judicial proceedings," the announcement said, adding that the companies have withdrawn all oppositions against each other in the trademark registry.

Rajnish Kumar, Chair-



man of the Board, BharatPe called the move "a positive development for the industry", while appreciating "the maturity and professionalism shown by the Management of both sides".

He added that this will help the companies to move "ahead to focus their energy

and resources in building robust digital payment ecosystems".

Both organisations will also undertake to carry out other necessary steps to comply with the obligations under the settlement agreement in respect of all cases before the Delhi and

Bombay High Courts.

Sameer Nigam, Founder and CEO, PhonePe, expressed happiness over the "amicable resolution".

He noted that the outcome will help both companies "focus collective energy on growing the Indian fintech industry as a whole".

Musk's X has paid over \$50 million in ad sharing to 150K creators: CEO



New Delhi, May 26

Elon Musk-run X has paid more than \$50 million in ad sharing to creators on its "video-first" platform, its CEO Linda Yaccarino has announced. When Twitter was acquired by Musk in October 2022, it was basically a 140-character messaging app.

"Now, less than 18 months later, it is a 'video-first' platform, and part of what's driving that success is inviting creators onto our platform," said Yaccarino.

At the time of its \$44 billion acquisition, there were about 3,500 creators on the platform.

"Now, our video capabilities have become so sophisticated that we've probably got over 150,000 creators on the platform and paid out over \$50 million in ad-sharing relationships with those creators," she informed.

The X platform is inviting more and more creators to give its 600 million monthly active users (MAUs) "the ultimate experience".

Last month, Yaccarino announced that X would soon launch a dedicated TV app for users to upload high-quality videos, similar to Google-owned YouTube.

This will be your "go-to companion for a high-quality, immersive entertainment experience on a larger screen," she posted.

X users would see trending video algorithms, artificial intelligence (AI)-powered topics and cross-device experience, among other features.

The tech billionaire is making X "an everything app".

According to him, X has 600 million monthly active users and about half of which use the platform every day.

Homegrown HireMee helps 7 lakh small-town youth receive talent assessment for free

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, MAY 26

Indian edtech platform HireMee has helped over 7,00,000 talented small-town youth get assessed at no cost by assessing them free of cost and connecting them with potential employers, the company said on Sunday.

Moreover, nearly 60 per cent of 2,70,000 interview opportunities created by HireMee since its inception in 2017 have gone to students from tier 3 and 4 towns, "with almost half of these opportunities for women candidates," said Venkatraman Umakanth, Senior VP and Business Head at the firm.

The talent assessment



platform enables equal access to opportunities for small-town youth in the country, by connecting them with employers.

It has just won the Global Impact Sourcing Award (GISA) from IAOP, the pre-

mier global organisation

dedicated to shaping the future of business.

"HireMee's dedication to impact sourcing has produced genuine, enduring benefits for both individuals and their communities," said

Debi Hamill, CEO of IAOP.

The company provides AI-driven assessment, covering seven sections including core domain for students pursuing their diploma, undergraduate and post-graduate studies.

The assessment scores of test takers are shared with companies listed on the HireMee platform without any fee.

HireMee platform has worked with nearly 7,000 colleges accredited by AICTE; National Career Service of the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment; Tamil Nadu government's upskilling programme 'Naan Mudhalvan' and Karnataka government's Digital Economy Mission and over 2,000 companies.

FII buying, Q4 results key factors for stock market next week

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAY 26

Indian equity markets closed at an all-time high last week. The Nifty and Sensex hit new peaks on Friday, with the Nifty surpassing the 23,000 mark for the first time. Similarly, the Sensex shot up by 1,400 points to a fresh record high of 75,636.50.

Last week, Nifty Bank surged 2 per cent following the announcement by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) of giving a dividend of Rs 2.11 lakh crore to the government.

This improved market sentiment significantly. The substantial dividend

is expected to help the government reduce its fiscal deficit and boost capital expenditure.

The outlook for the market next week will be guided by major domestic and global economic data, according to experts.

On the global front, rising US bond yields and commodity prices (crude oil, gold, and silver) are the other factors that will be closely monitored, as they have the potential to influence market sentiment.

Furthermore, upcoming economic data releases from Japan and the US, along with movements in the global cur-

rency market, will also be important factors to consider.

On the domestic front, many companies, including some big names like Divislabs, Tata Steel and Apollo hospital will release their financial results next week.

Positive earnings reports from the final quarter could provide strength for the market to continue its bullish momentum.

According to market experts, we are very close to the Lok Sabha election results and the verdict will give a boost to FII flows.

Mehul Kothari, DVP - Technical Research,

Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said: "Nifty hit the milestone of 23,000 during Friday's session and ended the week with gains of over 2 per cent. It seems that the market is discounting the BJP government winning the elections with a decent majority."

As of now, the index is approaching the higher end of the rising channel placed near 23,100-23,200. Thus, from here on, "we will maintain a profit-booking stance in the market," said Kothari.

"On the downside, 22,800-22,600 seems to be extremely strong support for the coming week," he added.

With last phase of voting left, market volatility would increase

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

Markets were on a roll, and they had plenty of action and drama as well in the week gone by. The previously announced holiday on Thursday, on account of Buddha Purnima, was cancelled by the exchanges on Monday, considering the fact that two holidays in a week would break the momentum.

As events turned out, Thursday was the key pivot for the markets as they gained a massive 1,197 points on BSE-SENSEX and 370 points on NIFTY on Thursday. In the process, they made new lifetime highs as well. The RBI declaring a dividend of Rs 2.11 lakh crore for the financial year ended March 2024 was a great help as well, as it ensured

that the fiscal deficit the government is targeting is well under control.

At the end of the four-day week, BSESENSEX gained two and lost two sessions, while NIFTY gained three and lost one. BSESENSEX gained 1,404.45 points or 1.90 per cent to close at 75,410.39 points, while NIFTY gained 455.10 points or 2.02 per cent to close at 22,957.10 points.

The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 1.87 per cent, 1.87 per cent and 1.65 per cent respectively. BSEMIDCAP gained 1.10 per cent, while BSESMALLCAP was up 0.08 per cent. The new intraday highs made on Friday were 75,499.91 points and 23,026.40 points.

The Indian Rupee had a strong showing during the week and gained 24

paire or 0.29 per cent to close at Rs 83.10 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones saw selling pressure and lost in three of the five trading sessions. It was down 934 points or 2.33 per cent to close at 39,069.59 points.

The week gone by saw one new mainboard listing-shares of Go Digit General Insurance Limited, which were issued at Rs 272 listed on Thursday, May 23. The opening price was Rs 281.10 on BSE. Shares closed day one at Rs 305.75, a gain of Rs 33.75 or 12.40 per cent. On Friday, the share lost some ground and closed at Rs 300.15, a reduced gain since the listing of Rs 28.15 or 10.35 per cent.

The issue from Awfis Space Solutions Limited is currently on. The issue consists of a fresh issue of Rs 128 crore and an offer for sale of 1,22,95,699



equity shares in a price band of Rs 364-383. The company, as the name suggests, is in the business of providing common workspaces on a daily or longer-term contracted basis.

Currently, the company is on a net loss, based on its restated accounts, which are showing a declining trend. Looking at the leverage opportunity that the company has and the fact that 75 per cent of the space is rented out, it could be expected

looking for listing pop and having a medium-term holding period would be rewarded if their application for the share is successful.

The week ahead sees May futures expire on Thursday, May 30. The current value of NIFTY at 22,957.10 points is higher by 386.75 points or 1.71 per cent compared to the May series opening of 22,570.35 points. It would be interesting to note that all the gains have been made in the previous week, as prior to this, the series was negative. While currently the momentum is with the bulls, one needs to be cautious as to the way markets may move on election results eve.

The sixth phase of voting has concluded, and now just the seventh and final phase of voting on

Saturday, June 1, remains.

With the sharp rally over the last two weeks since markets made a bottom on Monday, May 13, they have rallied quite sharply. They have also made new lifetime highs. Very clearly, the markets are convinced that the ruling BJP-led NDA would form the next government. Exit poll assessment would begin Saturday evening and carry on till results are announced on Tuesday morning.

With expiry happening during the coming week, volatility on expiry day could get substantially elevated as people decide to lighten positions and adopt a wait-and-watch attitude. FPIs have been big sellers in the month of May and, barring a couple of days, sold every day. This excess of liquidity, while it was absorbed

by domestic institutions, could see a mismatch on expiry day.

Coming to the week ahead, expect sharp volatility as expiry day approaches. The election results getting closer could cause volatility to rise post-futures expiry as positions would, in all probability, get liquidated to a large extent. With limited positions open in the market from Monday to Wednesday in the week, June 3 to June 6 could see really sharp volatility. The strategy for the week ahead would be to reduce positions as the week progresses.

Refrain from any overweight positions in either direction, as sharp volatility is expected. Analyse exit polls for all they are worth, look at the results and then take a call.

Trade cautiously.

After seamers show, KKR ambushes SRH by 8 wkts, wins 3rd IPL title



AGENCIES
CHENNAI, MAY 26

After a dominating show by the seamers, who bagged eight wickets between them, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) batters, led by left hander Venkatesh Iyer's blistering half century—the 4th fastest in final-humbled Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) to win its third IPL title in an one-sided IPL final at the M.A.Chidambaram Stadium here on Sunday night.

After skittling out SRH, which chose to bat first, to 113 in 18.3 overs, KKR batters overhauled the target with consummate ease

and was crowned themselves glory for the third time winning by eight wickets in a venue where it had won the maiden title in 2012.

This is first title win in last ten years for KKR, adding to its wins in 2012 and 2014 after losing the title clash in 2021.

KKR Skipper Shreyas Iyer became the eighth captain to win the IPL crown.

SRH, the 2016 winner, lost for the second time in a summit clash after 2018.

After losing in form left hander Sunil Narine (6) in the second over, a rampaging Venkatesh Iyer

(52 not out 4x4, 3x6 in 26 balls) put the SRH bowling attack to sword carting them to all parts of the ground with a flurry of shots as he and opener Rahamullah Gurbaz (39, 32 balls 5x4, 2x6) added 91 for the second wicket in 45 balls, with the contest ending long before the scheduled close.

Venkatesh Iyer scored the fourth fastest half century in IPL final in 24 balls and remained unbeaten at the end when the team crossed the finishing line.

This will go into the history one of the one-sided IPL finals contested so far

Hardik Pandya to link up with India's squad for T20 World Cup in New York: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

India's vice-captain Hardik Pandya will be linking up with the Rohit Sharma-led side in New York on Sunday afternoon ahead of the upcoming Men's T20 World Cup. Pandya was a notable omission in visuals of first batch of Indian team players and support staff departing for New York from Mumbai on Saturday night.

A report in Cricbuzz on Sunday said, Pandya had been vacationing overseas at an undisclosed location after Mumbai Indians' campaign ended in IPL 2024 with a defeat to Lucknow Super Giants at the Wankhede Stadium, and is now on his way to New York to link up with the Indian team for the showpiece event starting from June 1.

Pandya had a torrid time in IPL 2024, where he was constantly under the spotlight for his disappointing all-round performances post an ankle injury layoff and was even booed by the crowd in both home and away games.

With the bat, Hardik amassed just 216 runs in 14 matches of IPL 2024 at an average of 18 and a strike-rate of 143.05. With the ball, he picked 11 wickets at an economy-rate of



10.75 and average of 35.18.

A lot was expected from him as a leader, especially after he captained Gujarat Titans to IPL 2022 title and IPL 2023 runners-up finish. But Mumbai Indians finished at the bottom of the points table.

The report added that Sanju Samson, Yasir Hasvi Jaiswal, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Avesh Khan, who will be playing in the IPL title clash on Sunday night. It also said Virat Kohli sought permission to join the squad late.

Apart from Rohit, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed

Siraj, and traveling substitutes Shubman Gill and Khaleel Ahmed, left for New York from Mumbai on Saturday night.

India is set to play their lone warm-up game against Bangladesh at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on June 1. Their Men's T20 World Cup campaign begins on June 5 against Group A opponents Ireland in New York, followed by a highly-anticipated clash against Pakistan on June 9.

India will then face co-hosts USA on June 12 in New York, before going to Florida to take on Canada on June 15 to wrap up their Group A league matches. India were the inaugural winners of the Men's T20 World Cup in 2007 and are aiming to claim the silverware for just the second time through the upcoming tournament.

FIH Pro League: Indian women's hockey team goes down 0-3 against Argentina

AGENCIES
ANTWERP, MAY 26

The Indian women's hockey team went down 0-3 to Argentina in the final match of the Belgium leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24, here on Sunday. Celina Di Santo (1'), Maria Campoy (39'), and Maria Granatto (47') etched their names on the scoresheet for Argentina.

Argentina took the game by storm in the very first minute, dissecting the Indian high press and penetrating to the shooting circle, where Celina Di Santo deflected Maria Granatto's shot on goal to score their first goal. As India struggled to play out of their half, a period of Argentinian dominance followed, resulting in a penalty corner eight minutes into the game, but they failed to extend their lead.

Following this, India began stringing a few passes together and grew into the game. They forced Argentine goalkeeper Clara Barberi into action after a low drive into the circle from Uditia found Lalremisiami, who dove to direct it towards goal but failed to score. Argentina regained control of proceedings in the second quarter, earning a slurry of penalty corners but an alert duo of Bichu Devi Kharibam and Salima Tete helped keep the ball out of the nets. A rare Indian foray into the shoot-

ing circle resulted in a penalty corner but Deepika's drag flick was comfortably swatted away. Argentina pegged India back for the rest of the quarter but the Indian defence held firm to keep the scoreline 0-1 heading into the second half.

India earned a penalty corner early in the third quarter but failed to create a goalscoring opportunity. As the quarter progressed India attempted to push up the pitch but were unable to create any significant chances. Argentina made a breakthrough in the 39th minute, as Maria Campoy picked up the ball on the left wing and bulldozed into the circle, dodging a few challenges and slotting it past Savita to double their lead. India had a chance to score in the last minute of the quarter but Navneet Kaur's tomahawk was saved by Clara Barberi.

Argentina earned a penalty corner as soon as the final quarter began and Maria Granatto directed Agustina Gorzelany's flick over Savita in goal to further solidify their lead. Argentina stepped up the intensity after the goal and pegged India back, creating multiple chances through Maria Granatto but a resilient Indian backline managed to thwart any further advances and the match ended 3-0 in Argentina's favour.

The Indian women's team will next take on Germany on June 1.

Nitu Ghanghas eyes LA 2028 Olympics, says "Confident that I will make it"

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

Nitu Ghanghas may be temporarily away from public spotlight but the Haryana boxer is spending quality time at the Bhiwani Boxing Club preparing for the Los Angeles Olympics in July 2028. A world champion in the 48 kg class, the 23-year-old Nitu could not make it to the Paris Olympics in the 54 kg division, a weight category where she is developing more power and adding skills to keep her reputation as a feisty fighter intact. In a new episode of the Fit India Champions podcast, Nitu said, "From childhood I have always wanted to win, battled many odds and disappointments and came out on top with my family's help. I am already looking forward now."

Having excelled in the 48 kg class, a weight division that once exclusively belonged to London Olympics (51 kg) bronze medalist Mary Kom, Nitu wants to emulate her idol.

"I grew up seeing her and it was my dream to fight Mary didi. That opportunity did come (Commonwealth Games



2022 trials) but Mary Kom had to withdraw due to a knee injury after a minute into the opening round. I really wanted a full fight, so it was a bit disappointing," said Ghanghas, who is a natural left-handed boxer like Mary.

Nitu went on to win the Commonwealth Games gold in Birmingham.

The ardent Mary Kom fan is considered as a potential successor to the Manipuri legend and missing Asian Games in Hang-

zhou and Paris 2024 has not left the 2023 world and Commonwealth Games champion heartbroken, instead more determined.

"I think all three of them can return with a medal from Paris. They are all capable fighters and have gained a lot of experience. As far as I am concerned, I will take it step by step as I get better and stronger in 54 kg division. My immediate target is the world championships in Astana, Kazakhstan in October this

year and my coach Jagdish Singh is prepping me for it. I am confident that I have the mettle to make it to Los Angeles Olympics in 2028," she added.

To qualify for the Asian Games and Paris Olympics, Nitu, proficient in the 48 kg class, had to upgrade herself to the 54 kg class but it was Preeti Pawar who pipped her to the Hangzhou 2023 squad.

"I am from Bhiwani Boxing Club and I have a legacy to take forward. Vijender Singh's Beijing Olympics was a massive trigger for girls like us to play boxing. In our village (Dhanana), it was unthinkable for a girl to play sport. But it was my father (Jai Bhagawan) who backed me up regardless of the fact that even our closest relatives thought we were crazy because I was going to take up boxing," Nitu Ghanghas narrated during the podcast.

With age on her side and known for her aggressive style, Nitu remains among India's top women boxers. With greater exposure and intense training, the Haryana girl is expected to grab the headlines again once the Paris Olympics are over.

'Don't get the same buzz': Zampa keen to prioritise internationals over T20 leagues

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, MAY 26

Australia's leg-spinner Adam Zampa said he would like to prioritise playing international cricket as he doesn't get the same level of buzz when featuring in various T20 franchise leagues around the world.

Zampa was due to play for Rajasthan Royals in IPL 2024, but pulled out of the competition due to fatigue reasons. After last playing international cricket in February, Zampa will be seen in action for Australia in the upcoming men's T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the USA from June 1.

"I've really come to love playing for Australia. I always loved it, but playing under Dan Vettori, Andrew McDonald and Pat and Mitch as captains, it is just so enjoyable. I make good money playing for Australia and I would love to prioritise playing for Australia and being with my family."

"I don't get enough out of franchise cricket. It's great for certain aspects of your life, and it can be really enjoyable, but it's not like being in the



Aussie dressing room, not for me anyway. I don't get the same buzz out of it," said Zampa to 'The Sydney Morning Herald'.

The leg-spinner revealed he had thoughts about being a globe-trotting T20 leagues player, but is now content with not being part of that bandwagon. "There's always a lot of chat about 'can you play franchise cricket all year round' and it was something I had thought about - at what age do I get through to try to then play a bit of franchise cricket."

"But after 2023 and winning the World Cup and all that, and having a young family now as well, I've realised I want to play cricket for as long as I can, and instead of trying to play for nine or 10 months of the year, it's play for six

or seven," he added.

Australia will play its 2024 men's T20 World Cup games in Trinidad and then Barbados where Zampa will reunite with left-arm spin all-rounder Ashton Agar, who was in the squad during the side's triumphant campaign in the 2021 edition in the UAE (but played just one game). Agar also missed Australia's 2023 men's ODI World Cup title-winning run in India due to a calf injury.

"I feel like there's a little bit of unfinished business. Ash missed out on the last World Cup, he didn't play during the World Cup we won in Dubai, and I really think this is his World Cup to put his stamp on."

"I think the wickets are going to suit him, and I think he can play a major role. We feed off

each other, we make each other train better, we think about the game a lot more when we're around each other. So it's great to have him back," added Zampa.

He signed off by saying leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha is a big future prospect for Australia. Sangha was in contention to be a travelling reserve for Australia until he suffered a hip flexor injury during a training camp in Brisbane.

"He's had a lot of niggles and injuries in the last couple of years that he's found it hard to get any continuous cricket in, but he's years ahead of where I was at his age. Even now, I think 'I wish I could do that' and 'I wish I had that part of his bowling'. He's really smart and certainly going to have a long career for Australia."

"I'm pretty glad that I'm 10 years older than him, not five because I feel like there'd be a time where I'd be in the classifieds (looking for a new job). I'm 32 now and the way things are going, hopefully I get a bit more time playing for Australia - but I won't be 38 and trying to hold on because I know Tanveer is going to be pretty special," concluded Zampa.

Afridi reflects on Pak's win over India in 2021 WC, says "That is one opportunity I missed"

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

With the 2024 T20 World Cup just around the corner and cricketing fans getting ready to watch one of the biggest rivalries in India-Pakistan reignited on the big stage, ICC on Sunday released a clip of Shahid Afridi reflecting on the match between the two juggernauts at the 2021

T20 World Cup.

"I achieved a lot, played a lot of cricket and experienced a lot but we hadn't beaten India in a World Cup before, that was an unfulfilled wish," Afridi said to ICC.

The match in Dubai (2021 T20 World Cup) where Pakistan won against India, that was one of the moments I felt I should have been



there on that occasion. That is one opportunity I missed," said the former Pakistan skipper to ICC.

Pakistan's 10-wicket victory over India at the 2021 T20 World Cup is one of the fondest memories for Pakistan cricket fans in what was a rampant performance by the men in green.

Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi was recently announced on the star-studded roster of ambassadors for the T20 World Cup 2024 in the USA and West Indies which begins on June 2.

India will face Pakistan on June 9 at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York in both side's second group A encounter.

Garnacho's bicycle kick against Everton wins Premier League Goal of the Season

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

Less than 24-hours after Alejandro Garnacho scored an all important goal in Manchester United's FA Cup final victory over town-rivals Manchester City, his goal against Everton has been named the Premier League Goal of the Season.

Garnacho scored a beautiful bicycle goal against Everton in a 0-3

victory at Merseyside Stadium on November 26, 2023. It led fans to draw comparisons with Wayne Rooney's iconic goal against Manchester City.

Kaoru Mitoma (vs Brighton), Bruno Fernandes (vs Burnley), Saman Ghoddos (vs Burnley), Alexis Mac Allister (vs Fulham), Oscar Bobb (vs Newcastle), Kobbie Mainoo (vs Wolves), Marcus Rash-

ford (vs Man City), Cole Palmer (vs Everton) and Moises Caicedo (vs AFC Bournemouth) were the other nine nominees for the personal honor.

Manchester United won the FA Cup final against City (2-1) on Saturday in a surprising result. Garnacho and Kobe Mainoo became the first teenagers to score in an FA Cup final since Cristiano Ronaldo in 2004 (vs Millwall).

DC reviews working of health department, patient care scenario in Jammu District

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 26

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a meeting of the health department and took a comprehensive review of health care institutions in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sher Singh, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, SDMs, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Block Medical Officers.

The DC evaluated the functioning of OPDs and implementation of key health programs such as Janani Suraksha Yojana,



Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram and the National Tuberculosis Control Program. The sales performance of Jan Aushadhi Kendras was also assessed.

Emphasising the need for punctuality, the DC directed the CMO and BMOs to ensure that doctors and staff adhere to duty schedule in Sub Divisional hospitals and other

government health facilities in the periphery.

The BMOs were thoroughly questioned about the conduct and results of prescription audits in their jurisdictions, with a strong emphasis on reducing illegible prescription slips. The DC instructed the SDMs to take cognisance of non-compliance and take necessary action.

Additionally, the DC stressed the importance of proper maintenance of records and registers, medicine stocks, changing bed sheets according to protocols and ensuring sanitation and professionalism in the hospitals.

District Administration Doda, Vishwagram Education Trust organize educational activities in Zone Bhagwah

JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 26

Vishwagram Education Trust, in collaboration with the District Administration Doda organized various educational activities in Zone Bhagwah.

The team from Vishwagram Trust visited PM Shri HS Sooli, engaging over 300 students in diverse and creative activities.

The activities included cap making, firki, taka takiyu, card making, paper bag creation, gift boxes, star boxes and singing. The students



showed keen interest and conducted activities with great enthusiasm.

The heads of institutions and staff provided support and cooperation, ensuring the event's success.

Mohammad Iqbal, HOI of PM Shri HS Sooli,

expressed gratitude to the District Development Commissioner Doda, Chief Education Officer and Zonal Education Officer Bhagwah for facilitating such opportunities. He emphasized the importance of these programs for the overall develop-

ment of children, enhancing their critical thinking, creativity and cognitive skills.

The Team members of Vishwagram Trust also visited the GHSS Boys Bhaderwah and New Primary School Upper Sungli.

Different activities were conducted on the occasion.

As many as 130 students from GHSS Boys and NPS Sungli participated in the program.

Sham Singh Katal (HOI, NPS Sungli) said that such programs are important for the overall development of the students.

Youth Services & Sports Department concludes U-14, U-17 tournaments in Doda

JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 26

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Doda successfully concluded the U-14 and U-17 boys and girls tournaments at the Sports Stadium today. The event was organized as part of the annual activity calendar for 2024-25, approved by Director Youth Services and Sports J&K, Subash Chander Chibber.

The event operated under the esteemed aegis of District Development Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh with guidance from Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Ved Prakash and under the direction of DYSSO Doda, Sunil Kumar. The tournament fea-



tured a variety of sports competitions, including Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Badminton, Cricket,

Chess, Carrom, Tug of War, Fencing, Taekwondo, Wushu and Shooting, providing students an excel-

lent platform to showcase their talent, skill and sportsmanship.

Students participated enthusiastically, demonstrating their abilities and competitive spirit throughout the tournament. The event not only highlighted the athletic skills of the young participants but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among them.

Zonal Physical Education Officer Doda expressed gratitude and appreciation to the field staff for their cooperation and efforts in ensuring the smooth conduct of the inter-school zonal level tournament. The success of the event was a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

SMC Conducts Cleanliness Drive in Srinagar's East Zone

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 26

Following the directions of the Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) conducted a comprehensive cleanliness drive in Zone East.

This Campaign was aimed at enhancing the cleanliness standards and promoting hygiene in the area from Barbarashah Naqashpora via Dewatring Station to Munawarabad Road. Led



by Chief Sanitation Officer and Zonal Sanitation Officer, the drive focused on elevating the overall cleanliness and visual appeal of the locality.

Efforts concentrated on implementing efficient

waste collection and disposal methods, along with the removal of unwanted vegetation and grass.

The active involvement of the community in these activities underscores the SMC's commitment to

instilling a sense of civic responsibility among residents and advocating for sustainable and hygienic practices.

The primary objective of these endeavors is to create a cleaner and healthier environment for all residents of Srinagar. Through such initiatives, the SMC aims to foster a culture of cleanliness and encourage active participation from the community towards maintaining a sustainable and hygienic living space.



KC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Akhnoor Road, Paloura, Jammu
CBSE CODE NO: 730043 (ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RISING STARS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT
CBSE CLASS XII BOARD RESULT
SESSION 2023-24

KCIS TOPPERS (95% & ABOVE)

 ISOBEL TABITHA NON-MEDICAL 98.4%	 ADITI GUPTA HUMANITIES 98.4%	 MANYA SHARMA HUMANITIES 98.2%	 GOURI BALLA HUMANITIES 96.4%	 ASHUTOSH AGNIHOTRI HUMANITIES 96.4%
 ADITI MANHAS MEDICAL 96%	 KAMAKSHI DUTT COMMERCE 96%	 ANUSHKA SHARMA HUMANITIES 95.8%	 NIHAAL SHARMA HUMANITIES 95.8%	 AADISH SARIN NON-MEDICAL 95%

KCIS TOPPERS (90% & ABOVE)

 PRAGATI KOHLI COMMERCE 94.8%	 DIVAM UPADHYAY NON-MEDICAL 94.6%	 FAISAL BASHIR HUMANITIES 94.6%	 ARYA SHARMA HUMANITIES 94.4%	 RAKSHIT SINGH HUMANITIES 94.4%	 PRASHANSA SHARMA HUMANITIES 94.4%	 ANUSHKA VERMA HUMANITIES 94.2%	 DHURUV GUPTA NON-MEDICAL 94%
 RASHIKA KOUL HUMANITIES 93.8%	 MAHEE PANDITA MEDICAL 93.8%	 ANAND GUPTA HUMANITIES 93%	 ADITYA ANSH NON-MEDICAL 92.8%	 NUSRAT FATIMA COMMERCE 92.8%	 DIVAY JAIN NON-MEDICAL 92.6%	 KOUSHKI BHAT MEDICAL 92.6%	 ADWITA SAINI MEDICAL 92.4%
 ARYA SINGH HUMANITIES 92.4%	 AARAV BHARI COMMERCE 92.2%	 PARTH COMMERCE 92.2%	 KANAV PAUL NON-MEDICAL 92%	 IKSHITA BADYAL HUMANITIES 92%	 SAMIERA SUDAN COMMERCE 91.6%	 ARYA GUPTA COMMERCE 90.2%	

SUBJECT TOPPERS

 ISOBEL TABITHA CHEMISTRY - 99 MATHS - 99 COMP SC - 98 PHYSICS - 96	 ADITI GUPTA ENGLISH - 99 PSYCHOLOGY - 99	 ADITI MANHAS PHE - 98 BIOLOGY - 95	 KAMAKSHI DUTT ACCOUNTANCY - 98 BST - 96	 NUSRAT FATIMA ECONOMICS - 93	 MANYA SHARMA POL SCIENCE - 100 GEOGRAPHY - 100	 ASHUTOSH AGNIHOTRI HISTORY - 96	 RAKSHIT SINGH SOCIOLOGY - 100
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STUDENTS APPEARED : 159 RESULT : 100% STUDENTS PASSED : 159

NO. OF STUDENTS SCORING PERFECT 100 in Painting = 26 (Aadish Sarin, Aditya Ansh Sharma, Divam Upadhyay, Divay Jain, Isobel Tabitha, Mahir Bhat, Mittul Sharma, Shivaidd Bagati, Sunav Sunil Mattoo, Varnika Govind, Aditi Manhas, Adwita Saini, Koushki Bhat, Mahee Pandita, Mahi Bharti, Aaliyah Koul, Arya Gupta, Lakshita Chowdhary, Nusrat Fatima, Parth, Pragati Kohli, Samiera Sudan, Shranaya Khajuria, Vaniya Jain, Anushka Sharma, Anushka Verma)

*When you overpower your fears, you'll see a new dawn of success.
We are so glad about your excellently passing exam. Very well done*

STUDENTS SCORED 95% & Above= 10
STUDENTS SCORED 90% & Above= 33
STUDENTS SCORED 85% & Above= 62
STUDENTS SCORED 80% & Above= 91
STUDENTS SCORED Distinction (75% & Above) = 117
STUDENTS SCORED 60% & Above= 156



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CBSE CLASS X BOARD RESULT
SESSION 2023-24

KCIS TOPPERS 95% & ABOVE

 SAACHI SUNDEEP BHAT - 97.4% ENGLISH - 98	 AASHI SARIN 97% MATHS - 100	 ABHISHEK GUPTA 96.8% IT - 100	 AVISH BHAT 96.8% S.S.C - 100 SCIENCE - 97	 GRESHIA KOUL HAKIM 96.4% MATHS - 100 IT - 100	 AKRIT SINGH KOTWAL - 96.2%
 RIAN CHADHA 96%	 TEJAL PANDITA 96%	 AYUSH KICHLOO 95.6%	 SANCHI BAKSHI 95.6%	 HITESH DUTTA 95.4%	 SAMVEDYA GUPTA 95.2%

KCIS TOPPERS 90% & ABOVE

 NEEL PANDITA 94.6%	 HANSHIT ANGOTRA 94.4%	 TRANNUM SINGH 94.2%	 VASUNDRALAKSHMI 94%	 HIMANI BAARNA 94%	 KHUSHI MAHAJAN 94%	 RIDHIMA KHAJURIA 93.8%	 HEMAN NAGOTRA 93.6%	 ISHIKA JAIN 93.6%
 HARSHDEEP SINGH 93.6%	 SUPUSHPANAND GORI 93.4%	 ANANYA SHARMA 93.4% HINDI - 97	 BHAVAYA JOSHI 93.4%	 YASHASVI GUPTA 93.4%	 TAVISHI AADHYAARI 93.2%	 YASHIKA JAIN 93%	 AARAV GUPTA 92.8%	 HARSHIT CHIBBER 92.8%
 RUDRAKSHI GUPTA 92.8%	 SAUMYA SHARMA 92%	 RIDHIMA BHARDWAJ 92%	 PARUL SHARMA 91.8%	 AGRIM BANOTRA 91.8%	 SHRANYA VERMA 91.8%	 ADITYA CHOUDHARY 91.6%	 VANSHEEN KOUL 91.6%	 PRAGYAN BISWAKARMA 91.4%

STUDENTS APPEARED : 145 RESULT : 100% STUDENTS PASSED : 145

TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS SCORING PERFECT 100= 05
STUDENTS SCORED 95% & Above= 12
STUDENTS SCORED 90% & Above= 48
STUDENTS SCORED 85% & Above= 77
STUDENTS SCORED 80% & Above= 100
STUDENTS SCORED 75% & Above= 119
STUDENTS SCORED 60% & Above= 142

*When you overpower your fears, you'll see a new dawn of success.
We are so glad about your excellently passing exam. Very well done.*

The Management and Principal thank the worthy Parents for their unconditional support and teaching fraternity for their tireless efforts and Students for their sleepless nights in achieving the excellence.