

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-126 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

India logs 1,331 fresh Covid-19 cases, active cases Dip to 22,742

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): India has recorded 1,331 fresh COVID-19 infections, while the number of active cases have come down to 22,742 from 25,178, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday. The COVID-19 tally now stands at 4.49 crore (4,49,72,800). The death toll climbed to 5,31,707 with 11 fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. At 22,742, the active cases comprise 0.06 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.76 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,18,351, while the case fatality rate stood at 1.18 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

J&K weather likely to remain dry after days of rains, snowfall Dips temp

SRINAGAR, May 9 (Agencies): The weather is likely to improve on Tuesday and remain dry after days of rains in plains and snowfall over upper reaches caused a dip in the temperature in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Meteorological department has predicted mainly dry weather with a brief spell of rain or thunderstorm in the late afternoon or evening at some places, although chances are less.

The temperature is likely to rise from May 10-12 and produce warmer days followed by rain or thunderstorm at isolated places from May 13-15, the Met office said.

The day temperature has dropped from 10-12 degree Celsius while the night temperature dipped 4-5 degree Celsius after days of fresh snowfall over the upper reaches

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NIA launches multiple raids in J&K over Pak-backed terror conspiracy case

SRINAGAR, May 9 (Agencies): National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday launched searches at 15 locations across Jammu and Kashmir in a Pakistan-backed terror conspiracy case, an official said.

Searches in the house of suspects at four locations in Anantnag, three in Shopian, two each in Budgam, Srinagar and Poonch and one each in Baramulla and Rajouri were underway, the official said.

According to the official, the case, registered last year, relates to hatching a conspiracy, both physical and in cyberspace and plans by proscribed terrorist



organisations to execute violent militant attacks in Jammu and Kashmir with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms.

The plans are part of a larger conspiracy by the terrorist groups to commit terror acts in

association with local youths and overground workers to create communal disharmony in the Union Territory, the official said.

The official said the terrorist outfits involved in the conspiracy were

ul-Hind, Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Fighters, Kashmir Tigers and People's Anti-Fascist Front.

According to the NIA, the initial investigations by it indicated that the workers and cadre of the outfits were involved in the collection and distribution of sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, IEDs, cash, narcotics and small weapons.

These weapons, bombs and narcotics were being pushed in India by Pakistan-based handlers and commanders of proscribed terrorist organisations using drones to the terrorists active in Kashmir, the federal agency said.

Dal lake cleaning on in double shifts for G20 meeting in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, May 9 (Agencies): Authorities in Srinagar have pulled out all stops to clean up the city and the famous Dal Lake ahead of the G20 working group meeting later this month with 500 labourers working under "mission mode" to beautify the urban water body.

The tourism group meeting of the G20 is scheduled to be held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) on the banks of Dal Lake here from May 22 to 24.

In the run-up to the event, the cleaning drive at the lake is in full swing.

Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) - which is

responsible to keep the water bodies, including the Dal Lake, clean has deployed men and machinery for the cleaning process.

The authority is using both mechanical and manual means to clean the lake and make it beautiful for the guests.

"The main function is happening around the Dal Lake, and so, the drive to make it beautiful and attractive is on," vice chairman of LCMA, Bashir Ahmad Bhat said here.

Bhat said for the beautification process, the authority is using mechanised interventions, including machines, harvesters, etc, and the work has been taken

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Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan arrested: Geo TV

ISLAMABAD (Pakistan), May 9 (Agencies): Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan has been taken into custody by a paramilitary force, local Geo TV reported on Tuesday.

Khan was taken into custody from a court premises in Islamabad in a corruption case, the broadcaster reported.

"Imran Khan's car has been surrounded," Khan's aide Fawad Chaudhry said without confirming his arrest.

Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb did not immediately respond to a Reuters request seeking confirmation of the report.

Two missionary schools facing music for fee hike

SRINAGAR, May 9 (Agencies): Parents in Kashmir have raised concerns about abrupt increases in annual fees for the current academic session at Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson higher secondary school. They claim that the school has increased fees by over Rs 2000 without the approval of the school fee fixation committee, and without consulting with parents.

"In this era when business in the Kashmir valley has shuddered, Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson higher secondary school enhanced the annual fee," parents claimed.

A group of parents

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Kashmiri Journalist shines, Wins prestigious Fetisov Award



SRINAGAR, May 9 (Agencies): Kashmiri women journalist Safina Nabi on April 22, 2023 won the prestigious Fetisov Journalism Award for her article published

on Scroll about how countless women in Kashmir, whose husbands disappeared and could never be traced, have been cut out of inheritances and left to

fend for themselves.

Safina Nabi Wins Fetisov Award at Dubai on April 22, 2023

Nabi won the second prize in the "Outstanding Contribution to Peace" category, and the Fetisov Journalism Awards praised her reporting for providing a "comprehensive and impressively detailed picture" of the issue.

According to a press release from the awards, Nabi's story "highlights what is not known, shows the human consequences of neglect, and most emphatically gives voice to the people totally disregarded by their own authorities and whose ordeal is largely invisible to international audiences."

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Class IV student badly beaten up at Shaffran Nightingale Public School Case not registered in Vijaypur police station even after complaining: Amit Kapoor

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Due to the arbitrariness of private schools, a case of thrashing Manish Mangotra, a student of class IV in Shaffran Nightingale Public School, Rajindra Pura, has come to the fore. The child's father Ravi Kumar Mangotra told that the teacher thrashed the child badly for a spelling mistake in a word in the class. He said that after this the medical examination of the child was done and a complaint was lodged at Vijaypur police station.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, President of Parents Association Jammu, Amit Kapoor strongly condemned this and



warned the school management to take action against such teachers. He said that by law no one can touch a child in school but beating a child in this manner is a serious crime and strict action should be taken against the teacher responsible for it.

He also strongly condemned the Station House Officer of Vijaypur Police Station for not registering the FIR. At the same time, he said

that a complaint is registered against him for peaceful protest without investigation, but even after beating the child badly, the complaint is not registered by the police.

Slamming the director and other officials of the education department for the high-handedness being done by the private schools, Amit Kapoor said that despite providing all the

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Over 16 lakh pilgrims visit Vaishno Devi in 1st Quarter 2023

JAMMU, May 9 (Agencies): Amidst the chants of 'Jai Mata Di', more than 16 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance in the first quarter (January to April) of this year at the sanctum sanctorum of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Cave Shrine situated in the Trikuta hills in Katra town of Reasi district in Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources said that in the first four months of the ongoing year, a total of 16,45,333 pilgrims (devotees) visited the holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

"In the months of January and February, the rush swelled and 15000 to 20000 of pil-

grims daily visited the cave shrine and in the month of March when examinations were over and navratras were also celebrated, the pilgrims figure increased as 25,000 to 30,000 pilgrims visited the shrine," they said.

A Shrine Board official said that in January, a total of 4, 08,861 lakh devotees visited Bhawan while in the month of February, 3,89,549 lakh, in March, highest, 5,25,198 lakh pilgrims and in April, 3,21,725 lakh devotees offered prayers at the holy cave. Around 1000 to 1200 pilgrims are visiting the shrine on a daily basis nowadays.

10th, 12th results likely within month

SRINAGAR, May 9 (Agencies): Authorities on Tuesday said that it will likely announce results of annual regular exams of 10th and 12th standard within a month.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Tassaduq Hussain Mir said, "As of now, we are waiting for the evaluation of answer scripts of hard zones."

He said that the process of the examination of 10th and 12th standard in hard is about to end and the department was trying hard to complete all the process at earliest.

"We have almost completed the evaluation of

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Tourist succumbs to heart attack in JK

SRINAGAR: According to sources, a tourist from Mumbai passed away at a resort in Sonamarg, located in the Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

The 66-year-old man, identified as Deepak Shah and son of Manhar Bhai Shah, was visiting Sonamarg when he suddenly fell unconscious in his hotel room.

He was rushed to the nearby Primary Health Centre (PHC) but was declared dead upon arrival.

The cause of death was reported to be a heart attack, as per sources.

Ladakh Police issues advisory closes Kharidunga Pass Changa top

LEH, May 9 (Agencies): Ladakh Police on Tuesday ordered the closure one of the highest motorable passes Kharidunga and Changa Top, of union territory of Ladakh due to fresh snowfall and slippery road conditions.

For the information of general public, it is informed that due to inclement weather and intermittent snowfall at the highpasses like Changa Top, Kharidunga Top, Singayla etc, the general public and tourist in particular are requested to avoid travelling plan towards Nubra, Pangong etc, said Ladakh police in a statement.

Keeping in view the

weather conditions and in order to avoid any road related untoward incident, commuters/passengers are advised to plan their journey accordingly and preferably restrict the journey till the weather conditions improve and citizens are once again requested not to venture out during the the inclement weather period till the the high passes get road traffic worthy, district police Leh seek your cooperation.

Further commuters/Passengers are advised to undertake journey on the above mentioned routes only after confirming the status of the road from Police Control

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JMC holds awareness-cum-interaction programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: An awareness-cum-interaction programme was organized on Tuesday by Veterinary section of JMC in collaboration with DPS School Jammu.

The main motive of the programme was to aware the school students regarding the importance of Animal Birth Control Program being implemented by JMC in collaboration with Friendicoes-SECA in all the 75 wards of Municipal Corporation, Jammu and its impact on society.

Joint Commissioner (H&S), JMC Kulbhushan Khajuria graced the event as a chief guest.

Other dignitaries including Principal DPS School, Ruchi Chabra, Health Officer JMC, Dr. Vinod Kumar Sharma, MVO, JMC Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma

and Dr. Divya Sharma, VAS JMC & other officials of JMC & faculty members of DPS were also present.

MVO, JMC Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma introduced the faculty and students about the Animal Birth Control Program & its progress in Jammu.

He depicted the fact that in an overall stray dog population of about 40,000 in Jammu city, approximately 32000 no. of street dogs have already been sterilized & vaccinated under the ABC programme being run by JMC.

He laid emphasis on the fact that as per ABC (Dog) Rules, 2023, stray dogs are not being dislocated from one locality to other, they are only being captured for sterilization & vaccination and are released back in the same area with a permanent identification mark i.e. "Right Ear-notch".

Health Officer, JMC Dr. Vinod Kumar Sharma further guided the faculty & students about rabies prevention, control and immediate steps to be taken in case of dog bite.

Dr. Divya Sharma presented a power point presentation on implementation, objectives, various Animal Welfare activities & success of ABC/ARV programme run by Jammu Municipal Corporation in accordance with the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2023 within JMC limits.

She also demonstrated how the stray dog population can be controlled in a time bound manner via effective ABC programme implementation that will also curb the spread of rabies both in human as well as animals.

Joint Commissioner (H&S) JMC in his address appreciated the role of Veterinary services

wing of JMC for organizing such type of mass awareness extension programs in educational institutions of Jammu city as it envisages to propagate the awareness upto the grass root level which is very important for the successful implementation of ABC program within JMC limits.

He thanked the Principal and all the faculty members of DPS School for their support in organizing such awareness programs for the students.

He further requested the general public/ Resident Welfare Associations/ AWOs/ Local animal activists for their cooperation for the effective implementation of ABC/ ARV programme in Jammu city.

He also advised the Veterinary wing to organize such kind of awareness cum interaction programs with students in future also.

Ruchi Chabra, Principal DPS School, Jammu presented her perspective about the ABC/ARV programme being implemented by JMC to control the menace of stray dog in Jammu city and its importance to curb the spread of rabies in both human as well as animal population.

She also extended her gratitude towards the JMC authorities for organizing such extensive and informative session on ABC/ARV programme for students of her school.

Zonal Level Inter School Tournament at Udhampur



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 9: Zonal Level Inter School Tournament for Girls U/14 years in the disciplines of Kho Kho, kabaddi, Volley ball and Tug of War got underway here at Mini Stadium Udhampur.

About 300 girls drawn from different 24 Govt. as well as private institutions of Zone Udhampur participated in the Tournament. Sh. Deep Kumar Zonal Physical Officer Udhampur was the chief guest on the occasion and declared the tournament open. He interacted with the participants along with Ajit Singh and Jasvinder Singh and welcomed the participants.

Speaking on the occasion he said that Sports is must for the overall personality and development of the youth and advised participants to play the game in a fair manner and with the true sportsmanship.

He also urged the District Administration

to provide adequate Sports infrastructures and Sports Equipments to the players in every nook and corner so that players can perform their best in such types of competitions.

He also welcomed and thanked the organizing committee members of Zone Udhampur for their best performance to make the tournament a great Success.

A lot of enthusiasm was witnessed among the Girl Children who have come to participate in the Tournament.

The competition is being organized by the department of Youth Service and Sports Udhampur, under the Patronage of Worthy Director Youth Service and Sports J&K Sh. Subhash Chander Chibber, under the overall supervision of Sh Dharmveer Singh DYSSO Udhampur and under the supervision of Sh. Deep Kumar ZPEO Udhampur.

Kho Kho: JK Public School beat India Kids

by 1 point.

Kabaddi: Army Public School beat GHS Jakhar by 1 point. Volleyball: Army Public School beat Delhi Public School by 2-0. Tug of War: Army Public School beat Happy Model Higher Secondary School by 2-0.

All the matches were officiated by Ravi Singh (Convenor Kho-kho), Naveen Sharma (Convenor Kabaddi), Swarndeep Singh Tara (Convenor Volley Ball) Kanchan Sharma, Rakesh Sawhney, Rakesh Khajuria, Ranjeet Singh, Rajnu Badyal, Kumari Nirmal, Kanchan Bala, Vinod Kumar, Rohit Parihan, Meenu, Ranveer Singh, Kuldeep Sharma, Pooja Devi, Kamaljeet Kour, Nisha, Gurvinder Kour, Meenakshi, Sanjeev Kumar, Palak, Sanjeev verma, Vikrant Balgotra and Mayank Mengi.

Among others who present on the occasion were Jasvinder Singh, Ajit Singh, Deepika Manhas, Sandeep Kour, Asha Meenakshi and Sonali, Bhopinder Singh, Sudesh Kumar, Rishi Gupta, Meenakshi, Anshu brat Khanna, and Vicky Sharma and all the electronic media persons and Sanjay Gupta (Medical Department).

NC condoles demise of Dilshada Begum's son

Top News Report

DODA, May 9: Dilshada Begum-Vice President, J&K National Conference, Central Zone Jammu sadly lost her son on 7th evening of May 2023 at Bathindi, Jammu. The Namaz-e-Jinaza'h was performed yesterday at Zuhu'r.

In commemoration of the dismal demise of her son, a condolence meeting was organised at Distt. HQ of J&K National Conference, Doda.

Sr. Vice President of J&K National Conference, Jammu Province, Khalid Najib Suharwardy lead the prayers (Fateh & Dua) for his 'magfirat', 'Jannah' and patience (sab'r) to the 'lawahiqeen', especially Dilshada Begum and family.

The condolence and du'a was attended by all Block Presidents, District President- Zafar-ullah Rather, Youth District Committee, amongst others.

J&K Senior Roller Hockey Men's Team becomes Champion in National Skating C'ship



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Jammu and Kashmir Senior Men's Roller Hockey Team becomes Champion in 1st National Inter District Roller Skating Championship which was held at

Mohali from 29th April to 2nd May 2023 and organised by Roller Skating Federation of India.

Teams from all over India participated in this event. In the quest for becoming

the champions, the team defeated Sangrur, JK2, Patiala, Gautam Budhnagar in league matches and in Semi-final and Final Jammu and Kashmir Senior Men's team defeated Chandigarh and Aligarh (UP) in penalty shoot-outs.

The Team which won all the matches in this competition comprised of Jugraaj Singh, Jatin Sabarwal (Captain), Ankush Gupta, Rupinder Paul Singh, Darpan Gargotra, Shivank Sharma and Uday Singh Jamwal.

President GS Khurmi (Jammu and Kashmir Roller Skating Association) congratulated the team members for becoming the Champions.

One dead, four injured in road accident in Doda

JAMMU, May 9 (Agencies): A woman lost her life, and four others were injured in a road accident in Doda district of Jammu division.

According to a police officer, the accident occurred at Pull Doda when a Celerio car bearing registration no. JK 06 1453 met with an accident on Satwas road.

Among the five injured persons, Payal Devi, wife of Sandeep Singh, died before reaching the hospital.

The other injured individuals have been identified as Sandeep Singh, Santosha Devi (wife of Vicky, resident of Jammu), Arundeeep Rakwal (son of Rajinder Singh, resident of Satwas), and Prayanshi Devi (daughter of Sandeep Singh, resident of Satwas). All have been shifted to GMC Doda for medical treatment, as per officials.

The police have taken cognizance of the incident and started an investigation.

'Airlines making a killing': Ex-MLA on arbitrary hike in airfares

SRINAGAR, May 9 (Agencies): CPI(M) leader and former MLA Kulgam Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Tuesday said that arbitrary hike in airfare has left travelers distraught, and appealed to the authorities to intervene

into the matter. "Airlines are jacking up fares arbitrarily leaving travellers distraught. Even the Haj pilgrims have to fork out more. The tentative Haj amount payable by the pilgrims at Srinagar Embarkation Point (EP)

is Rs 50,000 more than the pilgrims embarking from Delhi EP", he said, in a tweet.

"These are the airlines that are making a killing. Appealing to @MOMA-India @haji_committee to reconsider the notified amount," he said, in another tweet.

Sahil Mahajan releases devotional Dogri song "Kaliveer da Akhada"

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Sahil Mahajan (BJP J&K UT Co-Convenor Sanskriti Art and Culture Cell), Rajveer Manni (Chairman Maa Bawe Wali Records), Meenakshi Sharma (Managar Maa Bawe Wali Records), Narinder Lovely (Singer and Composer), Vivek Mehra releases devotional song "Kaliveer Da Akhada".

Speaking on the occasion, Sahil Mahajan complimented the singer making such a beautiful devotional song besides musicians and composer on the release.

Observing that music knows no boundaries, the senior BJP leader said it binds the people in a unique cord and generates harmony in the society. And,



when music relates to spirituality, it directly touches souls and creates an aura free of tension and hatred.

Sahil Mahajan said while releasing devotional musical Song Sung by Ravinder Gupta, Music Ashh K, Lyrics Sonu Rairpuria, Video Director K.K Mal-

hotra, Producer Rajveer Manni, Project by Sahil Mahajan and released under Banner Maa Bawe Wali records.

Sahil Mahajan lauded the efforts of Ravinder Gupta, saying his quest for devotional songs holds a promise to be a leading artist in the near future,

"Devotional music quenches the spiritual thirst of devotees", he said, wishing the young singer a bright future. He said music plays pivotal role in preserving culture and taking it beyond boundaries.

The Senior BJP leader said that the Union Territory has no dearth of talent but the only need is to identify and polish it by expert hands. He also hoped that the album will inspire young artists of the UT to explore their hidden talent and make their niche in the society.

He hoped this would go a long way to promote local talent and said that youth should be educated about our traditional values which are the foundations of our age old heritage.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
jenpwdelcdivjammu@gmail.com

Short e-NIT No.EDJ/37 of 2023-2024 Dated 04-05-2023

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract or
1	Electrification to Community Hall at Ward No. 4 and 5 Municipal Committee RS Pura.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	1.86	600	3720/-	Linked with Civil works.	12-05-2023 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor
2	Electrification to the Community Hall Ward No. 10 RS Pura.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	3.90	600	7800/-	Linked with Civil works.	12-05-2023 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor
3	Electrification to Repair work and installation at social welfare complex ward no 10 mill area at RS Pura.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	2.96	600	5920/-	Linked with Civil works.	12-05-2023 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-05-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05-05-2023 to 11-05-2023, 4:00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	05-05-2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	11-05-2023 up to 4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-05-2023 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of LI, be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. at the time of allotment.
- Bid Security Declaration should be kept in the Bid documents as per tendered.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Electric Division
Jammu

No. :- EDJ/1575-83
Dated :- 04-05-2023

DIP/J-1092/23

EDITORIAL

IMPORTANCE
OF EXERCISE

Every person in this world is surrounded by some or the other disease all the time. To avoid those diseases every person goes to doctor or healer. But all of them doctors and healers cure that disease or ailment but no one cures the health. There is only one way to take care of your health and that is exercise.

People who do exercise and yoga never fall ill easily. Disease attacks only a weak body and a person who exercises always remains fit and strong. That's why exercise is the only solution to avoid illness or disease.

Exercising daily keeps the human mind excited and the body gets strength and energy. If we compare exercise with medicines, vitamin syrups and injections given by doctors, then everything is futile.

A great doctor says that the doctor who improves the health of his patient without relying too much on medicines is called the most intelligent and good doctor. Big researchers say that in today's era humans are dying less due to diseases and more due to medicines. This clearly shows that man has to strengthen his health by doing activities like exercise and yoga, not by medicines.

Father of Medicine Hippocrates said - If each person is given the right amount of nutrition and exercise, neither more nor less, we will see that this is the safest way to stay healthy.

There is no doubt that there is nothing more valuable than health. The body of a person who exercises properly remains healthy and the mind and face always remain cheerful. By exercising, the digestive system works properly and also increases appetite. The mind of the person who exercises always remains calm and good thoughts also arise in his mind.

Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi had said - It is health that is the real wealth, not gold and silver. It is true that if a man's health is not good then what will he do with gold and silver?

All the great men who have been in this world have considered exercise as the first duty of life. It is the effect of the power of exercise that those great people contributed for the welfare of man and the development of the country.

You may find it a bit difficult in the initial days of exercising, but after a few days the pain will subside and you will start seeing the benefits of exercising. There are many types of exercise methods in which horse riding, swimming, walking, running etc. are particularly famous.

Nowadays people consider many types of sports like kabaddi, kho-kho, cricket, tennis etc. as best exercise but these sports require more than one person which is not possible all the time.

It is also necessary to do exercise daily according to the rules and on time. It is not a one day work, it is very important to do it daily for a fixed time. In western countries, like men, women also exercise daily, but in India very few women of the house go out and exercise.

But this does not mean that the women of the house do not exercise because grinding, cooking while standing, washing clothes, and other household chores are also exercises.

Slowly people are forgetting the importance of body strength in this world of technology. In today's day, machines do more than half the work in every company, due to which unemployment is increasing and at the same time the health of the people is also deteriorating.

In the past, people used to work in factories and companies, which used to be an exercise for them, but today in the computer world, all the work is done by the computer. Because of which people have become lazy by sitting and that is promoting many types of diseases.

That's why exercise regularly and if you have not started exercising yet, then start exercising today. Very soon you will find a positive change in yourself and get success with disease free life.

By: Vijay GarG

Pronunciation refers to the ability to use the correct stress, rhythm, and intonation of a word in a spoken language, or simply the correct way of saying something. The way you speak a particular word is known as your pronunciation. A word can be spoken in different ways by various individuals or groups, depending on many factors, such as the duration of the cultural exposure of their childhood, the location of their current residence, speech or voice disorders, their ethnic group, their social class, or their education. There are a lot of people having trouble in pronouncing words in a right manner. In fact, a lot of people get rejected during interviews because of wrong pronunciations or vernacular accent. English is a very important language and in most parts of the world is taught as a second language after the local language of the region.

There are a lot of people around the globe who learn English but face a problem in pronunciation. A lot of people say that it is not difficult to learn English, but when it comes to speaking part, they encounter a problem. A lot of people have a pronunciation problem which can be attributed to many facts such as accent problem, speech disorder, voice disorder or inability to gain command over the language. Learning English has become one of the major requirements for professional and academic advancement nowadays. Every test and interview for the job is taken in English, in which both written as well as spoken English skills are required. Hence learning English as well as speaking it well is a major requirement these days.

English is being taught in most parts of the world as the second language and is most widely used language at international level, hence learning English these days is the first step towards the process of academic learning. Though it is not difficult to learn English, still a lot of times learners frequently end up with rather poor language skills. This can either be attributed to the fact that those people don't take English classes seriously. Sometimes the learners are too shy or too insecure to speak English, that it significantly affects their overall language skills. This lack of confidence may easily result from poor speaking skills, even though a learner may have an advanced knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

Correct Pronunciation
A lot of people are able to attain good writing as well as reading skills in English, but when it comes to spoken skills, most of them are not able to possess as much efficiency as that in reading and writing. Pronunciation has always been a topic of great concern and error. A lot of people make mistakes in incorrect pronunciation. Incorrect pronunciation can be an outcome of any of the reasons like grammar and vocabulary, speaking problems, hesitation etc.

How to Improve Pronunciation?

Teachers usually use curriculum that covers the most important aspects of language learning, but students have different necessities and may face different problems in the learning process. However, there is no emphasis laid on the verbal skills which would improve the language and pronunciation as well.

Pronunciation problems are common, both among the students as well as grownups. It is not a rare case that students realize that their pronunciation skills are poor. A lot of people who learn English as the second language face this problem. In fact, if you learn any other language besides your mother tongue, it is quite common to have pronunciation and accent issues. Learning a second language is always difficult. This may result from inadequate focus at practising pronunciation in class, or from insufficient knowledge about English pronunciation rules. Those who don't feel confident about their pronunciation skills have several possible ways to improve them.

Ways to Practice Pronunciation

Everyone wants to learn English and speak fluently without any pronunciation or accent issues. However it is not possible for everyone who learns English, but if practised properly and taken care of a few things anyone can speak fluent English with proper pronunciation. If you have a different mother tongue and learning English as a second language, then you may also have accent issues, as your natural accent in your mother tongue may interfere in your English speaking skill. First thing is to practice the language properly and be attentive while lessons. However few other ways to practice pronunciation are:

Practice Speaking: There is an old saying, "practice makes a man perfect" and this holds good even in the case of pronunciation. If you practice well, you can have a hold on your pronunciation skills as well. Pronunciation skills are just a part of overall speaking skills. If you have the complete theoretical knowledge, that doesn't mean you will have a good pronunciation too. You need verbal practice for that. To successfully improve the pronunciation skills you need to practice constantly. Therefore, you should use every opportunity to engage in conversations in English. Do not hesitate or shy away, you may start with your family and friends and slowly gain confidence. If you frequently have conversational activities in class, you should never try to avoid them, even if you don't like the topic discussed. Reading out loud can also be a good way of improving your spoken English. Even if you are shy, these little exercises that you can do at home can help you feel more relaxed using English in future.

Listen to Native Speakers: Listening to others can also give you knowledge about a lot of words and help to increase your pronunciation. Those who want to speak English on an advanced level need to learn the language outside their classroom walls. When you listen to others you tend to learn a lot more than the

reading lesson. Watching movies and listening to music in English can significantly contribute to better overall language performance. Also while you listen to English music try to sing along with the singers to increase your fluency. Listening to native speakers helps improving comprehension skills, but it is also a good way of acquiring more natural pronunciation. Try to listen as much as possible. Not just movies, you can listen to the speech, news, and commentary. This is a continuous process, meaning that watching a single movie will not significantly change your pronunciation skills. If you really want to sound natural, you need to stay in touch with English and use it in real life.

Tips to Improve English Pronunciation

If you are having a problem with pronouncing some difficult words, or even some commonly used words then there is no need to shy away. You are not alone; this problem has been faced by a lot of people around the world. If you go on shying and won't admit that you have a problem in pronunciation then it's going to be a major loss for you in future. If you are a student then it is very important for you to have correct pronunciation as most of the companies that hire people to take a verbal interview also which for the most of the time is in English. Also as a part of discussion groups, you will not be able to give in your viewpoint if you are not confident about your verbal skills and pronunciation. It is better to fix it rather than suffering due to this your whole life. However, there are a few steps to improve your pronunciation. These are:

Be Aware: After learning the various rules of English, you must become aware of the errors that you make in your speech. Once you learn a language, make sure that you are aware of your mistakes and also note them down so that you keep on practising them whenever you come across. Keep an organized list of your corrections that have come from being monitored by other speakers, preferably native English speakers, your family, and friends. If you don't have a native English speaker to monitor you, simply listen and repeat with the Elemental English pronunciation and speaking lessons, and take note of how your pronunciation differs. Also, ask your friends to point out your mistakes as they can be your best judge. Only when you are aware of your limitations, you will be able to do something to overcome them.

When you Learn a New Word, Learn how to Pronounce it Correctly: It is a very useful practice to learn the pronunciation of the new word, as soon you learn it. The longer you say a word incorrectly, the harder it becomes to learn to say it correctly. You tend to develop a bad habit of saying that word in the wrong pronunciation, and it takes a long time to break a bad habit! This is why it is so important to learn the IPA and use dictionaries specifically for English learners. Though at the start it may be a little difficult and you may feel a little burden, but as soon you get used to it, it becomes a habit and you will no longer feel it as a burden.

Try to Imitate Spoken English: Imitate means to copy someone or something, to do something the same way, or to do the same things as someone else. You can try to imitate others during initial days before you develop fluency and accent of your own. You can try to imitate dialogues from a movie or play or even English music that will also help you to develop fluency. This is a great activity to try: Close your eyes while you're listening to something in English podcasts, songs, TV shows, movies, etc. Listen carefully to what the speaker is saying and try to make the same sounds. Choose a word or sentence, and listen to it many times and then imitate the same thing. This definitely helps.

Think in English: Yet another way to improve your command over language is to think in the same language. A huge mistake English language learners make is to think in their native language and then translate into English in their heads. This is a common mistake made by a lot of learners and should be avoided. This is a mistake because English syntax and word order is typically something that cannot be translated from another language. So next time you are speaking about something, possess control over your thinking also. Also, in order to speak with the correct music, stress, and rhythm of English, you need to think with that music. In the same way, it is necessary to think in the same language to maintain fluency.

Record Yourself: To pick up your mistakes yourself and to improve yourself, it is a great technique to do this by recording your sound. It's important to hear what you sound like speaking English so you know what you need to improve! You can compare what you sound like to what you want to sound like. You record yourself reading a sentence from any speech or a song and then listen to the same sentence or song and compare your pronunciation. This way you can point out your own mistakes and also have a good chance to improve them.

Pronunciation Books: Self-learning can be of a great importance. When you are your own teacher, there is no other better way of learning. Books are your greatest friends and you can use these books for a better pronunciation. Check out your local library for the pronunciation books. Also, you can get downloads of soft copies from the internet which will also include the audio links. If you attend a private language school, ask if it has these books. If you live in a large city, look for these books at an English bookstore. Buy these books online. These books provide pronunciation in a simple way and you have a lot to learn from these.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
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Punjab)

Waste Management in Food Industry



Large amounts of food is being wasted throughout the food supply chain; in primary production, during distribution and sale of food products, the preparation and serving of food in commercial and domestic environments.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), annually one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption gets lost or wasted. Interestingly, in developed countries food is mostly being wasted at the consumption stage, which means it is being discarded even if it is still suitable for human consumption. In this case, consumer behavior plays an important role in prevention of food waste, which can be accomplished by raising awareness among individuals, households, and consumers in general.

On the other hand, in developing countries and industrialized areas food losses mainly occur in initial agri-



cultural production. Primarily this is caused due to poor agriculture and natural resource management, and very often due to unfavorable climatic conditions. In fact, this is not a problem of only developing countries. Even in the United States, a good portion of food is thrown away uneaten - from farm to landfills. This impacts the environment, society and economy.

Social initiatives, awareness campaigns and stringent of legal requirements have thrust the consumers, as well as food industry, to take steps towards reduction of waste. Although for some sectors food waste is inevitable; yet, a significant amount of unnecessary loss can be avoided with better management systems throughout the food supply chain.

The internationally accepted approach of waste management hierarchy helps food establishments to prioritize waste management practices in order to handle waste in



a sustainable manner. It sets out the preferred order of waste management options, from the most preferred to the least one. Prevention of waste is the most preferred and often the least costly option.

Food service sector is one of the most significant areas of food waste. Besides many other actions that can be taken, the simplest and the most preferable practice is prevention of waste at the source. A good example regarding food service establishments is reducing portion sizes at restaurants and cafeterias this will consequently reduce the amount of food wastes in this sector.

2 WASTE MANAGEMENT IN FOOD INDUSTRY

Despite the fact that landfilling is the least preferable waste management option, yet food waste generated from leftovers, perished produce and spoiled food is the number one material taking up landfill space.

Food waste is much more

costly that is obviously seen, and its impact is much more serious. When food is wasted all of the natural resources that were expended in the supply chain are also lost, including the use of land, water and energy. Except for economic impact, the impact that food waste have on environment and society is bitter. Broad-scale effects of food wastage contribute to global environmental problems such as pollution and climate change. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has developed a numerous number of international standards which help organizations to improve their management systems and optimize their processes related to quality (ISO 9001), environment (ISO14001), energy (ISO 50001), and so on.

Professional Evaluation and Certification Board (PECB) is a certification body for persons on a wide range of professional standards. Among others it also offers ISO 14001 training and certification services for professionals wanting to gain a comprehensive knowledge of the main processes of an EMS; project managers or consultants wanting to prepare and to support an organization in the implementation of an EMS; auditors wanting to perform and lead EMS certification audits, and staff involved in the implementation of the ISO 14001 standard.

Suba Group of Hotels launches 'Click Hotel Tulian' in Katra

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, May 9: Suba Group of Hotels has Click Hotels – an owned Indian Hotel Brand has marked another milestone in the Holy place of Maa Vaishno Devi - Katra –with the launch of 'CLICK HOTEL TULIAN' in a picturesque region of Jammu & Kashmir and the most famous of Goddess Vaishno Devi. As an average of approx. 25K – to 30K people visit Vaishno Devi Katra on a daily basis. This hotel is easily accessed by Road, Rail, and by Air via Jammu Airport. Some of the prominent tourist destinations including Vaishno Devi Bhawan & Patnitop are located in close proximity to the hotel.

Announcing the opening, Mansur Mehta, Managing Director, Suba Group of Hotels, said, "We are delighted to launch CLICK HOTEL TULIAN in holy place of Maa Vaishno Devi, Katra. With the launch of Click Hotel Tulian, we look forward to serve all religious frequent travelers, Groups, and along with new-age travelers, who look forward for a modern & quality Stay. Click Hotel Tulian perfectly epitomizes the Click Hotel by Suba Brand Standard along with the Brand's core values of offering – Hi-Quality Bed – Breakfast & Broadband (Wi Fi)



plus immaculate service and unparalleled hospitality".

"We are pleased to expand our footprints in Jammu & Kashmir, India with the launch of Click Hotel Tulian in Katra & this is our second hotel with Tulian Hotels & Resort Group. This full-service hotel with all contemporary elements is ideal for Religious & Leisure Guests along with new age and group travelers. It is our endeavor to continue to penetrate our reach across popular destinations across the country & offering Standard quality Stay facilities," said, Mubeen Mehta, CEO, Suba Group of Hotels.

Click Hotel Tulian, Katra features contemporary yet modern accommodation via 37 Executive & Family Rooms, One in house coffee shop – CINNAMON: mainly serving all Veg Indian Cuisine along In-Room Dining for dining options, efficient service and a

comprehensive range of guest facilities to ensure a pleasant stay for the guests.

Click Hotel Tulian, Katra is one of the finest affordable luxury hotel in Katra. This hotel is located in the heart of the holy town, close to the main shrine board office. Very close proximity to Banganga - the point from where the Climb commences and in close proximity to the Heli-Ticket Counter, making it a perfect destination for the pilgrims and near to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station

"With the Launch of Click Hotel Tulian, Katra – we wish to offer Click Hotel's standard format of Stay Experience to all our regular Suba Patrons and specially the new age travelers – who look forward to enjoy the quality stay, best shower experience along with hi-speed Wifi at prominent locations at dynamic stay charges." - said Abinash Ashok, VP Suba Group of Hotels.

As a hotel partner, we are proud to associate with Suba Hotels, and the main reason behind to opt for Click Hotel – its brand acceptance to new age travelers along with frequent visitors to Katra. This is our second association after experiencing the successful working association of Click Hotel Tulian @ Srinagar. We wish to continue enjoying the Click Hotel's successful business module as supported by their Regional Sales offices across India along with their regular patrons. We all pray for a strengthened association and we are sure this will add value in Business and Occupancy." – said (Pankaj, Gundeep, Mir & Balkirat) Partners – Tulian Hotels.

Each of the properties boasts luxurious rooms with a host of banqueting and F&B facilities. Suba Hotels serves modern travelers by providing a distinctive stay experience, outstanding quality services, and exceptional facilities at competitive pricing.

The company has footprints in all major metros, including tier 1 and tier 2 cities. All of their facilities provide elegant and large rooms, exciting locations for holding weddings, events, and exhibitions, and a fantastic dining experience at iconic restaurants.

Eduhub Institute organises free workshop for aspirants on "All About CUET 2023"

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 9: Yudhvir Sethi (Vice President BJP Jammu Kashmir), Brahm Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) paid along with other BJP workers paid Tribute to great Indian warrior Maharana Pratap on his Birth anniversary at New Plot, Jammu.

Maharana Pratap was a legendary warrior, he was ultimate embodiment of courage, sacrifice and patriotism.

In the programme, they paid floral tribute and Maharana Pratap and reminds his valour and great works for Dharma.

Program was arranged by Rakesh Pandey (Mandal President OBC Amphala).

Raman Sharma (President Amphala Mandal), Ashok Salgotra (Dist President OBC), Karan Sharma (Ambphalla Mandal General Secretary), Omkar (District Media Incharge), Sunil Bindru (Ambphalla Mandal Media Incharge) were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion Yudhvir Sethi extended greetings on



the occasion and said Pratap Singh popularly known as Maharana Pratap one of the bravest and legendary son of our nation. He is inspiration to all and the tales of his bravery and valour will continue to inspire many generations.

He said Maharana was a Hindu king who chose struggle over surrender. He fought many battles like Battle of Haldighati, reconquest of Mewar.

Despite numerous attempts by Mughal king Akbar, Maharana was never captured and is widely regarded as the symbol of bravery and the struggle for independence from mughals.

He said strength and valour of Maharana

Pratap will inspire us for centuries and he will always remain alive in our hearts.

Brahm Jyot extend greetings on this holy occasion and said Maharana Pratap embodied the spirit of bravery and his commitment to defend his public is true example of real kingship and his extraordinary life will always be remembered for ages.

He said Maharana Pratap was born to Udai Singh II of Mewar and Jaiwanta Bai in 1540 later on the name Maharana became a fear for Mughal emperors. Pratap was a folk hero for his military resistance through guerrilla warfare

which proved inspirational for later warriors who fought against the Mughal Empire including Malik Ambar and Shivaji.

He said Maharana Pratap is a prominent figure in both folk and contemporary Rajasthan culture and is viewed as a celebrated warrior in that state, as well as in India as a whole. He said Pratap's successful defiance of Mughals using guerrilla strategy also proved inspirational to figures ranging from Emperor Shivaji to anti-British revolutionaries in Bengal. Pratap was real son of India and will be remembered for ages, he added.

Eduhub Institute organises free workshop for aspirants on "All About CUET 2023"

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 9: Eduhub, a leading educational institute of Jammu, recently conducted a free workshop lecture on the CUET UG. The workshop aimed to provide aspiring undergraduate students with the necessary knowledge and skills to ace the entrance exam.

The workshop lecture was held on the 8th and 9th of May 2023 and was attended by over fifty students from various schools. The workshop was conducted by a team of experienced and qualified faculty members who provided valuable insights and tips on how to prepare for the entrance test.

Eduhub's Director, Rमित Gupta, said, "We are thrilled to have conducted this workshop lecture on the undergraduate common uni-



versity entrance test. Our aim is to help students prepare for the entrance exam in the best possible way and enable them to achieve their dreams of securing admission to the top universities in the country."

The workshop covered a wide range of topics, including the structure and format of the entrance exam, important topics and concepts to focus on, time management strategies, and tips on how to handle stress and anxiety during the exam. In addition to the lecture,

Eduhub also provided students with study materials and practice tests to help them prepare for the entrance exam. The study materials included textbooks, sample papers, and mock tests that closely resembled the actual exam.

The students who attended the workshop found it to be highly informative and useful. Many of them appreciated the efforts made by Eduhub to provide free and valuable guidance on the entrance exam. The workshop lecture

was conducted in both English and Hindi to ensure that all students could benefit from it. The bilingual approach was appreciated by the students, who found it easier to understand and grasp the concepts in their native language.

"We are committed to providing high-quality education to all our students. The bilingual approach was adopted to ensure that students from all backgrounds could benefit from the workshop," said Rमित Gupta. He added that Eduhub plans to conduct more such workshops and lectures in the future to help students prepare for various entrance exams. The institute aims to provide free and valuable guidance to all aspiring students and help them achieve their academic goals.

Col Mahan appointed J&K President of National Zila Panchayat Association

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, MAY 8: National Zila Panchayat Association, a national level Panchayat body, has appointed Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, Col Mahan Singh as President of its Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory unit.

The appointment of Col Mahan Singh as well as the announcement to this effect was made by the National President National Zila Panchayat Association Kailash Gore Patil here today. In this



regard the National President has sent the formal appointment letter to Col Mahan Singh.

It is pertinent to mention here that the National Zila Panchayat Association is an all India level body that takes up the

significant issues related to Gram, Block and District Panchayats with the Govt and gets the same addressed in the interest of the people and good governance at the grass roots level.

Col Mahan Singh has expressed profound gratitude and thanks to the National President and founder Kailash Gore Patil and all the district level presidents. He assured to work in utmost cooperation and synchronization with all the members in promoting the agenda fixed by National

Zila Panchayat Association and implementing the same in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory in true letter and spirit.

Meanwhile, Col Mahan Singh informed that a meeting of National Zila Panchayat Association will be held on May 9 & 10 in New Delhi in which the burning issues of Panchayat at national level will be deliberated and discussed at length and ways and means to address the same after taking up these issues with the Govt will be translated on ground.

BJP fulfilled promise of three-tier democracy at grassroots level: Surjeet



TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fulfilled its commitment of providing three-tier democracy at grassroots level in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

This was stated by Surjeet Choudhary, Convenor BJP Panchayati Raj Cell while addressing a meeting of party workers at Samba. Gurdeep Saini and Rambhesh Dutt Co-Convenors of Panchayati Raj Cell were present.

Surjeet Choudhary

said that the Government led by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has strengthened the grassroots democracy in the UT and has given more powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the culture of work has changed and the dynamics of development has improved. The present government at the Centre has empowered the people in the real sense and the three tier system of PRIs has been established across

Jammu and Kashmir. The PRI representatives have been empowered to such an extent that they can now take decisions independently without any interference of the Centre and State, which is proving to be a real game changer thus speeding up the development without any chance of siphoning of funds as local governance is monitored by the people at local level", he maintained.

Senior BJP leader Inderjeet said that what BJP government has

given to J&K and what is in the offing is something which no other political party in the country can even imagine as the same has been experienced by the people in the last over 70 years when dispensations of different hues and shades ruled the erstwhile state of J&K.

Gurdeep Saini also asked the party workers to celebrate nine years of Modi Government at the Centre in a big way from May 15 to June 15 under the name 'Nav Saal - Bemisal'.

NDPI Chief expresses concern over rising road accidents in J&K UT

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 9: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) has expressed anguish and shock over rising number of road accidents in the Union Territory. Strongly condemning the Traffic Department for road accidents, NDPI J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta said, "Blood continues to be spilt, as the UT recorded the highest number of fatalities in a decade last year but there is no seriousness and responsibility shown by administration on increasing number of road accidents occurring often".

The NDPI president said as deaths take place frequently on the roads, functioning of traffic authorities and Motor Vehicle Departments is questionable. He further said the traffic department is not performing their duties smartly. They are least bothered about the human deaths considering them like insects. Even LG administration is not taking road accidental deaths seriously.

Gupta redirected his demand and appealed to LG for raising awareness about road safety, Road Safety Fund, strengthening of highway patrolling for prevention of accidents and fatalities, besides deployment of

Ambulances.

NDPI president urged J&K Lieutenant Governor to give top priority to human values as a person's life is more precious than anything else. He said that the Lt Governor should personally intervene and take strong measures and pass strict instruction to concerned authorities. He said buses, mini buses drivers and bikers should be dealt with iron hands and traffic cops should be more vigilant while on duty. He said according to recent data, the number of people killed in road accidents in the UT is twice the number of fatalities — which includes civilians, security forces and militant deaths — caused by unrest in the UT.

Gupta said that miserable conditions of J&K roads have become a virtual death trap.

Taking note of regular incidents of road accidents in particular areas, Gupta urged LG Manoj Sinha to direct concern authorities of the health department to explore possibility of developing more trauma centers near accident-prone highways to help accident victims during the crucial golden hours.

He expressed serious concern over the frequent road accidents and loss of large number of lives.

Salman Khan death threat: Lookout notice against Haryana student in UK for sending threat email

The man allegedly emailed threatening messages to the 'Dabangg' star in the name of gangster Goldy Brar in March

Mumbai Police have issued a lookout circular (LOC) against a man accused of sending threatening email to actor Salman Khan.

As per officials, the man allegedly emailed threatening messages to the 'Dabangg' star in the name of gangster Goldy Brar in March.

The man hails from Haryana and sent the email to one of Khan's friends on behalf of gangster Goldy Brar, said sources. He is a medical student in the UK.

Salman, who has been receiving death threats for a long time now, recently opened up about how he is dealing with it.

During an appearance at India TV show 'Aap Ki Adalat', Salman also spoke about the Y+ category security which he received by Mumbai Police amid



the death threat.

"Security is better than insecurity. Yes security is there. Now it is not possible to ride a bicycle on the road and go alone anywhere. And more than that, now I have this problem that when I am in traffic, then there is so

much security, vehicles creating inconvenience to other people. They also give me a look. And my poor fans. There is a serious threat that's why there is security," he said.

Salman added, "I am doing whatever I have been told.

There is a dialogue 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' they have to be lucky 100 times, I have to be lucky once'. So, I got to be very careful." He admitted that he often gets scared seeing "so many guns" around him.

"I am going everywhere with full security. I know whatever is going to happen will happen no matter what you do. I believe that (points towards god) that he is there. It is not that I will start roaming freely, it is not like that. Now there are so many Sheras around me, so many guns are going around with me that I am myself scared these days," Salman shared.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Salman will be seen sharing screen space with Katrina Kaif in 'Tiger 3', which will hit the theatres this Diwali.

Singer Taylor Swift has won big at this year's edition of the 2023 MTV Movie and TV Awards



Singer Taylor Swift has won big at this year's edition of the 2023 MTV Movie and TV Awards, which were held in Los Angeles on Sunday. Her song Carolina was named the Best Song. Released in 2022, Carolina was featured in the film Where the Crawdads Sing. Written solely by Swift, 32, and produced by frequent collaborator Aaron Dessner, Carolina features great vocals by the 11-time Grammy winner.

Meanwhile, the awards ceremony, which was derailed by the US writers' strike and forced to turn into a non-live event, saw many expressions of support for the striking writers.

Sonakshi Sinha is playing a cop in Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti's web show

Sonakshi Sinha says her streaming debut Dahaad, which will see her in the role of a cop hot on the heels of a serial killer, was a true "clutter breaker". The upcoming Prime Video crime-drama series is created by filmmakers Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti. Kagti also directs the eight-part show with Ruchika Oberoi of Island City fame.

"When I met her (Zoya), I told her that there was a period when I had started saying no to every film offer that came to me because nothing was exciting enough for me to get up and be that character for 30 to 40 or 90 days. It (Dahaad) was a no-brainer. I said yes immediately," Sinha said in an interview.

The actor said she was getting "mundane" offers, but the show came as a welcome change.

"On paper, the character (Anjali Bhaati) was so powerful. For me, as an actor to be able to do that kind of role, it was just so exciting at that point of time in my life, where I was. I was being



offered repetitive things. This was truly a clutter breaker," the 35-year-old actor said.

Sinha, known for films such as Dabangg, Lootera, Kalank, Rowdy Rathore and Son of Sardaar, said she was not concerned about the medium.

In fact, the show came to her even before the OTT boom happened during the pandemic. "She (Zoya) came to me before the pandemic. The whole OTT

boom happened much later. I said yes to it even before that. As an actor, I see it as a role, not the platform. Is it good enough for me to do it? Is it really shaking me up, like, 'I have to be this character'? Whether it is an OTT (project) or a film, it doesn't really matter."

In Dahaad, Sinha plays a feisty cop trying to solve a case where women are mysteriously found dead in public bathrooms.

In Chandigarh, actress Rakul Preet Singh says regional cinema is more accessible to urban audience now

An Army kid, a hyper actor, a Sardarni in love with food and a free-spirited girl, when Rakul Preet Singh was in Chandigarh for a brief halt, she won hearts along with her pretty looks and wit.

Part of the 3rd Chandigarh Music and Film Festival 2023, Rakul opened up on her journey. Rakul bagged her first film, a Kannada movie titled Gilli, during her college years. "I did it thinking it was my chance to have my first car before any of my friends," she laughed. One film led to others and not before long, she had tasted stardom. "I was bowled over on the sets on the very first day when everybody started calling me ma'm, as I was just 18!"

Slowly, Rakul cemented her place in the Telugu industry, but started afresh in Hindi cinema, "It didn't come easy, but I wanted to take my chance. My first Hindi film was supposed to be MS Dhoni, but dates changed and I had prior commitment. So, it was only with Aiyara that I got the first break in Hindi cinema." Soon followed De De Pyaar



De, Cuttputli, Doctor G, Thank God and Chhatriwali, among others.

Great phase "I really enjoy this phase of our cinema that there are such beautiful roles written for the likes of Shefali ma'm, Tabu,

thing remotely demeaning to me. Getting work on the basis of your sheer capability might take long, but I wasn't aiming at overnight success anyway. So, the journey has been beautiful."

She credits it all to her Army upbringing, "Much of my confidence, comes from Army culture. You carry yourself in a way that nobody can dare to be disrespectful."

Having worked with who's who of regional cinema, Rakul shared, "The pandemic broke boundaries and regional cinema became accessible to urban audience. Today we have women leading the films as there is an audience for it, similar is the case with films in different languages."

She said spectacles like RRR or Pathaan would always be successful in cinema, and content-driven films, like her Chhatriwali, were cut-out for OTT. "The industry is still figuring out the dynamics and I am sure it's just matter of time till we find the right formula."

Rakul also regaled Chandigarh University students. "Do not trust

the narratives sold to you, think and question, and as long as you are working hard, you can achieve what you dream."

'Content is the hero' Actors Vinay Pathak and Yashpal Sharma too were part of the Chandigarh Music and Film Festival 2023, and shared interesting anecdotes from their long spanning careers.

"I learnt a lot from my senior co-actors, but much from the legendary Om Puri. All your talent, hard work and training aside, it's more important to be a good human being first. Only then can you become a true artiste," said Pathak. Yashpal Sharma shared, "It is very important to break the herd mentality. When I made my first film as a director, Dada Lakhmi, I gave six years of my life to it, as I wanted to create something novel. National Award from the President and a run at Cannes, the film has been watched and loved globally." He also asked the students to take their local stories and reach out to the global audience, as today 'content is the hero'.

Playing Katori Amma in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan is a dream come true, says Himani Shivpuri



Veteran actor Himani Shivpuri has done a number of films and TV shows. Currently, she is a part of an ongoing popular TV comedy,

Happu Ki Ultan Paltan. She plays the role of Katori Amma in the show produced by Binaiferr Kohli and Sanjay Kohli's Edit II

Productions.

"Well, I basically understand the scenes, put my heart and soul in the moment, and start doing what the scene is demanding of me. Yes, personal life does affect you, but you have to learn to keep it aside from professional life and make people laugh," she said.

According to her, humour lies in the situation. "So, if you play according to the situation, the humour comes. It's not the face, and you can't differentiate between the face and the words because it's not just one thing. It is a mixture of everything," she added.

"Comedy will always have its audience intact." "But the quality and approach need to be good," the actor said.

Avika Gor will play Indu



The Bengali series Indu gained popularity after the release of its first season. Now, the series will also be made in Telugu.

Avika Gor was recently in Kolkata on the occasion of the Bengali New Year. Sharing the news, Avika wrote, "I celebrated #noboborsho and #bengalnewyear in #kolkata with a very special announcement. SVF and @hoichoi.tv's popular Bengali thriller series #INDU is now getting remade for @disneyplusstel in Tamil and other languages. It's definitely going to be challenging for me to play 'Indu'. Ishaa Saha has set a benchmark with her brilliant performance, and I'll try my best to live up to it."

Avika will also be seen in Krishna Bhatt's 1920: Horrors of the Heart.

Jameela Jamil says she pulled out of auditioning for You over intimate scenes

Actress Jameela Jamil is a person with convictions that stands up for what she believes in.

The Good Place star recently opened up about pulling out of auditioning for a role in You because she didn't want to do intimate scenes.

"I don't think I've ever been someone who would have enjoyed objectifying myself, personally. But that's also because I have so much deep, like, childhood sexual trauma stuff. So, I think that was never in the cards for me," she said during an interview on the Podcrushed podcast hosted by Penn Badgley, Nava Kavelin and Sophie Ansari.

The actress said, "You know, I still wear the little skirt or the busty top, but like, occasionally. But generally, I feel quite protective of myself in that way. Like, I don't do sex scenes." Jamil then revealed that she was supposed



to co-star with Badgley on the Netflix series but ultimately turned down the audition.

"In fact, I was supposed to audition for the recent season of your

show. My character was supposed to be quite sexy, and I pulled out of the audition, because I am so shy about anything sexy that I can't," Jamil added.

Dream of every citizen of Karnataka is my dream: PM

In an appeal to 'brothers and sisters' of the state, he seeks their blessings in the mission of making Karnataka the number one state in the country

BENGALURU, May 9 (Agencies): Making a strong pitch for the return of the BJP government in Karnataka a day before the Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday the affection he has received in the state over the last few days has been unparalleled, and it has strengthened the resolve to make it number one across all sectors.

He also sought their blessings in the mission to make the state the number one in the country. "Dream of every citizen of Karnataka is my dream. Your resolve is my resolve. When



we come together and set our minds to a goal, no force in the world can stop us," he said on Twitter.

In an appeal to "brothers and sisters" of the state, he sought their blessings in the mission of making Karnataka the number one state in the country.

"My appeal is for the bright future of Karnataka. It is for the bright future of your family, especially the younger generations," said the Prime Minister, who addressed 19 public meetings and held six roadshows in the state ahead of the polls.

Stating that the people have always showered him with love and affection, he said it feels like a divine blessing to him.

Gujarat: Baby boy, toddler mauled to death by lioness, leopard in separate incidents

AMRELI, May 9 (Agencies): An infant and a three-year-old boy were mauled to death by a lioness and a leopard in separate incidents in Gujarat's Amreli district, forest department officials said on Tuesday.

The lioness took away a five-month-old boy early Tuesday morning when he was sleeping with his family of daily wagers out in the open near Khara village in Liliya taluka, Deputy Conservator of Forests Jayan



Patel said. "The baby's skull was later found about half-a-kilometre from where he was picked up. From the footmarks and the version of locals, we believe it is the work of a lioness," he said. Forest staff teams

were scanning the area and cages will be set up to catch the big cat, he said.

Two veterinary doctors have also been kept on standby, he added.

In another incident, a three-year-old boy was killed after being attacked by a leopard in Karjala village of Savarkundla taluka here on Monday night, forest officials said.

The forest staff later caged the leopard, they said.

PM Modi Condolences Death Of Bengali Author Samaresh Majumdar

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed anguish over the death of renowned Bengali author Samaresh Majumdar, saying that he will be remembered for his contribution to "Bengali literature".

On Monday, Samaresh Majumdar passed away in the evening around 5:45 pm. The award-winning writer was 79.

PM Modi said the departed author's work captured different aspects of the society and culture of West Bengal.

"Shri Samaresh



Majumdar will be remembered for his contribution to Bengali literature. His works capture different aspects of the society and culture of West Bengal. My condolences to his family. Om Shanti," PM Modi tweeted.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also expressed grief on

the death of the Bengali author, calling it an "irreparable loss to the literary world".

Mr Majumdar is also known for 'Uttoradhikar', 'Kaalpurush', 'Satkahan', and 'Adventures of Detective Arjun'. The writer-poet has innumerable accolades under his belt, including Sahitya Akademi Award which he won for 'Kalbela' in 1984.

Apart from this, he has been conferred the Anand Award and Bankim Award. In 2018, the West Bengal government honoured him with the 'Banga Bibhusan' award.

22 killed, 20 injured as bus falls from bridge in MP's Khargone

PM Modi expresses grief

KHARGONE, May 9 (Agencies): Twenty-two people were killed and around 20 injured as a private bus fell from a bridge on a dry river bed in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district on Tuesday morning, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said.

A magisterial probe has been ordered into the incident which took place at 8.40 am, Mishra told reporters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the road accident and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased.

The bus broke railings of Dasanga bridge and fell on a dry bed of the Borad river near Dongargaon village, Mishra said.

The vehicle was carrying around 50 passengers, a police official said.



Twenty-two people were killed in the accident, Mishra said.

The injured were admitted to the district hospital in Khargone.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each of those killed.

The seriously injured persons will be given Rs 50,000 and those who received minor injuries will be given Rs 25,000,

Mishra said. The state government will bear entire expenses of the treatment, he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also condoled the loss of lives in the accident.

"The road accident in Khargone is very saddening. My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones in this accident. Also, I wish speedy recovery to all

the injured. Under the supervision of the state government, the local administration is providing all possible help on the spot," Modi was quoted as saying in a tweet by the Prime Minister's Office.

"An ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF (Prime Minister's National Relief Fund) would be given to the next of kin of each deceased in the bus

accident in Khargone, Madhya Pradesh. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," he said.

After the bus fell from the bridge, some villagers rushed to the spot. They pulled out people trapped inside the bus from the windows and backside of the vehicle, as per eyewitnesses.

Locals were also seen carrying people and offering water to the harried passengers amid the hot weather, they said.

Khargone Collector Shivraj Singh Verma, Superintendent of Police Dharamvir Singh and local MLA Ravi Joshi were among those who reached the spot soon after getting information.

Former Union minister Arun Yadav, who belongs to Khargone, also expressed grief over the incident.

Former Mumbai mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar passes away

MUMBAI, May 9 (Agencies): Former Mumbai mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar, one of the prominent faces of the Shiv Sena (UBT), died on Tuesday after suffering from cardiac arrest, a former party corporator said.

He was 63 and is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Four-term corporator Mahadeshwar was first elected the civic body in 2002. He served as the mayor of Mumbai



between 2017 and 2019, his party colleague and former corporator Chandrashekhar Waigankar said.

IMD: Low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal likely to intensify into cyclonic storm on Wednesday

BHUBANESWAR, May 9 (Agencies): A well-marked low-pressure area lies over the southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining south Andaman Sea is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm on Wednesday, the Met department said.

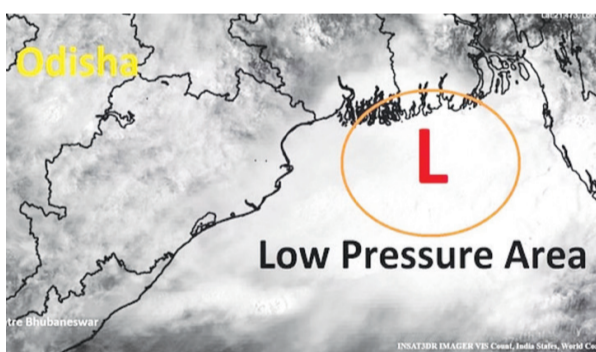
The system is expected to move initially north-northwestwards till May 12 morning and later towards Bangladesh-Myanmar coasts, India Meteorological

Department said on Tuesday.

Fishermen and operators of small ships, boats and trawlers are advised not to venture into the southeast and adjoining central Bay of Bengal from Tuesday.

The weather office also asked those who are over the east-central Bay of Bengal and north Andaman Sea to return during the day.

"The well-marked low-pressure area over southeast Bay and



Bengal and adjoining south Andaman Sea is very likely to intensify into a depression by today evening and subsequently into a cyclonic

storm over southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of east-central Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea on May 10," the IMD said

in a bulletin.

Light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy precipitation at isolated places is likely over Andaman and Nicobar islands from Tuesday to Thursday, the Met Department said.

It also advised authorities concerned to regulate tourism and offshore activities and shipping near Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the May 9-12 period.

Murder charges framed against accused Aaftab Poonawala in Shraddha Walkar case

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): A court here on Tuesday framed charges of murder and disappearance of evidence against Aaftab Amin Poonawala who is accused of strangling his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar to death and chopping her body into pieces.

Additional Sessions Judge Manisha Khurana Kakkar said prima facie a case for offenc-

es under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) was made out against the accused.

Poonawala, however, denied the charges and demanded a trial. The matter has been posted for further proceedings on June 1.

The Delhi Police had filed a 6,629-page charge sheet in the case

on January 24.

Walkar was allegedly strangled by Poonawala on May 18 last year, following which he sawed her body into pieces and kept them in a fridge for almost three weeks at his residence in South Delhi's Mehrauli.

He scattered the pieces at different places in the national capital to avoid getting caught.

Common uniform for brigadiers and above rank officers in Army from Aug 1

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): The Army has decided that brigadiers and above rank officers will have a common uniform from August 1 irrespective of their parent cadre and appointment, military sources said on Tuesday.

The decision was taken after detailed deliberations during the recently concluded Army Commanders Conference and extensive consultations with all stakeholders, they said.

The changes will come into effect from August 1.

The headgear, shoulder rank badges, gorget patches, belts and shoes of senior officers will be standardised as part of the decision, the sources said.

There will be no change to the uniform worn by Colonels and below-rank officers.

"In order to promote and strengthen common identity and approach in service matters amongst senior leadership, beyond the boundaries of regimentation, the Indian Army has decided to adopt a common uniform for brigadier and above rank officers," said a source. "This will also reinforce the Indian



Army's character to be a fair and equitable organisation," it said.

In the Indian Army, brigadiers and above officers are those who have already commanded units, and battalions and are mostly posted at headquarters or establishments where officers from all arms and services work and function together.

The sources said a standard uniform will ensure a common identity for all senior-rank officers while reflecting the true ethos of the Indian Army.

Different types of uniform and accoutrements have specific associations to respective arms, regiments and services in the Indian Army.

Sachin Pilot's All-Out Attack On Ashok Gehlot, No End To Congress Problem

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Sachin Pilot today said Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's leader seemed to be the BJP's Vasundhara Raje and not Sonia Gandhi, making direct hits at his bitter rival just a day before his Congress party faces the crucial Karnataka election.

In an all-out attack on Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot said he would not quit the party as he didn't want to ruin its chances ahead of the Rajasthan election later this year. Instead, he announced a "Jan Sangharsh Yatra" from Ajmer to Jaipur to highlight corruption.

The riposte followed Ashok Gehlot's stunning remarks last weekend that former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje helped save his government when Sachin Pilot revolted in 2020 along with a few MLAs.

"After hearing the Chief Minister's speech in Dholpur, I think his leader is not Sonia Gandhi, but his leader is Vasundhara Raje," Mr Pilot told reporters.

"He (Gehlot) alleges that BJP

tried to topple his government. Then he says a BJP leader helped save his government. He should explain the contradiction."

At the rally on Sunday, the Chief Minister had claimed that Vasundhara Raje and two other BJP leaders helped save his government and that money was given to MLAs to switch to the BJP and topple his government. Mr Gehlot also took a swipe at the MLAs who had rebelled, saying they "should return the money".

The comments targeted the BJP as well as his party rival in one stroke.

Not mincing words, Mr Pilot accused Mr Gehlot of insulting his own MLAs and harming his own party ahead of the election. "I now understand why no action was taken against corruption by the Vasundhara Raje government despite my repeated requests," Mr Pilot said, accusing Ashok Gehlot of going soft on the BJP because of a secret understanding.

The former Deputy Chief Minister said he had tolerated much name-calling and attacks from Mr Gehlot over the past two-and-a-half years. "He called me gaddar (traitor), nikamma (useless), corona... Many insinuations and abuses were directed at me. I didn't say anything as I didn't want to damage the party," he said.

He also claimed his yatra was not aimed at Mr Gehlot. "The yatra is not against anyone but is against corruption," he asserted.

He also defended his 2020 revolt saying MLAs wanted a leadership change in Rajasthan.

The latest round of Gehlot Vs Pilot renews the spotlight on a festering crisis that the Congress has been compelled to handle in an election year.

Many believe Mr Pilot is pushing the Congress to act and planning a well-timed exit before the polls.

The Gehlot-Pilot feud cropped up soon after the Congress's 2018 victory in Rajasthan, over

the chief minister's post.

Though Mr Pilot agreed to play second fiddle to the veteran, he revolted in 2020, the year Covid erupted worldwide. He camped for days near Delhi but ended his strike after the Gandhis assured him a solution.

The rebellion fizzled out as 100-plus MLAs chose to stay with Mr Gehlot. At no point has Mr Pilot been able to produce more than 20 MLAs in his support, making it tougher for the party to pick a side.

Last year, some 100 MLAs resigned in protest against the Congress's move to make Mr Gehlot party president, which would mean his replacement in Rajasthan, possibly by Mr Pilot. Earlier this year, Mr Pilot launched a solo campaign for the Rajasthan polls soon after Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in the state.

Mr Gehlot, with his frequent attacks on his former Deputy, has made it clear that he will not stand back.

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill three senior militants, 10 others

The attacks in densely populated residential areas set the stage for a new round of heavy fighting. They hit the top floor of an apartment building in Gaza City and a house in the southern town of Rafah.

GAZA CITY, May 9 (Agencies): Israel killed three senior commanders of the militant Islamic Jihad group in targeted airstrikes early Tuesday, the military said. Palestinian health officials said 13 people were killed in all, including the commanders, their wives, several of their children and others nearby.

The attacks in densely populated residential areas set the stage for a new round of heavy fighting. They hit the top floor of an apartment building in Gaza City and a house in the southern town of Rafah. The Palestinian Health Ministry said 20 people were injured, and that ambulances were continuing to evacuate people from the targeted areas.

Airstrikes continued in the early hours, targeting militant training sites, Israel said.

In the past, Palestinian militant groups in Gaza have retaliated for such targeted killings. In anticipation of Palestinian rocket attacks in response to the airstrikes, the Israeli military advised residents of communities within 25 miles (40 kilometers) of Gaza to stay close to designated bomb shelters.

Israel's Home Front Command ordered the closure of schools, beaches and highways in cities



and towns in southern Israel, and limited public gatherings.

The military said the three targeted men had been responsible for a recent rocket fire toward Israel.

It identified them as Khalil Bahtini, the Islamic Jihad commander for northern Gaza Strip; Tareq Izzelddeen, the group's intermediary between its Gaza and West Bank members; and Jihad Ghanam, the secretary of the Islamic Jihad's military council. Their funerals were planned for later in the day.

The Iran-backed Islamic Jihad, which is smaller than Gaza's ruling Hamas group, confirmed the three were among the dead. The Palestinian Health Ministry said that along with the three

commanders, their wives, several of their children and others nearby were also killed — 13 in all.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh warned that Israel will "pay the price" for the killings. "Assassinating the leaders with a treacherous operation will not bring security to the occupier, but rather more resistance," Haniyeh said in a statement.

The airstrikes came at a time of boiling tensions between Israel and militants in the Gaza Strip. It is linked, in part, to increasing violence in the occupied West Bank, where Israel has been conducting near-daily raids for months to detain Palestinians suspected of planning or carrying out attacks on Israelis.

Last week, Gaza militants fired several salvos of rockets toward southern Israel, and the Israeli military responded with airstrikes following the death of a hunger-striking senior member of the Islamic Jihad in Israeli custody. The exchange of fire ended with a fragile cease-fire mediated by Egypt, the United Nations and Qatar.

The airstrikes are similar to ones in 2022 in which Israel bombed locations housing commanders of the Islamic Jihad group, setting off a three-day blitz that saw the group lose its two top commanders and other dozens of militants.

says the raids in the West Bank are meant to dismantle militant networks and thwart future attacks. The Palestinians see the attacks as further entrenchment of Israel's 56-year, open-ended occupation of lands they seek for a future independent state.

So far, 105 Palestinians, about half of them are militants or alleged attackers, were killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank and east Jerusalem since the start of 2023, according to an Associated Press tally. At least 20 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks in Israel in the same period.

Errol Musk Claims He Visited Emerald Mine With Son Elon

The claim comes day after Elon Musk denied existence of any emerald mine and said he never received anything in inheritance.



WASHINGTON, May 9 (Agencies): Errol Musk, the father of Twitter CEO Elon Musk, has claimed that the tech billionaire visited the emerald mine in Zambia with him where he did not eat for four days.

He made the claim in an interview with The Sun despite Elon Musk disputing the claim that his father owned a mine in the African country. The Tesla chief even offered a million Dogecoin to anyone who could prove its existence. But Errol Musk said Elon went with him on a trip in the Lake Tanganyika region.

"I visited the mine once, Elon came with me. It was lousy. There was nothing to eat except stamp mielies (ground dried corn)," said Errol Musk. "Elon never ate anything for four days

in a row," he further told the outlet.

Talking about the trip in detail, Errol Musk told The Sun that he briefed his son to be prepared for a night landing at Rand Airport in Johannesburg since Elon forgot to carry his passport.

Errol Musk said they were questioned by immigration authorities since Elon did not have his passport.

"We ate humble pie and luckily got away with just a fine," he added.

In a long tweet, Elon Musk had denied the existence of the emerald mine. Sharing details about his childhood, the second-richest person in the world said he never received anything in inheritance.

Responding to a user's tweet, Mr Musk said he grew up in a "lower, transitioning to the upper, middle-income situation" but he never experience a happy childhood.

"Regarding the so-called 'emerald mine', there is no objective evidence whatsoever that this mine ever existed. He told me that he owned a share in a mine in Zambia, and I believed him for a while, but nobody has ever seen the mine, nor are there any records of its existence," he had further said in the tweet.

His mother Maye Musk endorsed the billionaire's tweet and added that they lived in a "one-bedroom apartment" in Toronto.

Russia, set for WWII tributes, rains missiles on Ukraine

KYIV, May 9 (Agencies): Russia unleashed a barrage of cruise missiles on Ukraine overnight into Tuesday, hours before the start of Moscow's annual commemorations celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, which this year is taking place amid tight security measures.

The Kremlin's forces launched 25 missiles overnight in a wave of attacks across Ukraine, the Ukrainian air force said, adding that air defence had successfully destroyed 23 of them.

In a Telegram post, the air force said eight Kalibr cruise missiles were launched from carriers in the Black Sea toward the east and 17 from strategic aircraft.

The barrage comes as Moscow and other Russian cities are preparing to host military parades and other festivities marking Victory Day, Russia's biggest secular holiday that this year has been significantly overshadowed by the war in Ukraine.

At least 21 Russian cities cancelled May 9 military parades — the staple of celebrations across Russia — for the first time in years.



The Immortal Regiment processions, in which crowds take to the streets holding portraits of relatives who died or served in World War II — another pillar of the holiday — have also been cancelled in multiple cities.

Regional officials blamed unspecified "security concerns." Some speculated, however, that the reason behind cancelling Immortal Regiment marches was the fact that Russians might bring portraits of relatives who died in Ukraine to those processions, illustrating the scale of Russia's losses in the drawn-out conflict.

Moscow is expected to project a show of force during its flagship parade on Red Square, with top-notch military equipment rumbling

through it and leaders of ex-Soviet nations standing beside President Vladimir Putin.

Initially, only one of them — Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov — was expected to attend, but at the last minute on Monday officials confirmed that leaders of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were heading to Moscow as well.

The pared-down celebrations come after ambiguous official reports last week that two Ukrainian drones flew into the heart of Moscow under the cover of darkness and reached the Kremlin before being shot down. The Kremlin billed it as an attempt at Putin's life; Ukraine denied involvement.

Russia celebrates anniversary of victory over Germany in World War II

MOSCOW, May 9 (Agencies): Russia on Tuesday celebrates the anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in World War II with a parade at Red Square in Moscow amid tight security following a series of drone attacks, including on the Kremlin citadel itself, that Moscow has blamed on Ukraine.

Victory Day is one of the most important public holidays in Russia, when people commemorate the huge sacrifices made by the Soviet Union during what is called the Great Patriotic War of 1941-45, in which around 27 million citizens perished.

This anniversary is even more emotionally charged as Russia mourns thousands of soldiers killed in the nearly 15-month war in Ukraine which shows no sign of ending.

Russia is also reeling from drone attacks, including one on the Kremlin on May 3 which it said was an attempt to assassinate President Vladimir Putin. Ukraine, which is expected shortly to launch a counteroffensive to retake land, denies involvement.

Putin has repeatedly



likened the Ukraine war — which he casts as a battle against "Nazi"-inspired nationalists — to the challenge the Soviet Union faced when Hitler invaded in 1941. Kyiv says this is absurd and accuses Russia of behaving like Nazi Germany by waging an unprovoked war of aggression and seizing Ukrainian territory.

Putin, his defence minister and other senior officials are expected to review the Red Square parade, which usually includes tanks, intercontinental missile launchers and marching troops.

However, reflecting increased security concerns caused partly

by the drone attacks, authorities have cancelled the traditional flyover. There have also been reports of fewer soldiers and less military hardware joining this year's parade as the Ukraine conflict takes a heavy toll on men and equipment.

Authorities nationwide have cancelled the "Immortal Regiment" processions, where people carry portraits of relatives who fought against the Nazis.

Putin will deliver a speech in Red Square, where he will be joined by leaders of several ex-Soviet republics. In last year's address he made no mention of Ukraine but slammed

the NATO military alliance for expanding to Russia's borders and hailed Soviet heroism in resisting Hitler.

Since then, Finland — which borders Russia — has also joined NATO. "May no one ever again encroach on the sacred borders of our Fatherland," said Patriarch Kirill, head of the powerful Russian Orthodox Church and a close Putin ally, as he laid flowers on Monday at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in central Moscow.

"But in order for this to be so, our country must be strong because a country that is feared is not attacked."

Asked on Monday

about cancellations of some Victory Day events, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov blamed Ukraine: "When we have to deal with a state that is de facto a sponsor of terrorism, then it is better to take precautionary measures."

As well as the attack on the Kremlin compound, Moscow also blames Ukraine for drone strikes over the past week on fuel depots, freight trains and multiple targets in Crimea, which Russia forcibly annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

Moscow also accused Kyiv and the West of carrying out a car bombing on Saturday that wounded a prominent Russian nationalist writer, Zakhar Prilepin. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy annoyed Russia on Monday by moving the day that his country marks the allied victory over Nazi Germany to May 8, aligning it with Western nations in a repudiation of its Soviet past.

Russia's foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova branded Zelenskyy a "traitor", saying he had betrayed the memory of Ukrainians who died fighting the Nazis.

Canada expels China diplomat for alleged threats to lawmaker

TORONTO, May 9 (Agencies): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is expelling a Chinese diplomat whom Canada's spy agency alleged was involved in a plot to intimidate an opposition lawmaker and his relatives in Hong Kong.

A senior government official said Toronto-based diplomat Zhao Wei has five days to leave the country. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak publicly on the matter. It wasn't immediately clear if

he's left yet.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said in a statement that Canada declared Toronto-based diplomat Zhao Wei "persona non grata". "We will not tolerate any form of foreign interference in our internal affairs," she wrote.

"Diplomats in Canada have been warned that if they engage in this type of behaviour, they will be sent home."

Canada's spy service indicated that in 2021 opposition Conservative lawmaker Michael Chong and his Hong Kong rela-



tives were targeted after Chong criticised Beijing's human rights record. Canada's spy agency has not released details publicly.

Chong has been critical of Beijing's treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China's Xinjiang

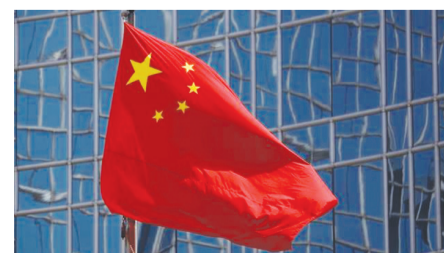
province.

It became public after a Globe and Mail report last week. Chong said he learned about it from that report and Trudeau denied knowing about it earlier.

"This should have happened years ago," Chong said.

"I hope that this makes it clear not just to the People's Republic of China, but other authoritarian states who have representation here in Canada, that this crossing the line of diplomacy into foreign interference threat activities is utterly unacceptable here on Canadian soil."

China expels Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat response



BEIJING., May 9 (Agencies): China has announced the expulsion of a Canadian diplomat in retaliation for Ottawa's ordering a Chinese consular official to leave over alleged threats he made against a Canadian lawmaker and his family.

The Foreign Ministry on Tuesday said China was deploying a "reciprocal

countermeasure to Canada's unscrupulous move", which it said it "firmly opposes".

It said the Canadian diplomat based in the business hub of Shanghai has been asked to leave by May 13 and that China "reserves the right to take further actions in response".

Canada earlier on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is expelling a Chinese diplomat whom Canada's spy agency alleged was involved in a plot to intimidate an opposition lawmaker and his relatives in Hong Kong.

A senior government official said Toronto-based diplomat Zhao Wei has five days to leave the country.

Altaf Bukhari appeals to PM Modi to hold assembly elections in J&K



JAMMU, May 9 (Agencies): Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hold early Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Assembly Elections should be held as early as possible in Jammu and Kashmir. We have expectations with the PM that he will fulfill his promise," Altaf Bukhari said while addressing a one day worker's meeting in Chatha, Sathwari.

The meeting was organized by Provincial President Jammu, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour.

Bukhari recalled how they were warmly welcomed by the Prime Minister in the month of March 14/15, 2020 following the abrogation of Art 370 and Art 35A which snatched the land and jobs rights of the people of J&K.

"We met the PM as the people had apprehensions that outsiders will settle in J&K. When the people were in complete despair, we came out to represent them. Accordingly, the PM promised protection to the land and jobs for the locals of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He further said that the statehood should be restored to win the confidence and hold elections to end the growing public concerns with regard to various issues.

He said that "We saw truthfulness in the eyes of the Prime Minister. Therefore, we expect from the PM that elections will be held and people will be given the right to elect their Govt. Being the largest democracy of the world, the PM should accept the demand by allowing people to exercise their constitutional rights."

Meanwhile, he said that the LG Govt that they have cornered the J&K Administrative Services, and J&K Police Services Officers and replaced

them with the imported IAS and IPS officers who are unfriendly with the people of both the regions.

"It a matter of grave concern that the JKAS and JKPS officers have been sidelined by the Govt. However, these officers must get ready to take the responsibility. They are the backbone of J&K," he said.

He asked the people to bring change in the governance whenever the Assembly Elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The J&K BJP has failed to bring any kind of change. It is dependent upon the national level politics. They just implemented their political agenda to gain vote bank politics across the country, but failed in Jammu. The Jammu people trusted BJP because they contested the last assembly elections against the dynastic rule but after the assembly poll results in 2014. They joined one of the two dynastic (NC and PDP) political parties i.e., PDP within 24 hours and formed a coalition Govt that brought disaster for the people of two regions in an unexpected manner," he said.

He stated that the biggest disaster for the people was abrogation of Art 370 and Art 35A and then the process of importing IAS/IPS officers from across the country by undermining the caliber of the JKAS/ JKPS officers who deserved to be given better places to address the unexpectedly growing issues.

"J&K BJP cannot do anything for the welfare of the people. But the Recruitment Scams, Jammu Businessmen, Tourism Sector, Hoteliers, Transporters, Travel Agents, rise and increasing influence of non-local mafia and contractors in Govt sector would have been controlled timely. However, the BJP has failed miserably although

people looked at them with a hope," he said and claimed that the J&K Unit will do whatever is directed to them from their top leaders even if it is against the people of J&K.

Therefore, the Apni Party which has no tinted record should be elected to form the next Govt. The NC, PDP, Congress Party and BJP have hands in glove and they ruled J&K by adopting the policy of divide and rule on the name of region, or religion, he said and added that this divisive policy is responsible for terrorism in Kashmir as well as in Jammu.

He further said that "We need to end the politics of hate and division. The people should support the Apni Party from the next Govt in J&K so that we could work for their equitable development, protect their resources, through the contractors from outside, protect the jobs in the private sector, and work for the business, and other sectors."

He said that the BJP has been directly ruling J&K for the last several years, but they have brought miseries with the imported IAS/IPS officers.

"The JKAS/JKPS officers have been sidelined to give postings to the bureaucrats from outside J&K. These imported officers are unfriendly with the local population and force them to stand in queues for long hours," he said.

When the inefficiency of these IAS/IPS officers is highlighted before the public, he said, they launch an anti-encroachment drive and displace the poor people from the small piece of land they have been holding for decades.

"We want to assure the people that we will not allow snatching of even an inch of land from them. These officers who have been harassing the people would be held accountable," he said.

Over 2500 legislators to take part in National Legislators' Conference Bharat

Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, May 9: Even as the stage is set for an unprecedented gathering of the most influential voices in Indian politics, National Legislators' Conference Bharat (NLC Bharat) has officially opened registration for the country's very first and largest assembly of over 2,500 legislators across the country.

The momentous event is scheduled to take place in Mumbai from June 15-17. It is an unparalleled opportunity for lawmakers from across the country to come together as equals on a common platform and discuss and deliberate upon some of the most pressing issues facing our country today.

NLC Bharat is a non-partisan platform that will unite MLAs and MLCs from every state and union territory.

The gathering will provide an exceptional platform for elected representatives to showcase their commendable practices and exchange innovative ideas. With this being the first-ever conference of its kind in our nation's glorious history, it promises to be a transformative moment that will shape the course of Indian politics for generations to come.

The conference offers lawmakers a chance to interact and share knowledge, with a focus on improving legislative effectiveness and promoting good governance for a brighter future. Distinguished legislators will engage in experiential learning and thematic discus-

sions, joined by national and global leaders and party officials aimed at strengthening democracy. This comprehensive approach promises to yield valuable insights and strategies for shaping the future of democracy in India and beyond.

Meira Kumar, former Lok Sabha Speaker said, "It is going to be a historic conference. During the conference, several subjects, be it related to social justice, international relations, or education, we should deeply consider all of them. This is a great opportunity. We need to document the learnings from this conference properly so that it can serve as a learning document even years from now."

Rahul V. Karad, convenor NLC Bharat said, "NLC Bharat is an attempt to cohesively build the nation. It is the result of a long-term vision. A platform that has participation from lawmakers from across parties and states can help strengthen our democracy."

NLC Bharat is supported by various state legislatures, senior bureaucrats and members of civil society. Patrons and the members of the governing council for NLC Bharat include former Lok Sabha Speakers Sumitra Mahajan, Dr. Meira Kumar, Manohar Joshi, Shivraj Patil and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The MIT School of Government, Bhartiya Chhatra Sansad and Atulya Bharat Nirman Foundation are sharing the responsibilities to organise the conference.

Army likely to use 'Jet Packs' for aerial surveillance on borders

SRINAGAR, May 9 (Agencies): The Indian Army is gearing up to turn their soldiers into real-life 'Iron Man' with the help of jet pack suits that will provide them with enhanced surveillance capabilities at the country's borders with China and Pakistan, as well as in the conflict ridden region of Jammu and Kashmir, The Eurasian Times reported.

These suits are pro-

pelled by engines running on gas or liquid fuel and can carry a person weighing at least 80 kilograms while flying at a speed of at least 50 kilometers per hour for a minimum of eight minutes. The Indian Army recently got a demonstration of the technology from the UK-based company, Gravity Industries, owned by ex-marine and innovator Richard Browning.

GDC Udhampur organises excursion for students



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 9: Catering to the demand of the students of the college, under the supervision of Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, a picnic for the UG and the PG students of the college was organized to Patnitop, a most longed and desired hill station of Udhampur.

Commenting on the occasion the Principal was of the view that extracurricular and activities of amusement are part and parcel of the studies that enrich the learning and double

the potential of the learner. "After a stressful phase of assignments and papers the excursion was planned for the students to give them respite from the mundane and a healing time by being in nature", he said.

Early in the Morning the buses were flagged off from the college campus ground towards the hill station. By noon the buses reached Patnitop after which the students spreaded into the different areas to enjoy nature and amuse themselves. Under the unrestricted supervision of the staff they enjoyed

to the full and liked the cool and cosy weather of Patnitop.

All the staff of the college was present in the excursion that made the journey and the picnic safe, secure and meticulous.

The students of the college thanked the Principal and the staff for such a wonderful experience by virtue of the excursion.

On the occasion the Principal also announced that very soon the college shall be organizing an educational tour for the students post their university examination.

NC will ensure job & land rights of J&K residents: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu today asserted that the Party will protect jobs and land rights of permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir if voted to power in the upcoming Assembly elections in the state.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior NC leader said that presently there is huge resentment among people across Jammu and Kashmir against BJP not fulfilling promises made with people after August 5, 2019. He strongly opposed the new laws imposed in Jammu and Kashmir and anti-people and anti-youth decision taken by the government at the Centre since August 5, 2019.

He said not to talk of the fulfillment of the tall promises, the incumbent Govt has miserably failed even to safeguard the rights of permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir over the land and jobs in this Union Territory. He said that the non-locals have been allotted land and



provided jobs in J&K thus usurping the rights of the natives which is intolerable.

Rattan Lal Gupta asserted that the failure of the government can be well gauged from the fact that the unemployment graph in the state keeps on pushing upward with each passing day as the Central Govt despite multiple promises made in this regard failed to bring job oriented policies for youth of Jammu and Kashmir. As if all this wasn't enough that the Govt created congenial atmosphere for the Jammu and Kashmir to become a hub of recruitment scams thus plunging the future of the youth of J&K into darkness as a result of which the youth of J&K is engulfed in utter despair and pessimism. He said that these youth

are today much vulnerable to get lured towards drugs and other anti-social activities. Since Govt has also miserably failed to eradicate drug menace therefore it is wholly and solely responsible for spoiling the future of the youth in J&K, he added.

The senior NC leader stated that the youth do not have the option of getting jobs in industries as promised by the Govt at the Centre as no major industry has been established in J&K post abrogation of Art 370. He asked the Central Government to establish units in J&K under the Central Govt Undertakings so that local youth of J&K will get jobs in their native region.

The Provincial President appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah in the upcoming elections and said that the Party will ensure that the rights and privileges of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be safeguarded under the Constitution of India, if voted to power and also shall roll back anti people laws including property tax.

FROM PAGE 1

Dal lake cleaning on in double shifts for G20 meeting in Srinagar

up in double shifts. "We are working in double shifts. The labour force is cleaning the shorelines. The drive has been taken up under a mission mode, not just for the G20 event, but for the forthcoming tourist season as well. We will keep the lake clean and I am hopeful that our guests will be happy to see the lake," he said.

The vice chairman, LCMA, said around 400-500 labourers were working every day to clean the lake.

"We have nine harvesters, 8-10 weed grabbers have also been deployed, they are working in double shifts. There is dredging going on near the shorelines as well," he added.

Bhat said many aerators were used, adding that lighting systems have also been installed to give the lake a special look for the G20 event.

Apart from the cleaning process, a thick layer of security has been thrown around the lake to secure the meeting venue, and Marine and NSG commandos will also be deployed as an extra security measure.

At a security review meeting here last week, Additional Director General of Police

(ADGP) Kashmir zone Vijay Kumar emphasised the importance of river and lake domination in ensuring the security of the G20 summit, a police handout said.

Kumar also emphasised the need for the Marine Commandos (MARCOS) to be deployed to provide a strong security cover for the water bodies around the summit venues, it added.

"The ADGP Kashmir shared with all stakeholders that NSG teams will be used for counter fidayeen attack along with SOG and specialise NSG teams to counter drones will be deployed at all venues," the police said.

10th, 12th results likely within month

soft zones. We will try our level best to declare the results this month," the director said.

Ladakh Police issues advisory closes Kharidunga Pass Changa top

Room Leh and Traffic Police Leh as under:-

1. Police Control Room Leh 600628084, 01982258880
2. Traffic Control Unit* 8082863919

Kashmiri Journalist shines, Wins prestigious Fetisov Award

The Fetisov Journalism Awards have four categories in total, and each winner in the three categories shares a cash prize of 130,000 Swiss francs (Rs 11, 94,371).

Nabi's award-winning reporting brings attention to an often-overlooked issue and highlights the struggles faced by "half-widows" in Kashmir, whose stories are often ignored.

Two missionary schools facing music for fee hike

has called the increase arbitrary and fears that the school will continue to raise fees annually if they don't protest. The school has also charged additional Rs 3000 for summer camp, which was previously included in the annual fee.

Attempts to contact school authorities for comment have been unsuccessful.

Reports suggest that other private schools, even those with lower student enrolment and fewer facilities, have also increased their fees.

Case not registered in

Vijaypur police station even after complaining: Amit Kapoor

officials have failed to take action against the private schools. This clearly shows that these officers have a nexus with private schools. He warned the management of Shaffran Nightingale Public School Rajindra Pura that if it did not act against the teacher who beat up the child, he would protest strongly against it.

At the same time, he also demanded the Lieutenant Governor to take strict action against those who indulged in looting in private schools and committed excesses with children. At the same time, the parents of the child Ravi Kumar Mangotra were also present. He also explained the incident in detail.

J&K weather likely to remains dry after days of rains, snowfall Dips temp

and moderate rains lashed plains of Kashmir valley triggering wintry conditions. Srinagar received 6.4mm of rainfall,

Qazigund 7.2mm, Pahalgam 25.3mm, Kupwara 8.2mm, Kokernag 19.8mm, Gulmarg 15.0mm and Kupwara 6.3mm during the past 24 hours till 0830hours today.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 6.3 degree Celsius against 6.7 degree Celsius which was 4.4 degree Celsius below normal.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national highway had a low 5.8 degree Celsius against 4.8 degree Celsius and it was 3.4 degree Celsius below normal for the gateway of Kashmir.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a low of 1.8 degree Celsius against 2.6 degree Celsius which was 3.7 degree Celsius below normal for the famous tourist hot spot.

Kokernag recorded a low of 4.0 degree Celsius against 2.2 degree Celsius and it was 5.2 degree Celsius below normal for the famous picnic hotspot of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg had a low of minus 0.5 degree Celsius against minus 0.4 degree Celsius and it was 5.7 degree Celsius below normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir.

Kupwara recorded a low of 4.7 degree Celsius against 5.2 degree Celsius which was 4.6degree Celsius below normal for the frontier Kashmir district on Tuesday, the Met office said.

Markets climb in early trade on continuous foreign fund inflow

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbs 173.65 points to 61,937.90 in early trade

MUMBAI, May 9 (Agencies): Benchmark indices extended their winning run on Tuesday morning helped by continuous buying from foreign institutional investors and on signs that recession fears in the US are easing.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 173.65 points to 61,937.90 in early trade.

The NSE Nifty advanced 54.35 points to 18,318.75.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Titan, UltraTech Cement, Larsen &



Toubr, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank and HDFC were the major gainers.

State Bank of India, HCL Technologies, ITC and Reliance Industries were the major laggards.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Shanghai were trading in the green, while Seoul and

Hong Kong quoted lower.

The US markets had ended on a mixed note on Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors were net buyers on Monday as they bought equities worth Rs 2,123.76 crore, according to exchange data.

Govt bans apple imports if its price is less than Rs 50 per kg



NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): The government on Monday banned the import of apples if its imported price is less than Rs 50 per Kg.

The directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification that the imports are free if the price is

above Rs 50 per kg. "Import of apples...is prohibited wherever the CIF (cost, insurance, freight) import price is less than equal to Rs 50 per Kg," DGFT said in the notification.

The minimum import price condition shall not be applicable for imports from Bhutan, it added.

In 2023, India imported apples worth USD 296 million against USD 385.1 million in 2022.

The main countries which export apples to India include the US, Iran, Brazil, UAE, Afghanistan, France, Belgium, Chile, Italy, Turkey, New Zealand, South Africa and Poland. Imports from South Africa rose 84.8 per cent to USD 18.53 million during April-February 2022-23.

Similarly from Poland, the inbound shipments of apple increased by 83.36 per cent to USD 15.39 million. However, imports declined from countries like the US, UAE, France and Afghanistan.

Fitch affirms India's sovereign rating on robust growth outlook

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Fitch Ratings on Tuesday affirmed India's sovereign rating with a stable outlook saying the country has a robust growth outlook and resilient external finances.

"Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a Stable Outlook," it said in a statement, adding strong growth potential is a key supporting factor for the sovereign rating.

"India's rating reflects strengths from a robust growth outlook compared with peers and resilient external finances,



which have supported India in navigating the large external shocks over the past year," Fitch Ratings said.

However, these are offset by India's weak public finances, illustrated by high deficits and

debt relative to peers, as well as lagging structural indicators, including World Bank governance indicators and GDP per capita, it added.

The agency has kept India's credit rating unchanged

at 'BBB-' -- the lowest investment grade rating -- since August 2006.

Fitch Ratings forecast India to be one of the fastest-growing rated sovereigns globally at 6 per cent in the current fiscal year ending March 2024 supported by resilient investment prospects.

"Still, headwinds from elevated inflation, high interest rates and subdued global demand, along with fading pandemic-induced pent-up demand, will slow growth from our FY23 estimate of 7 per cent before rebounding to 6.7 per cent by FY25," the global rating agency said.

Stop sale of tickets, DGCA tells Go First

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Aviation regulator DGCA directed crisis-hit Go First to immediately stop bookings and sale of tickets directly till further orders. Besides, the watchdog has issued a show-cause notice to the budget carrier under the relevant provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, for its failure to continue the operation of the service in a safe, efficient and reliable manner.

Earlier, the airline had suspended the sale of tickets till May 15 and has cancelled flights till



May 12.

The carrier has filed a plea for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which has reserved its order. The airline has been

asked to submit its reply within 15 days of the receipt of the show cause notice, and further, a decision on the continuation of its Air Operators Certificate (AOC) will be taken on the basis of the reply

submitted by it.

Meanwhile, the DGCA website on Monday uploaded 13 more requests from lessors for deregistration of aircraft leased to the Wadia Group-owned carrier.

This is in addition to the 20 requests uploaded by the DGCA on May 4 for deregistration of aircraft leased to Go First to pave the way for the repossession of the aircraft by the leasing companies.

Go First has a fleet of 54 aircraft. Return of 33 aircraft will be a severe blow to the company which has moved the

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for voluntary insolvency resolution.

While one of the requests for deregistration uploaded on the DGCA website today was from a Japanese company, the remaining 12 requests are from multiple companies based in Dublin, Ireland. The aircraft concerned are A320 manufactured by the Airbus.

The carrier has total liabilities of Rs 11,463 crore to creditors, including Rs 2,600 crore to aircraft lessors.

Adani Ports to pay \$130 million of debt early to boost investor confidence

BENGALURU, May 9 (Agencies): Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone APSE.NS, a group company of the beleaguered Adani Group, said on Tuesday that it would pay \$130 million of its debt early, after

nearly \$413 million worth of debt has been tendered for early payment.

Adani Ports had floated a tender of up to \$130 million of 3.375% 2024 maturity dollar-denominated bonds late last

month, as it seeks to boost investor confidence after the group's shares were pummeled earlier this year by a US short-seller's report.

Led by billionaire businessman Gautam Adani, the group's sev-

en-listed stocks have lost about \$114 billion in market value since a January 24 report by Hindenburg Research accused it of improper use of offshore tax havens and stock manipulation. The group denied all allegations.

Washing hands can aid infection control and prevention of diarrhoea: Expert

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! This came into realisation during the chaotic times of the pandemic when washing hands thoroughly was the most basic precaution asked by the government and healthcare authorities.

However, hygiene has always lagged behind in most countries of the world resulting in the WHO recognising WASH (Water, sanitation and hygiene) as a human right for all and including it in the Sustainable Development Goals tailored for the world.

In India, the state of WASH is gradually improving but still has a huge scope for improvement and increased awareness drive. During the period of 2010-2013, India recorded 7.5 per cent of deaths among all age groups because of diarrhoea, malaria and some tropical diseases while more than 1.32 crore cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were listed in the country in 2019. The data is enough to highlight how important it is to integrate hygiene practices like washing hands in our lives as effective preventive measures.

Hands are used in almost every activity we perform throughout the day. Washing them rigorously is the cornerstone of maintaining good hygiene. And hygiene has never harmed anyone! Knowingly or unknowingly we get in contact with a lot of germs and these are carriers of many infections along with troublesome conditions like diarrhoea.

To protect against a wide range of diseases like pneumonia, diarrhoea and more, washing hands is the most pocket-friendly method. We prepare, eat food, touch a public place, and touch and handle things that many people previously handled, treat wounds, care



for a sick person and do much more with our hands. Thanks to the pandemic, the significance of washing hands was spread broadly, but did we take it seriously? According to UNICEF, people, especially men, do not use hygiene facilities consistently. There is a dire need for impactful political support and behavioural change interventions to spread awareness for sizeable improvements in this direction.

Diarrhoea and washing hands

Germs like Salmonella, norovirus, and E. coli O157 are responsible for diarrhoea. These are also important sources of faeces from people or animals. They have the capacity to spread respiratory infections like hand-foot-mouth disease and adenovirus. The germs can easily get on the hands of people and spread when using the toilet or doing any other activity. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, handwashing education in the communities can help reduce diarrhoeal issues among people with weak immune systems by approximately 58 per cent. Around 1.8 million children under the age of five lose their lives every

year due to diarrheal diseases and pneumonia. These are the top reasons why kids end up in fatal situations around the world. What do facts say?

Research says that around 2.3 people lack hand washing facilities with soap and water at home. Such a lack of facilities is highly problematic for children. Half of the schools have a paucity of handwashing facilities with soap and water. This affects approximately 802 million school-going children. Also, there is a lack of hygiene facilities, especially soap and water to wash hands at places providing health care facilities. These places have a high chance of catching viral bacteria and other contaminations. If there is no proper hygiene maintained here, serious consequences and even fatal outcomes can happen.

Maintaining hand hygiene One should take responsibility for understanding the key timings and duration of washing hands. Awareness regarding hand hygiene in the home and community needs to be implemented to spread the message as much as possible. Health promotional materials along with the resources to wash

hands should be distributed in remote areas and educational institutions. Soap, sanitisers and other materials come under the resources. October 15 is Global Handwashing Day. There can be numerous activities and creative competitions like poster making etc in schools to highlight the importance of hand hygiene. As a responsible citizen, one can promote awareness via videos, creative campaigns, social media hashtags, podcasts and more to get the noble cause a direction.

Monitoring change by making services available and driving policies. The government and healthcare authorities can come together to develop handwashing policies, strategies and action plans. India is almost the leading country in terms of population at the moment. Hence, it is impossible to reach every nook and corner of the country to spread awareness. Thanks to digitalisation! Digitisation can reach everywhere throughout the world. Effective messages on government, as well as healthcare online platforms, can make a big difference. Making services accessible to the most vulnerable is the foundation of achieving this goal.

Failing to plan is planning to fail. A country with massive diversity needs strict measures to come out of the traditional beliefs, social stigma and financial issues in order to take action for healthy citizens. Children suffer more than anyone due to the lack of hygiene. Their bodies are not ready to deal with harsh conditions and vulnerability at a very young age makes it much more complicated for them to battle. Keeping them clean and encouraging hygiene habits in them is the first step to saving them from a wide range of diseases.

Taller nose in humans inherited from Neanderthals: Study



NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): A particular gene in humans leading to a taller nose from top to bottom was inherited from Neanderthals, a new research has found.

This may have been the product of natural selection as ancient humans adapted to colder climates after leaving Africa, researchers from the University College London (UCL), UK, said.

Having been passed down for thousands of generations, the researchers said in the study, they found that some DNA inherited from Neanderthals influenced the shape of our faces and that it could have been helpful to our ancestors.

In the last 15 years, since the Neanderthal genome has been sequenced, scientists have learnt that our ancestors apparently interbred with Neanderthals, leaving us with little bits of their DNA.

The scientists from UCL have published their international study

in the journal Communications Biology.

Comparing genetic information from the participants to photographs of their faces, specifically looking at distances between points on their faces, such as the tip of the nose or the edge of the lips, the researchers saw how different facial traits were associated with the presence of different genetic markers.

The study used data from more than 6,000 volunteers across Latin America, of mixed European, Native American and African ancestry, who are part of the UCL-led CANDELA study, which recruited from Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru.

The researchers newly identified 33 genome regions associated with face shape, 26 of which they were able to replicate in comparisons with data from other ethnicities using participants in east Asia, Europe, or Africa.

In one genome region in particular, called ATF3, the researchers found that many people

in their study with Native American ancestry, as well as others with east Asian ancestry from another cohort, had genetic material in this gene that was inherited from the Neanderthals, contributing to increased nasal height.

They also found that this gene region had signs of natural selection, suggesting that it conferred an advantage for those carrying the genetic material.

"It has long been speculated that the shape of our noses is determined by natural selection; as our noses can help us to regulate the temperature and humidity of the air we breathe in, different shaped noses may be better suited to different climates that our ancestors lived in. The gene we have identified here may have been inherited from Neanderthals to help humans adapt to colder climates as our ancestors moved out of Africa," said first author Dr Qing Li, Fudan University, China.

"Most genetic studies of human diversity have investigated the genes of Europeans; our study's diverse sample of Latin American participants broadens the reach of genetic study findings, helping us to better understand the genetics of all humans," said co-corresponding author Andres Ruiz-Linares, UCL.

The study involved researchers based in the UK, China, France, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Germany, and Brazil.

KKR vs PBKS: Kolkata Knight Riders win last ball thriller to move to No.5 in IPL 2023 points table

Rinku Singh hit a boundary off the final ball of a thrilling match as Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Punjab Kings by 5 wickets at the Eden Gardens. The victory was also set up by KKR skipper Nitish Rana and Andre Russell.

KOLKATA, May 9 (Agencies): Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Punjab Kings in a dramatic match to join the 10-point logjam in the 2023 IPL points table. KKR chased down 180 at the Eden Gardens on Monday to secure their second consecutive victory of the season and storm to fifth in the standings.

KKR captain Nitish Rana had set the tone for the win with 51 off 38 balls before Andre Russell smashed 42 off 21 balls. The onus was on Rinku Singh as KKR needed 2 runs off the final ball; he hit a boundary off Arshdeep Singh as KKR won a nailbiter.

Kolkata Knight Riders have now joined four other teams Rajasthan Royals, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings who have 10 points so far in the tournament. However, unlike RR, PBKS and KKR who have played 11 matches, RCB and MI have only played 10 so far.

Chasing 180, Kolkata Knight Riders got off to a quick start thanks mainly to Jason Roy. Arshdeep Singh was particularly expensive in his first spell, giving away 21 runs off 2 overs as Jason Roy decided to attack early on a pitch where run-scoring was difficult in the first innings. Roy's opening partner Rahmanullah Gurbaz was also settling into a nice rhythm before PBKS Impact Player Nathan Ellis deceived Gurbaz with a back-of-the-hand slower ball to trap him LBW.

Jason Roy continued to be aggressive as KKR skipper Nitish Rana joined him at the crease and hit Sam Curran for successive boundaries as the hosts finished the Powerplay with 52 for 1. PBKS skipper Shikhar Dhawan introduced spin in



the 7th over of the KKR innings but that did nothing to stop the Roy onslaught - he hit Liam Livingstone for two boundaries before Harpreet Brar struck to get the dangerous opener. That allowed PBKS to apply the brakes and Nitish Rana and Venkatesh Iyer were unable to break the shackles as KKR reached 76 for 2 at the halfway stage.

With the required rate shooting past 10-an-over, Nitish Rana saw an opportunity as Liam Livingstone came back for his second over - the KKR captain hit him for 4, 4 and 6 off the first three deliveries off the 11th over to put the chase back on track. He attack Sam Curran soon after but Venkatesh Iyer who struggled to accelerate, fell to Rahul Chahar. Andre Russell was sent up the order to join Rana in what had started to become a tense chase. With five overs left, KKR needed 58 runs.

The big blow for KKR came in the 16th over; Nitish Rana got to his fifty with two off Rahul Chahar before attempting a reverse shot and holding out to Livinstone in the deep. KKR had the two best hitters in the team - Russell and Rinku Singh in the middle - as PBKS looked to build more pressure in a tight

chase. KKR needed 51 runs off 24 balls after Rahul Chahar bowled out his quota. And the pacers were unable to stop the Russell-Rinku combination as the pair dealt in boundaries and sixes to steer the Knight Riders to victory in the last over. It was anything but a comfortable win. With 6 needed off the final over, Arshdeep ran Russell out before Rinku hit a boundary off the final delivery to seal victory.

Punjab Kings had scored 200 plus totals in their four previous matches this season but their batters faltered against Kolkata Knight Riders after Shikhar Dhawan won the toss and decided to bat. PBKS had mixed results in those four matches before the game against KKR on Monday, having lost two and won two. Starting late last month, PBKS had defended 214 against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium, responded with 201 to Lucknow Super Giants' 257, chased down 201 against Chennai Super Kings and then failed to defend an identical 214 against MI, this time in Mohali.

The conditions were definitely more challenging at the Eden Gardens. Barring Shikhar Dhawan, the PBKS batters were found wanting. Harshit Rana

struck twice in his first two overs to dismiss Prabhsimran Singh for 12 and Bhanuka Rajapaksa who replaced Mathew Short for a duck. Liam Livingstone came out and batted the way PBKS have done for the last fortnight but his enthusiastic start was cut short by Varun Chakravarthy who was once again the star performer for the Knight Riders. Varun Chakravarthy picked two more wickets to dismiss Jitesh Sharma and Rishi Dhawan and finished with figures of 3 for 26 off his 4 overs.

Jitesh Sharma has been key to PBKS's success this season but over the last four matches but like most of the others, he too failed to find a measure of the pitch and largely struggled during an 18-ball 21.

Punjab Kings were outplayed by KKR's spinners. Sunil Narine did not pick any wicket but he gave away only 29 runs off his 4 overs while Suyash Sharma snared the dangerous Sam Curran when PBKS looked to accelerate. Nitish Rana bowled just one over but he dismissed Shikhar Dhawan who was looking to up the ante after reaching his half-century.

This was the third fifty for Shikhar Dhawan in the 2023. He is now only the third batter after Virat Kohli and David Warner with 50 half-centuries in the Indian Premier League.

Punjab Kings who were 143 for 7 at the end of 18 overs, scored 36 off the last 12 balls to eventually finish with 179/7. Shahrukh Khan and Harpreet Brar played some stunning shots against the inexperienced Vaibhav Arora and Harshit Rana to give PBKS a strong total to bowl with as they sought an important victory to get out of the 10-point logjam in the middle of the points table.

Grappling with the drama

Ongoing wrestlers' protest raises concern over holding of national competitions



NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): A lot of wrestlers are in a quandary about the conduct of the sport ever since Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik sat on a dharna for the second time in three months demanding action against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has already held the U-17 and senior Nationals in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, and this was when the Sports Ministry had not cleared the body of any wrongdoing.

To add to the woes of the wrestlers, the WFI issued a circular dated May 2 to announce the U-20 and U-15 Nationals in Pune. Curiously, the announcement came just two days before the ad hoc body formed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) took charge of the WFI. The two-member body comprises Wushu Association of India president Bhupender Singh Bajwa and former rifle shooter and coach Sumea Shirur.

Moreover, the wrestlers are worried whether the certificates will be valid since the circular

was issued by the WFI. The ad hoc body had a meeting with the coaches and former wrestlers today, discussing issues including the running of the national competitions. However, a formal decision about the conduct of the Pune Nationals is expected.

"We have formally taken over and we had a discussion with the stakeholders. I will be able to give a final answer on Tuesday only," Bajwa told The Tribune.

When asked about the status of the Pune meet, Bajwa said that this will be discussed as well.

There are two state championships to be held this month as well. The Delhi state championships are to be held on May 11-13 at the Chhatrasal Stadium and Haryana state championships are scheduled to be held in Hisar from May 20. The ad hoc body will not take any action to conduct these two tournaments.

The wrestlers question the motive of the latest circular as they suspect this was another message from the WFI to the wrestlers that it is still in

control. "This is how they control the sport. How can they issue a circular to hold the Nationals when we were told that the ad hoc body will run the sport in the country," said a coach who did not wish to be named.

"The Maharashtra body is close to Brij Bhushan. How is this fair on us? The young wrestlers cannot miss the tournament as it is the Nationals but then we do not know whether it will be valid as the ad hoc body has taken over," he added.

Another coach said that the fear of getting targeted was another reason for a lot of the wrestlers to stay away from the protest site.

"The Haryana body has banned Ajay Dhandra of the Mirchpur academy. Three senior persons have been axed from the WFI technical committee. So they are obviously targeting people who are coming to join the protest. We have asked why others are not joining and this is the reason why they are not here," another coach said.

Asian Cricket Council moves Asia Cup out of Pakistan

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): In a huge setback to Pakistan, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) decided to move the Asia Cup out of the country after the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) proposal to host the tournament on a 'hybrid model' was rejected by the member nations.

Sri Lanka has emerged as a front-runner to host the six-nation tournament as extremely humid conditions in the UAE in the month of September



could lead to injuries to players.

It will be interesting to see if Pakistan, after this snub, competes in the tournament, scheduled to be held on September 2-17. Also, whether Pakistan decides against coming to India for the

World Cup remains to be seen.

The PCB was forced to propose an alternative after the BCCI refused to send the Indian team to the neighbouring nation due to diplomatic tension between the two countries.

Ishan Kishan replaces injured Rahul for World Test Championship final vs Australia

MUMBAI, May 9 (Agencies): The BCCI has named wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan as replacement for the injured KL Rahul for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia.

Rahul, the Lucknow Super Giants' skipper, had been ruled out of the IPL and the WTC final against Australia after he picked up the injury while fielding in the match against Royal Challengers Bangalore. The WTC final will take



place from June 7 to 11 at The Oval in London.

BCCI also said in a statement that a decision on the WTC final participation of left-arm

pacer Jaydev Unadkat, who suffered a shoulder injury while practising for LSG will be taken at a later stage.

"The All-India Senior

Selection Committee has named Ishan Kishan as KL Rahul's replacement (for the WTC final)," said a statement from BCCI secretary Jay Shah. "KL Rahul suffered an injury to his right upper thigh while fielding during Match 43rd of TATA IPL 2023 between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bangalore on 1st May."

Shah said Rahul will undergo surgery "at the earliest", which will be followed by a "rehab

at the National Cricket Academy for the same".

Squad
Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, KS Bharat, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, Ishan Kishan.

Stand-by players: Rituraj Gaikwad, Mukesh Kumar, Suryakumar Yadav.

"Mental Block": Virender Sehwag On Rohit Sharma's Poor Form In IPL 2023

Rohit Sharma has been struggling for runs this IPL season, having scored just 184 runs at 18.39 and a strike rate of 126.89.

MUMBAI, May 9 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma is suffering from a "mental block" and there is no technical problem with his batting, said former India opener Virender Sehwag. Rohit has been struggling for runs this IPL season, having scored just 184 runs at 18.39 and a strike rate of 126.89. In the last two games, he couldn't open his account. In fact, Rohit got his 16th duck, the most in IPL history, during the last match against Chennai Super Kings.

"Rohit Sharma is not battling with the bowlers but with himself. There is a mental block," Sehwag said on Star Sports' Cricket Live.



"There's no problem with his batting technique. Some confusion is going on in his mind. But the day he gets going, we will make up for all the previous matches." Five-time champions MI are languishing at the seventh spot with 10 points following five losses and as many wins. They suffered a six-wicket loss to

CSK in their last match after a poor start saw them managing just 139 for eight, a target overhauled by their opponents in 17.4 overs.

Opening the innings, Cameron Green and Ishan Kishan scored just 6 and 7 respectively and former Australia batter Aaron Finch said the Mumbai openers look confused and

they should learn from the way CSK's Rituraj Gaikwad goes about his business.

"MI's opening combination looks confused they are taking a lot of risk. They were looking to hit all the balls. They should learn from Rituraj Gaikwad, he remains so calm in the middle and hits the loose balls," Finch said.

As Rohit struggles, Virat Kohli is having a stellar run with the bat, having amassed 419 runs so far in the IPL, though his strike rate has been questioned at times.

Hailing his consistent run over the years, former South African spinner Imran Tahir said, "Virat Kohli has always had the urge to score runs."

"You can score maximum runs in one season, two or three seasons, but if you are successful in doing this for 15 consecutive seasons, then it can be attributed to the result of your hard work and dedication."

"What Virat has done in the last 15 years is really commendable."

KKR captain Nitish Rana fined Rs 12 lakh for maintaining slow over-rate

As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's code of conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Rana was fined Rs 12 lakh, the league says in a statement



KOLKATA, May 9 (Agencies): Kolkata Knight Riders captain Nitish Rana has been fined Rs 12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their Indian Premier League match against Punjab Kings at the Eden Gardens.

As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's code of conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Rana was fined Rs 12 lakh, the league said in a statement.

On Monday night, Rinku Singh added to

his reputation of being an expert finisher with a last-ball boundary as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Punjab Kings by five wickets to keep their IPL play-off hopes alive. Skipper Rana's half-century and Andre Russell's exploits were followed by Rinku's 10-ball 21 not out, as KKR managed to complete a chase of 180 at their home ground.

Varun Chakravarthy spearheaded their bowling department to grab 3 for 26 as KKR put up a tidy bowling show to restrict PBKS to a below-par 179 for seven after the visitors opted to bat on a slow wicket.

Shiv Sainiks vow to raise voice for rights of Hindus, local people of J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

MUMBAI, May 9: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray) Jammu and Kashmir unit leaders led by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena J&K unit today met senior functionaries of the Party at Shiv Sena Bhawan in Mumbai, ahead of upcoming All Party meeting to be held in Kashmir. Sahni took guidance of Party's senior functionaries on several serious issues of Jammu division like unemployment, formation of Minority Commission and rising terrorism. Sahni said that he has met Party's National Secretary and MP Anil Desai, Maharashtra's



former Industries Minister and MP Subhash Desai and MP Arvind Sawant and took guidance regarding the current situation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahni said that along with the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, the rights of the local people, increasing unemploy-

ment and the benefits of the welfare schemes of the Centre to people of all minority communities including Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir and the formation of the Commission instructions have been given.

Besides, Party's strategy was also considered on the possible visit of top leaders of opposi-

tion parties to Jammu and Kashmir after the G-20 meeting to be held in Kashmir on May 23. Sahni said that the leaders have instructed him to go among the people at grassroots level in Jammu and Kashmir to raise his voice on public issues and gear up to participate in all the upcoming elections.

JK Montessori School celebrates validation ceremony

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 9: JK Montessori School (JKMS) held validation-cum-Geeta Dixit Memorial Scholarship ceremony in the school auditorium today.

This was an important occasion in the academic calendar of JKMS since it celebrated the successful achievement of the meritorious students of 8th and 10th Board Results.

I.D. Soni, Ex Commissioner, Bharat Scouts and Guides, a renowned Social Worker and an eminent Educationist graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Neelam Nargotra, Corporator, Ward No. 40 and Dr. Vinod Sharma, Health Officer, Municipal Corporation Jammu presided over the function as the Guests of Honor.

To bless and encourage the students, Chairman of the school Sanjeev Gupta, Director Rajni Gupta, Operations Head Apurv Gupta, Ashok Dixit, Ujjwal Gupta renowned Fencing Coach, Neeru Puri, Principal S.D Tara Puri, Usha Jammwal Principal BHMP School, Anku Charak Vice-Principal Humanity Public School, Navjot Kour Principal Shemrock Pre-School, Madhu Kapoor, Principal Smart Kids graced the occasion with their presence. Parents of the students were also present at the occasion.

The programme commenced with the solemn tradition of lighting the lamp to evoke the blessings of the Goddess Saraswati. Aarti Gupta, Vice-Principal JKMS, in her welcome note extended a warm welcome to the galaxy of dignitaries who graced the occasion as Guests of Honor. The audience was also treated to a delightful short series of Classical dance, Yoga and musical performances by the students. The audience was enthralled by the energy and melody of the items. Amidst heavy applause the ceremony was inherently a spectacular show. The Chief Guest announced Geeta Dixit Memorial Scholarship for the meritorious students. Aradhya Anand (6th Position) received Scholarship of Rs 11000; Harnoor Kour (9th Position) received scholarship of Rs 6000; Adityaveer Singh (10th Position) received Scholarship of Rs 3000. Nitish Pal Singh (10th Position) received Scholarship of Rs 3000; Sandhya (98.6%) received Scholarship of Rs 11000; Aakash Mahajan (98%) received Scholarship of Rs 6000; Tanvi Raina (97.6%) received Scholarship of Rs 3000; Vanya Gupta (Class- RTF- I) received Scholarship of Rs 5100; Manvi Sharma (Class - 4th) received Scholarship of Rs 5100. The Chief Guest, I.D. Soni, emphasized on the importance of discipline in the life of the students and advised them to grow up to become good human beings. The Guest of Honor, Dr. Vinod Sharma said it is important to keep our body fit. He suggested small steps which the students can follow to prevent spreading of diseases. He said the need of the hour, is to discipline ourselves so that we can help the society in bringing the balance in the changing environment. Neelam Nargotra, the Guest of Honor, also congratulated the



high Academic Achievers and highlighted the devoted work done by the teachers in excellent academic standards in the school. She congratulated the Management for launching Scholarship for the benefit of students.

Rolling Trophy, for the competitions held under YTS Forum, was launched today in the name of Mrs. Geeta Dixit by the School Management, sponsored by Dixit family. It will be a tribute to her selfless service towards the institution during her lifetime. This Year's Rolling Trophy, was awarded to Humanity Public School for securing maximum number of prizes in the YTS Competitions.

The programme, was anchored by two super hosts Suhana Rajput and Satyam Bhat from the Secondary Wing, who took the audience through the event flawlessly. The grand spectacle came to a close with the singing of National Anthem.

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Neelam Nargotra, the Guest of Honor, also congratulated the

Govt. Post Graduate College Rajouri organizes grievance redressal camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, May 9: Women Development Cell in collaboration with NCC Unit (SW) of Govt. Post Graduate College Rajouri organized a Grievance Redressal camp on Tuesday under the patronage of the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Shamim A Azad.

The camp was organized to interact with the girl students of the college and redress their grievances. The camp was attended by colossal number of students with enthusiasm wherein the students put forth their grievances and presented various suggestions for making the campus more dignified and more congenial for the girl students.

Prof. Salma Farooq, Coordinator, women Development Cell and

NCC Officer (Girls' Wing) briefed the audience about the significance of organizing the camp for developing self-confidence among the students and for asserting the importance of economic, social, racial and gender equality among the students. NCC cadets played a spectacular role in motivating the girl students to stand up for themselves to feel empowered in today's contemporary world full of challenges.

Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Shamim A Azad, interacted with the students and emphasized for the need of organizing such camps for making the institution a safe place with friendly environment for the students. He further stressed on maintaining health and hygiene among the students and the role of Women Development Cell in

accomplishing the same. He further promised to consider the suggestions put forth by the students and also assured that their grievances will be redressed at the earliest in the interest of the students and the college.

The event was attended by the members of Women Development Cell Prof. Supriya Gupta, Prof. Rabia Kouser, Prof. Asia Rashid, Prof. Fatima Parveen, and other prominent faculty members of the college including Dr Shameem Akhter, HOD, Zoology and Prof. Mohd Saleem Wani, Assistant professor, English.

Prof. Supriya presented the formal vote of thanks.

The camp concluded with the rally by NCC cadets with theme Empowering Women and Gender Neutrality.

Inter School Zonal Level Tournament gets underway in Block Bhoond

TOP NEWS REPORT

BASOHLI, May 9: The Inter School Zonal Level Tournament for U/14 and u/17 boys organised by Department of Youth Services & Sports in the disciplines of Badminton, Carrom, Skipping Rope, Chess, Football. Almost 118 students participated in different games.

The main motive of the tournament was to select the best talent in each discipline for their further participation in Inter zonal District level Tournaments.

The final result of Bad-

minton match u/17 H.S Daraman won by 2-0 set. Badminton U/14 won by HS Bikhher. Carrom U/17 by HS Sialag and U/14 won the match Subash Memorial School. Chess U/14 was won by MS Sandhar. The matches were officiated by Ritu Kapoor convener PEM, Guljinder Singh REK, Sushant Mishra REK, Naved Ahmed REK, Om Parkash REK, Bhubnesh war Singh Billowria, Lata Verma, besides others Staffs of Youth Services and Sports Department and Staffs of Schools.

ABKMT celebrates Birth Anniversary of Maharana Pratap

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 9: Akhil Bhartiya Kshatriya Mahasabha Trust (ABKMT) on Tuesday celebrated the Birth Anniversary of Maharana Pratap with traditional fervour, paying tribute to the great Rajput Ruler.

Rishipal Singh Parmar (National President ABKMT), Amit Manhas (National General Secretary ABKMT) & Mreegank Manhas (Aadil Manhas) (President Jammu & Kashmir ABKMT) talked about the significance of the

Rajputana history and said that the legendary Maharana Pratap was a true patriot who initiated the first war of independence.

Manhas along with Team members Shikha Manhas, Anirudh Manhas, Adish Jamwal, Shivam Jamwal, Romesh Kumar & other members stressed that the youth of the country needed to imbibe the spirit of the Mewar ruler, Rana Pratap's defiance of the mighty Mughal empire, almost alone and unaided by the other Rajput states, constitute a glorious

saga of Rajput valour and the spirit of self sacrifice for cherished principles. The Akhil Bhartiya Kshatriya Mahasabha celebrated the honor of social warriors by celebrating the Birth Anniversary.

On this occasion, Manhas requested the public to follow the path of our ideal great warrior, great brave warrior, Kshatriya Kulbhushan, immortal sacrifice, ardent patriot and self-respecting national pride, the brave son of Mother India, Maharana Pratap on his birth anniversary.

World Earth Day-2023 celebrations concludes at SKUAST-K

TOP NEWS REPORT

SOPORE, May 9: The fortnight long celebrations of World Earth Day-2023 under the theme "Invest in Our Planet" organized by Division of Agronomy, sponsored by Ministry of Earth Science, Govt. of India, concluded on Tuesday at Conference Hall of Faculty of Agriculture Wadura Campus, SKUAST-K.

At the outset, Prof. Raihana H. Kanth, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, enlightened the students with the importance of World Earth Day. She emphasized that on this day, let us reaffirm our com-



mitment towards creating a better planet for our future generations and work together to mitigate the menace of climate change.

The Chief Guest of this

programme Dr. Farida Khan, BDC Chairperson Sopore, called upon every human being on upholding the objectives of safeguarding and saving the Mother Earth

against the wanton destruction of the forest, animals and the pollution of water bodies, air, soil across the world which is resulting in climate change.

The series of events starting from 22nd April, 2023 were held during the celebration of Earth Day-2023 by organizing a plantation drive, cleanliness drive, elocution, singing, quiz, poetry, rangoli and painting competitions.

The winners of the competitions conducted during the event were felicitated by the Chief Guest & Dean with certificates and prizes. The programme was attended by heads of various divisions, faculty members, local people and more than 200 UG/PG students of the faculty & students & teachers of nearby schools.

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