

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, MAY 20, 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-137 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

2 Pakistani drones downed by BSF along International Border in Punjab

JALANDHAR, May 20 (Agencies): Two suspected Pakistani drones were shot down by the Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday night as the UAVs attempted to enter India crossing the International Border in Punjab, a spokesperson of the force said.

Both incidents were reported from the forward areas of the Amritsar district.

The first drone, a black quadcopter of "DJI Matrice 300 RTK" make, was recovered from Udhari Dharival village in Amritsar district, the BSF spokesperson said on Saturday.

BSF troops intercepted this unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) by firing around 9 pm on Friday, he said.

The second drone, a quadcopter of the same "DJI Matrice RTK 300" make, was recovered from Rattan Khurd village in the same district after troops fired at it around 9:30 pm, the spokesperson said.

In the second case, two packets attached to the drone containing 2.6 kg of suspected heroin were also recovered, he added.

Pakistani intruder shot dead along LoC in Poonch

JAMMU, May 20 (Agencies): A Pakistani intruder was shot dead along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on May 20, officials said.

The infiltrator was challenged by the troops guarding the Balakote sector in Mendhar sub division when he was trying to sneak into this side from across the border, the officials said.

They said the intruder paid no heed to the repeated warnings and tried to flee back when troops opened fire, resulting in his death.

The whole area has been cordoned off and further details are awaited, the officials said.

MeT forecasts widespread rains from May 23-25 in J&K

SRINAGAR, May 20 (Agencies): Amid forecast for mainly dry weather for now and widespread rains from May 23, night temperature recorded a rise but hovered below normal in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, that

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LG dedicates Jhelum Rajbagh Riverfront to public

G20 meeting will boost tourism, investment flow in UT: Sinha



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 20: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated the Jhelum Rajbagh Riverfront and dedicated the project to the public.

"Srinagar Smart City

has transformed the Rajbagh Riverfront stretch into a world-class public space and strengthened the river-people connect. It is also a strong indicator of the rapid growth of J&K," said the Lt Governor.

At the inauguration

event, the Lt Governor congratulated the people for the majestic waterfront.

"Jhelum Rajbagh riverfront is a model of urban excellence and it will enhance the quality of life of the citizens, con-

tribute to socio-economic growth and provide much needed support in developing cultural & business infrastructure," the Lt Governor said.

We are developing smart infrastructure that will preserve the cultural heritage and also unlock the huge untapped potential of the river, he added.

Interacting with the media persons, the Lt Governor lauded the efforts of Srinagar Smart City Limited for developing the 6 km-long stretch of the Rajbagh Riverfront into a world class public space with facilities like walkways, cycling, green space, free wifi, universal access and numerous

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China calls J&K "Disputed Territory," opposes holding G20 meeting in region

BEIJING [China], May 20 (Agencies): China on Friday said that it will not attend the next week's G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that it is "firmly" opposed to holding any such meetings in the "disputed territory."

Under India's presidency, the third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir from May 22-24.

"China firmly opposes holding any form of G20 meetings on disputed territory. We will not attend such meetings,"



Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in a regular press conference when asked about several reports doing the rounds that China will boycott G20 meetings planned in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Incidentally, China is a close ally of Pakistan and relations between India and Pakistan have

been precarious for many years with regard to cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

The tourism industry has played a crucial role in the development of the Union Territory. However, years of instability have impacted the tourism industry, leading to a decline in the number of visitors.

Tourism players in Kashmir believe that the G20 meeting can attract investors and tourists from across the globe.

India assumed the presidency of the G20 grouping on December 1, 2022, and will hold the

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Kot Bhalwal holding over 10 Pc more prisoners than normal capacity

JAMMU, May 20 (Agencies): With as many as 999 inmates lodged in, the high-security Kot Bhalwal jail here is currently overcrowded as it is holding over 10 per cent more prisoners than its normal capacity, an official said on Saturday.

The information was given by the jail superintendent to the high court judge and executive chairman, J&K legal services authority, Justice Tashi Rabstan during an inspection of the premises, the official said.

The official said a six-member team led by Justice Ranbstan visited the Central Jail on Friday and inquired about undertrial prisoners and the number of convicts serving their sentences.

The team was informed that against a total capacity of 903 persons, currently 999 inmates are lodged in the jail. They were also intimated about the shortfall in the sanctioned strength of the staff.

"There are 579 undertrials, 353 detainees and 67 convicts in the jail. Among these, 17 are foreign nationals but no female inmate was lodged in the jail," the official said.

Highlighting the lack of certain healthcare facilities due to a shortage of staff and equipment, the officials said the jail authorities



had to shift the ailing inmates to government hospitals for dental and eye treatment.

The medical officer informed Justice Tashi that out of the four sanctioned posts, three medical officers are available round the clock, whereas, one post was lying vacant.

She also informed that an X-Ray technician is posted in the jail, whereas, no X-Ray

machine was installed, the official said.

She said the dental setup was established but no dental surgeon is posted and there is no facility for eye checkups as well. So the jail inmates are referred to a dental hospital and government medical college for dental and eye treatment.

The official said

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J&K Govt orders transfers and postings of seven officers

JAMMU, May 20 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Administration on Saturday ordered transfer of seven officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

According to an order, Neha Bakshi, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary to the Government, Information Technology Department, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government, School Education Department.

Tahira Tabassum, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department, is transferred and her services are placed at the disposal of Social Welfare Department.

Meenakshi Jasrotia,

Jr Scale JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is transferred and her services are placed at the disposal of Cooperatives Department.

Huma Khan, Jr Scale JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is transferred and her services are placed at the disposal of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.

Tajamul Yousuf, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary, is transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.

Mohammad Arif Lone, Jr. Scale JKAS,

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CS launches various IT initiatives for integration of services with Digi Locker & Umang App



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 20: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Saturday launched the integration of different services offered by Government Departments with online platform Umang and DigiLocker.

Those who were present at this launch event includes Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, IT;

Secretary Health and many other concerned officers and officials.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary recalled that over the past 2 years the UT has made big strides towards digital transformation and has launched 'Digital Jammu & Kashmir' programme in mission mode aiming at empowering its citizens by providing quality service delivery to them that also at the comforts

of their homes.

Dr Mehta reiterated the Government commitment to 'Zero Tolerance to Corruption' and provision of all G2C services at the doorstep without need for visiting Government offices. He underscored the need to facilitate accessibility of services at a single place.

Dr Mehta called these initiatives true empowerment of general public

as these would give them unhindered and round the clock access to services from any part of the globe. He advised the Department to carry on the momentum so that all the services are integrated with these platforms for the ease of general public. He also insisted on integration of all services with RAS and Auto-appeal for quality and timely delivery to public.

Dr Mehta remarked that as far as carrying government offices in the pockets UMANG is envisaged to act as a master application, which integrates major government services from various sectors on Mobile Platform thereby transforming these devices into portable

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NIA conducts searches at 15 locations in terror related cases in J&K



SRINAGAR, May 20 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at 15 areas in seven regions of Jammu and Kashmir. In connection with the two cases filed by the NIA in 2021 and 2022, these locations in the Srinagar, Pulwama, Avantipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Poonch, and

Kupwara districts of Jammu and Kashmir are the focus of the current searches.

The Delhi branch of the NIA filed one of the two cases in 2021, and the Jammu branch of the NIA filed the other in 2022.

These searches are being directed in close coordination with Central Reserve Police

Force and Jammu and Kashmir Police since early Saturday morning.

"Searches are underway in over 15 locations in RC 3/21/NIA/DLI & RC 5/22/NIA/JMU in seven districts of Srinagar, Pulwama, Avantipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Poonch, and Kupwara," said sources privy to the development.

In a case involving a criminal conspiracy to carry out terrorist and subversive activities, the NIA conducted searches at 13 locations in five districts of Jammu and Kashmir almost five days earlier. The cadres and Overground Workers (OWGs) of various

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Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu organises Gyanotsava-festival of languages

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 20: Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu always keeps ahead for innovations in education system. This time, the school stepped for conducting first of its kind event, GYANOTSAVA- festival of languages. It was an inter-school competition for promotion of languages like Dogri, Punjabi, Urdu, French and Sanskrit. The students from various schools participated in the event with great zeal.

The grand occasion commenced with a warm and gracious welcome extended to all the judges, Participants and escorting teachers from 19 schools.

Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik, Veena Gupta, Jagjit Singh, Dr. Vijender Kumar and Deepti Gupta graced the occasion as judges for the competition. Sanchita Pradhan and Arnab Khajuria (founder Shilpkari Bazaar Jammu) also graced the event as special guests for working hard to promote regional craft. The participants were greeted with utmost enthusiasm, setting the tone for a memorable event. As our commitment to environmental sustainability,

The Programme started with traditional lighting of the lamp ceremony that signifies the enlightenment of knowledge and the pursuit of excellence. It was witnessed by Rohini Aima (Principal cum Vice-Chairperson) and members of management & all area heads signifying

The ambiance was further enhanced as the students showcased their musical talents by rendering a captivating rendition of the melo-



ous Saraswati Vandana, filling the atmosphere with harmonious vibrations. The students' performances truly stole the show, as they displayed their linguistic flair and cultural richness through various presentations. The audience was enthralled by the Punjabi 'Boliyaan', which exuded the vibrancy and richness of the Punjabi culture. The Urdu 'Majhiya Shayari' added a touch of elegance and poetic beauty to the event, leaving everyone spellbound. The Principal cum Vice-Chairperson, Rohini Aima, graced the stage with her warm welcome address, acknowledging the participants' efforts and emphasizing the importance of being multilingual in today's globalized world. Her words inspired the students and highlighted the dedication of school for fostering a holistic educational environment. It is pertinent to mention that our school is the only school for introducing third-language learning from class 1 onwards. With the commencement of the competition, the air buzzed with excitement as students from different schools showcased their linguistic skills in their respective 3rd languages under varied

category. The event was an expression of the dedication and hard work put forth by the participants and their teachers, who tirelessly guided them in their language learning journeys. The valedictory function witnessed breathtaking performances. A mesmerizing Dogri role play captivated the spectators, showcasing the expressive and cultural depth of the language. The French dance performance embodied the spirit of international communications through languages. The event reached its pinnacle as the results were announced, recognizing the exceptional talents and efforts of the participants. The esteemed judges were felicitated for their valuable contributions and expert judgment. The prize distribution ceremony added to the jubilation, as the deserving students were honoured for their outstanding performances. After careful consideration and evaluation by the judges, the following participants emerged victorious.

In Urdu Nazam, Shrya Dubey from Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu bagged first prize while Mannat from Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua and Darin Jamshed from

Heritage Public School bagged second and third prizes respectively. Mohd. Rokid from Shemford Futuristic School and Sayed Shian from IDPS Jammu bagged consolation prizes.

In Sanskrit Gaan, Anika Janswal from IDRS bagged first prize while Utkarsh from APS Kaluchak and Amogh Pangotra from Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu bagged second and third prizes respectively.

Aarna Verma from APS Nagrota and Khwaish Sudan APS Miran Sahib bagged Consolation prizes.

In Dogri Lok Geet; Vaishnavi Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua bagged first prize while Monalika Sharma from APS Kaluchak and Shruti Baboria from Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu bagged second and third prizes respectively.

Siya from Doon International Public School and Gyaneesh from Kartar Public School bagged consolation prizes.

In Punjabi Gurbani Shabad; Kartar Public School bagged first prize while IDPS and Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua bagged second third prizes respectively.

IDRS and Doon International School bagged consolation prizes.

In French Poem Recitation, Aarna Gaur from Heritage School bagged first prize while Sanidhi from Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu and Elina Choudhary from APS Kaluchak bagged second and third prizes respectively.

Nishika Choudhary IDRS and Ridhima from Shemford Futuristic School prizes respectively.

A heartfelt vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Geetika Sharma (H.O.D Languages) marked the conclusion of the event, expressing gratitude to all the participants for their enthusiastic participation in this Inter-school 3rd languages competition, GYANOTSAVA. Special thanks were extended to the judges for their valuable time. The Inter-school 3rd Languages Competition, GYANOTSAVA at Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu was truly an extraordinary platform for students to showcase their linguistic skills via cultural diversity. It was an opportunity for young minds to embrace the beauty of languages and celebrate the rich tapestry of our society.

Rare implantation of right sided CRT-D conducted at SMVD Narayana Hospital

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, May 20: Dr Nikhil Mahajan and his team performed successful implantation of right sided CRT-D in a young female. The patient was admitted to the hospital with reduced heart functioning and was having symptoms of heart failure including shortness of breath, and fatigue.

However, the decision for Right sided CRT-D implantation was taken since the patient had history of Carcinoma left breast and underwent radiotherapy in the past which had damaged her veins on left side.

Explaining about the procedure Dr. Nikhil Mahajan said, "Right sided CRT-D implan-



tation is a rare cardiac procedure as one catheter is available on the right side while multiple catheters are available for the left sided procedure. As this procedure is done less often, this need special expertise and skill."

The Facility Director M.M Mathawan while briefing about the world Class facilities at Narayana Hospital said

"the patient underwent successful right sided CRTD implantation".

He further added "SMVD Narayana Hospital with its World Class Infrastructure, Highly qualified Doctors and dedicated Paramedical Staff is well equipped to provide treatment for all ailments and people of Jammu now don't need to travel to Metro cities for treatment."

Rinku Kaith's mesmerizing voice takes him to forefront of Jammu Got Talent

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 20: Rinku Kailash Kaith is all about his madness for singing. This young man who hails from Village Dhinde Khurd of Tehsil Bishnah was born on April, 1986.

From a very early age, he confesses that music was where his heart was.

He felt a close inclination towards music and realized that it was something that he had wanted to do all his life.

Today, he is a part of Jammu's Got Talent as a young musical artist and looks forward to creating more magic with his signature sound. His songs with a mesmerizing voice, powerful lyrics and beats have struck the right chords with peo-



ple's hearts and have even compelled them to listen to his tracks more each day, which has taken him to the forefront of Jammu's Got Talent in a very short span of time.

Rinku's Biradari mem-

bers R.L.Kaith, Des Raj, Madan Raj, Hans Raj, Darshan Kumar, Naresh Kumar, Deepak Jyoti and many others who are very excited for him have wished him all success in his everything that he does.

Book 'Literary Reminiscences' for literature students of semester-II released

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, May 20: A book entitled "Literary Reminiscences" for literature students of Semester -II (Major/Minor) authored by Dr. Arun Dev Singh and Dr Chander Mohan Sharma released on Saturday in Government Degree College for Women, Kathua.

On this occasion, Dr Savi Behl, Principal of the College, was the Chief Guest. The function was started with the welcome address by Dr Arun Dev Singh. He told our correspondent that this book is complete and detailed book as per the New Education Policy for the undergraduate students of semester -II falling under University of Jammu. The book is out come of two University wits of Jammu University and presently serving in the Government Colleges as Associate and Assistant Professors of English.

He said that English Literature is very difficult subject and, therefore, need lot of hard work.

He added that the approach followed in the book is simple

, interesting and understandable and provide lot of knowledge and ample information regarding all components as per syllabus for the students.

As the readers of this book are new to Literature and is looking for future with English Language an easily understandable scholarly approach and style is adopted. He was quite confident and stressed upon that both the authors have tried to organize and systematized subject matter in a way that makes material easy to learn and the authors have been extra conscious to use simple, clear, and concise language.

Dr Savi Behl congratulated and appreciated the efforts of both authors Dr Arun Dev Singh and Dr Chander Mohan for presenting a wonderful and practical book in the field of academics and she assured that the present book shall be beneficial for the learners and the students can achieve brilliant success in semester End -Examination.

The book release ceremony was attended by Dr Sangeeta

Sudan Principal GDC, Mahanpur, Dr Anupam, Principal GDC, Marheen, Dr Pragya Khanna, Principal GLDC, Hiranagar, Dr Alka Sharma, Principal GDC, Billawar, Dr Ashu Vashist, Principal GDC, Paloura, Prof Seema Mir, Principal GDC, Boys, Kathua, Dr Nater Singh, Dr P.K Rao, Dr. Mohan Singh Pathania, Dr Ram Murti Sharma Retd Principals, Dr Chattarpati Sharma learned Retd Professor and other faculty members and guests include : Prof Raj Kiran, Dr Deep-sikha, Dr Anupama, Prof Ritu, Dr Balwinder Singh, Dr Kehar Singh, Prof Ashwani Khajuria, Prof Ravinder Kour, Prof Pankaj Nandan, Dr Naresh Sharma, Dr Babita Jamwal, Prof Raj Kumar, Prof Barun Bhatti, Prof Som Raj, Prof Ambika, Prof Shivani, Dr Poonam, Prof Romika, Prof Vijay, Dr Ritu Raj, Prof Pallavi, Dr Vaishno Devi, Dr Varchaskam, Dr Ajay Sanotra, Dr. Mukesh, Prof. Satish Khajuria, Dr Deepti Salotra, Dr Usha Kiran, Dr Anupam Munahar, Roshan Lal, Anu and all the non-teaching staff as well.

Last 9 years have been glorious for progress of common man: Kapahi



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 20: BJP District Jammu Under the Presidentship of District President and Municipal Councillor Parmod Kapahi organised working committee meeting at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kachi Chawani District Jammu Hqrs.

The meeting was Attended by Former BJP President Sat Sharma CA, Mayor JMC Rajinder Sharma, Incharge Parliament Jammu Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyaan Harinder Gupta, Vibagh Sangathanmantri Inderjeet Sharma, Prabhari Jammu Rajeev Charak, District General Secretaries Kuldeep Kandhari, Adv Rajesh Gupta, Mandal Presidents Keshav Chopra, Praveen Kerni, Raman Sharma, Atul Bakshi, Chairman JMC Gopal Gupta, Arun Khanna, Municipal Councillor

Hardeep Singh Mankotia and others.

Speaking on the agenda of meeting, Parmod Kapahi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is completing 9yrs as PM and BJP will celebrate it in Jammu District from 30th May to 30th June and also planning to hold different programmes as Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyaan at Booth Level.

Harinder Gupta discussed the Programmes to be done by the Party activists to aware the common masses about the achievements of Modi Government during their 9 yrs of Tenure.

Sat Sharma said that under the leadership of PM Modi lot of work has been done for the common man, during these 9 yrs people have seen numerous structural transformations which covers every section of

the society.

Addressing the Workers Inderjeet Sharma and Rajeev Charak said that Modi Govt is completing 9yrs tenure in Centre and to make Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyaan a big success every leader of the party must ensure their active participation during the mass contact campaign.

Brijesh Gupta, Karan Singh, Rajesh Gupta, Asha Gupta, Anu Gupta, Ravi Kant Sharma, Pratibha Sharma, Savita Anand, Sangeeeta Gupta, Jai Singh, Ravinder Tikku, Anil Angral, Ashok Salgotra, Chaman Lal, Sanjeev Sawhney, Arun Dubey, Omkar Singh, Pawan Sharma, Hari Om, Sudhanshu Bhardwaj, Jatin Sethi, Kanav Sharma, Kushant Dafara, Karan Sharma, Naveen Sharma, Nipun, Nitish Kumar and others were also present.

Number of promising junior women players emerge from talent hunt 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 20: Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association organised Talent Hunt for Junior Age Groups and U-23 Women in the last week of April across six venues in the UT thus covering the entire length and breadth of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

This was followed by a deep selection camp organised at Hostel Ground Jammu which culminated today.

In this camp, the U-15 and U-19 women players chosen in the Talent Hunt were made to play matches so that standard of their fielding and physical fitness could also be accessed by the selectors apart from their cricketing skills.

Brig. Anil Gupta (Retd.), Member Administration, JKCA has thanked the selectors and organisers of the camp for their dedication, transparency and fairness.

He further informed that a number of talented young girls have emerged as potential players during the just concluded trials. The Girls of U-15 and U-19 category had participated in the camp.

Among the U-15 Players, Shruti Thakur from Doda, Ayushi Ambardar from Srinagar, Smriti

Majotra from Jammu emerged as bowling all-rounders.

Apart from these girls, battery pace bowlers include Hafsa from Doda, MannatTofara from Jammu and Mehvish Jan from Srinagar.

Sonakshi Manhas from Kishtwar has emerged as a Spinner with lots of potential. Among the potential batters are Alisha Jan from Bijbehara and Romani from Udhampur.

Similarly, in the U-19 age group Kajal Devi from Doda, Maria Noorain from Bijbehara, Mehvish Jan from Bijbehara, Tania Sharma from Udhampur and Pavin Kour from Jammu are part of the pace battery Off Spinners found during the Talent Hunt are Tehseem from Bijbehara and Pranavi Bajaj from Jammu. Among Batters, Vishaka Kesar from Poonch, Shanu Devi from Jammu, Gauri Sharma from Jammu and Sanjana from Kishtwar have left their mark.

Brig. Gupta stated that the initiative taken by JKCA of Talent Hunt has proved beneficial not only for the Association but it is also providing platform to the talented players from the far-flung areas of the UT to display their talent.

EDITORIAL

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The continued illegal immigration of Rohingyas into India and their continued stay in India has serious implications for national security and poses a serious security threat. This affects the interests of local populations in areas that face large-scale illegal entry of immigrants. It also increases political instability when leaders start mobilizing the perception of the country's citizens against the migrants by the elite in order to grab political power. Recent decades have seen a significant increase in the incidence of women and human trafficking across borders.

The law and order and integrity of the country is undermined by illegal immigrants indulging in illegal and anti-national activities.

The Center had issued directions to state governments and union territory administrations, advising them to sensitize law enforcement and intelligence agencies to take appropriate steps for speedy identification of illegal immigrants. Consolidated instructions have also been issued to deal with the problem of overstay of foreign nationals and illegal migration.

Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 empowered the government to make rules for persons entering India to carry passports with them. It also gave the government the power to deport from India anyone who entered without a passport. Foreigners Act, 1946 replaced the Foreigners Act, 1940 with comprehensive powers to deal with all foreigners. The Act empowered the government to take necessary steps to stop illegal immigrants, including the use of force.

The concept of 'burden of proof' lies with the person and not with the officers given by this Act which is still in force in all the states and union territories. This concept has been upheld by the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

The Act empowered the government to set up tribunals, which would have the same powers as civil courts. The recent amendment (2019) to the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 empowered district magistrates of all states and union territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person living illegally in India is a foreigner or not.

Registration under FRRO is a mandatory requirement under which all foreign nationals (except Overseas Citizen of India) must present themselves before a registering officer within 14 days of arrival in India on a long-stay visa (exceeding 180 days). Registering is required.

Pakistani nationals arriving in India are required to register within 24 hours of arrival, regardless of the period of stay.

However if India had a domestic law regarding refugees, it could deter any oppressive government in the neighborhood from persecuting their population and preventing them from coming to India.

Furthermore, the absence of national refugee laws has blurred the distinction between refugees and economic migrants, often leading to denial of assistance even to genuine asylum seekers.

Karnataka: Maine Pyaar Kiya! The 'G-Factor' wins big...

By: Shobhaa De

“We fought the polls with love”, declared a beaming Rahul Gandhi after his party's spectacular win in Karnataka. It was Rahul Baba's Mother's Day gift to la madre Sonia Gandhi, as fans of the “Famiglia-G” ooh-ed and aah-ed over cuddly pics of ma-beta hugging each other. It was one of those rare candid pics of Sonia Gandhi which caught her cracking a smile, which btw, suits her far more than the trademark scowl. Beti Priyanka Gandhi Vadra posted her own Mother's Day selfie with mumsie, showing both clad in winter gear, and grinning rapturously. Why not? Millions of Bharatwaasis were doing the same... exulting at the numbers which gave the Congress a staggering 135 seats in a 224-member Assembly. Best to see it as a triumph of the voter. And not read too much into the big win. I mean... why not learn the lyrics of 'Calm Down', the super-hit single of Selena Gomez and Rema (real name Divine Ikubor), the Nigerian singer, who was in India at the same time, wowing fans and winning the Internet with his effortless people skills and charm.

Those words — people skills and charm — that's what did it in Karnataka. Rahul Gandhi's ambitious Bharat Jodo Yatra played a big role in spreading positivity in an ocean of hate and suspicion. It's possible Rahul himself may not have fully comprehended the monumental impact of the 150-day Long Walk, when he began it in Kanyakumari in September. Agreed, politics is a dirty, cynical game largely peopled by thugs, but just one simple idea of walking across the vast country in the name of unity and meeting thousands of citizens face to face,

led to a major transformation: one that may see further amplification in the months ahead. Karnataka could well be the tipping point, the game-changer, in what may be the most savage general election India has seen. Rahul does not hold a magic wand, nor does he possess a success mantra. But as a leader of his dysfunctional, fragmented political party, with all its inbuilt weaknesses and absurdities, he demonstrated what it takes to touch people's lives and extend hope for a better tomorrow: love.

Caste and corruption were the two main hurdles in Karnataka. Rahul can neither eliminate nor contain these deeply entrenched issues, that often bewilder the most learned political gurus. Each state of India comes with a specific DNA. Caste and corruption form the main strands of its composition. The open and avoidable fight for the chief minister's post has unsettled many voters and disheartened the party leadership sufficiently for Sonia to step in and make a late-night call to the sulking and furious D.K. Shivakumar, in a successful bid to break the deadlock, after five days of suspense. He reluctantly agreed to play second fiddle to Siddaramaiah, who claims to have more MLAs with him. Sidda has got the CM's job and been rewarded for successfully delivering Karnataka to his political maa-baap. Deft and timely handling of the impasse could have spared everyone the embarrassment of having to listen to sidelined DKS cribbing about the lack of gratitude and courtesy extended to him — he seethed nobody “acknowledged” him for being the main man behind the win. Making matters still more awkward, D.K. Suresh, the designated deputy CM's brother,

declared they were “not happy” with Madam's decision, but willing to make the “sacrifice” in the larger interests of the party and Karnataka.

This is where even the most astute political leaders like Sonia Gandhi go horribly wrong. They fail to read the ambitions of their own trusted people, and end up losing them to rivals (think “24-carat traitor” Jyotiraditya Scindia). Instead of gloating over the victory, the party leadership should have prioritised placating a disgruntled man (DKS). They didn't. DKS is known to be a tough-talking, dynamic go-getter, but at the moment he's like a wounded tiger licking his wounds, waiting for the next chance to strike a weakened prey. He has assured his followers he won't resort to “blackmail”, or “backstab” anybody, which is most gentlemanly of him.

Meantime, political watchers in the state are holding their breaths before the grand celebrations at the Kanteerawa Stadium, where the red carpet was rolled out, only to be rolled up hastily on Wednesday, after Sidda's supporters jumped the gun. High drama is expected at the swearing-in on Saturday: what fun! This will be a different sort of red-carpet event from the ongoing one at Cannes, where, for the life of me I cannot quite figure out what a desi actress called Esha Gupta is doing as a part of the official Indian government delegation. Her gown was tantalising for sure, with its thigh high slit, and artistically exposed chest, but I'm not sure Esha's super-hot “lewk” represented the glory of “Indian culture” — whatever that nebulous term means. Then we heard a clearly out of her depth Sara Ali Khan strenuously and earnestly talking about her own

“Indianness” (wot dat, missy?) while underlining the importance of Indian cinema being showcased on a global platform. Good try. But a bridal lehenga on the red carpet?

Meanwhile, my favourite BJP minister Kiren Rijiju has been demoted for being a naughty boy and talking too much in the classroom. He got it in the neck for shooting his mouth off and terming the Supreme Court's collegium system “opaque” and “alien to the Constitution”, subsequently making it worse by adding: “It is the only system in the world where judges appoint people known to them.” Ouch! Perhaps Kiren Rijiju thought he was being a super-loyalist. But hello! The party bosses thought otherwise: “Over-smart... speaking out of turn... not following the script...” From the law ministry to ministry of earth sciences??? Hota hai, bhai. When any minister exceeds his brief and grabs headlines, you know the person will be swiftly cut down to size, till the Principalji decides you've been punished enough and allows you back into the classroom.

Excuse me while I go check out what Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is wearing on the red carpet in Cannes... and if her daughter Aaradhya is clad in a matching gown. Till then, I'm handing it to Michael Douglas for making the best acceptance speech at Cannes so far, when he was awarded an honorary Palme D'Or and called a “forever star” by presenter Uma Thurman. Said Douglas disarmingly: “I did wonder how I lasted this long? 76 years old? I'm even older than the festival...” Seekho! Seekho! That's how asli legends — in showbiz and politics — slide away gracefully ... Samjhay?

Captured Images in Realm -

By: Vijay Garg

People from different places had come for a felicitation ceremony organized in the city. Most of them were literate. There were only a few people who knew each other personally. The rest were connected through one or the other means of social media. Their identity was established through Facebook, WhatsApp or Instagram. Some even had a strong friendship at the social media level, as they often commented on each other's achievements. The surprising thing came to the fore when such Even people were barely able to recognize each other despite being in front of each other. In fact, people used to know their friends through images shared on social media, they did not look like that! They were different from the images captured in photographs. That's why people were in trouble. Sometime back, about four decades old acquaintance organized an innovative get-together. All the classmates were invited along with the family. A notification was put through WhatsApp group that all the friends have to share their two latest photo-

graphs. first caveA clear picture of the face and another of full height, so that there is no inconvenience in identifying friends. Indeed, images never quite correspond to reality. When people come out of the captivity of images, they are unrecognizable. For example, when a prisoner comes out of jail, people do not easily recognize him. In fact, the whole identity of a person is determined by his face-face, stature-saddle, gesture, speech and behavior. Since the introduction of social media, the scope of acquaintance has increased in the world, but most of the acquaintance is only on the face is based. Due to the beautiful faces captured in pictures on social media, social-media friendship is also blossoming. This friendship is reaching not only in love, but also in love-marriage. However, facial recognition alone is not the complete identity of a person. To provide stability to the marriage, the intensity of mutual identity has been considered necessary. Although the modern lifestyle has also found some ways out of it. Some time ago 'dating' came into vogue. Two people spend some time of the day alone together, so that they can get to know

each other properly. Can recognize Still there was a problem with the survival of the marriage. After this 'live-in-relationship' i.e. 'symbiosis' came into existence. In this, a young man and a young woman live together in the same house as husband and wife for a few days or a few months or many years. They make sure whether they will be able to spend their whole life in the bond of marriage with each other or not. Even then proper results are not coming out. The identity is still incomplete. Actors and actresses who appear on the film screen have the advantage of identifying elements other than facial features. has been getting The audience begins to identify with them deeply. They see and hear them again and again from many angles. That's why they are recognized only by the texture of their eyes, nose, chin or lips. Even if the picture is not in front of them, we recognize them by their voice, style or gait. Despite this, its identity remains incomplete. An acquaintance is a big fan of an actor. Had gone to Mumbai Mayanagari for some work. While shopping in a commercial complex, his favorite actor was right in

front of him, but he could not recognize him. When some crowd surrounded the actor, then he realized. But by then it was too late. Such a crowd had gathered around the actor that even after trying lakhs could not get close to him. Friends laugh and tell that their favorite actor was looking very small like a normal person, while they have seen him big on the big screen. That's why even after recognizing him, he could not recognize his favorite actor and lost the golden opportunity to meet him personally. However, the scope of true personal identification is limited to photographs or for immediate or short duration It is much bigger than the recognition during meeting. When childhood friends meet even after twenty-thirty years, it does not take much time to recognize them. Deep personal identity is the basis of the strength of the relationship. The biggest truth of the world is also that the true identity of a man comes from his heart. If this also becomes a joke then life becomes difficult.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

Nine years of hard work and rock band Indian Ocean has come up with the album Tu Hai. The members talk about their journey of music...

India's oldest fusion rock band, Indian Ocean, is back with an album titled Tu Hai after almost a decade, and their fans have lapped it up. Six tracks bring together what the band stands for - eclectic vibes, nature and nurture, consumerism challenged by spirituality, and animation juxtaposed with affirmation for a better world.

The band members joining the interview are jovial; Rahul Ram is with his pet pooches, Nikhil Rao sipping black coffee and Himanshu Joshi is too keen on details!

The album is the result of nine years of work. "The album gave us a sense of completeness; it was a long wait but worth it," says Nikhil. Himanshu pitches in, "A mother gives birth to a child after nine months; for us, this baby has been nine years of wait," he laughs. Covid played spoilsport with Tu Hai too, as plans for video shoots went for a toss.

Magic of six
The six songs, however, are there for their listeners finally. The song Rebirth is about how we have to rethink as life is under threat due to climate change; Iss Tann Dhan is about



consumerism and impermanence of life; Jaadu Maaya, which has been pictured in animation, underlines how we are frittering away time in meaningless rubbish, while missing the big picture; Tu Hai questions the Gods as to why we landed

up here in this sorry plight! "One thing leads to another and it all kind of gels together," shares Rahul.

The band is on the move to promote the album and is getting a great response. Having started with a 10-city plan, they

have also covered Guwahati, Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Dehradun, Jaipur, Bhopal, while many more cities are lined up.

Great bonding
The band has given memorable music in Masaan and Black Friday and couple of others films. It recently composed for the film Bhagwan Bharose that's doing well in the festival circuit. "We are now making another track for this film's trailer for Indian theatrical release," shares Rahul. Three more films and music for a series on MX Player are also in the pipeline.

Indian Ocean has already planned its next album too. "In fact, Nikhil has planned our next six albums," says Himanshu.

Together, they love different aspects of their music making. "We enjoy making film music as also our own work equally," shares Nikhil. However, their biggest high is to travel and play live in front of a live audience. "We get to visit so many places and meet lovely people," shares Himanshu.

The band will make a stop at a club in Chandigarh on May 27. "Come listen to us and chill in this summer heat," they say in unison.

Jahnvi Kapoor turns into a mermaid as she narrates 'machhli jal ki rani' poem to her young fans



Bollywood actor Jahnvi Kapoor surprises her young fans as she

turns into a mermaid for the promotion of upcoming movie 'The

Little Mermaid'.

She took to her Instagram account to share a video with magical realism.

In the video, Jahnvi steps into the magical world of Princess Ariel as a fan and magically fits into it for her young fans as she recites... 'Machhli Jal Ki Rani Hai hai...'

'The Little Mermaid' directed by Rob Marshall, features Halle Bailey as Ariel, Melissa McCarthy as Ursula, Jonah Hauer-King as Prince Eric, Javier Bardem as King Triton, Daved Diggs as Sebastian, Jacob Tremblay as Flounder, Awkwafina as Scuttle, Noma Dumezweni, and Jude Akuwudike.

Disney India is set to release 'The Little Mermaid' on May 26 in English.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan stuns in Sophie Couture gown at Cannes 2023

Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan kept her date with the Cannes Film Festival, as she turned heads at the movie gala in a shimmering outfit. A regular at the festival, Aishwarya attended the premiere of Hollywood veteran Harrison Ford's fifth Indiana Jones movie The Dial of Destiny on Thursday.

The 49-year-old actress wore a light-weight aluminium detailed gown with a signature cinched corset and an embellished hood.

According to the label's official Instagram page, the outfit is a part of the Cannes Capsule Collection.

Aishwarya, who has been attending the Cannes Film Festival for the past many years, arrived at the French Riviera with daughter Aradhya Bachchan



earlier this week. On the work front, she was recently seen in film-

maker Mani Ratnam's two-part epic Ponniyin Selvan.

Here is why Urvashi Rautela is being compared with Aishwarya Rai; netizens drop some nasty comments on her pics from Cannes

Miss Diva Universe 2015 Urvashi Rautela has been in the news at Cannes 2023.

Earlier, the actress walked the red carpet featuring two intertwined alligators, which caught everyone's attention.

Later, Rautela attended the screening of 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny' wearing a cream and blue gown.

The actress has completed her look with striking blue lipstick and her photos have gone insanely viral.

Netizen's said that Urvashi's look was inspired by Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's purple lips at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival. While some have praised Urvashi's look, others called her a "meme" material.

Netizens dropped some nasty comments like: "Looks like she



had poison just before coming for the red carpet entry".

Apart from her blue lips, Urvashi completed her look with a huge

diamond necklace and matching earrings. She tied her hair in a bun.

Sharing her look, Urvashi wrote, "Cannes 2023: First Lady Indiana Jones & the dial of the destiny Harrison Ford." Earlier, Urvashi had surprised everyone by sporting a crocodile choker.

On the opening day, Urvashi walked the red carpet in a pink ruffle gown that she teamed up with the crocodile necklace.

While some appreciated the actress for bringing something unique to the red carpet, a section of social media users trolled her over her style.

"Urvashi is never afraid of experimenting with different things," a social media user commented. "Oh My God! it's looking too funny," another user wrote.

"Hahahaha.. this is hilarious," another one commented.

Taking place from May 16- May 27 this year, four Indian movies: "Kennedy"; "Agra"; "Nehemich" and "Ishanou" are to be screened in the 76th Cannes Film Festival where Aishwarya Rai, Mrunal Thakur, Esha Gupta, Guneet Monga and many other B-town celebrities are attending this event.

Established in 1946, the festival serves as a platform for filmmakers to showcase their works and compete for prestigious awards.

Actor Anushka Sharma is yet to walk on the red carpet. She will honour women in cinema along with Oscar winner Kate Winslet. French Ambassador to India, Emmanuel Lenain, announced Anushka's attendance earlier this month.

Muskan Verma talks about her series, Inspector Avinash



Actress Muskan Verma made her OTT debut with the series Inspector Avinash. The actress considers her-

self extremely lucky to have had this opportunity.

"I am lucky enough to get the chance to work

with director and writer Neeraj Pathak, who gave me this break. I shared screen space with Randeep Hooda and Urvashi Rautela. My role has all the shades, it's a strong character," she said.

"Being from a middle-class family, I totally identify with my character, Bunny.

She aspires to make her father proud. I essay the role of a police constable's daughter from UP and to get the dialect of the place right, I visited the police quarters in Lucknow and met the families there.

That really helped me a lot." She enjoyed working with Randeep Hooda and Urvashi Rautela. "It was amazing, and Randeep sir is a great actor. I learnt a lot working with him and Urvashi. Urvashi treated me like a younger sister, which made me comfortable."

Apeksha Porwal is waiting for the right opportunity



Apeksha Porwal is a trained actress from Jeff Goldberg Studio in Mumbai. She debuted with the web show, Undekhi, where she played a tribal woman.

She also bagged her first international project with the English-Arabic series Slave Market, where she played the lead character of Princess Lavani. Season two of the series is already in the making.

Apeksha has also graced various leading magazine covers. Apeksha is taking time to choose her projects consciously, as she prefers picking out roles that showcase her talent and challenge her. "I am waiting for the right time and opportunity," she says.

Vanessa Hudgens joins cast of The Black Kaiser

Vanessa Hudgens will join Mads Mikkelsen to headline the action spy thriller The Black Kaiser, directed by Derrick Borte. He has replaced Jonas Akerlund, who was previously announced as director. The film is written by Jayson Rothwell, based on the Dark Horse graphic novel Polar by Victor Santos. It will be shot this Fall.

In the film, the Black Kaiser (Mikkelsen), the world's most lethal hitman, uncovers a deadly conspiracy protecting a powerful syndicate of killers, and becomes their number one target.

The Black Kaiser is a Constantin Film, JB Pictures and Dark Horse Entertainment production, and will be produced by Jeremy Bolt and Robert Kulzer, two of the producers behind the Resident Evil franchise.

Mike Richardson and Keith Goldberg of Dark



Horse Entertainment are also producing, and Martin Moszkowicz and Mikkelsen are executive producing the project.

XYZ Films will executive produce and continue to sell worldwide rights at the Marche du Film in Cannes.

Strengthening collaboration between G7 and G20 vital in addressing global challenges: PM

NEW DELHI/ HIROSHIMA, May 20 (Agencies): Strengthening collaboration between the G7 and G20 is vital in addressing global challenges like climate change, supply chain disruptions, economic recovery, energy instability, healthcare, food security, and peace and security, Prime Minister Narendra Modi who landed in Hiroshima to attend the G 7 summit as a guest.

Speaking to Japanese media Modi, who also chairs the G20, emphasised his commitment to leading the international community in resolving the challenges of the "Global South," including developing and emerging countries.

The Indian prime minister flagged the geopolitical tensions causing disruptions in food and energy supply chains, stressing the need for collaboration with Japan and like-minded countries to continuously address the core concerns of developing countries.

On a question about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Modi batted for an international order based on respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, underlining the significance of the UN Charter and international law.

Although India is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and is believed to possess nuclear weapons independently, Modi unequivocally



stated that the use of weapons of mass destruction is absolutely unacceptable.

He expressed readiness to work with all countries towards a world without nuclear weapons, a vision promoted by Prime Minister Kishida.

Speaking about the significance of his participation in the G7 Summit as the chair of the G20 at this juncture of international affairs, Modi said the G7 and G20 summits are crucial platforms for global cooperation.

"As the G20 chair, I will represent the perspectives and priorities of the Global South at the G7 Summit in Hiroshima. Strengthening collaboration between the G7 and G20 is vital in addressing global challenges like climate change, supply chain disruptions, economic recovery, energy instability, healthcare, food security, and

peace and security. The Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan provides a strong foundation for our joint efforts, contributing to global cooperation on these issues."

Asked to comment on how India responds to negative reactions regarding its abstention from voting on UN resolutions and increased oil imports from Russia, Modi said India advocates for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve disputes and prioritize the well-being of people affected by rising costs of essentials.

"India abstained from UN General Assembly resolutions to condemn the invasion but remains committed to upholding the UN Charter, international law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. India supports a peaceful resolution to the

Ukraine crisis and is ready to contribute constructively within the UN and beyond," he said.

Commenting on India's role in easing growing rivalries among major powers and promoting global peace and stability, Modi said the world faces challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic, disruptions in supply chains, terrorism, and climate change, disproportionately affecting the developing world. India prioritises addressing these concerns and emphasises human-centric development through collaboration with Japan and other partners. "India aims to serve as a bridge between different voices, promoting a constructive agenda focused on achieving shared objectives for the betterment of humanity," he said.

Asked how India will address China's military expansion in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, and the rising tension in the Taiwan Strait to maintain international law and territorial integrity, Modi said: "India stands for respecting sovereignty, peaceful resolution of disputes, and adherence to international law. India is committed to protecting its sovereignty and integrity while promoting peaceful resolution of maritime disputes based on international law. India has successfully resolved land and maritime boundaries with Bangladesh, showcasing its approach."

Services row: Centre's ordinance 'unconstitutional', attempt to snatch power from Delhi govt, says AAP



NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): The AAP on Saturday said the Centre's ordinance on the transfer of bureaucrats in Delhi is "unconstitutional" and a move to snatch the power given to the Delhi government by the Supreme Court in services matters.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi minister Atishi said the Centre deliberately chose to bring the ordinance at a time when the Supreme Court has closed for summer vacation.

The Centre promulgated an ordinance on Friday to create a National Capital Civil Service Authority for transfer of and disciplinary proceedings against Group-A officers from the DANICS cadre.

This came a week after the Supreme Court handed over the control of services, excluding those related to police, public order and land, in Delhi to the elected government.

Atishi said the Centre's ordinance shows that "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scared of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal" and the power of honest poli-

tics. "They are scared that if he (Kejriwal) gets power, he will do extraordinary work for Delhi. The ordinance is an attempt to snatch the power given to the AAP dispensation by the apex court on May 11," she said.

Even if Delhi's people voted for Kejriwal, this ordinance says he will not run Delhi, the minister said.

The ordinance is "unconstitutional" and will be struck down by the Supreme Court, she said.

"The Centre deliberately chose to bring this ordinance yesterday night. The Supreme Court has closed for vacation for six weeks and this is a deliberate attempt to hamper work," she charged.

Atishi said the Supreme Court gave the powers to the Delhi government after an eight-year-long battle.

"But the Centre could not tolerate this. The ordinance provides for the creation of a National Capital Civil Service Authority with three members -- CM as its chairman and chief secretary and principal home secretary as its members. But it is to be noted that the chief secretary and the principal home secretary will be appointed by the Centre.

"The authority will take decisions by majority. That means decisions will be taken by the Centre's bureaucrats. If it takes any decision that the Centre doesn't like, then the LG will have the power to reverse the decision," she said.

Army rescues 500 stranded tourists from landslide-hit Sikkim

GANGTOK, May 20 (Agencies): The Army rescued 500 stranded tourists, including 54 children, in Sikkim as torrential rain in parts of the Himalayan state caused landslides and roadblocks, a defence official said on Saturday.



Heavy rain was witnessed in Lachen, Lachung and Chungthang on Friday and as a result, approximately 500 tourists, who were travelling to Lachung and Lachen Valley, were stranded at Chungthang due to landslides and roadblocks en route, he said.

"On request from SDM

Chungthang, troops of Trishakti Corps, Indian Army, swung into action and rescued the stranded tourists to safety.

"The stranded tourists included 216 men, 113 women and 54 children and they were moved to three different army camps.

They were provided with hot meals and

warm clothing," the defence spokesperson said.

The troops vacated their barracks to accommodate the tourists and make them comfortable for the night, he said.

Three medical teams were formed, to check the health condition of all the travellers, the official added.

PM Modi and Japan's Kishida discuss cooperation in green hydrogen, semiconductors

NEW DELHI/ HIROSHIMA, May 20 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida on Saturday held talks focusing on boosting bilateral cooperation in areas of green hydrogen, high technology, semiconductors and digital public infrastructure.

In the nearly 50-minute talks on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Hiroshima, Modi and Kishida also deliberated on ways to synergise efforts to combat pressing global challenges under India's G20 presidency and Japan's leadership of the G7 advanced economies.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two prime ministers exchanged views on a wide range of issues,



including development finance, food security, climate change and energy among others.

"The leaders discussed ways to synergise efforts of their respective G-20 and G-7 presi-

dencies. The prime minister stressed the need to highlight the concerns and priorities of the Global South," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The group of seven, comprising the US, France, the UK, Italy, Germany, Canada and Japan, represent the world's richest democracies. Under its G7 presidency, Japan invited India and seven other countries to the summit.

In a tweet, Modi described his meeting with Kishida as "excellent". "We reviewed the full range of India-Japan relations and also discussed the focus areas of India's G-20 Presidency and Japan's G-7 Presidency towards making our planet better," the prime minister said.

CBI files charge sheet against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in 1984 anti-Sikh riots case

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): The CBI on Saturday filed a charge sheet against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in the Pul Bangash case connected to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, officials said.

Three people were killed and a gurdwara

was torched in the Pul Bangash area here on November 1, 1984, a day after then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated.

In its charge sheet filed before a special court here, the CBI said Tytler "incited, instigated and provoked the mob

assembled at Pul Bangash Gurdwara Azad Market" on November 1, 1984, that resulted in burning down of the gurdwara and killing of three Sikhs—Thakur Singh, Badal Singh and Guru Charan Singh.

The agency has invoked charges under



Sections 147 (rioting), 109 (abetment) read with 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), among others, against Tytler, the officials said.

The court will consider the charges on June 2, they said.

Over 2.31 crore, 1kg gold found in basement of Yojana Bhawan in Jaipur



JAIPUR, May 20 (Agencies): More than Rs 2.31 crore in cash and one kg of gold was recovered from a locked almirah in the basement of Yojana Bhawan here, police said.

According to officials, seven employees of the Yojana Bhawan having access to the basement have been detained for questioning.

The trolley suitcase kept in the almirah contained Rs 2,000 and Rs 500 denomination notes, police said, adding that the recovery took place on the day when the RBI withdrew Rs 2,000 currency notes from circulation.

After the cash was seized, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was briefed about the matter following which Chief Secretary Usha Sharma, DGP Umesh Mishra, ADGP Dinesh MN and Jaipur Commissioner Anand Srivastava held a joint press conference at the Secretariat on Friday night.

"Files were found from one almirah and the trolley suitcase full of cash and gold from another, following which the employees informed the Ashok Nagar police station," Srivastava said, adding that the cash amounted to Rs 2.31 crore and gold weighed 1 kg.

"The files are being scanned and digitised under the e-filing project. Two

locked cupboards were also opened today after their keys were found," he said.

Seven employees have been detained and are being interrogated. The investigation has started, Srivastava said.

The Jaipur Police Commissioner said he would disclose the entire matter soon. The cupboard from which the cash and gold were recovered was locked for months. The basement from where the cash was found was accessed by Aadhaar-UJD-linked staff, the police will question the staff having access to the shelves in the basement.

"Whose money is it, how did it come, investigation is being done. CCTV footage is being scanned. It seems like this wardrobe has been closed for long but is not even two or three years old," he said.

The opposition BJP has targeted the Congress government over the issue. Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore said in a tweet, "The recovery of crores of rupees in cash and gold from the Rajasthan secretariat, where Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot sits and runs the government, is proof that the Gehlot government is in the role of a protector of corruption."

He said the chief minister should answer how such a large amount of cash and gold reached the Yojana Bhawan.

The BJP leader said no officers from departments like Information Technology, Enforcement Directorate and Anti-Corruption Bureau were involved in the press conference called in a hurry to hide their "black deeds".

Tussle for control over bureaucracy in Delhi: Centre seeks review of Constitution Bench verdict

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): The Centre on Saturday filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking review of its May 11 Constitution Bench verdict that declared that the Delhi government has "legislative and executive power over services", in the national capital, except those relating to public order, police and land.

The move came a day after the Centre promulgated an ordinance to create a 'National Capital Civil Service Authority' with powers to recommend transfers and postings of Group A and DANICS officers serving

in Delhi.

The Authority comprising Delhi chief minister, chief secretary and home secretary of Delhi would make recommendations to the Delhi Lt Governor regarding transfers, postings, vigilance and other incidental matters.

According to the ordinance, all matters will be decided by the Authority majority of votes of the members present and voting and in case of any difference of opinion, the Lt Governor's decision shall be final.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government — which described the

promulgation of the ordinance as an act of treachery and attempt to snatch power from the Delhi government — is likely to challenge its constitutional validity before the Supreme Court.

The ordinance came amid a raging controversy over the Delhi government's decision to transfer Services Secretary Ashish More after a five-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud purportedly ruled in favour of the elected government of Delhi.

"If a democratically elected government is not provided with the

power to control the officers posted within its domain, then the principle underlying the triple-chain of collective responsibility would become redundant.

That is to say, if the government is not able to control and hold to account the officers posted in its service, then its responsibility towards the legislature as well as the public is diluted.

The principle of collective responsibility extends to the responsibility of officers, who in turn report to the ministers," the Constitution Bench had ruled in a unanimous verdict.

"If the officers stop reporting to the ministers or do not abide by their directions, the entire principle of collective responsibility is affected.

A democratically elected government can perform only when there is awareness on the part of officers of the consequences which may ensue if they do not perform. If the officers feel that they are insulated from the control of the elected government which they are serving, then they become unaccountable or may not show commitment towards their performance," it had said.

World leaders warn China, North Korea on nukes as Ukraine's Zelenskyy travels to G7 summit

G7 includes US, UK, Japan, France, Germany, Canada and Italy, as well as the European Union

HIROSHIMA, May 20 (Agencies): Leaders of the world's most powerful democracies warned China and North Korea against building up their nuclear arsenals, pivoting to major northeast Asian crises ahead of the arrival later Saturday of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The focus on Asia at the Group of Seven summit comes as leaders tighten sanctions meant to punish Moscow and change the course of its 15-month invasion of Ukraine. Japan confirmed that Zelenskyy's decision to visit Hiroshima stemmed from his "strong wish" to participate in talks that will influence his nation's defence against Russia.

US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said that President Joe Biden and Zelenskyy would have direct engagement at the summit, a day after Biden announced his support for training Ukrainian pilots on US-made F-16 fighter jets, a precursor to eventually providing those aircraft to Ukraine's Air Force.

World leaders have faced a high-stakes balancing act at the G7 in Hiroshima as they look to address a raft of global worries demanding urgent attention, including climate change, AI, poverty and economic instability, nuclear proliferation and, above all, the war in Ukraine.

China, the world's No. 2 economy, sits at the nexus of many of those concerns.

There is increasing anxiety in Asia that Beijing, which has been steadily building up its nuclear weapons program, could try to seize Taiwan by force, sparking a wider conflict. China claims the self-governing island as its own and regularly sends ships and warplanes near it.

The G7 leaders issued a statement warning that China's "accelerating build-up of its nuclear arsenal without transparency (or) meaningful dialogue poses a concern to global and regional stability."

"We do seek to cooperate with China on matters of mutual interest," Sullivan said of the statement. "We will work to address our significant concerns that we have with China in a range of areas."

North Korea, which has been testing missiles at a torrid pace in an attempt to perfect a nuclear program meant to target the mainland United States, must completely abandon its nuclear bomb ambitions, the leaders' statement said, "including any further nuclear tests or launches that use ballistic missile technology. North Korea cannot and will never have the status of a nuclear-weapon State under" international nuclear treaties.

The green light on F-16 training is the latest shift by the Biden administration



G7 HIROSHIMA SUMMIT 2023

as it moves to arm Ukraine with more advanced and lethal weaponry, following earlier decisions to send rocket launcher systems and Abrams tanks. The United States has insisted that it is sending weapons to Ukraine to defend itself and has discouraged attacks by Ukraine into Russian territory.

"We've reached a moment where it is time to look down the road again to say what is Ukraine going to need as part of a future force, to be able to deter and defend against Russian aggression as we go forward," Sullivan said.

An EU official, speaking on condition of anonymity to brief reporters on the deliberations, said Zelenskyy will take part in two separate sessions Sunday. The first session will be with G7 members only and will focus

on the war in Ukraine. The second session will include the G7 as well as the other nations invited to take part in the summit, and will focus on "peace and stability."

The G7 leaders have rolled out a new wave of global sanctions on Moscow as well as plans to enhance the effectiveness of existing financial penalties meant to constrain President Vladimir Putin's war effort. Russia is now the most-sanctioned country in the world, but there are questions about the effectiveness.

"Our support for Ukraine will not waver," the G7 leaders said in a statement released after closed-door meetings. They vowed "to stand together against Russia's illegal, unjustifiable and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine."

"Russia started this war and can end this war," they

said.

Zelenskyy has consistently called for Western fighter jets to bolster his country's defenses. As Ukraine has improved its air defenses with a host of Western-supplied anti-aircraft systems and prepares to launch a counteroffensive against Russia, officials believe the jets could become essential to the country's long-term security.

Biden's decisions on when, how many, and who will provide the fourth-generation F-16 fighter jets will be made in the months ahead while the training is underway, Biden told leaders.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida separately held talks Saturday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, which is hosting the gathering of G20 world leaders later this year.

During their meeting, Kishida emphasized that attempts to change by force shouldn't be tolerated anywhere in the world - a possible reference to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a warning to China over Taiwan.

India, the world's largest democracy, has been measured in its comments on the war in Ukraine, and has avoided outright condemnation of Russia's invasion. While India maintains close ties with the US and its Western allies, it is also a major buyer of Russian arms and oil.

The latest sanctions aimed at Russia include tighter restrictions on already-sanctioned people and firms involved in the war effort. More than 125 individuals and organizations across 20 countries have been hit with U.S. sanctions.

In addition, new reporting requirements were issued for people and firms that have any interest in Russian Central Bank assets. The purpose is to "fully map holdings of Russia's sovereign assets that will remain immobilized in G7 jurisdictions until Russia pays for the damage it has caused to Ukraine," the U.S. Treasury Department said.

The G7 nations said that they would work to keep Russia from using the international financial system to prosecute its war, and they urged other nations to stop

providing Russia with support and weapons "or face severe costs."

The leaders began the summit with a visit to a peace park dedicated to the tens of thousands who died in the world's first wartime atomic bomb detonation. Kishida, who represents Hiroshima in parliament, wants nuclear disarmament to be a major focus of discussions.

Biden, who scrapped plans to travel on to Papua New Guinea and Australia after his stay in Japan so that he can get back to debt limit talks in Washington, arranged to meet Saturday on the G-7 sidelines with leaders of the so-called Quad partnership, made up of Japan, Australia, India and the United States.

The G7 leaders are also to discuss efforts to strengthen the global economy and address rising prices that are squeezing families and government budgets around the world, particularly in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

A US official said the leaders on Saturday would issue a joint communique outlining new projects in the G7's global infrastructure development initiative, which is meant to offer countries an alternative to China's investment dollars.

The G7 includes Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada and Italy, as well as the European Union.

Barack Obama among '500 Americans' banned from entering Russia

WASHINGTON, May 20 (Agencies): Former US President Barack Obama is among 500 Americans banned from entering the country in response to sanctions imposed by America, CNN reported on Saturday.

Russia stated on Friday that it was banning "500 Americans," including several senior members of the US executive branch, from entering the country "in response to anti-Russian sanctions imposed by the Joe Biden administration," according to a statement from Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The list, apart from Obama, also includes former US Ambassador Jon Huntsman, several US senators and the next expected chairman of the joint chiefs Charles Q Brown Jr.

Famous American late-night TV show hosts Jimmy Kimmel, Colbert, and Seth Meyers have also been banned by Russia to enter the country.

According to CNN, the Russian Foreign Ministry in its statement said, "The attached 'list-500' also includes those in



government and law enforcement agencies who are directly involved in the persecution of dissidents in the wake of the so-called Storming the Capitol." On January 6, 2021, scores of supporters of former US President Donald Trump sought to stop Biden's certification as president and attacked the US Capitol. As the relations between Washington and Moscow are at an all-time low in present times, the Russian ministry justified the prohibitions in a statement on its website, saying, "It is high time for Washington to learn that not a single hostile attack against Russia will go without a strong reaction."

Mother arrested for abandoning baby like 'trash' in US: Reports

NEW YORK, May 20 (Agencies): Police in the US state of Georgia have arrested a 40-year-old woman for attempting to commit murder and reckless abandonment for stuffing her newborn dubbed "Baby India" into a plastic bag in 2019 and throwing her in the woods like trash, according to media reports.

Karima Jiwani was arrested on Thursday after she was identified as the baby's biological mother through DNA. Her nationality was not known.

A visibly emotional Forsyth County Sheriff Ron Freeman held a press conference on Friday to announce Jiwani's arrest on charges of attempted murder, cruelty to children, aggravated assault and reckless abandonment, The New York Post, a tabloid newspaper reported.

On June 6, 2019, a sheriff's deputy was called to the woods near the 1900 block of Daves

Creek Road in Cumming by a neighbour reporting that he and his children heard a baby crying.

The baby was believed to be just hours old when the family heard what they thought were animal noises coming from a wooded area, CNN reported.

Deputy Terry Roper came upon a tied-up plastic bag in the brush, which contained a baby girl with her umbilical cord still attached, as seen in a graphic body camera footage that was later released in the hope of generating leads in the case.

The newborn was taken to a local hospital. She was dubbed "Baby India" by nurses who cared for her.

Sheriff Freeman said Friday that his deputies have spent thousands of hours trying to identify the person responsible for abandoning the infant.

Freeman said that in his 33 years in law enforcement, he

has never wanted to make an arrest more than he did in this case.

"This child was tied up in a plastic bag and thrown into the woods like a bag of trash," the sheriff said in a quivering voice.

"It's literally one of the saddest things I have ever seen."

According to Freeman, the first major break in the investigation happened 10 months ago, when detectives were able to identify "Baby India's" biological father through familiar DNA, which eventually led them to Jiwani.

Within the past week, county investigators, assisted by the FBI, again used DNA to confirm that the woman was "Baby India's" birth mom, according to the sheriff.

Freeman said that Jiwani, who has other children ranging from school-age to near-adults, knew that she was pregnant with "Baby India" in the summer of 2019 — and had a history of

concealed pregnancies and "surprise" births.

She allegedly delivered the baby in a car and drove for a long time without making any effort to leave the infant at a place where she could be found and taken to safety.

"How a parent — and I happen to be one, too — can do such a callous thing is both incomprehensible to all of us and it's infuriating," Freeman said of Jiwani's alleged act.

"Baby India's" father did not know about Jiwani's pregnancy and is not facing any charges, he added.

Freeman declined to say what happened to "Baby India" in the intervening years, only saying that the girl — now approaching her fourth birthday — is "happy, healthy and in a safe place."

Jiwani was ordered held in the county jail without bond. She is scheduled to make her initial court appearance on Saturday.

Indian student gets bail in alleged hit and run case in Australia

Vansh Khanna, who arrived in Sydney earlier this year, was granted bail on condition that he reports to police, not drives a car and surrenders his passport

MELBOURNE, May 20 (Agencies): An 18-year-old Indian student has been granted bail by an Australian court after allegedly hitting three schoolboys at a crossing and driving away from the crash scene in Sydney, a media report said.

Vansh Khanna, who arrived in Sydney earlier this year, was arrested on Fox Street in Lane Cove on Thursday evening and taken to Chatswood police station. The Sydney Morning Herald reported.

He was granted bail at Manly Local Court on Friday on condition that he reports to police, not

drives a car and surrenders his passport.

Emergency services responded on Thursday to reports that three boys, aged 12 and 13, had been struck by a car as they were allegedly crossing the roadway whilst facing a green pedestrian signal.

The children were treated by New South Wales (NSW) paramedics and were later taken to hospital for serious but non-life-threatening injuries on leg and head.

Police were informed that after the crash the vehicle drove from the scene where the driver allegedly failed to stop or render assistance, an



NSW Police statement read.

A woman told 2GB radio she saw the incident and said the Khanna did not stop after hitting the boys.

"They just went through so fast, the noise of the boys hitting the car was

horrifying... A couple of people got his rego number," The Herald reported the woman as saying.

Khanna was slapped with seven offences, including dangerous driving occasioning grievous bodily harm,

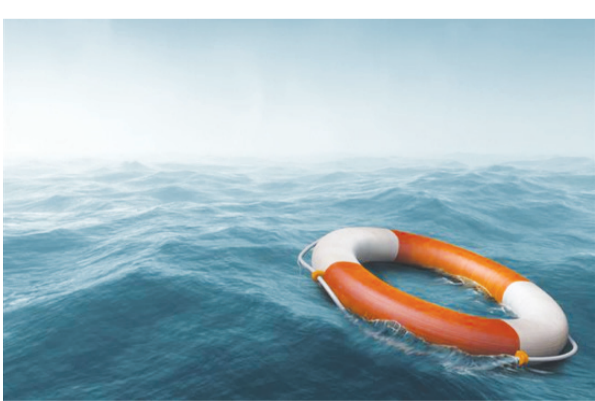
negligent driving occasioning grievous bodily harm, and two counts of causing bodily harm by misconduct while in charge of a motor vehicle.

He was also charged with failing to stop and assist after vehicle impact causing grievous bodily harm, failing to stop and assist after impact causing injury and proceeding through a red traffic light.

His Honda Accord has been seized for mechanical and forensic examination and police also issued him a licence suspension notice.

Khanna will face court for mention on June 8.

11 Indonesian sailors missing after ship catches fire in Indian Ocean



JAKARTA, May 20 (Agencies): A search operation for 11 Indonesian sailors, who went missing after their ship caught fire in the Indian Ocean, a rescuer said today.

The fire broke out on the sailor ship, KM Serba Prima 8, on Tuesday, but the incident was found out by

the Indonesian rescuers on Friday after two other sailors, who were rescued by a sailor ship, arrived in a seaport in Cilacap city of Central Java province on Friday and reported the incident, said Fazzli A, head of Jakarta search and rescue office.

"We deployed our personnel to the scene

and conducted coordination with the rescue offices situated in the areas where the victims might be found," he told Xinhua by phone.

"We have also coordinated with the joint rescue coordination centre of Australia," he added.

The fire occurred while all the sailors were sleeping and after they woke up, the fire had already become too big for them to put out, according to him, Xinhua news agency reported.

All the sailors jumped into the waters and two of them were rescued by a sailor ship on Wednesday, he added.

SMVDSB reviews security, operational preparedness to cope with peak summer rush

Top News Report

KATRA, May 20: With the onset of the summer holidays in many states across the country, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) which is anticipating the burgeoning of devotees at the Holy Shrine over the next couple of months is gearing up with the foolproof measures to ensure the best pilgrimage experience to the visiting devotees.

In this regard, to have a comprehensive review of security and operational preparedness of the Shrine area, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, presided over a meeting with security agencies today at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

The meeting was attended by SSP, JKP, Reasi; SP, Katra; Commandant, CRPF; Jt. Chief Executive Officers, SMVDSB; Sub Divisional Magistrate, Bhawan & Katra; Dy. Director, Subsidiary IB; Asstt. Chief Executive Officers, SMVDSB; Asstt. Director, Fire & Emer-



gency Services; SDPO Katra & Bhawan and other officers from IB, CID, Army, SMVDSB and intelligence agencies.

The Chief Executive Officer underscored that as summer holidays are inches closer in the country and the Shrine being a tourist destination is expecting heavy influx of the devotees at the Holy Shrine besides at the base camp Katra, thus stressed for action on diverse fronts for hassle free pilgrimage during coming days including issuance and verification of RFID cards, effective crowd management,

augmentation of holding areas on the track and in Katra town, working out plans for decongestion of the entire track, particularly the Bhawan area, separation of entry, exit routes at Bhawan and all time surveillance through dedicated CCTV network of over 700 cameras. He further exhorted that all agencies deployed at all entry points should remain more vigilant so that no yatri without frisking and registration enters the track for their pilgrimage.

He further stressed the security agencies and other stake-

holders upon verification and census of pony porters besides any suspicious element on the track.

In addition, the Chief Executive Officer also reviewed in detail various components of the Disaster Management measures including fire fighting preparedness to ensure quick and most effective response from all stakeholders in wake of any emergent situation besides, directed for regular announcements for the decongestion of the crowd on the track.

In the meeting, SSP, JKP highlighted major challenges for the deployed security forces in coming days for managing the expected influx of pilgrims. He briefed that ample deployment of forces is already in place and beat system is prevailing at Bhawan in coordination with SMVDSB and other security agencies on the track to ensure fool-proof security and effective Yatra management, besides multi-tier security grid comprising police, CRPF and other paramilitary forces.

Civil Defence Jammu inaugurates CD Training Programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: On the directions of Directorate of HG, CD and SDRF J&K, five days training programme was started at New National Higher Secondary School Talli Morh Miran Sahib, Jammu under the supervision Dy. SP. Anita Pawar, Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jammu.

In the training camp 70 Students of Hr. Sec. School are attending CD basic training. The said training will be given by the Civil Defence Experts on the knowledge of First Aid & Fire Fighting, Snake bite, Choking and other basic life saving technique and preventive measures during the natural/ manmade disaster.

During the inaugural programme of

the training, DySP Anita Pawar delivered a lecture and highlighted the role of Civil Defence and importance of this training. She urged that this training is considered to be very beneficial for the daily life of every human being.

Paramjit Kumar Chief Warden Civil Defence Jammu in his speech also highlighted the setup of the organization especially the role of wardens in Civil Defence organization. At the end of the programme Balkaran Singh Principal of the Hr. Sec. School presented vote of thanks. Besides other who was present on the occasion were R. Vijay Magotra Dy. Chief Warden CD Jammu, Sub Insp. Mazammal Hussain I/C Trainings, Ct. Rajinder Kumar Civil Defence instructor and Ct. Parshotam Kumar civil Defence Instructor

Sunny Nanda leads J&K team to 2nd Open International Championship at Greece



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: Sunny Nanda, a renowned Asian player (gold medalist) is leading the J&K team to participate in 2nd open international Championship which is going to be held in Preveza, Greece.

The championship will take place from June 20 to 25, 2023 at Greece. Addressing a press conference, Nanda disclosed that it's the first time that players from J&K are participating in Open championship at Greece. J&K players include Dhruv Choudhary, Renu Devi, Sunny Kumar and Goutam participating under the banner J&K Sports Speedball Association.

Manik Batra, Bhupesh re-appointed as office bearer of ASSOCHAM J&K Council

Tashi Gyaltsen Khachu for Ladakh Council

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) – One of the oldest industry body of the country has reappointed Manik Batra, Director Batra Group of Companies as Chairman and Bhupesh Gupta, Managing Partner, Radisson Blu Jammu as Co-Chairman for ASSOCHAM J&K UT Development Council.

Tashi Gyaltsen, Proprietor, Khachu Enterprises has been appointed as Chairman for Ladakh

UT Development Council of ASSOCHAM.

ASSOCHAM has completed its 103-year journey and Mr. Ajay Singh, Chairman & Managing Director, Spicejet Limited, as taken over as the President of ASSOCHAM. Mr. Singh has started the process of re-constituting the Regional Development Councils and State Chapter Councils of ASSOCHAM.

"I am thankful to the central leadership for reposing their faith in me to lead ASSOCHAM J&K, we look forward to working with all stakeholders for the devel-



opment of businesses across J&K," said Manik Batra, Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K Council.

Aligned with the vision of creating a New India, ASSOCHAM works as a conduit between the industry and the Government. The Chamber is an agile and forward-looking institution, leading various initia-

tives to enhance the global competitiveness of the Indian industry, while strengthening the domestic ecosystem.

"We are continuously working in partnership with Government & Industry to deliberate upon and concretize the views on the important issues and organize various initiatives which

have immensely contributed in the growth of the industry sectors and shaping the policies of J&K as well as central Government," said Bhupesh Gupta, Co-Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K Council.

With more than 100 national and regional sector councils, ASSOCHAM is an impactful representative of the Indian industry. These Councils are led by well-known industry leaders, academicians, economists and independent professionals. The Chamber focuses on aligning critical needs and interests of

the industry with the growth aspirations of the nation.

"ASSOCHAM is one of the wonderful platform for the growth and development of related industry in UT-Ladakh. My heartfelt congratulations to the new president Sh. Ajay Singh and my gratitude for extending the responsibility as a Chairman, looking forward for continues guidance and encouragement for the different projects in the New UT-Ladakh, said Tashi Gyaltsen Khachu, Chairman ASSOCHAM, Ladakh UT Development Council.

FROM PAGE 1

LG dedicates Jhelum Rajbagh Riverfront to public

activities along the way. In the near future, a library and cafe will also be developed. The work on other side of the river will start soon, he added.

Srinagar city evolved and flourished around the water bodies, which contributed to the prosperity of society, local economy and the culture. However, due to neglect and degradation over the period of time, the restoration of this priceless heritage was need of the hour and I am sure it will contribute to living standards of people and boost the local economy, he further added.

Replying to a question on the G20 arrangements, the Lt Governor said the J&K Government with the active support and participation of the people, is all geared up for the G20 meeting.

We are grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing J&K UT with this great opportunity. The successful conduct of the G20 meeting will boost the tourism and investment flow in the UT. The world will also witness the culture and warm hospitality of Jammu Kashmir, he said.

Athar Amir Khan, Commissioner SMC and CEO Srinagar Smart City briefed the Lt Governor on the key features of the project.

The Jhelum Riverfront has been envisaged as a continuous walking and cycling promenade along with parks, and public plazas equipped with public amenities like sanitation, seating spaces, and high-quality lighting. Besides, Srinagar Smart City Limited has also taken up the project of water-transport and Jhelum cruise for the purpose of both public transport and leisure, it was informed.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; RK Goyal, ACS, Home Department; Sh Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner Shaleen; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, senior officials and prominent citizens were present.

China calls J&K "Disputed Territory," opposes hold-

ing G20 meeting in region

post for a year.

The G20 summit in Jammu and Kashmir promises to initiate a tidal wave of transformative outcomes, setting the region on a new trajectory towards stability, economic growth, and social development.

On being asked about the ongoing G7 Summit in Hiroshima where US President Joe Biden visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum on Friday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said despite characterizing itself as an advocate of a nuclear-weapons-free world, "Japan sits comfortably under the US's nuclear umbrella."

Wenbin said, "The tragedies caused by nuclear weapons should never happen again. Japan has characterized itself as an advocate of a nuclear-weapons-free world. But in fact, Japan sits comfortably under the US's nuclear umbrella, and it is against and hindering the US' renouncing of the first use of nuclear weapons. We also hope that Japan will no longer take a hypocritical position on the relevant issue."

The G7 leaders are currently in Japan to attend the G7 Summit scheduled to be held in Hiroshima from May 19-21. Notably, Japan assumed the G7 Presidency in 2023.

The G7 Summit is an international forum held annually for the leaders of the G7 member states of France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada (in order of rotating presidency), and the European Union (EU).

Notably, the G7 grouping comprises Japan, Italy, Canada, France, the US, the UK and Germany. Japan under its G7 Presidency has invited leaders from Australia, Brazil, Comoros, Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Vietnam this year.

Kot Bhalwal holding over 10 Pc more prisoners than normal capacity

Justice Rabstan inspected the barracks, dining and kitchen area, e-mulakat centre, video conferencing facility, 10 bedded hospital, vocational centres, Subscriber Trunk

Dialling (STD) facility and mini stadium.

"All the inmates of the jail during interaction admitted that they are being served proper diet and are being represented in their respective cases by the lawyers either engaged by them or provided by Legal Services Authority," the official said.

Justice Rabstan also visited the newly installed in-house bakery in the jail which as per the superintendent would be made operational very soon, the official said.

During a visit to the library, Justice Rabstan was introduced to the two teachers deputed by the education department who informed him that 25 jail inmates were appearing in graduation course exams through distance mode and 87 were undergoing certificate courses.

The Jail Superintendent also briefed the team about security arrangements and said the jail is equipped with surveillance cameras and there is complete restriction on mobile networks within the jail premises.

Justice Rabstan also inspected the legal aid clinic established in the jail where two Para-legal volunteers (PLVs), Darshan Lal and Gaurav Sharma, expressed gratitude to the Executive Chairman for increasing the number of working days from 10 to 20 days in a month.

Justice Rabstan recorded satisfaction regarding the facilities provided to the jail inmates and also urged the PLVs to work with dedication and ensure that the benefits of schemes launched for the welfare of jail inmates reach them, the official said.

J&K Govt orders transfers and postings of seven officers

Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Rajouri, is transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of the Tourism Department.

Mohammad Iqbal Lone, Under Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department.

CS launches various IT initiatives for integration of services with DigiLocker

Locker & Umang App

offices.

The application enables users to access e-Government Services and facilitates a one-stop-solution to avail verified government services. 31 Services of J&K have been on boarded and 11 central services (AICTE, BBPS, Mera Ration & Vahan) can also be availed by the citizens of J&K.

The 06 Services which were integrated with Umang App include those offered by the Power Development Department namely New Connection, Change of Name, Change of ownership, Change of Category and Track Status.

Twelve services offered by different Departments were integrated with online platform DigiLocker. These include 02 services of Health Department like Age Certificate, Fitness Certificate; 02 services of Revenue Department namely Record of Rights and PSP Certificate and 08 services of Housing & Urban Development Department namely Registration Certificate of Shops & Commercial Establishments, Municipal Limit Certificate, Trade Fair Permission, Mobile Tower Permission, Street Vendor Licence, Dairy Licence, Road Cutting permission and Pet Dog Registration Certificate.

Regarding these IT initiatives it was termed that the vision of Digital Jammu and Kashmir is to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and equity in the delivery of Public Services thereby empowering the citizens, by leveraging the power of digital and emerging technologies for the welfare of masses.

NIA conducts searches at 15 locations in terror related cases in J&K

proscribed organisations and their affiliates and off-shoots operating under various pseudo names at the behest of their Pakistani commanders and handlers hatched the plan.

The searches were conducted on May 15, covered Budgam, Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar, and Anantnag regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The searches were carried out at the residences of several suspects and OWGs

from various Jammu and Kashmir-based banned organisations.

The NIA also carried out searches at 14 locations in the Kulgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Sopore, and Jammu districts on December 23, 2022.

MeT forecasts widespread rains from May 23-25 in J&K

Srinagar recorded a low of 9.7°C against 9.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 7.6°C against 7.0°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.6°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 3.6°C against 2.7°C on the previous night and it was 2.3°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 8.3°C against 6.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 8.3°C against 7.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 4.8°C against 3.0°C on previous night and it was below normal by 2.0°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 22.6°C against 21.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 9.3°C (below normal by 2.4°C), Batote 13.0°C (1.1°C below normal), Katra 18.6°C (2.3°C below normal) and Baderwah 9.6°C (below normal by 0.8°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 1.6°C and 6.2°C respectively, he said.

Regarding the forecast, he said, till May 22 weather is likely to be mainly clear. However, he said, a brief spell of rain/thunderstorm may occur at a few places towards late afternoon and evening.

From May 23 to 25, the weather department forecast widespread light to moderate rain/thunder/lightning with possibility of hailstorm and gusty winds at few places.

No TCS on overseas payment via credit card up to Rs 7 lakh

Move aimed at removing ambiguity under liberalised remittance scheme

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): The government said no TCS will be levied on international spending of up to Rs 7 lakh a year by using debit or credit cards.

Facing backlash from a wide section of people, the Finance Ministry said the move is aimed at removing procedural ambiguity with regard to Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) and the levying of Tax Collected at Source (TCS).

The ministry's decision earlier this week to bring international credit card spending under the RBI's liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) and the consequent levy of 20% TCS has evoked sharp reactions from experts and stakeholders.

"To avoid any procedural ambiguity, it has been decided that any



payments by an individual using their international debit or credit cards up to Rs 7 lakh per financial year will be excluded from the LRS limits and hence, will not attract any TCS," the ministry said in a statement.

Currently, payments of up to Rs 7 lakh for medical treatment abroad and towards education do not attract TCS. TCS on such expen-

ditures is at the rate of 5%.

Existing beneficial TCS treatment for education and health payments will also continue, the ministry added.

Finance Ministry's clarification The decision to bring international credit card spending under the RBI's liberalised remittance scheme and the consequent levy of 20% tax collected at source (TCS) had evoked sharp reactions from experts and stakeholders.

Currently, payments of up to Rs 7 lakh for medical treatment abroad and towards education do not attract TCS. Such expenditures attract TCS at the rate of 5%.

Existing beneficial TCS treatment for education and health payments will also continue, the Finance Ministry said.

Govt to get Rs 87,416 crore dividend from RBI

MUMBAI, May 20 (Agencies): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Rs 87,416-crore dividend payout to the Central government for 2022-23, nearly triple of what it paid in the previous year.

The dividend payout was Rs 30,307 crore for accounting year 2021-22.

The decision was taken at the 602nd meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India held under the chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das.

"The Board approved

the transfer of Rs 87,416 crore as surplus to the central government for accounting year 2022-23, while deciding to keep the Contingency Risk Buffer at 6 per cent," RBI said in a statement.

The Board also reviewed the global and domestic economic situation and associated challenges, including the impact of current global geopolitical developments.

The Board also discussed the working of RBI during 2022-23 and approved the annual report and accounts of the central bank for the



year. Nearly three times than in FY2021-22

The dividend payout is significantly higher than the amount estimated in the Union Budget 2023-24 from the central bank and state-owned financial institutions.

The government was expecting Rs 48,000 crore from the RBI, public sector banks and financial institutions in the current fiscal.

The dividend payout by the RBI was Rs 30,307 crore for accounting year 2021-22.

Corrugated box makers cut output as demand slips

CHANDIGARH, May 20 (Agencies): The slowdown in demand for corrugated boxes from industries has cast shadow over Rs 20,000-crore packaging industry in the region.

The manufacturers said the demand has fallen by 30-40% in the past few months. It can be gauged from the fact that kraft paper mills in North India have stopped production for a week due to declining demand for kraft paper, which is a key raw material for the industry. Kraft paper accounts for 90% of the total input cost for corrugated box industry.

"There has been a decline in demand from almost all sectors. Be it FMCG (fast-moving consum-

er goods), white goods or pharmaceuticals," said Vishal Goel, managing director, Giriraj Industries.

Corrugated boxes are consumed across sectors in industries and trade for packaging purpose. But the decline in orders and exports from industries amid weakness in the domestic and global demand has led the corrugated box manufacturers to curtail production.

The manufacturers said capacity utilisation of corrugated box manufacturers is around 60-70% because of slowdown in certain sectors such as auto parts, home appliances and FMCG sectors.

There are around 2,000 corrugators spread across the northern

region. The industry is fragmented and dominated by MSMEs and employs over 1 lakh workers.

"There is a shortage of demand globally and even inflation is on the higher side, affecting the productivity of the mills," said Rajat Malhotra, proprietor, Aakriti Packaging.

Insiders say in May, the industry sees seasonal demand for apple and spirits packaging (wine and beer). "We normally receive high demand from Himachal Pradesh for the packing of apples in boxes, but owing to the delay in determining the size of the box, the industry is yet to commence production," said corrugators.

NPS as a viable post-retirement option

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): PLANNING for retirement can be a challenging task. As the clamour for the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) gains momentum among government employees across states, here's a look at what the New Pension System (NPS) offers.

The NPS was implemented for Central and state government employees (except for the armed forces) from January 1, 2004. Its scope was extended to all citizens, including self-employed and unorganised workers, in 2009. NPS is a voluntary retirement scheme. Subscribers can make a defined contribution towards planned savings, thereby securing the future in the form of a pension. The NPS contributions are invested in market-linked securities, and employees get 60 per cent of the accumulated corpus as a lumpsum on retirement. The remaining 40 per cent is given as monthly pension. It is administered and regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

Who can open an NPS account

Any citizen of India, whether a resident or an NRI, between the ages of 18 and 70 years as on the date of submission of his/her application can open an account subject to the prescribed Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. Individuals already covered under any other pension scheme can also open an account.

Benefits of NPS

Low cost: NPS is considered to be the world's lowest cost pension scheme. Administrative charges and fund management fee are also the lowest.

Simple: An applicant can open an account with any Point of Presence (PoP) through all head post offices across the country or through banks.

Flexible: Applicant can choose his/her own investment option and pension fund or select auto choice to get better returns.

Portable: Applicant can



operate an account from anywhere in the country and can pay contributions through any of the PoP, irrespective of the branch, even if he/she changes his/her city, job, etc. He/she can also make contributions through eNPS. The account can also be shifted to any other sector like government or corporate model in case the subscriber gets the employment.

Tax benefit for self-employed

A subscriber is eligible for tax rebate up to 10 per cent of gross income under Section 80CCD (1) within the overall ceiling of Rs 1.5 lakh under Section 80CCE. The subscriber is also allowed deduction for additional contribution in his NPS account subject to a maximum investment of Rs 50,000 under Section 80CCD 1(B). However, tax benefits would be applicable as per the Income Tax Act 1961 as amended from time to time.

Types of accounts

Tier-1

The applicant shall contribute his/her savings for retirement. It's a restricted withdrawal account. This is a retirement account and applicant can claim tax benefits against the contributions made subject to the income tax rules in force.

Tier-II

This is a voluntary savings facility. The applicant is free to withdraw savings whenever he/she wishes. This is not a retirement account and the subscriber can't claim any tax benefits.

Contributions

The subscriber can contribute the amount through any means: cash, cheque, demand draft or online.

Minimum contribution (for Tier-I)

At the time of account

opening and for all subsequent transactions: Rs 500.

Minimum contribution per year: Rs 1,000, excluding charges and taxes.

Minimum number of transactions in a year: One

Minimum contribution (for Tier-II)

At the time of account opening: Rs 1,000

For all subsequent transactions: Rs 250.

There is no minimum contribution requirement for the financial year and no cap on maximum contribution.

Investment options Under the NPS, how money is invested will depend on the subscriber's choice. It offers a number of funds and multiple investment options to choose from.

In case the subscriber doesn't want to exercise an option, money will be invested as per the default choice or 'auto choice', where money will be invested in various types of schemes as per the subscriber's age.

The NPS offers two methods to invest. Active choice A subscriber will have the option to actively decide as to how NPS pension wealth is to be invested in the following options:

Asset class E: Investments in predominantly equity market instruments.

Asset class C: In fixed income instruments other than government securities.

Asset class G: In government securities.

Asset class A: In Alternative Investment Schemes, including commercial mortgage-backed security (CMBS), mortgage-backed securities (MBS), real estate investment trusts (REITs), alternative investment funds

Death of subscriber Nominee has the option to receive 100 per cent of the pension wealth in lumpsum. He/she can also continue with the NPS.

(AIFs) and infrastructure investment trust (Invits).

A subscriber can choose to invest his/her entire pension wealth in C or G asset classes and up to a maximum of 50 per cent in equity (Asset class E) and up to a maximum of 5 per cent in asset class A. The subscriber can also distribute pension wealth across E, C, G and A classes, subject to conditions prescribed by the PFRDA.

Auto choice

This is an option for those who don't have the required knowledge to manage their NPS investments. In case subscribers are unable/unwilling to exercise any option as regards asset allocation, their funds will be invested in accordance with this option.

Withdrawal/exit Upon attaining the age of 60

At least 40 per cent of the accumulated pension wealth of the subscriber needs to be utilised for purchase of annuity providing for monthly pension and the balance 60 per cent is paid as lumpsum. In case the total accumulated corpus is less than Rs 5 lakh, the subscriber can opt for 100 per cent lumpsum withdrawal.

However, the subscriber has the option to defer the lumpsum withdrawal till the age of 75 years. The subscriber has also got the option to continue contribution up to the age of 75. This option has to be exercised up to 15 days prior to completion of 60 years.

Before attaining the age of 60

The subscriber can exit from the NPS before attaining the age of 60 years after he has completed 10 years. At least 80 per cent of the accumulated pension wealth needs to be utilised for the purchase of annuity providing for monthly pension to the subscriber. The balance is paid as lumpsum.

Death of subscriber Nominee has the option to receive 100 per cent of the pension wealth in lumpsum. He/she can also continue with the NPS.

Humour appreciation found to involve 'work' brain circuits

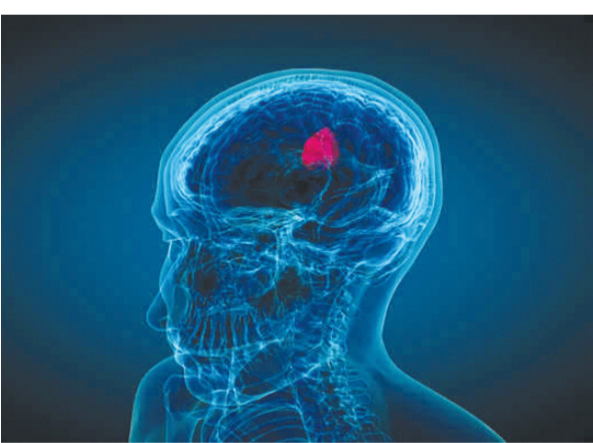
NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): Scientists have found that high-frequency neural activity, seen in tasks that require a lot of cognitive engagement, such as work, is also a mark of humour appreciation.

The scientists from Institut Du Cerveau (Paris Brain Institute), France, and Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, Israel, studied the cognitive and neuronal mechanisms on which appreciation of humour was based.

They have described their findings in the journal *Neuropsychologia*.

Previous studies have shown the involvement of the temporal lobe in the processing of droll stimuli, or stimuli associated with goof.

The scientists analysed intracerebral electrophysiological recordings of 13 epileptic patients, which made it possible to look at neuronal activity directly with a high spatial and temporal precision (at the millisecond scale) in several cortical areas.



So far, the preferred technique for these studies was fMRI. However, the researchers of this study said, the signal obtained via fMRI does not allow the detection of the entire spectrum of electromagnetic waves generated by the brain: part of the information is lost.

The patients being studied had been implanted with deep brain electrodes as part of a pre-surgical assessment of refractory epilepsy.

The researchers asked the patients to watch a three-minute excerpt from Charlie Chaplin's *Circus* (1928) while their

brain activity was measured live. Beforehand, the amusing nature of each sequence had been evaluated, frame by frame, by a group of healthy volunteers.

The team then compared the patients' neural activity recorded during the funniest scenes in the film with that recorded during the least funny scenes.

"We observed that the funniest sequences were associated with an increase in high-frequency gamma waves and a decrease in low-frequency waves.

"These results indicate that high-frequency neural activity, which

is seen in tasks that require a lot of cognitive engagement, such as work, is also a mark of humour appreciation.

"Conversely, scenes that are not funny, such as transition sequences where the character moves from one place to another without doing anything, promote inattention and introspection... and a preponderance of low frequencies," explained Vadim Axelrod, who led the experiment.

More importantly, the scientists said, this inverse relationship between high and low frequencies was observed in temporal lobe regions but not in others. It seemed that humorous content was not processed in the same way throughout the cortex and depended on brain areas and functions.

According to a dominant theory, the treatment of humour is based on two complementary mechanisms and involve two neural circuits - cognitive and emotional.

Cognition is first employed to detect an incongruous element of reality. For example, in Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* (1925), the hero eats shoelaces like spaghetti.

Following this, a positive emotion related to this incongruity emerges through the emotional neural circuit.

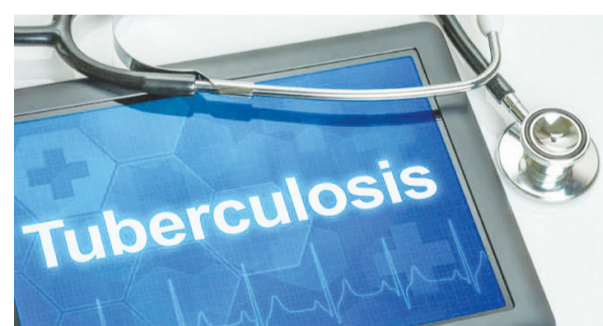
What is funny would, therefore, be both unexpected and pleasant.

"Our results support this theory, as we confirm the prominent role of the temporal lobe in the appreciation of humour.

"As the anterior parts of this area are involved in semantic memory, we can imagine that their activity is linked to the analysis of the scene and the detection of its incongruous content.

"Conversely, the activation of its posterior parts could correspond to understanding the unusual and, therefore, amusing aspect of certain social interactions," said Vadim Axelrod.

Study suggests TB vax may reduce risk of Alzheimer's



NEW YORK, May 20 (Agencies): The 100-year-old tuberculosis vaccine Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine may likely reduce risk of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, suggests a study.

The BCG vaccine offers multiple beneficial effects, and it's currently a recommended therapy for non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer.

The findings, published in *JAMA Network Open*, revealed that treatment with the BCG vaccine was associated with a 20 per cent lower risk of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

The protective association was greater in patients aged 70

years or older, and also reduced risk of death.

Researchers from the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), followed 6,467 individuals for up to 15 years after they were diagnosed with non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer.

The group included 3,388 patients who underwent BCG vaccine treatment and 3,079 who served as controls, matched by factors such as age, sex, and medical comorbidities.

During follow-up, 202 patients in the BCG vaccine group and 262 in the control group developed Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

The incidence was 8.8

per 1,000 person-years and 12.1 per 1,000 person-years in the respective groups.

In addition, 751 patients in the BCG vaccine group died while 973 people died in the control group. Thus, treatment with BCG vaccine was also associated with a 25 per cent lower risk of death.

"A vaccine like BCG, if proven effective, is a perfect example of a cost-effective, population-health-based solution to a devastating illness like Alzheimer's disease," Marc Weinberg, an Instructor in Psychiatry at MGH.

"We are shifting our focus towards studying the potential benefits of BCG vaccination of older adults in Alzheimer's disease-related clinical trials," he added. If a causal link is found, it will be important to understand the mechanisms involved. Weinberg and his colleagues note that the BCG vaccine's effects on the immune system may play a role.

IPL 2023 Playoff Race Complete Scenario: How Can CSK, LSG, RCB, MI, KKR And RR Seal Top-4 Berth

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): Only the last two days of the IPL 2023 league phase remain, with three playoff spots still up for grabs. Only defending champions Gujarat Titans are assured of a top-two spot, while as many as six teams still have chance to enter the playoffs. MS Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings, Krunal Pandya's Lucknow Super Giants, Faf du Plessis' Royal Challengers Bangalore, Rohit Sharma's Mumbai Indians, Sanju Samson's Rajasthan Royals and Nitish Rana's Kolkata Knight Riders are the six teams which still have a chance to enter the playoffs. Punjab Kings, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals are already out of the playoffs race.

Here's the IPL 2023 Playoff Race Complete Scenario:

CSK (15 Points, 13 games, NRR +0.381) - To face DC on Saturday

The MS Dhoni-led side can seal a playoff berth with a win against DC on Saturday. However, they would want to win big to ensure a top-two finish as LSG are also on 15 points.

In case of a loss too, CSK can still remain in the top-4 provided match results of either LSG, RCB or MI go in their favour.



NRR +0.304) - To face KKR on Saturday

They have almost the same scenario as CSK. A win against KKR will see them through, a big win will catapult them to a top-two finish. Even in case of a loss, they can still go through provided match results of CSK, RCB or MI go in their favour.

RCB (14 Points, 13 games, NRR +0.180) - To face GT on Sunday

The big wins in the last two games have ensured that RCB have a good run-rate. A win against GT will ensure them a spot in the top-4, provided MI does not beat SRH by a humongous margin. Both matches are

on Sunday and RCB's run-rate is much better than MI's.

They can finish in the top two as well, provided one among CSK or LSG lose their respective games and RCB beat GT by a big margin.

Even if they lose and MI lose too, RCB will go through due to their much better run-rate. There is another scenario that KKR (currently on 12 points) defeat LSG by a massive margin both RCB and MI lose. In that case, run-rate will play a big part and RCB have the better run-rate among the three.

MI (14 Points, 13 games, NRR -0.128) - To face SRH on Sunday

The five-time champions are in a tricky spot as they are placed sixth in the points table. However, they face the bottom-placed SRH in their last game. They have to win their last game and hope that one team out of CSK, LSG and RCB lose their respective last matches. That will see MI (on 16 points in case of a win vs SRH) enter top-4.

They have a chance to finish in the top-two as well provided CSK, LSG and RCB lose their games and the Rohit Sharma-led side win big.

RR (14 Points, 14 games, NRR +0.148)

They now have to depend on other teams' results - more specifically on RCB's and MI's last matches. They will need both teams to lose their respective games to have the long shot of entering the top 4. RCB must lose big for RR to enter top 4. KKR can also surpass them, but for that to happen KKR will need to defeat LSG by over 100 runs.

KKR (12 Points, 13 games, NRR -0.256) - To face LSG on Saturday

They not only must win against LSG by a very big margin to have a chance to enter the top-4 but also hope for other results to go their way. For KKR to qualify, both RCB and MI must lose by big margins.

Royals beat Punjab by four wickets, keep playoffs hopes alive



DHARAMSALA, May 20 (Agencies): Devdutt Padikkal and Yashasvi Jaiswal hit crucial fifties as Rajasthan Royals kept their playoffs hopes alive with a four-wicket win over Punjab Kings in their final IPL league match here.

Sent in to bat, PBKS were reeling at 50/4 but Sam Curran (49 not out) and Jitesh Sharma (44 off 28 balls) revived the innings while M Shahrukh Khan (41 not out off) provided the late surge to power the side to 187/5. Playing in only his second match of the season, pacer Navdeep Saini (3/40) picked up the best figures of his IPL career.

A target of 188 was never going to be easy and RR needed to complete the chase in 18.3 overs to get ahead of Royal Challengers Bangalore's net run rate but they couldn't. But still RR got two points to stay afloat, with Jaiswal (50 off 36) scripting the chase, adding 73 off 49 balls with Padikkal (51 off 30) and another 47 off 22 balls with Shimron Hetmyer (46) as RR won in 19.4 overs.

With the win, RR moved to fifth spot with 14 points, same as RCB and

Mumbai Indians, who both still have a match to play in the league stage. The loss meant, PBKS are officially out of the IPL.

RR suffered an early setback during their chase with Kagiso Rabada getting Jos Buttler lbw for his third duck. But Padikkal and Jaiswal batted with purpose to take RR to 85/1 in 9.4 overs. But RR lost Padikkal and skipper Sanju Samson (3) in quick succession to leave them at 90/3 in the 11th over.

Jaiswal then found a perfect partner in Hetmyer, who slipped into the role of the aggressor with three sixes early on. Jaiswal completed his fifty in 35 balls before falling to a reverse hit off Nathan Ellis. RR still needed 51 off 33 balls and it was Riyan Parag (20 off 12 balls) who slammed two successive sixes off Rabada to bring the equation down.

PBKS skipper Shikhar Dhawan pulled off a sensational catch to end Hetmyer's stay but impact player Dhruv Jurel clobbered a six off the fourth ball of the last over to knock off the winning runs.

Brief scores: Punjab Kings: 187/5 (Curran 49*, Jitesh 44; Saini 3/40); Rajasthan Royals: 189/6 in 19.4 overs (Padikkal 51, Jaiswal 50, Hetmyer 46; Rabada 2/40).

After climbing into fifth place, Rajasthan Royals will now endure a nervous wait for the next couple of days. They will need both Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore to lose their final games. In RCB's case, the loss must be by six runs or more for Royals to jump ahead on net run rate.

IPL 2023: Listless KKR hoping against hope; LSG eyeing back-to-back playoff berth

KOLKATA, May 20 (Agencies): Set to be clad in local giants Mohun Bagan's iconic green and maroon jersey, Lucknow Super Giants would find themselves at home as they look to seal their playoff berth knocking out a hapless Kolkata Knight Riders in the final IPL game, here on Saturday.

The real home team in this case, KKR, have not only complained of being let down by the conditions but their problems go deeper, having struggled to find a perfect winning combination in a topsy-turvy season, enduring seven defeats. Out of those seven, four losses were at the Eden Gardens.

Be it the batting, which still seems to be a work in progress, the bowling, especially pace department, has also looked terribly short on experience.

In fielding, they have made a mockery of themselves with some of the efforts suggesting that the two-time champions have showed they do not 'belong' at this level.

KKR batters simply have not been able to adapt to the surface while batting first as they scored below-par totals of 179/7 and 149/8 against Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals respectively.

Putting things into perspective, CSK and SRH scored 235/4 and 228/4 when they were put into bat by KKR at the same venue.

Courtesy, some individual brilliance from Rinku Singh and Varun Chakravarthy, the KKR still are lucky to have been able to keep their campaign alive in 'blow hot-n-cold' season.

With a heavy mid-table traffic, there is a possibility of four teams to be locked on 14 points with the one with a superior net run-rate making the



playoffs. Hanging by the thread, KKR with 12 points would not only need to win by a big margin, but they have to rely on Punjab Kings (vs Rajasthan Royals), Gujarat Titans (vs Royal Challengers Bangalore) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (Mumbai Indians) to win their respective matches.

LSG however do not have to fret so much about the mathematical scenarios as a win would be enough for them to seal their back-to-back playoff berth.

On momentum too, LSG look far superior to a struggling KKR who have struggled to get into the act at their home den.

Elevated to captaincy after KL Rahul's pull-out because of injury at the business end of the season, Krunal Pandya looked a natural leader, especially the way he managed to choke Mumbai Indians while defending 177 speaks volumes about his captaincy.

Not only did he look heavily involved, his tactical bowling changes paved the way for their slender five-run win the other day.

Marcus Stoinis is proving to be the crisis man for LSG and was the difference in their stunning win over MI.

He brought all his experience into count to score an 89 not out to revive their innings from being 35/3.

In bowling Mohsin Khan has been a revelation as he along with spinner Ravi Bishnoi would look to relish the

slow conditions of Eden. LSG, who will be donning a special edition Mohun Bagan colours, will further be bolstered by the support of the football heavyweights with both the teams have the same owner, RP Sanjiv Goenka Group.

Behind the scenes, LSG mentor Gautam Gambhir, who led KKR to their two triumphs in 2012 and 2014, will add all the valuable inputs.

For KKR, it's time to go back to drawing board and reflect on the season that has gone wrong.

Squads

Kolkata Knight Riders: Nitish Rana ©, Jason Roy, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Venkatesh Iyer, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Shardul Thakur, Lockie Ferguson, Umesh Yadav, Tim Southee, Harshit Rana, Varun Chakravarthy, Anukul Roy, Rinku Singh, N. Jagadeesan, Vaibhav Arora, Suyash Sharma, David Wiese, Kulwant Khejroliya, Litton Das, Mandeep Singh and Aarya Desai.

Lucknow Super Giants: Krunal Pandya ©, Ayush Badoni, Karan Sharma, Manan Vohra, Quinton de Kock, Marcus Stoinis, Krishnappa Gowtham, Deepak Hooda, Kyle Mayers, Avesh Khan, Mohsin Khan, Mark Wood, Mayank Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Nicholas Pooran, Yash Thakur, Romario Shepherd, Daniel Sams, Amit Mishra, Prerak Mankad, Swapnil Singh, Naveen-Haq, Yudhvir Charak and Karun Nair.

IPL 2023: Determined CSK aim at qualification; DC look to end season on a high

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): A determined Chennai Super Kings unit wouldn't mind being masters of its own fate in its bid to steamroll the already ousted Delhi Capitals, who are looking to end a forgettable IPL campaign on a high in a final league game, here on Saturday.

At the moment, CSK are in second spot in the points table with 15 points from 13 games. But a loss against DC along with a string of unfavourable results could see the four-time champions miss out on the last leg of IPL action.

A win would, however, confirm a play-off spot but whether they finish in second place or third would depend on the Lucknow Super Giants' result against Kolkata Knight Riders later in the day.

CSK have a better net run rate of +0.381 than LSG's +0.304, who are also on 15 points.

The slow nature of Feroz Shah Kotla track will suit CSK's game-plan and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, in all likelihood playing his last competitive game in the National Capital will like to make full use of the conditions against an out-of-sorts team.

Batting has been CSK's strong suit. Devon Conway, Ruturaj



Gaikwad and Ajinkya Rahane have provided solid starts but CSK need the likes of Ambati Rayudu, Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali to complement Shivam Dube better in the middle overs.

Dhoni has managed some cameos in the fag end of the innings and the skipper is expected to continue doing so despite calls of him coming up the order.

On the bowling front, Tushar Deshpande has been expensive but he gets breakthroughs while young pacer Matheesha Pathirana has been doing a good job.

The spin trio of Jadeja, Moeen and Maheesh Theekshana have also been effective in stemming the flow of runs.

But standing in CSK's way is an unpredictable Delhi side.

After a miserable first half, where they lost five games on the trot, the Capitals did manage to pick up some momentum, winning five out of

their next eight games but it came too late in the competition.

They are out of the reckoning but head into the contest on the back of their first 200-plus scores and a morale boosting 15-run win over Punjab Kings, all but ending their chances of qualification.

Come Saturday, David Warner and Co. would like to play the proverbial party-poopers once again by ending their IPL season with a win at home.

But Delhi hasn't fared well at home, with skipper Warner conceding their batting unit has struggled to figure out what the best total is at the Feroz Shah Kotla this season because of slow and inconsistent pitches.

Apart from a few cameos by Axar Patel, Delhi's Indian batting line-up has failed miserably this season.

Prithvi Shaw has perhaps been the biggest letdown along with veteran Manish Pandey,

who is into his 16th IPL season.

After a string of underwhelming performances he was forced to warm the bench. But the opener came back and scored his maiden half-century of the season and would want another good knock.

Warner has mostly carried the Delhi batting with the likes of Mitchell Marsh, Phil Salt and Rilee Rossouw showcasing their batting prowess in some games.

The bowling unit has eked out most of Delhi's wins with the spin duo of Axar and Kuldeep Yadav doing a remarkable job.

Old warhorse Ishant Sharma has been invaluable, handed the ball in crunch situations, the veteran pacer kept his calm won the matches against Gujarat Titans and Punjab. However he hasn't provided too many breakthroughs despite being accurate on most occasions.

After leaking runs in the initial games, Anrich Nortje has also found his groove while Khaleel Ahmed has also been impactful on occasions and profligate at other times.

Delhi's fielding against Punjab was atrocious, dropping as many as

four catches that almost cost them the match. Come Saturday, the hosts will need to put up a much better display.

Teams (From):

Delhi Capitals: David Warner ©, Prithvi Shaw, Mitchell Marsh, Sarfaraz Khan, Aman Hakim Khan, Abhishek Porel (wk), Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Kuldeep Yadav, Rovman Powell, Rilee Rossouw, Anrich Nortje, Mustafizur Rahman, Chetan Sakariya, Mukesh Kumar, Phil Salt, Lungi Ngidi, Praveen Dubey, Lalit Yadav, Ripal Patel, Vicky Ostwal, Ishant Sharma, Manish Pandey, Yash Dhull, Priyam Garg.

Chennai Super Kings: MS Dhoni (c & wk), Akash Singh, Moeen Ali, Bhagath Varma, Deepak Chahar, Devon Conway, Tushar Deshpande, Shivam Dube, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rajvardhan Hangarkar, Ravindra Jadeja, Sisanda Magala, Ajay Mandal, Matheesha Pathirana, Dwaine Pretorius, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Ambati Rayudu, Mitchell Santner, Subhanshu Senapati, Simarjeet Singh, Nishant Sindhu, Prashant Solanki, Ben Stokes, Maheesh Theekshana.

We thought Singh would resign in January: Bajrang Punia

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): The wrestlers who are sitting on a dharna in their fight against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in an alleged sexual harassment case have been saying that they are in for a long haul.

However, it was not the case when Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik first decided to start a sit-in protest back in January.

They started the protest and rocked the very foundation of Indian sports when they alleged that Singh had been abusing women wrestlers for a number of years. The feeling within the group was that since the allegations were of a grave nature, either Singh would resign or the government would seek his resignation forthwith to resolve the matter. The wrestlers first came

to Jantar Mantar on January 18 and called off their protest three days later after the Sports Ministry formed an oversight committee to probe the allegations.

However, the wrestlers have had to return to the site for a second time as they were not satisfied with the committee's workings. Subsequently, the wrestlers then filed a complaint with the Delhi Police and then got a favourable directive from the Supreme Court as FIRs were registered against the Wrestling Federation of India chief.

"When we came here for the first time, we thought he would resign promptly and leave. We also thought our Government would seek his resignation and the wrestling body would be handed over to the right people," Bajrang told agency, which hap-



pened to be the 27th day of their protest.

"Now we are not thinking about days any more. We have thought that this is a fight to get justice and so we will fight till the end," added the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist.

Further, the wrestlers never wanted to file a police complaint or approach the courts as they

wanted to hide the identities of the victims.

"We did not want a big fight because we wanted to save the girls. Already you can see when we sent in the complaints this time, those names were leaked. We wanted to keep their names confidential. They are all out in the open now. Those girls are being pressured now," Bajrang said.

"If any such incident happens to a girl in our society, it is remembered for eternity. However, if a boy does any such thing, people forget in two months or a year maximum. No girl will put forward such allegations for fun. These are serious allegations and these girls have to live their lives. Some of them will get married as well. No one plays with their honour to get political benefits," he added.

Modi Govt's 9 years dedicated to welfare, social justice: Vibodh



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 20: Sanyukt Morcha of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, will hold mega Sammelans in the constituencies of Jammu region to mark the celebration of 9 years of Modi Government at the Centre, informed BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta while addressing a meeting of Sanyukt Morcha members at Party Headquarters in Jammu. The nine years of the Modi government are dedicated to

welfare, service to the nation, and social justice, added Vibodh.

The Sanyukt Morcha team comprised of Neelam Langeh, President BJP SC Morcha J&K and former MLA, Sunil Prajapati, President BJP OBC Morcha J&K; Arun Prabhakar Singh, President BJYM J&K, Bilal Parry National Executive Member BJYM and Co-Incharge Social Media Department J&K BJP and Danish Mishra, Vice President BJYM, J&K.

Vibodh Gupta told that the Sanyukt Morcha has

chalked out month-long programs to ensure the historic celebration of nine years of the Modi Government under the slogan 'Nav Saal - Bemisaal'. He informed that mega Sammelan will be organized by Sanyukt Morcha in the constituencies on May 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, and 18, appraising the people of the achievements of the nine years of the Narendra Modi Government.

Vibodh Gupta maintained that BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi at the Centre has done tremendous work to ensure that

every section of the society gets its due share. He said that peace and progress is the mission of the BJP-led Government at the Centre and the way the development is being carried out sooner than later all the dreams of the people of J&K will be realized without discrimination, prejudice, or lopsidedness.

Vibodh Gupta said the revolutionary steps taken by the Modi-led dispensation including the abrogation of Article 370 made it possible for the people to avail all the benefits which were

already available to their counterparts in other parts of the country but the same was denied to J&K residents due to short-sightedness of the political class that ruled the region in the past over 70 years. He laid stress upon the Sanyukt Morcha members to make all possible efforts to make the upcoming Sammelans a big success.

Neelam Langeh, who was also present in the meeting, assured the senior leader of the party for making these sammelans a big success. He assured he will remain present in all the reserved constituencies where in the Sammelans will be conducted in this month. He said that what BJP Government has given to J&K and what is in the offing is something that 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.

Impella Device gives new lease of life to 52-yr-old patient with heart blockages



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 20: The cardiology team at Fortis Mohali led by Dr R.K. Jaswal, Head of Department and Director of Cardiology and Director-Cathlabs, has given a new lease of life to a 52-year-old Patient who had suffered a sudden cardiac arrest.

The patient was saved by using the most advanced technology-Impella Device in Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD).

Impella is one of the best and latest innovations in the field of cardiology and heart failure.

Impella – a miniature heart pump is used to support the heart function during procedures when heart function is low, and multiple stenting is required.

The patient was rushed to Fortis Mohali after he collapsed while complaining of sudden chest discomfort. Medical examination revealed that he

had suffered a sudden cardiac arrest. Though the heart attack had occurred 3-4 hours prior to the Patient's arrival at the hospital, by the time he reached Fortis Mohali, a major part of his heart, brain, liver and kidneys had become dysfunctional. The Patient was subsequently put on advanced life support - ventilator and intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP), but his medical condition remained extremely critical. Further, his blood pressure was not improving due to massive damage to the heart muscles (stunning of the myocardium).

Using the advanced technology of Impella device (LVAD), Dr Jaswal was able to restore blood circulation in both arteries of the Patient. The procedure also allowed the heart muscle, kidney and liver to recuperate over the next three days. After stabilization, the Impella Device was

removed and functioning of all vital organs was restored. The Patient was discharged subsequently. He has recovered completely and is leading a normal life today.

Discussing the case, Dr Jaswal, said, "A few years ago, patients with similar cardiac conditions, mostly couldn't survive. Impella Device is the most advanced treatment option available at select hospitals in India including Fortis Mohali. A heart attack is a dire emergency and every minute counts. Any delay in medical intervention can cause irreversible damage to the heart and other vital organs and can prove to be fatal. If a person experiences chest pain, cold sweats, pressure or compression of the chest along with uneasiness, persistent acidity, neck and jaw pain, then immediate medical intervention is required by an experienced cardiologist."

Inter District Division level Kho-kho tournament

District Samba beats Ramban in opening tie

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, May 20: Department of Youth Service and Sports Kathua organized the Inter District Division level Kho-kho tournament U-19 year's boys 2022-23 at Trikuta Ground Dayalchak, here on Saturday.

The tournament was inaugurated by DYSSO Samba Chander Kanta ji.

As per the direction of Director Youth Service and Sports Subash Chander Chhibber J&K UT and over-all supervision of DYSSO Kathua Sunil Kumar along with activities Incharge Dharminder Singh PEM.



While addressing, Chief Guest advised the participant to play with true sportsman-

ship and give your best performance. In opening match, District

Samba beat District Ramban with huge margin of inning and 10 points.

SOTTO organizes workshop on Organ & Tissue Donation

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 20: The Scientific Workshop on "Organ and Tissue Donation" that witnessed the participation of over 150 participants including Medical professionals, HoDs, faculty and Nursing Students organized jointly by State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) in collaboration with Government Medical College Jammu under the patronage of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt. of India at Auditorium, GMC Jammu.

The programme was inaugurated by lamp lightening ceremony by Dr. Shashi Sudhan Sharma, Principal and Dean, GMC Jammu, Mr. Ashwani Khajuria, Administrator, AHJ, Dr. Elias Sharma, HoD Urology and Renal Transplant Unit SSH Jammu & Nodal Officer SOTTO J&K, Dr. Haroon Salaria, HoD Neurosurgery, Dr. Anju Jamwal, HoD Anesthesiology, Dr. Rakesh Bahl, Professor P&SM, Dr. Anita Vig, Professor Anesthesiology, Dr. Nar-



ender Bhutyal, Medical Superintendent GMCH and Dr. Rehana Bashir Dy. Medical Superintendent GMCH.

The inaugural ceremony was followed by the release of SOTTO's first annual Newsletter "Naman" by dignitaries present there.

Eminent speakers were invited to talk on various aspects of Organ Donation. The program was designed to focus on the altruistic cause of organ donation by reaching out to the medical fraternity from various streams which will help improve donation/retrieval/transplantation in India saving

precious lives.

Dr. Elias Sharma, welcomed all the dignitaries and said that to give an impetus to mass level to Cadaveric Organ Donation in India, such programmes should be organized regularly so that continuous awareness remains among the people.

Dr. Shashi Sudhan Sharma, the Chief Guest on the occasion said that, "nothing can be more self-evident than to give those who really need help, a ray of hope and more precisely a second chance to live just by pledging and donating the organs after we are gone.

Dr. Haroon Salaria as a speaker on the occasion talked about "Identification of Donors and Brain Stem Death Declaration". He said that Brain Death, also commonly referred to as death by neurologic criteria, has been considered a legal definition of death for decades. Its determination involves many considerations and subtleties.

Dr. Anita Vig addressed the gathering on "how to maintain a donor". She told that management of a brain-dead donor involves a combination of mechanical ventilation, fluid replacement, and inotropes or vasopres-

sors, using a simplified method as the adapted VIP approach can contribute to improving management.

Dr. Ashok Sharma gave description about Eye Donation and Transplantation, need of eye bank and types of keratoplasty etc. He ended his presentation with the message "Eyes Never Dies" and motivated others to pledge for eye/organ donation.

Dr. Sandhya Arora, talked upon "Organ donation in Medico legal cases". She throws light on practical scenarios involved in MLCs.

Gagandeep kour and Ms. Sonia Bassan transplant coordinators GMCH spoke upon "Challenges of Organ Donation" and "Role of Transplant Coordinator" respectively.

Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Elias Sharma and whole program was anchored and managed by Mr. Irfan Ahmad Lone Transplant Coordinator SOTTO and Ms. Anshu Sharma, Consultant (IEC/Media) and Nisha Sharma, DEO respectively.

Puneet Jamwal demands policy for EVs charging points at vital locations

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 20: With the increase in use of electric vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir and Srinagar, Jammu city in particular; ace environmentalist Puneet Jamwal has demanded a government policy to run commercial electric vehicles besides charging points at vital locations.

Saying that electric vehicles are environmentally friendly and the future of the city's mobility plan, Puneet Jamwal observed that

many vehicle owners have charging points at respective homes and in case of emergency they find themselves helpless in absence of commercial charging points.

He said that most commercially used three-wheelers sans mandatory safety norms and run without obtaining any fitness permissions.

Puneet Jamwal said that in absence of any concrete policy for EVs, there are also reports of frequent clashes between the traditional autos and newcomers.

To avoid any chaos,

the government should come up with a concrete policy for all EVs. He also demanded introduction of electric buses in public transport as soon as possible on longer routes of the city to tackle the problems of traffic jams.

Sharing data he said that the latest report shows that EV sales are expected to leap by 35% this year, which is an undeniable fact that the industry is on a growing trajectory. He said with this government should also provide EV charging points at vital locations.

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