

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Cash, Liquor, Drugs Worth Rs 95 Crore seized during Lok Sabha Polls in J&K

SRINAGAR, May 26 (Agencies): Election authorities in Jammu and Kashmir seized about Rs 95 crore worth of cash and other freebies like liquor that were meant for influencing the minds of voters during the staggered elections to five Lok Sabha seats in the Union territory.

The polling in Jammu and Kashmir was completed on Saturday as Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency voted for their candidates.

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

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

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

"Cash, liquor, drugs and other freebies have been seized by various enforcement departments. Major department-wise seizures included seizures by the police department valuing Rs 90.831 crore, Income Tax department 42 lakh, excise department 1.01 crore and Narcotics Control Bureau has seized drugs worth 2.32 crore respectively," the officials added.

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

Election authorities received 143 grievances on CVIGIL app out of which over 80 have been resolved while the remaining are under the process of resolution.

To monitor various election-related activities and also check

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Opposition Alliance will change Constitution, Give reservation to Muslims: PM Modi

MIRZAPUR (UP), May 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday branded the opposition INDIA bloc as communal and casteist, and claimed they have decided to change the Constitution to give reservation to Muslims.

While the SP-Congress is dedicated to vote bank, Modi is dedicated to rights of backwards and the poor, he said addressing a poll meeting here in support of NDA alliance part-



ner Apna Dal's candidate from Mirzapur Lok Sabha seat Anupriya

Patel and Robertsganj Lok Sabha seat Rinki Kol.

"People of the country have identified the people of 'INDI alliance'. These people are staunch communal, casteist and dynast (parivar wadi). Whenever their government is formed they take decision on this basis," he said. He also accused the Samajwadi Party of neglecting the talent of people of the Yadav community and giving ticket to only family members of Mulayam Singh Yadav.

PM waived loans Of 22 people but couldn't give Rs 9,000 Cr for HP monsoon disaster: Rahul

SHIMLA, May 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi waived loans worth Rs 16 lakh-crore of 22 people in the last 10 years but could not give Rs 9,000 crore to deal with the disaster caused by monsoon rains in Himachal Pradesh last year, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Sunday.



Rather than helping the hilly state, Modi made an attempt to "steal" the state's elected government, Gandhi said. His statement came

days after PM Modi alleged wrongful distribution of Central flood aids by the Congress government in the state and promised action.

Addressing an election rally at Nahan in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district in support of Congress candidate from Shimla (SC) Parliamentary constituency

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Punjab Police, BSF bust drugs smuggling module with arrest of seven people, recovers 5 kg heroin

CHANDIGARH, May 26 (Agencies): The Punjab Police has busted an "international" drugs smuggling module with the arrest of seven people and recovered 5.47 kilogrammes of heroin in the Fazilka district, the state's top



officer said on Sunday. Director General of

Police Gaurav Yadav said the arrested accused were in touch with a Pakistan-based smuggler.

During the joint operation with the Border Security Force (BSF), the police also

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Leh-Bound Spicejet Plane suffers glitch; Returns to Delhi

NEW DELHI, May 26: A SpiceJet aircraft enroute to Leh suffered a glitch on Sunday morning and returned to the national capital, according to a source.

The source said that the plane, carrying around 135 people, landed safely at the Delhi airport.

A full emergency was declared at the airport and the aircraft, operating the flight SG 123 that took off at around 1030 hours, landed safely at about 1100 hrs. The plane returned due to engine vibrations, the source said.

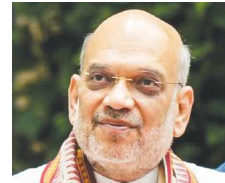
The Boeing 737-7 aircraft returned to the national capital sometime after takeoff, as

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After successful polls, JK Statehood and Assembly Elections Next: Amit Shah

SRINAGAR, May 26 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the Modi government's Kashmir policy has been vindicated by the successful polling in Jammu and Kashmir, where even separatists have voted "overwhelmingly", as he assured that the assembly elections in the region will be held before September 30.

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



said in an interview to PTI late Saturday.

"I have said in Parliament that we will give the statehood after the assembly elections," he said, adding that everything is going according to plan, such as the surveys of the backward

classes and delimitation exercise of the Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies.

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

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Seven newborns die in fire at East Delhi Children's Hospital

NEW DELHI, May 26 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out at a children's hospital in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar, leaving seven newborns dead, officials said on May 26.

The officials of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said the blaze broke out at the children's hospital in Shahdara on Saturday night.

Twelve newborns were rescued from the medical facility but seven of them died, DFS chief

Atul Garg said. Five babies are undergoing treatment at another hospital, he said.

A senior police officer said the fire broke out at the Baby Care New Born Hospital and its adjacent building at around 11.30 p.m. on Saturday.

The babies were rescued from the hospital with the help of other people and shifted to another hospital. While six babies were declared brought dead, one died

during treatment, the officer said.

The bodies have been shifted to the GTB Hospital for postmortem.

Police said action is being initiated against the owner of the hospital identified as Naveen Kichi.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal vows action against perpetrators. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called the incident 'heartbreaking'. "We all stand

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

SRINAGAR, May 26 (Agencies): Amid forecast for continuation of "heatwave" in plains of both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, night temperature recorded an increase in J&K on Sunday, officials said.

A meteorological

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

From May 29-31, he said, partly to generally cloudy weather with

light rain and thunder is likely at isolated places towards afternoon.

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

"Heat wave over plains of Jammu & Kashmir

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

DEALS IN SALE, PURCHASE, REPAIRING AND SERVICING OF USED CARS AND ORIGINAL SPARE PARTS

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Police Constable booked under NDPS Act dismissed from service in Reasi

REASI, May 26 (Agencies): A police constable booked last year under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was dismissed from service in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, an official said on Sunday.

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

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

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

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: Peace, prosperity & large-scale development in J&K under Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union government has resulted in bumper voting in Lok Sabha elections, said Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP, accompanied by Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. Chief Minister and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary, J&K BJP, while addressing a Press Conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

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

Raina said that the massive participation of people in the electoral



process has resulted in record-breaking voting in J&K. He said that in the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat, more than 72 percent of votes were polled. Udhampur-Doda seat witnessed more than 68 percent voting. In Srinagar Parliamentary seat 40 percent voting was witnessed. Baramulla Parli-

mentary seat witnessed near about 60 percent voting. Anantnag-Rajouri Poonch Parliamentary seat also witnessed bumper voting.

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

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

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

"The bumper voting by enthusiastic people is the proof of new Jammu and Kashmir which is treading on the path of peace, prosperity, brotherhood, and development under the leadership of Modi whose government was able to create a sense of

security in the hearts and minds of the local population," said Raina.

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

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

NC Leader Pushpinder Chadha along with supporters Join BJP



Top News Report

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

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

Ex-Panch Sat Pal Sharma, Khiladi, Mohan Lal, Ashok Kumar, Mali Ram, Tara Mani, Sushil Ratan, Akram, Kamal Nath, Kali Das, Rajinder,

Rakesh Kumar, and others were among the other prominent to join BJP on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina, while welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, appreciated Pushpinder Chadha for his active social work spread across many decades for the welfare of the people.

He said that now he has made the right decision to serve the people as a worker of BJP. He said that the BJP is committed to making the lives of people easier while improving the security scenario and giving pace to the development works in J&K. He expressed the hope that the new entrants will now further

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

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

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

Symposium organized on "Madhumeh Mukta Bharat" under International Yoga Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: On the eve of International Day of Yoga, one month long Yoga Sessions are being organized by Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) & Indian Yoga Association, supported by Sarv Uthan Trust.

In the series of programmes, a symposium on Definition, Symptoms, Causes & Treatment of Diabetes, held at Environmental Park Raika.

Kavinder Gupta, former Chief Minister was Chief Guest, Pt Chandar Mouli Raina, Vice President Vidwat Parishad was

Guest and Rattan Lal Mahajan (Rattoo Shah) Advisor VKMI & former President Warehouse House & Nehru Market Federation, presided over.

The program started with Vedic Prayer by PN Jalla, Yogacharya & former PS to the then J&K Finance Minister. Chandar Mohan Sharma, General Secretary VKMI welcomed the dignitaries and guests & were introduced to the participants.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, President VKMI & State Chairman Indian Yoga Association explained details of the

symposium.

Yogasans were practiced by PN Jalla, Jitender Gupta, former J&K Additional Secy, Angrej Singh, Vireshwar Singh, Abhinandan Jain, Anupma Puri, Practiced Yogasana to prevent and cure Diabetes. Arun Pachanda Advisor VKMI & Vice President Bhartiya Yog Sansthan practiced Pranayama.

Dr Jain explained Diabetes occurs in blood glucose, also called blood sugar at a high level. No doubt Glucose is the body's main source of energy. Bodies can make glucose also come from

food you eat. Insulin is a harmony made by the pancreas that helps Glucose get into your cells to be used for energy.

While discussing symptoms, Dr Jain said, frequent urination, Fatigue, Blurred vision, Increased thirst & dry mouth, weight loss, Numbness or tingling in hands or feet, slow healing of sores or cuts, frequent skin infections or vaginally yeast infections.

Causes were also discussed as, too much Glucose circulating in blood streams, Insulin resistance happens when cells in muscles, fats &

liver don't respond, various factors responsible including obesity, Lack of physical activity, diet, hormonal imbalance, genetics & certain medicines.

Yogasans, including Janushirasana, Pashchimotana, Ardhamatsyender, Shashank, Hal, Shalabh, Sarvang, and Suryanamaskar were practiced.

Meditation was practiced by Kuldip Bhai, a preceptor from Brahma Kumaris. Ashok Gupta gave importance & Significance of Hasya Yoga & some types were practiced.

Dr Shreyansh gave some advisory about homemade medicines. KS Samyal, Dr Ashok Gupta, Anju Bansal presented some spiritual songs.

Different dignitaries from Bharat Vikas Parishad, Shantikunj Haridwar, Bhagwan Mahavir Meditation Trust & Meditation Centre Kup Punjab, Golden Day Care & Recreation centre for Senior citizens, Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre, Nami Dogri Sanstha, also blessed with their gracious presence.

Rural Women Conclave inaugurated at RS Pura and Suchetgarh

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: The Rural Women Conclave at RS Pura and Suchetgarh was inaugurated by Anissa Nabi, State Project Manager, J&K State Rural Livelihood Mission. Organized by Dr. Navneet Kaur, founder of NGO SUPPORT, Vinod Shandil, founder of JK KAS, and Ritu Singh, the event saw the participation of over 350 women.

The conclave aimed to empower rural women through skill-based education, aligning with the Prime Minister's mission.

Anissa Nabi presided as Chief Guest, highlighting the efforts of NGO SUPPORT and JK KAS in reaching out to rural women and honoring those working for their upliftment.

The event featured 12 speakers discussing the challenges faced by rural women and proposing solutions. Adi Shakti awards were presented to 12 distinguished women for their contributions.

Dr. Navneet Kaur emphasized that healthy discussions at the conclave would improve the situation for rural women.

Initiatives like small canteens in 30 villages and skill training programs have been launched to support women in forming self-help groups (SHGs). Vinod Shandil noted that over 700 women and girls have received training through these efforts.

The conclave stressed the importance of skill-based work-from-home



opportunities for rural women, allowing them to earn while managing household responsibilities.

It highlighted the need for education and awareness to empower women economically and socially.

By forming SHGs and engaging in entrepreneurial activities, rural women can contribute

significantly to the economy.

In conclusion, empowering rural women through education, skill development, and entrepreneurial support is crucial for their economic independence and societal respect. This model not only benefits the women but also enhances the economic growth of the nation.

FCS&CA starts eye scan to complete e-KYC of ration card holder beneficiaries across Ramban

Top News Report

RAMBAN: With an aim to cover left out beneficiaries, who were unable to complete their mandatory e-KYC through biometric, Department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs(FCS&CA) Ramban started eye scan facility to all those pending beneficiaries to complete their mandatory e-KYC across District Ramban.

After Kharri area of Ramban, a special camp was organized by TSO Banihal Nazir Ahmed Wani (who is also incharge TSO Kharri) at TSO office Banihal in Dist Ramban.

Huge number of beneficiaries linedup for their turn to e-KYC done through eye scan as they were unable to do with biometric by their thumb or fingers.

It is notable that bringing transparency in Public Distribution Ration system, the food department has been instructed to implement e-KYC updates for ration consumers across Jammu and Kashmir and now

Department has started eye scan option also to facilitate the consumers. The initiative of e-KYC system is aimed at to root out fake ration cards, said an official.

TSO Banihal Nazir Ahmed Wani informed that after strict guidelines from higher authorities, we are conducting e-KYC of all beneficiaries to ensure hassle free distribution of ration among all the ration card holders.

"Those who were pending due to error in doing their e-Kyc through biometric by scanning thumbs, now Department has decided to go with eye scan option so that no one deserving beneficiary get deleted," TSO added.

"After doing more than 400 e-KYC through eye scan in Kharri area of Ramban, we are conducting eye scan e-KYC of left out beneficiaries of Banihal as well," TSO informed, saying that with consent from AD Ramban, we will continue this camp for more days to complete 100% e-KYC. "As of now about 70%

e-KYC has been done across District Ramban and our target is to complete 100% in coming days, so that no one ration card of deserving beneficiary get deleted," He added.

Meanwhile locals expressed gratitude to the department for this initiative as they were not getting their quota due non-completion of their mandatory e-KYC.

Bangladeshi national held near LoC in Jammu

JAMMU, May 26 (Agencies): A Bangladeshi national appearing to be mentally challenged was detained in a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Pallanwalla area of Akhnour sub-division here, officials said on Sunday.

An army patrol party saw the person, who seemed to be a vagrant, at Lower Kot Maira in Khour area on Saturday and immediately

detained him for questioning, they said.

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

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

Kashmir's own Arhan Bagati appointed official for Indian contingent at KOBE 2024

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 25: Founder of Kashmir's Yumberzal Applied Research Institute (KYARI), Arhan Bagati has been appointed an official for the Indian contingent at the ongoing KOBE 2024 World Para Athletics Championship, Japan.

This is the 11th edition of the Para Athletics World Championships, and the first to be held in Japan, and East Asia as a whole. The Kobe Universiade Memorial Stadium, one of Japan's leading multi-purpose stadiums, hosted the event from May 17 to 25.

The appointment of Arhan Bagati to the

Indian contingent is a proud moment for the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. As he is also the Awareness and Impact Ambassador of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), Bagati said he is committed to raising awareness about disability sports and promoting a more inclusive and accessible society.

"I am glad that I have been selected as an official for the Indian contingent. Para athletics events are a celebration of diversity. These events provide a platform for athletes with physical disabilities to showcase their skills, talent, and determination, challenging stereotypes and promoting inclusion," he said.

**Office of the Divisional Forest Officer,
Seed Development Division, JKFR Complex, Janipur, Jammu - 180007**
E-mail:- dfofrjmu@gmail.com, Tel:- 0191- 2953921

Corrigendum

Sub: - Maintenance of poly bags of 1st year 2023-24 (338260 Nos.) of plants Sidhra-la, Ib & III under CAMPA.
Ref: - e-NIT No 01 of 2024-25. Dated: 17.05.2024.

In reference to the e-Nit no. 01 of 2024-25 Dtd. 17.05.2024, Tender ID No. 2024_FD_248681_1, a corrigendum is issued w. r. t. the Bid submission End Date in the uploaded tender document which may be read as 29.05.2024 instead of 29.05.2023.

DIP/J-698/24

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer
Seed Development Division
Jammu

No:- JKFR/Seed/JF- /2024-25/175-79 **Dr-24.05.2024.**

75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Jal Shakti (Irrigation & Flood Control) Department
Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No. II Jammu
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No. JDI/2024-25 966/981
Dated: 22/5/24

Corrigendum

Subject: Extension of dates.

Reference: This office E-NIT No. 02 of 05/2024-25 issued vide endorsement No. JDI/2024-25/922-658 Dated 09-05-2024. (Works figuring at S.No. 4,5,8,9,11,13,15,16,17,18,19 & 20)

This is for the information of all the concerned that the bid opening and closing dates of above-mentioned works of this office E-NIT under reference are hereby extended due to poor response and the fresh dates are as under:-

i) Uploading stops on	: 27-05-2024	(06:00 PM)
ii) Tender opens on	: 28-05-2024	(12:00 Noon or Subjective)

DIP/J-713/24

Sd/-
(Ez. Hafiz Ullah Raza)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division No.II
Jammu

EDITORIAL

ONLINE
EDUCATION

Education is an important part of life. Shiksha is a Sanskrit word which means to learn or teach. We can receive education through any medium. Education prepares man intellectually. Similarly, online education is a simple way to get education in today's modern era. Online education system is like a boon in modern times. One who has not taken education due to any reason can achieve new dimensions through online education system.

Like we traditionally go to Gurukul or class and get their knowledge by sitting in front of their teacher. But in online education system it is considered as the latest form of education, we meet our teacher through internet and meet them through laptop or cellphone and get our knowledge.

Online education has also been accepted as a valid education medium since the year 1993. Which are called distance education in the language used. In this, the prescribed syllabus is taught through VS/DVD and internet. Education of big services like civil service, engineering and medical, law etc. is also being made available online by many institutions today.

In the changing environment, there have been many changes in technology and its uses are also huge. Due to technology, many changes have also been seen in the method of taking education. Today, teaching related material used in online education can be sent from one place to another through technology. Online education saves time.

Also, students can access the education from the comfort of their homes. Children continuously teach their teachers new ways of reading from online classes and are also interested in reading, not only this, online education also saves the cost of tuition or big coaching centers.

Online education Our Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman started a program called PM eVIDYA to promote online education. The challenge posed by the Corona pandemic crisis in front of the education world. Online courses will be started by 100 universities under PM eVIDYA. In this, the emphasis has been laid on school education by the Central and State Government through DIKSHA PORTAL.

Students of classes 1 to 12 will be provided e-content and QR code based books under "One Nation-One Platform". There is also a plan for providing important assistance by the under-states. In "One Nation-One Platform", emphasis will be laid on education through radio, community radio and podcasts for studies.

Manodarpan Yojana will be launched by the Government of India for psychological support, mental health and emotional support of students, teachers and parents. Along with this, children were already being given education through Swayam Prabha DTH. 12 more channels will be added in which telecast of live sessions will be done through skype, 6 hours of course material per day and provision will be made 24 x7 on all days of the week with three repeat telecasts. Along with promoting online education, the government's focus is also on preparing teachers for this. This is the reason that there is a preparation to provide online training to all teachers teaching in schools. At present, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and NCERT have been entrusted with the task of preparing a complete plan for this.

A PM's poll speeches, sense and sensibility

By: Pavan Varma

I think everybody — even among his most trenchant critics — will concede that Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi is an orator par excellence. Words, phrases, the apt quote, evocative vocabulary often enriched by local flavour is a gift he is born with. Some people say that he uses a teleprompter, but even if he does for certain occasions, the number of speeches he gives in one day itself, is proof enough that his talents as an orator transcend the aid of a teleprompter.

Earlier, the star speaker in the BJP, who could mesmerise audiences with his use of humour, irony, facts, poetry, and turn of phrase, was Atal Behari Vajpayee. I recall when he came to Cyprus as PM in 2002, where I was the high commissioner, his first programme was a speech to the Indian diaspora, numbering thousands of young professionals in the IT sector. Vajpayee was in frail health. To come down from the Prime Ministerial plane, a hydraulic lift had to be used, since his knees were giving trouble.

When we reached his suite, I reminded him that in the convention hall of the hotel, the Indian diaspora was waiting for him. I still remember his asking me: "Kya mujhe kuch bolna bhi padega? Will I be expected to address them?" I replied that they had been waiting for hours just for that. He was visibly tired, but as we approached the venue, we could hear rousing slogans of "Atal Behari zindabad", and Atalji visibly perked up. He received an uproarious welcome, and then, notwithstanding

his fatigue, spoke for 40 minutes, keeping the audience spell bound, and often in splits of laughter. It was quite a feat.

Narendra Modi has similar qualities of vak shakti, the power of speech. That is why I wonder why he has never in the 10 years that he has been PM, ever given an open press conference, where the questions have not been provided in advance, or the interlocutor(s) is not someone chosen by his media team. It appears to be a transparently choreographed interaction, very different from the normal and spontaneous media questioning in a democracy.

I have seen most of the PM's interviews, both in print and on TV. He speaks well, but those who are interviewing him, are far too deferential, though they may appear to be asking "tough" questions. What happens in such staged interviews, with pre-selected anchors, is that the PM is more or less assured that no uncomfortable or acrimonious situation will arise, and certainly no hostile question will be asked.

Frankly, I believe this is detrimental to the PM's image. He should be far more open to public and genuinely democratic questioning. A monologue, where only he is talking, or an interaction with chosen interrogators diminishes his credibility. All previous PMs in our country — like executive heads in other democracies — have faced their critics in open media debates. In fact, Atalji once reprimanded a very popular journalist for not asking him the really tough questions. He said this was a violation of the essential credo of a free and fearless press.

Equally, some of Mr Modi's recent public speeches have unfortunately derogated from the image of a statesman that he cherishes. Unfounded allegations, personalised attacks, rampantly communal statements, even sometimes bafflingly incoherent remarks, have tarnished him and the post of the PM.

Here are some examples of his utterances. On April 21, he said in Banswara in Rajasthan, that the Congress planned to seize and redistribute wealth to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children". This was transparently a reference to Muslims. To call a sizeable section of Indian citizens "infiltrators", was not only reprehensible, but also a direct violation of the Model Code of Conduct, which explicitly prohibits any statements that "may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes, communities, religious or linguistic". The very next day in Aligarh, UP, while addressing a rally, he said: "I want to warn my countrymen. Congress and INDIA alliance have their eyes on your earnings and property... Our mothers and sisters have gold. It is "streedhan", it is considered sacred; the law also protects it. Now these people's eyes are on the mangalsutra of women. Their intention is to steal the gold of mothers and sisters."

On April 23, at a public meeting in Tonk-Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan, he made the claim that "if you have a box in your home in which you store bajra grain that would be subjected to an X-ray (by the Congress). If you have two houses, and they spot that in their X-ray, one would be taken away by the government". To my

mind, this is an untruth — since the Congress manifesto says nothing of this sort — and unbecomingly caricature. On May 8, at a rally in Telangana, the PM said: "Ever since elections have been announced, these people (Congress) have stopped abusing Ambani and Adani. I want to ask... how much has been lifted from Ambani-Adani? Has tempo loads of notes reached the Congress?" Such a statement is startling, both because it is untrue — Rahul Gandhi has continued his diatribe against the Ambani-Adani duo — and also because the PM admits that black money, far from being eradicated, as he has claimed, is available to be sent in tempos. I am told, that as a result of this accusation by none less than the PM, international investors — very sensitive to such allegations — have ordered a forensic audit of the Adani-Ambani groups. And, finally, on May 22, Mr Modi actually said in an interview to News18, that he does not believe he was "biologically born", but is a divine presence!

These are truly inexplicable statements. Once again, the comparison with Atalji comes to mind. Anyone who has followed his speeches, will find it difficult to point out an undignified statement. His speech in Parliament in 1998, when he lost the mandate by one vote, should be mandatory reading for all aspiring politicians.

If the BJP comes back to power, as seems likely given the weakness of the Opposition, Modiji would do well to remember the vital difference between a successful political leader and a statesman.

Technical Education in India

By: Vijay GarG

The economic progress, as well as the overall progress of any nation, is strongly linked with the quality of education that is being imparted with the values. Education is something that determines overall progress as well as the standard of a particular region, state or country. Education today has become one of the most important tools that determine the success of a person. Education these days has become an essential part of human growth. One of the greatest aspects of the education is technical education. Though it is very important to have general moral education also, technical education plays an equally important role in the developmental process of a nation. Higher education generally falls, into two categories, either training in the fine arts, the humanities, cultural patterns and behaviour that aims to develop a man's overall personality. On the other hand, technical education aims primarily at equipping a man for work in the practical sense of getting him fit for a job.

Liberal education, in origin, has its roots in our society is older than technical education and obviously, it is more popular than technical education in our country. But the need of the hour is to build up a strong base in technical education too, that would help our country to stand at par with other powerful countries of the world. It was only with the advancement of industrialization that the people came to realize the importance of technical education. The Industrial Revolution brought about a great change in the outlook of men regarding education. After the industrial revolution, technical education was seen as a scope for the future and a lot of emphases was put on the topic at various education levels and an even separate council was also set up to ensure proper technical literacy. The increasing use of machinery was the major reason that compelled us to feel the necessity of technical education as a major need. All the developed, as well as developing countries of the world, have started to impart specialized training to their youths in order to maintain their supremacy in the field of the industrial revolution.

Technical education is something related very closely to the economic stability of a country too, good technical skills can effect some new technological innovations as well as also helpful in getting good jobs at national as well as international level. It, therefore, becomes very important for our technical education to undertake periodic review of the curriculum and subject content of the technical programmes to ensure that they are up to date and are effectively fulfilling the technological requirements of the country at par with international standards.

Development of Technical Education in India

Education scenario in our country has not been fair enough, before the advent of industrialization, education in India was the

privilege of the upper class, and there were no major opportunities for others to gain some quality education. With the popularisation of Technical education in India, it has given a new dignity as well as status to the labour class and lower class in the country. The old myth that mental work is superior to physical work has been replaced by the new concept of education and physical work has gained a lot of respect as well as its due benefits and is looked upon as field of careers these days. Technical education makes a man capable of diving deep into the realities of life and presents before him a true picture of life.

India is gaining pace in the terms of technical education since the attainment of freedom the progress made in the field of technical education in the country is not bad, but in view of the tremendous need and the present circumstances, the pace of progress is not quite satisfactory and need some more reforms.

The beginning of formal Technical Education in India started way back to the mid of 19th Century. The major policy initiatives in the pre-independence period included appointment of the Indian Universities Commission in 1902, issue of the Indian Education policy resolution in 1904 and the Governor General's policy statement. A major step was the formation of Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) that was founded in the year 1967 with a mission to advance for the cause of education in general and all its function which pertain to engineering and allied branches of engineering and technology, architecture and town planning, pharmacy, management, process of teaching and learning, research, extension services and public relations in particular. The main goal was to serve as a common agency for stimulating and guiding its members to formulate the general goals and responsibilities of technical education for the service of mankind and the advancement of general welfare.

Another major initiative in the terms of technical education was taken in the year 1987, with the development of AICTE that was the giving of statutory status by an Act of Parliament. AICTE is the All India Council for Technical Education, which was first established in 1945 and later given statutory status by the parliament in the year 1945.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

To ensure proper technical education in the country, at par with international standards an advisory board was established. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is the statutory body and a national-level council for technical education, under Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development. It can be seen way back in the year 1945 that an advisory board was established and later on in 1987 it was given statutory status by an Act of Parliament. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is responsible for proper planning and coordinated development of the technical education and management education system in India which is aimed

to constantly improve the level of technical education in the country. The AICTE accredits postgraduate and graduate programs under specific categories at Indian institutions as per its charter, and is controlling body that approves all the technical institutes as well as colleges in the country.

AICTE is not working alone in the field of technical education and is assisted by 10 Statutory Boards of Studies, namely, UG Studies in Eng. & Tech., PG and Research in Eng. and Tech., Management Studies, Vocational Education, Technical Education, Pharmaceutical Education, Architecture, Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Information Technology, Town and Country Planning. The AICTE has its headquarters in 7th Floor, Chanderlok Building, Janpath, New Delhi, which has the offices of the chairman, vice-chairman and the member secretary, plus it has regional offices at Kolkata, Chennai, Kanpur, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Guwahati, Bhopal, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Gurgaon.

There is a need for a governmental body that oversees all the aspect of the technical education in the country and makes sure everything is carried out in the field of technical education, as per the standards. This need was fulfilled by the AICTE, that is the statutory authority for planning, formulation and maintenance of norms and standards, quality assurance through school accreditation, funding in priority areas, monitoring and evaluation, maintaining parity of certification and awards and ensuring coordinated and integrated development and management of technical education in the country as part of the AICTE Act No. 52 of 1987.

Technical Education and Liberal Education

There is no doubt that at present there are very few good technical institutions in the country that are catering to the needs of the technically trained individual according to the international levels. Most of our young men have some preconceptions against all types of manual labour and mostly prefer a job in some office to doing work with their hands. Today everyone wants a white-collar job; as a result, the manual labour is degrading. Unemployment, on the other hand, is also a major concern and hence stares at the youth of the country in the face. The jobs of clerks in offices too are limited. All educated young minds cannot be absorbed in this vocation. Hence need today is to have a high knowledge level in order to have a good job.

Technical education these days is only likely to succeed when a large part of the nation has become sufficiently literate. Technical education is not only limited to doing an engineering course or some high fees for designing course. It is an excellent thing to train an electrician's son in the latest development of his trade, but it is really absurd to expect him to become a first-class electrical engineer unless he has gone through a primary course with proper education. It is, therefore, not wise to put liberal and technical educations in water-tight compartments and there is a vast difference. The proper policy would be to stress liberal education in

the early stage and then commence with the main course of technical education basing on the student's choice of scientific research on aptitude and inclination.

Challenges in the Field of Technical Education

Globalization has resulted in many new challenges in the field of the technical education system not only in our country but also around the world. With the growing modernization, the demand for trained technical workers is also increasing day by day. Also with the demand is rising the hunt for the quality. This scenario has also led to a lot of challenges in the field of technical education in our country. Till recently technologies were mostly imported to our country and the training needed for these technologies were generally carried abroad. Globalization has opened the economy to global players in the industry and service sectors as a result of which, new products and services are being introduced continuously with improved quality and customer focus. The most important factor in the success of this new brand of industries and service units is only by meeting them with a group of highly motivated and meticulously trained forces in the field of technical education. The knowledge and technical skills of this workforce have to be regularly updated. The engineer coming out of our institution should be capable of meeting the challenges of the modern industry and the question is what are we really capable of this?

There is no doubt that India is rich in mineral resources but it is also a fact that most of them have not yet been explored. The government is committed to utilizing this wealth, but the problem is that we do not have sufficient level to explore these resources by ourselves, with the present level of our technical literacy. More and more technical institutions are, therefore, being opened with a vision to raise the level of technical education in the country. A large number of technical hands are pouring out of our universities every year. It is a happy sign of the times but unfortunately, our industries are still mediocre and the number of jobs is less. It would be harsh to say that we are lacking far behind, but the fact is that we are a developing nation still struggling to reach out some unexplored resources. Our quest to achieve is the main driving force towards the success, and we need to capitalize the fact.

Conclusion

No nation could generate the progress unless it promotes technical aspects in its fields. The technical education produces technicians for all type of industries and it is true that the progress of a country much depends upon its industrialization without which a handsome economy would not be possible, so need today is to formulate a technical education system that not only caters to the needs of the present, but also prepare us for the future.

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

Top News Report

RS PURA, May 26 : Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) RS Pura Boys celebrated its Monthly Sports Day today with immense enthusiasm and vibrant participation from the students. The event saw a large turnout from the local community, including parents and well-wishers, who gathered to enjoy a day filled with competitive spirit and sportsmanship. Koshal Kumar Sharma, Senior Lecturer in the Physical Education department, officiated and managed the sports events, assisted by Rahul Dev Raina, Senior Lecturer in Physics. In his address, Koshal Kumar Sharma highlighted the critical role of sports in students' lives, emphasizing benefits such as physical fitness, mental health, team spirit, and leader-



ship qualities. "It is a great day for all of us. We are enjoying a lot. I have been studying in this school for the last three years but it's for the first time I am witnessing an event like this. Our new principal Smt. Neelam Gupta has changed the whole scenario of the school," said Harsh Kumar, a 12th class student, reflect-

ing the positive changes under the new leadership. The day featured a variety of sports events, including a kabaddi match, volleyball tournament, chess tournament, cricket match, and tug of war. 'HSS Warriors' won the kabaddi match. 'HSS Smashers' won the volleyball tournament while 'HSS Knights' won the cricket match. Vansh

Kumar of class 11th won the chess tournament and 'HSS Musculars' won the tug of war match. Principal Smt. Neelam Gupta delivered the closing speech, discussing the myriad benefits of sports, potential careers in sports, and the integral role of sports in education. She congratulated all

the winning teams and emphasized the importance of sportsmanship over winning or losing. The smooth conduct of the events was ensured by a dedicated team including Ashok Kumar Sharma, Dheeraj Singh, Tara Saini, Govind Lal, Ravinder Manhas, Arun Khajuria, Sunil Sharma, Dharampal Sharma, Prithpal Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Khalid Hussain and Vinod Sharma. Their efforts as scorers, umpires, referees, and in management team were crucial to the success of the day. To conclude the event, a stall distributing sweet fresh lemon water was set up, providing refreshments to all students, staff, and attendees, courtesy of the school staff. RS Pura Boys looks forward to continuing this tradition, fostering a healthy and spirited environment for all its students.

Heart failure patient implanted Bluetooth enabled pacemaker

Top News Report

NAWAN SHAHR / JAMMU, May 26: A Bluetooth enabled CRT-D pacemaker was implanted successfully in a heart failure and multiple morbidities patient at IVY Hospital, Nawanshahr recently.

Dr Hitesh Gurjar cardiologist said that CRT-D or also known as combo device is a device which is placed under the skin through a small incision, below the collar bone. The device along with resynchronization, which helps in improving pumping function of the heart can also act as a defibrillator. It can detect life threatening arrhythmias and deliver therapy to the patient and hence saving life.

Dr Gurjar informed that Bluetooth technology is the latest technology via which the information and patients ECG is monitored by a team



which can be located many kilometers away. The data can be sent to a central monitoring team and shared with the cardiologist as well. This helps in remote monitoring.

The device works worldwide and whichever corner of the world the patient is, he or she can be monitored and alarmed about any life threatening rhythm problems. It's a wonderful use of the latest cutting edge technology to help and benefit heart failure

patients.

Interestingly, the device was implanted with a suture-less technique and to prevent infection was placed in an antibiotic coated envelope. Both these techniques have also been used for the first time in Nawanshahr region.

Dr Gurjar stated that it is a very helpful therapy which can help and improve symptoms in up to 70 percent of patients and save them from life threatening arrhythmias.

ITI Kishtwar Concludes Successful Sports Week with Enthusiastic Participation and Prize Distribution Ceremony



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 26: The Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Kishtwar successfully organized a vibrant Sports Week, culminating in an inspiring prize distribution ceremony. The event was graced by the presence of Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Kishtwar, Shri Pawan Sharma, who attended as the chief guest. The Sports Week featured a variety of competitions that saw enthusiastic participation from students across multiple trades. Highlights of the event included:

Seven teams, divided into two pools, showcased their skills and sportsmanship in a series of exciting Cricket match-

es. The Electrician trade emerged as the winners, with the Draughtsman Civil team securing the runner-up position.

Carrom competition witnessed significant involvement, particularly from female students, emphasizing strategic thinking and concentration. The Sewing Technology team claimed the top spot, while the I&C/TSM team finished as runners-up.

Badminton which was exclusive to female participants aimed to encourage greater involvement of girls in sports activities. The Fashion Design and Technology team won the competition.

The prize distribution ceremony saw the Additional SP and Principal Anoop Sharma presenting awards to the winners

and participants. Awards were given not only to the winners but also to those who demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and effort.

In his address, Additional SP Pawan Sharma praised ITI Kishtwar's initiative to promote sports among its trainees. He highlighted the importance of physical fitness and the role of sports in fostering teamwork and discipline.

Principal Anoop Sharma echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of extracurricular activities in holistic student development.

The week long events have set a precedent for future activities and underscored the importance of sports in the overall development of students at ITI Kishtwar.

Condolence meeting held for Irshad Ahmed

Top News Report

DODA, May 26: A condolence meeting was held yesterday to mourn the tragic death of Irshad Ahmed, 28, son of Mohd Maqbool Batt, from Chuchatter Chakka, who passed away in an accident. Irshad was the uncle of Parveez Butt, a correspondent for Today Newslines Doda. The meeting, organized under the banner of Yawer Khurwani, Editor of Today Newslines Doda, saw heartfelt tributes and prayers for the departed soul. The meeting was attended by other organ-



isations members like Ghulam Hassan Pampori, Niaz Ahmed Rahi, Rayees Gattu, Faizan Ali Trambo, Abid Pampori, Shakeel Ahmed Dev and Manzoor Ahmed Butt.

Army organised Youth Awareness Lecture at Poonch



Top News Report

POONCH, May 26: A youth awareness lecture was conducted at Pine-wood School, Sabra by the Indian Army. The primary objective of the lecture was to raise awareness amongst youth on various pertinent issues such as career development, mental health, social responsibility and digital literacy. By addressing these topics,

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

Kashmir's Unique "Panzath Nag" Fish-Catching Festival Draws Hundreds To Kulgam



Top News Report

QAZIGUND, May 26: For ages, the residents in Panzath, a village in Qazigund area of South Kashmir, have sustained the tradition of taking extreme care of their springs. It has gradually emerged as a local festival that is now attracting people from other villages also.

Armed with baskets and nets, villagers flock to the Panzath spring for the annual fish-catching ritual.

According to a local resident, Panzath represents 500 springs, including adjacent ones on the Pir Panjal foothills. The spring Panzath serves as a vital source

of irrigation and drinking water for hundreds of families in Qazigund. Every year, before paddy cultivation begins, local residents clear the water body by removing silt and weeds to ensure proper irrigation.

"I have been participating in this annual festival since I was a child. Panzath Nag was just about a kilometre away from my home, there are people who travel from nearly 50 kilometres away to clean the Panzath Nag or just watch," a local resident said.

"Every year in the third or fourth week of May, villagers pick a day when the apple, almonds and walnut orchards are full of blossoms. They clean

Panzath Nag, spread across a 500 metres area, and also catch fish. It is a practice they have inherited from their ancestors," he said.

"We wait all year for this day. People take home the fish they catch on this day and cook a feast for friends and family on that day," Bahrooz Bashir, a local resident said.

"It needs proper attention at an earliest and if it will be developed as a tourist spot, it can generate employment for many people here," he added.

Locals requested district administration to take up the upkeep and maintenance of the spring and save it from facing extinction.

BYHH distributes necessary items among Govt school children

Top News Report

RAMGARH, May 26: "Border Youth Helping Hand", an NGO working in District Samba, took a unique initiative and distributed lunch boxes, water bottles and water campers among the children of Government School Mahal Shah. This will make it easier for the children to bring cold water from their homes and can also bring food with them in the lunch box and the children will have access to cold water to drink throughout the day through the camper. NGO President Santi Choudhary told that he had come to know that children coming from poor families study in a government school in Mahal Shah village of Ramgarh area of district Samba. Those who did not have a lunch box to



bring bread from home nor a water bottle to bring water, even in the school there was no arrangement for cold water. After which our NGO took the initiative to gift lunch boxes, water bottles and school campers to as many poor children as possible, so that the children can bring food and

water from home. After this, all the members of the organization gave their respective contribution and bought all the goods and went to the school and distributed them among the needy children. The school administration thanked the NGO Border Youth Helping Hand.

JKBS Members express deep shock over the unfortunate demise of Rakib Raj Fouji

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha Members at their meeting held here today, expressed deep shock over the unfortunate demise of Rakib Raj Fouji, who hailed from Tehsil R.S.Pura's Village Chohala and belonged to Lakhotra clan of Batwal community.

JKBS' R.S.Pura Block President Jagdish Raj Kaith said that Rakeeb Fouji had a good nature and was a highly disciplined Soldier. His sudden departure has left a significant void, he added.

All present prayed to Almighty to grant eternal peace and solace to his soul, and extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Among those who attended the meeting included Messrs Hans Raj Loria, Des Raj Kaith, R.L. Kaith, Tilak Raj Bassa, Hakikat Anmol.

SR College of Competitions Launches Test Series for JKAS Prelims 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: SR College of Competitions, a leading institute renowned for its rigorous training programs, has announced the launch of a comprehensive test series tailored for the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) Prelims 2024 examination. Following the resounding success of its recent test series for the UPSC Prelims 2024 examinations, which concluded on May 19, the institute aims to provide aspirants with invaluable practice and insights to excel in the upcoming JKAS prelims.

The test series, slated to commence from June 2, is designed to simulate the exact conditions of the JKAS Prelims examination, offering aspirants a strategic advantage in their preparation journey. Featuring meticulously crafted question papers curated by subject matter

experts, the series will cover the entire syllabus comprehensively, enabling candidates to assess their strengths and weaknesses across various subject areas.

Parveen Sharma, Director of SR College of Competitions, expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "We are delighted by the overwhelming response received for our recent UPSC Prelims test series, which underscores the demand for high-quality preparatory resources among aspirants. Building on this momentum, we are pleased to extend our offerings to cater to the needs of JKAS aspirants, equipping them with the tools and confidence to navigate the examination with ease."

The test series will feature regular 39 (sectional + full length tests) of General Studies and Csat, detailed performance analysis, and personalized feedback to facilitate

continuous improvement and targeted revision. Additionally, aspirants will have access to expert guidance and interactive doubt clearing sessions aimed at enhancing their conceptual understanding and exam-taking skills.

Aspirants keen on participating in the JKAS Prelims 2024 test series are encouraged to register promptly to avail themselves of this invaluable opportunity for structured preparation and assessment.

With the institute's track record of nurturing successful candidates, SR College of Competitions remains committed to empowering aspirants to realize their aspirations of a career in the civil services. Interested candidates may visit the institute's website i.e www.srcollegejammu.com. SR College of Competitions stands poised to support aspirants in their quest for excellence and achievement.

Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia on why she rejected 'LSD 2': Maybe it wasn't meant for me

Actor Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia, who was to play a lead part in 'Love, Sex Aur Dhokha 2', finally shared why she backed out of the film. For the unaware, Nimrit had even started her reading session with the team after 'Bigg Boss 16'. However, when the first look came out, fans were in for a shock to not see the actor anywhere.

Later, it was revealed that she backed out of the film owing to its bold content. While earlier, Dibakar Banerjee shared his side of the story with agency, Nimrit told us what went wrong on the sidelines of 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 14' promotions.

Without opening up much about the deal falling flat, the 'Choti Saradaarni' actor mentioned how she believes in destiny and maybe 'LSD 2' was not meant for her. "There's nothing more to say. I have immense respect for Ekta ma'am, and I will forever be grateful to her

for offering me the film," Nimrit told agency.

When asked about her discussion with Ekta Kapoor and why her decision to move out was so discreet, the actor said, "It's not that I don't want to talk about it. I just don't believe in dwelling in the past. Also, I genuinely believe in destiny. Maybe this film wasn't meant for me. I didn't even want to do 'Bigg Boss', but everything conspired for me to be a part of it. I respect her [Ekta Kapoor], and Dibakar sir. Maybe we will collaborate again soon, I am here only."

Talking about taking up 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 14', Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia shared that the opportunity came last year, but she believes in keeping things fresh. She decided to take a break after 'Bigg Boss 16', to revamp herself, and now is excited to get on this adventurous ride.

The actor even surprised fans with a leaner physique before



she flew for 'KKK 14'. When asked if it was the pressure of being a certain size that made her shed so much weight, she said, "Honestly, I have always been thin, people just forgot about it. Post 'Bigg Boss', I had so much water weight because of my hormonal issues, which I lost. I have always worked out and maintained my fitness."

"However, people are often so judgemental about your shape and size. But I was conscious, I would have never done 'Bigg Boss' when I was that size. I am proud of my body and my weighing scale will never define me or state my self-worth. I just inculcated better eating habits and started taking care of myself, which I think everyone should do irrespective of which profession we are in," she added.

The shoot of 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 14' will begin next week. It is expected to go on air by the end of July.

'I'm a big surprise factor of the film', says Sharvari Wagh on her role in 'Munjya'



Dinesh Vijan, acclaimed for creating a horror comedy universe with films such as Stree and Bhediya, has cast Sharvari in the lead role for his latest horror comedy, Munjya. Known for deliver-

ing numerous content driven hit films, Vijan's horror universe continues to expand with this new instalment.

Sharvari says, "I have been fortunate to have been guided and chosen to be a part of this huge

franchise by Dinesh Vijan, who I reckon is one of the best minds of our industry. For him to have believed in me, is a huge validation of my craft. I'm extremely proud of Munjya and I'm grateful to have this film in my filmography. The horror-verse has huge stars of our industry and I'm honoured to be a part of this universe. I wish Munjya's world meets the worlds of Stree & Bhediya in due course of time. I'm secretly praying for that to happen soon!"

She adds, "Without giving out too much, I would like to say that I'm a big surprise factor of the film which will be revealed by the makers in due course of time. I'm hoping I shock and awe people and win their hearts with this film."

'Munjya' has been directed by Aditya Sarpotdar and is set to release in theatres on June 7.

Ratna Pathak Shah: 'I have been completely unemployed for a whole year now'

Veteran actress Ratna Pathak Shah, who has given us many hits and is the epitome of sophistication as Maya Sarabhai from the cult 'Sarabhai Vs. Sarabhai', revealed that she has been without work for the last year.

The actress, who was seen in the hit web series 'Happy Family: Conditions Apply' last year, says she is not on Instagram, so this could be one of the reasons that she has been jobless for the past year.

She told Brut during her conversation on the sidelines of the Cannes Film Festival, "This culture of hate I cannot understand. Today the focus is on how many Instagram followers you have, is what I have heard. No one has asked me because I am not on Instagram. Maybe I didn't get work because of that. That's also possible; I have been completely unemployed for a whole year now. So these are the kinds of things that do seem to matter a lot."

The actress had in the past spoken about toxic culture in Bollywood back in the 1970s. She had said that things were really bad and were divided according to the class or status of the actor at that time. Even the food provided to the crew and lead actor was completely different.

"In the old days, actors would be treated in very different ways from the crew—number one. Different kinds of actors would be treated very differently depending on their position. To a certain extent, this still exists; aisa nahi hai that it is all hunky dory, but it is less of it. There's less hierarchy visible on a set. Crew and cast are not two completely watertight compartments anymore.



There would be different food for the star and bilkul alag khana for the crew and cast," she told Brut.

Ratna said she was happy that it didn't exist to an extent, but not everything has changed in the industry. But she felt it had come down, but the push for tighter budgets has led to actors being pushed and asked to put in long hours.

"And many more skilled people on a set, from the dressmaker all the way to first AD people do everything. Less time is wasted, therefore. Tighter budgets, therefore tighter shoots. But there is another problem: because of the tight budget, working hours are ridiculously long. And for actors, it is a 12-hour shift. And if you need hair and make-up, then you are required to arrive early and also leave later," she said.

She also spoke about the myths that people have about Bollywood, saying that it is glam. She said Bollywood is everything besides just being glam.

Ratna Pathak Shah was at Cannes for the special screening of her husband Naseeruddin Shah's iconic movie 'Manthan'. She also walked the red carpet with Naseer and Smita Patil's son, Praatek Babbar.

Janhvi Kapoor surprises internet with her views on Gandhi, Ambedkar, casteism

Janhvi Kapoor, like many of her contemporary Gen-Z mainstream Bollywood actors, isn't exactly known for her political awareness. However, in a new interview with agency, when asked about her interest in history, Janhvi opened up on casteism and the ideological debate between Mahatma Gandhi and BR Ambedkar.

When Janhvi said in the interview that she has a keen interest in history, the interviewer asked him which period of history she'd like to time-travel back to. Janhvi said she'd answer the question honestly, but requested him to not probe her on the same since her views may not sit well with the audience. Janhvi then said she'd like to see Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the nation, and BR Ambedkar, the Founding Father of the Indian Constitution, debate over their views on casteism.

The interviewer was pleasantly surprised and couldn't help but probe Janhvi further. She then said, "I think Ambedkar was still very clear and stern from the start



what his stand was. But I think Gandhi's view kept evolving as he got more and more exposed to (casteism). Ye jo jatiyaad ka samasya hai humare samaj mein, ek third person se jaankari lena aur usey jeena, usmei bahut farak hai, bahut antar hai (this issue of casteism that we have in our society, to gather information from a third person and to actually live it, there's a huge difference there)."

When the interviewer

further probed Janhvi if there was any conversation about caste in her school, she refused. "In fact, mere ghar mein kabhi caste ko le kar koi conversation nahi hui (there was no conversation around caste even at my home)."

The internet was pleasantly surprised to see a Gen-Z mainstream actor like Janhvi discuss a deeply political issue with such openness. An X user shared a clip of Janhvi's views

and wrote, "Rather surprised to see this from a mainstream Bollywood actor. Janhvi Kapoor on Ambedkar, Gandhi & caste (applause emoji)." When another user pointed out that Swara Bhasker also often speaks on political issues, they clarified, "There is simply no comparison. Swara has been a strong political voice in the country for a long time now, more so than anyone else in the entire Bollywood."

Several other people reacted to Janhvi's stance. One of them posted, "Very impressed!" Another commented, "Very rare to see such level of understanding and study (applause emoji)." "Yeah, it's surprising... That too from the new-gen Bollywood actress... And she knows what she is speaking about... Apan bohot prejudiced hain inke liye lekin (we're very prejudiced about them but) she is so clear in her mind," read a third comment.

However, some internet users were left unimpressed. One of them commented, "Lol, except taking two famous names what

intellectualism did I miss here?" Another wrote, "I tried hard to see what it is that she had said that was so exceptional. Anything she said could be said of any two prominent politicians before 1947. Had she said that Gandhi and Ambedkar didn't have and couldn't provide answers to complex social questions." A third person argued, "I'm surprised that you're surprised- don't know what to make of it? What did she say other than 'their thoughts kept evolving w/ time and Ambedkar lived poverty and Gandhi enacted poverty' blah blah...most of us know this- where is the substance?"

Janhvi made her Bollywood debut in 2018 with Shashank Khaitan's romantic drama Dhadak, a Hindi adaptation of Nagraj Manjule's 2016 Marathi film Sairat. Dhadak was panned by several sections for whitewashing the issue of caste that Sairat addressed so directly. Janhvi will be next seen in Mr & Mrs Mahi, Devara: Part 1, Ulajh, Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, and Suriya's next.

Brad Pitt-Angelina Jolie's kids perturbed by parents' fight dominating their lives: Report

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's prolonged legal tussle has indisputably consumed their children's lives. According to an insider who spoke to a leading magazine, their six kids are exhausted, "sick and tired of seeing their mother and father at each other's throats."

The Mr and Mrs Smith costars' war over their French winery has significantly defined their six kids' lives, possibly more than anything else. Brad and Angelina share six children - Maddox (22), Pax (20), Zahara (19), Shiloh (17) and twins Knox and Vivienne (15). Presumably, the pack may now be well familiar with the ins and outs of the parents' battle in court. Three of them - Zahara, Shiloh and Vivienne - have even notably responded to the ongoing

clash by dropping their father's last name.

However, recent reports digging into their familial lives and networks suggest that Pitt's estrangement from all six of his children may be partly Jolie's doing.

The former Hollywood couple was briefly married from 2014 to 2016 until the Salt actress filed for divorce, citing irreconcilable differences. Moreover, their messy divorce also found its basis in alleged accusations against Brad. The French winery clause now appears to be a mere appendage of their expansive discord.

According to a relatively recent April 4 filing, Jolie's legal team further expanded on Brad's alleged "history of physical abuse" that seemingly dates prior to the infamously recognised 2016



private plane incident that preceded their separation.

The Maleficent star's legal team's April 4 filing, obtained by NBC News, claimed: "While Pitt's history of physical abuse of Jolie started

well before the family's September 2016 plane trip from France to Los Angeles, this flight marked the first time he turned his physical abuse on the children as well. Jolie then immediately left him."

A day later, a source supposedly close to Pitt told the media outlet that Jolie's team "consistently" chose to "introduce misleading, inaccurate and/or irrelevant information as a distraction."

The lengthy trial involving Jolie and Pitt as the central pieces of the dispute has extended beyond control since 2016, with each month introducing a new chapter to their scarred relationship, profoundly affecting their kids.

As the picture gets hazier beyond comprehension, Tony Webb (Jolie's former security guard, who's now switched sides and resumed working for Pitt instead) claimed in a recent filing by Brad's team that the reason why the Jolie-Pitt kids had seemingly warmed up to their mother's side was because she "encouraged" them to "avoid spending time with" Pitt "during custody visits." According to OK Magazine, only the three minor kids are allowed to see Pitt as

per the custody agreement, while the other three supposedly "don't speak to him anymore."

Webb's statements also suggested that Jolie had particularly crafted her narrative so that she could clinch a guaranteed win while fighting for their kids' custody. The security guard said that the OG Lara Croft actress "required him and his contractors to sign NDAs relating to various personal and professional details of her, and her family's, life." Moreover, he reportedly also included that he was repeatedly contacted by Jolie's team, reminding him that he and his staff "had entered into NDAs" with her "and that if they testified in a custody proceeding, Jolie would sue them."

Rajkot fire: Game zone operated without NOC, stored 2,000 litres of petrol on site, says report

A primary investigation into the incident suggests negligence by the management

GUJARAT, May 26 (Agencies): The TRP game zone in Gujarat's Rajkot city, which caught fire on Saturday evening resulting in the death of 27 people, lacked necessary safety precautions, according to reports. A primary investigation into the incident suggests negligence by the management.

Not only was the TRP game zone operating without the necessary No Objection Certificate (NOC) but also functioning illegally in a residential area for four years, IANS quoted unnamed sources.

The building had a flimsy and shed-like structure and it is unclear whether it had a stability certificate. The Road and Building Department officials are currently untraceable, and so are officials responsible for issuing



stability certificates.

The game zone managers allegedly expanded the facility to three stories by obtaining a ride certificate. Though they secured permission from the police for the amusement park and sought approval for rides, many comprehensive safety evaluations were reportedly side-stepped.

There are also concerns about the way

management and safety protocols were observed at the game zone.

The report added that over 2,000 litres of petrol were stored on-site. Welding activities were going on and tyres were also kept in the area without safety regulations.

Rajkot Mayor Nayna Peshadiya confirmed the absence of a fire NOC. Peshadiya said

a probe will be launched as to how such a big game zone was functioning without a fire NOC. "No politics will be allowed over this issue," Peshadiya told reporters.

The place also had just one emergency exit, according to NDTV. A fire official also said how people got trapped as a temporary structure at the facility collapsed near the entrance.

Meanwhile, Additional Commissioner of Police (ACP) Vinayak Patel said 27 bodies were recovered from the incident site and taken to the city civil hospital. "Three persons were injured in the incident and their health condition was stable," he said.

"The bodies are charred beyond recognition, and we have completed the process of collecting the DNA samples of the bodies and the relatives who have claimed them so that the identity of the deceased can be established. The death toll is not likely to rise any further," he said.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat High Court has taken suo motu cognizance of the fire incident at TRP Game Zone in Rajkot. The issue will be heard in the Gujarat High Court on Monday.

Maliwal slams Dhruv Rathee: 'Facing extreme abuses, rape threats after YouTuber's one-sided video'



NEW DELHI, May 26 (Agencies): Aam Aadmi Party MP Swati Maliwal alleged she is facing extreme rape threats and abuses after YouTuber Dhruv Rathee posted a video against her, based on her alleged assault case against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bhubhav Kumar.

Maliwal tweeted, "After the leaders and volunteers of my party i.e. AAP orchestrated a campaign of character assassination, victim shaming and fanning of emotions against me, I have been getting rape and death threats. This got further exacerbated when YouTuber @Dhruv_Rathee posted a one-sided video against me." The AAP MP

alleged, "It is shameful that people like him (Rathee), who claim to be independent journalists, could act like other AAP spokespersons and victim shame me to the extent that I am now facing extreme abuses and threats."

Maliwal charged that the party leadership is trying to intimidate her into withdrawing the police complaint against Bhubhav Kumar. She said, "I tried my best to reach out to him, to tell him my version, but he ignored my calls and messages."

Questioning Rathee's video, Maliwal said, "Facts that he failed to mention in his 2.5-minute video against me - Party took a U-turn on its stand after accept-

ing the incident has happened; MLC report that reveals injuries due to the assault; Selected part of the video was released and then phone of the accused was formatted?; The accused was arrested from the crime scene (CM house). Why was he allowed to enter the place again? For tampering of evidence?; How a woman who always stood for the right issues, even went to Manipur alone without security could be bought over by the BJP?"

Maliwal charged the stand of party leadership and its supporters on her issue "speaks volumes on their stand on women's issues". Maliwal added she will be reporting the threats to Delhi police for further action.

On May 13, Maliwal alleged that she was attacked by Delhi CM Kejriwal's aide Bhubhav Kumar at the former's residence. Based on her complaint, police arrested Kumar and he has been remanded to judicial custody.

3 die as fire breaks out in residential building in East Delhi's Krishna Nagar

The second, third and fourth floors affected by heat and smoke

NEW DELHI, May 26 (Agencies): Three people died after a fire broke out in a four-storey residential building in Krishna Nagar of East Delhi on Sunday, officials of the Delhi Fire Services said.

Officials said the charred body of a 66-year-old woman identified as Parmila Shad was recovered from the first floor of the building, while two others identified as 18-year-old Keshav Sharma and 34-year-old Anju Sharma were declared brought dead by the doctors.

Chief of Delhi Fire Services Atul Garg said a call regarding a blaze at a house near the Bank of India, Krishna Nagar, was received at 2.35 am.

"The flames were



doused by 7.20 am and it was found that the fire began in 11 two-wheelers in the stilt parking of the house and spread on the first floor. The building comprises ground (stilt) plus four floors," he said.

Officials said the second, third and fourth floors were affected by heat and smoke.

"One charred body was found on the first floor and 12 people were rescued from upper floors and sent to different hospitals," Garg said.

According to the DFS, two persons were declared dead at the GTB Hospital while one person was referred to Max hospital in a serious condition.

Five fire tenders were rushed to the spot, he said, adding 11 vehicles at the spot were reduced to ashes.

This is the second major fire in the city in as many days.

At least seven newborns died in a massive fire at a children's hospital in East Delhi's Vivek Vihar on Saturday night.

Confession that probe agencies acting at Modi's behest: Sibal slams PM for 'jail' barb at Tejaswini

NEW DELHI, May 26 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his veiled 'jail' swipe at RJD leader Tejaswini Yadav and claimed that this was a "confession" that probe agencies were acting at the PM's behest.

Sibal also slammed Modi for his 'mujra' remark and said that even though this was a violation of the model code of conduct but no one, including the Election Commission, will act as they are "hand in glove" with the PM.

The prime minister has stated in his speeches that the INDIA bloc will take away water taps, electricity, money from banks and also taken "mujra" jibe, the former Union minister said at a press conference here.

"He is sitting in a high office that has dignity. If you reduce the dignity of the PM's post to such a level, look at what is being said on social



media. It is an insult to women also," Sibal said, hitting out at the PM for his 'mujra' remark.

"What do you want to say? You are insulting women, you are insulting opposition leaders. If you are giving this message from top, the same will happen downwards. So you want to create a culture of hate," the Independent Rajya Sabha MP said, adding that "you cannot build Vksit Bharat like this"

"I know the Election Commission will do nothing even though I think this is a violation of the model code of conduct. But nobody would do anything about it because they are hand

in glove," Sibal said. He also recalled that the PM has given the guarantee that when polls finish, Tejaswini Yadav will be sent to jail.

"How can he send Tejaswini to jail? There is a legal process. This means that law is working on his direction. How does he know? I have been saying probe agencies are working at his behest. This is a confession. To what kind of level, our democratic processes have fallen?" Sibal said.

Earlier, in a post on X, Sibal said, "Modi: On Tejaswini, another guarantee to the people of Bihar: 'Once he completes his rounds on the helicopter, his road to jail will be decided'. My take: 1) Violation of MCC 2) Confession that agencies act on his bidding 3) ECI will not act 4) No nation deserves this."

At his press confer-

ence Sibal also released a chart for counting agents of political parties to ensure there has been no tampering with EVMs.

He said they must check the time on the machines as to when the machine has been opened which should be on June 4.

He urged people to match total votes with counted votes.

"Result button should not be pressed till all the figures are tallied. All political parties and counting agents should follow the procedure," he said.

"A lot of people say there is a possibility of these machines being tampered so we are trying to ensure that there has been no tampering," he said.

After six phases of the Lok Sabha polls, Sibal said the mood of the nation is for change but the mood of the political party in power is that there is no change.

11 killed, 10 injured after truck rams bus carrying pilgrims in UP's Shahjahanpur



SHAHJAHANPUR, May 26 (Agencies): As many as 11 people died and 10 others were injured after a truck crashed into a parked bus and overturned on it in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur on Saturday night.

The truck was filled with stone ballast and the bus was carrying over a dozen pilgrims.

According to the police, the incident happened late on Saturday night on Gola Bypass road in the Khutar Police station area. The pri-

mate bus, which was en route to Purnagiri from Sitapur, had stopped at a dhaba in Shahjahanpur. The truck loaded with stone ballast hit the bus and overturned on it, crushing the pilgrims to death.

Most of the victims include women and children.

After a rescue operation that lasted for nearly three hours, several bodies were pulled out from under the truck. Visuals showed rescue teams using a crane to move rubble

to pull out pilgrims who were crushed under the truck.

"We got information around 11.30 pm that on Gola Bypass road a truck loaded with stone ballast hit a bus parked near a dhaba and then overturned on it...Some people were at the dhaba, eating food whereas others were sitting inside the bus. There have been 11 casualties and 10 have been injured. We have pulled out all the bodies, and are informing the families of the victims," Ashok Kumar Meena, Shahjahanpur Superintendent of Police, told agency today.

All the injured people have been admitted to a medical college and are being treated.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

Army Defuses 3 Bombs Planted On Road In Manipur



IMPHAL, May 26 (Agencies): Three improvised explosives devices (IEDs) were defused by the army in Manipur's Imphal East district, a defence spokesperson said today. The IEDs were found concealed on the road connecting Nongdam and Itham villages, 46 km apart. The section of the road where the IEDs were found is closer to Maphou dam and Nongdam village.

"During a routine area-domination and surveillance operation, army personnel noticed the three IEDs placed, in tandem, along the road. Army column acted swiftly and cordoned off the area," the defence spokesperson said in a statement. "Subsequently, a bomb disposal squad arrived at the location and defused the IEDs safely, preventing potential loss of life and injury to locals," the spokesperson said.

Ethnic violence-hit Manipur is yet to see normalcy a year after clashes broke out between the valley-dominant Meiteis and the hill-dominant Kuki tribes.

The security forces keep watch on sensitive areas where villages of the two communities meet, especially near the foothills surrounding the state capital Imphal valley.

4 labourers killed, 5 injured as bus rams into roadside shanties in South Goa



PANAJI, May 26 (Agencies): Four labourers were killed and five others critically injured when a private bus rams into two roadside shanties at an industrial estate in South Goa district, police said on Sunday.

The accident took place at around 11.30 pm on Saturday at the Verna Industrial Estate when the labourers, engaged in road construction work, were sleeping in the shanties, they said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Santosh Desai said the bus driver, identified as Bharat Govekar, resident of the nearby Cartolim village, has been taken into custody and is being questioned.

The driver's medical examination confirmed he was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident, he said.

A labourer claimed the bus driver

threatened the other labourers present at the site to kill them if they complained to anyone about the incident.

The bus carrying staff of a private company hit two shanties where labourers were sleeping, a police official said.

"Four labourers died on the spot while five were critically injured and admitted to the Goa Medical College and Hospital," he said.

The labourers were employed by a contractor, the police said.

A labourer told reporters that the bus rams into their shanties.

"After the incident, the bus driver threatened to kill us if we complained to anyone. The driver was under the influence of alcohol," claimed Rupender Mathur, whose uncle Ramesh Mathur and brother Anil Mathur were among those killed.

He claimed that medical help reached the spot late due to which there was a delay in taking the victims to the District Hospital in Margao.

Rupender Mathur said he was staying in one of the accident-affected shanties but was saved as he had come out to attend a mobile phone call.

"Three more persons who were out (of the shanties) on mobile phone calls were saved," he said.

After China drills, Taiwan President says open to working on 'peace'

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te again extended goodwill towards and offered cooperation with China on Sunday following two days of Chinese war games near the island, saying he looked forward to enhancing mutual understanding and reconciliation.

TAIPEI, May 26 (Agencies): Taiwan's President on Sunday said he was still open to working with China on building "mutual understanding and reconciliation", days after Beijing launched military drills around the self-ruled island in response to his inauguration speech.

President Lai Ching-te was sworn into office on Monday, and China -- which claims democratic Taiwan as part of its territory and regards Lai as a "dangerous separatist" -- launched military games around the island three days later.

Fighter jets, naval vessels and coast guard ships encircled Taiwan until Friday night, which Chinese military analysts said was to practice seizing it.

On Sunday, Lai said his May



20 inaugural speech highlighted that "peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is a necessary element for global security and prosperity".

"I also called on China to jointly shoulder the important responsibility of regional stability with Taiwan," he said during an event with his Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in southern Tainan.

"I also look forward to enhancing mutual understanding and reconciliation through exchanges and cooperation with China... and moving towards a position of peace and common prosperity."

He added that "any country making waves in the Taiwan Strait and affecting regional stability will not be accepted by the

international community".

Lai made overtures to Beijing before his inauguration to resume communications -- severed since 2016 after former president Tsai Ing-wen took office.

Like Lai, Tsai is also part of the DPP, which holds a stance of defending Taiwan's sovereignty. In response, Beijing has upped military and political pressures on Taiwan, and its naval vessels, drones and warplanes maintain a near-daily presence around the island.

On Sunday, two days after the drills ended, Taiwan's defence ministry reported that seven Chinese aircraft, 14 naval vessels and four coast guard ships were "operating around" the island in a 24-hour period ending at 06:00 am (2200 GMT Saturday).

Thousands flee as cyclone barrels towards Bangladesh

PATUAKHALI, May 26 (Agencies): Tens of thousands of Bangladeshis left their coastal villages Sunday for concrete storm shelters further inland as the low-lying nation prepared for the expected landfall of an intense cyclone, officials said.

Cyclone Remal is set to hit the country and parts of neighbouring India on Sunday evening, with Bangladesh's weather department predicting crashing waves and howling gales with gusts of up to 130 kilometres (81 miles) per hour. Cyclones have killed hundreds of thousands of people in Bangladesh in recent decades, but the number of superstorms hitting its low-lying, densely populated coast has increased sharply of late -- from one a year to as many as three -- due to the impact of climate change. "The cyclone could unleash a storm surge of up to 12 feet (four metres) above normal astronomical tide, which can be dangerous," senior weather official Muhammad Abul Kalam Mallik told agency. Authorities have raised the danger signal to its highest level, warning fishermen against going to the sea and triggering an evacuation order for those in vulnerable areas. "Our plan is to evacuate hundreds of thousands of people from unsafe and vulnerable homes to the cyclone shelters. The authorities have mobilised tens of thou-

sands of volunteers to alert people to the danger." The government's disaster management secretary Kamrul Hasan told agency. He said that some 4,000 cyclone shelters have been readied along the country's lengthy coast on the Bay of Bengal. The state-run Bangladesh Meteorological Department said Cyclone Remal would make landfall Sunday between 6:00 pm and midnight (1200-1800 GMT). In addition to the villagers and fishermen, many of the multi-storey centres have space to shelter their cattle, buffaloes and goats, as well as their pets. Hasan further added that some 78,000 volunteers have been mobilised to alert coastal people and evacuate the vulnerable people."

Helal Mahmud Sharif, the chief government administrator of Khulna province, told agency some 20,000 people had been evacuated to shelters in the most vulnerable coastal regions.

Another 15,000 people and about 400 domesticated animals have been evacuated in the coastal Patuakhali and Bhola districts. On the low-lying Bhashan Char island, which is home to 36,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, 57 cyclone centres have been readied, deputy refugee commissioner Mohammad Rafiqul Haque told agency.

The country's three seaports and the airport in the second-largest city Chittagong were closed, officials said.

Hamas Says Captured Israeli Soldiers In Gaza, Israel Denies

CAIRO, May 26 (Agencies): A spokesman for Hamas' armed wing said on Sunday its fighters had captured Israeli soldiers during fighting in Jabalia in northern Gaza on Saturday, though the Israeli military denied the claim.

The Hamas armed wing spokesman did not say how many soldiers had been abducted and showed no proof of the claim.

"Our fighters lured a Zionist force into an ambush inside a tunnel ... The fighters withdrew after they left all members of the force dead, wounded, and captured," Abu Ubaida, the spokesman for Al Qassam Brigades, said in a recorded message broadcast by Al Jazeera early on Sunday.

The Israeli military on Sunday denied the claim by Hamas' armed wing.

"The IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) clarifies that there is no incident in which a soldier was abducted," the military said in a statement.

Hamas released a video that appeared to show a bloodied person being dragged along the ground in a tunnel and



photos of military fatigue and rifle. Reuters could not independently verify the identity of the person shown in the video nor his or her condition.

The comments by Abu Ubaida came hours after prospects for a resumption of mediated Gaza ceasefire talks grew on Saturday.

An official with knowledge of the matter said a decision had been taken to resume the talks next week after the chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency met the head of the CIA and the prime minister of Qatar.

The source, who declined to be identified by name or nationality, said it had been decided that "in the coming week negotiations will open based on new proposals led by the mediators, Egypt and Qatar and with active U.S. involvement."

A Hamas official later denied Israeli media reports the talks would resume in Cairo on Tuesday, telling agency: "There is no date." After more than seven months of war in Gaza, the mediators have struggled to secure a breakthrough, with Israel seeking the release of hostages held by Hamas and Hamas seeking an end to the war and a release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

Nearly 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive, Gaza's health ministry says. Israel began the operation in response to Hamas-led militants attacking southern Israeli communities on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people and seizing more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Children Among 10 Killed In Drone Strike On Gaza School: Report

GAZA, May 26 (Agencies): At least 10 people, including children, were killed in Gaza on Sunday after a drone strike hit the school they were sheltering, agency reported, citing local health workers.

The Al-Nazla school in Saftawwy, on the outskirts of Jabaliya, was being used as a temporary shelter by people fleeing violence when the drone strike took place.

Speaking to agency, an eyewitness, Saleh Al-Aswad from Jabaliya, said that his son-in-law is undergoing treatment for injuries suffered during the attack.

He added that a "man making bread for his children, thinking this was a safe space," was killed along with his daughter, Afnan, and his son, Mohamed. The news of the strike comes at a time when United Nations agencies have warned that the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate.

In a statement shared on X on Saturday, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned that Gaza's healthcare system "is on its knees" as access to hospitals and facilities shrink further amid supply short-



ages and attacks.

The OCHA report, citing the WHO said that, as of Friday, 15 out of 36 hospitals in Gaza were only partially functional, 21 hospitals were out of service, and there were six functional field hospitals. The agency said that the existing hospitals were functioning at more than four times their bed capacity, the agency said, citing the Gaza Ministry of Health.

It further added, "Shortages in fuel, medical supplies and equipment are threatening the ability of the remaining health facilities to operate."

The director of the Kuwait hospital in Rafah shared a video on WhatsApp to "sound the alarm to the WHO to keep this hospital operational and to guarantee it doesn't shut down by providing it with the nec-

essary fuel," according to agency report.

In the video message, Suhaib al-Homs said the Kuwait Hospital is now the only functioning hospital in central Rafah where people can reach "around the clock" as the field hospitals in surrounding areas are difficult to access without an ambulance.

He said, "We are warning of the mounting health crisis as hospitals are going out of service and the collapse of the health sector." He further added, "We will keep on working and the medical teams will keep doing their job. What's happening now makes us more steadfast and adamant to fulfill our duty to serve our people."

The UN aid agency has warned that some displaced people in central Gaza are now sur-

living on 3 per cent of the minimum standard for daily water needs and that communicable diseases, including diarrhea and suspected Hepatitis A, continue to rise among children, particularly those who are below the age of five.

Earlier this week, the WHO head urged Israel to ease all restrictions on aid entering the Gaza Strip and stressed that the primary route for vital medical aid to enter Gaza from Egypt had been cut off amid Israel's ongoing military operation on the southern Gaza city of Rafah.

On Friday, the United Nations' top court has ordered Israel to halt its operations in the southern Gaza city of Rafah and withdraw from the enclave, agency reported.

The International Court

of Justice (ICJ) situated in The Hague, Netherlands gave the order on Friday, in the case brought by South Africa accusing Israel of genocide, citing "immense risk" to the Palestinian population.

"Israel must immediately halt its military offensive and any other action in the Rafah Governorate which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part," said Judge Nawaf Salam, president of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), agency reported.

Notably, the decision marks the third time this year, the 15-judge panel has issued preliminary orders seeking to rein in the death count and alleviate humanitarian suffering in Gaza. However, it is pertinent to note that while orders are legally binding, the court has no police to enforce them.

The court stated that the humanitarian situation in Gaza had deteriorated "even further" since the court last ordered provisional measures in March. "The humanitarian situation is now to be characterized as disastrous," Salam said.

Lithuanians return to the polls with incumbent president favored to win 2nd election round

VILNIUS, May 26 (Agencies): Lithuanians return to the polls Sunday for the second round of the Baltic country's presidential election as incumbent President Gitanas Nausėda seeks to hold off Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė and secure another five-year term.

The 60-year-old Nausėda, a moderate conservative, has been a strong backer of Ukraine, a position shared across most of the political spectrum. The popular Nausėda has been in office since 2009 and during that time Lithuania has also given refuge to many who have fled an authoritarian crackdown in neighboring Belarus and increased repression in Russia.

The president's main tasks in NATO-member Lithuania's political system are overseeing foreign and defense policy, along with acting as the supreme commander of the armed forces.

Given that Lithuania is strategi-

cally located on NATO's eastern flank, the presidency of a relatively small nation is given added importance as tensions rise between Russia and the West over the war in Ukraine.

The election comes as Russian gains in Ukraine are fueling greater fears about Moscow's intentions, particularly in the strategically important Baltic region.

After regaining its independence in 1991 from the Soviet Union, which occupied the southernmost Baltic country for five decades, Lithuania joined the European Union and NATO in 2004.

Both candidates have been outspoken critics of Moscow and of Russia.

Nausėda who is favored to win another five-year term, is a former banker who entered politics with his successful presidential run in 2019. He and Šimonytė won the first round but failed to muster the 50% of the votes needed to win



the presidency outright. Nausėda won the first round on May 12 with 44% of the votes and Šimonytė nearly 20%.

Both Nausėda and Šimonytė, who became prime minister in 2020, also ran against each other in a presidential runoff in 2019, when Nausėda won with 66% of the votes.

Lithuania's Central Electoral Commission is expected to announce the outcome of the election on Monday.

47 killed in Sudan's el-Fasher region as conflict rages

KHARTOUM, May 26 (Agencies): At least 30 civilians and 17 soldiers were killed in attacks in the Sudanese city of el-Fasher, as fighting in the country shows no sign of abating since the conflict started in mid-April last year, reported Al Jazeera.

"This shows that the goal of those attacking el-Fasher is to exterminate the city," Sudanese politician Minni Minnawi said.

War in Sudan erupted in mid-April last year when a simmering feud between the leaders of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) exploded into violence, Al Jazeera reported.

Fighting between the army, headed by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, since last April has killed tens of thousands of people. Moreover, almost nine million people have been displaced since the war, leading to a looming famine and grave

humanitarian crisis. While the war started in the capital Khartoum, it spread to Darfur and unleashed ethnic violence, resurfacing old rivalries dating back to a brutal war in the early 2000s, as reported by Al Jazeera. El-Fasher is the last domino yet to fall in Darfur as the RSF has taken control of nearly all the main cities of the western Sudanese state. The RSF's steady gains on the ground prompted ex-Darfur rebel leaders Minnawi and Jibril Ibrahim to break months of neutrality and declare their intention to join the war on the SAF's side in November last year.

The RSF grew out of what rebel groups call the "Janjaweed", an Arab force that killed thousands of non-Arabs in Darfur during the war in the region, which began in 2003 and ended with a peace deal in 2020. Since Minnawi and Ibrahim's announcement, the Sudanese army has maintained a presence in the city, making it the last stronghold of forces fighting against the RSF, as reported by Al Jazeera.

"The (civilian) Coordination of Civil Democratic Forces and the groups that are sponsoring and funding it are waiting with patience for the fall of el-Fasher to declare the birth of their racial militia state on the skulls of the sons of Darfur in western Sudan. Moreover, thousands of civilians are trapped because of the fighting," Minnawi said referring to a civilian group accused of siding with the RSF.

Alex de Waal, the executive director of the World Peace Foundation, emphasised that the fall of el-Fasher could see larger-scale brutality against civilians and that a famine is already unfolding in Darfur. "It's the last stronghold of the internationally-recognised government... in Darfur. It's also a place where the other armed groups that are allied with the government... are holed up. So if it were to fall to the RSF, not only would we see the kind of massive rampart and looting that we've seen elsewhere, but probably also (a) large-scale massacre of civilians," he added.

BVP Shivalik Branch organizes free Medical Health Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik Branch, Channi Himmat, Jammu, in collaboration with Hexamed Diagnostics & Specialty Clinics, organized a one-day Multi-Specialty Free Medical Health Camp at the Hexamed facility on Main Bypass Road, Channi Rama, Jammu. This initiative aimed to provide comprehensive medical services to the local community.

medical fields, including Orthopedics, General Medicine, Physiotherapy, ENT, Dentistry, Dietetics, Ophthalmology, and Gynecology. Free services provided included doctor's consultations, fasting blood sugar tests, serum creatinine tests, blood pressure checks, and weight assessments.

inaugural speech, Sh. Sharma praised the initiative, highlighting its importance in raising health awareness and urged the organizing team to continue such beneficial programs in the future.

expressed their commitment to future collaborations for similar initiatives. H.C. Vaid, President of Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik Branch, Channi Himmat, extended his gratitude to the chief guest, Hexamed staff, and the attending doctors for their contribution to the community.

Khajuria (Secretary), Rakesh Sharma (Treasurer), Dr. Vijay Sharma (Media Parmukh), Shiv Ram Sharma (General Secretary, Prant), Arun Sharma, Shashi Gupta, Prof. Vrinder Gupta, Anju Bansal, and other notable members from the branch and prant body.

District Jammu Taekwondo Championship 2024 concludes

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: The District Jammu Taekwondo Championship 2024 concluded on Sunday at Ganesha Academy of Martial Arts (GAMA), Jammu. Students from more than 35 schools from district Jammu including boys and girls took part in it. The results GOLD: Aahan Mahajan, Aastik Choudhary, Alina Kouser, Aniket Ahirwar, Ankit Ahirwar, Ashel Sharma, Athrav Sharma, Ayaan Tickoo, Balvinder Kour, Ekmeet Kour, Jazleen Kaur, Keshav Kumar, Mahalaka, Mahin, Mannat, Mansimar Singh, Mohammad Azim, Priyanshu, Rachit Sagar, Yashit Gupta, Anmol Anand, Lovjeet Choudhary, Mustkeem Ahmed Shah, Dhruv Sharma, Uzaif Ileyass, Harsh Dev Singh Bali, Haider Ali, Himadri Singh, Sachin Kumar, Mohd. Usman, Anisha Choudhary, Har-simar Singh, Mazamil Hanief, Radhika Gupta, Hardik Gupta, Simran, Santushti and Atharv Mahajan.

SILVER: Abhir Singh Sudan, Adhyansh Raina, Albash Choudhary, Alvin Verma, Aryan Mahajan, Ashvi Sharma, Ayank

Quimti Lal Jain (General Secretary, Taekwondo Association of J&K), Chief Guest, Ravinder Sharma (Treasurer, TAJK), Guest of Honour and Khurshed Ahmad Najar (Principal, Al Hilal International School), Guest of Honour, and other guests attended the event and concluded it by felicitating the students with medals and certificates.

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

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH / JAMMU, May 26: All India Jat Maha Sabha (AIJMS), Punjab unit, held a significant meeting in Chandigarh, organized by Harpal Singh Harpura, National Vice President of AIJMS and President of the AIJMS Punjab unit. In the meeting, Choudhary Manmohan Singh, President of AIJMS, Jammu & Kashmir, and former Mayor of Jammu, was the Chief Guest and Ch. Avtar Krishan from Kathua was the Guest of Honour. Ajaib Singh Boparai, Incharge General Secretary, S. Sukhbir Singh Manahas Advisor Punjab, Avtar Singh Kalair District President Pathankot, Kanwar Partap Singh Bajwa Youth President Punjab, S. Mehar Singh Chotalla President Tarantaran, S. Gural Paggi President Amritsar, S. Gurpartap Singh Bhullar and S. Sikanderbir Singh were also graced the occasion.



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

the formation of district-level committees to support National General Secretary Yudhvir Singh in his efforts. He urged community members to unite in securing OBC status for the weaker sections of society in Punjab, reinforcing the Sabha's commitment to upliftment and representation.

OBC status for the community. Highlighting current challenges, Ch Manmohan Singh mentioned that the Jat community is facing severe issues in Jammu and Kashmir. He underscored that several Jat community members, who were allotted custodian land during their migration in 1947, 1965, and 1971 by the then governments of Jammu & Kashmir, are still deprived of ownership rights. He sought support from the Presidents of Jat Maha Sabha from across the country

to secure these ownership rights so that every single member of the Jat community can live their life with full dignity in the Jammu region. Later in the press conference organised by the AIJMS Punjab unit in Chandigarh, Gujeet Singh Talwandi was nominated as the National Secretary of AIJMS. Both Harpal Singh and Choudhary Manmohan Singh felicitated him with an appointment letter. Gujeet Singh Talwandi assured senior functionaries of Jat Maha Sabha that he will work diligently towards strengthening the organization across the country, aligning with the broader goals of AIJMS. The meeting concluded with a strong sense of unity and determination among the attendees, who resolved to continue their collective efforts for the welfare and rights of the Jat community. The AIJMS reaffirmed its dedication to addressing the issues faced by the community and working towards their resolution.

Thyroid disease often goes undetected: expert

BATHINDA/JAMMU, May 26: "If your thyroid becomes damaged, almost every cell in your body will be affected. Thyroid hormones affect everything from breathing, heart rate, and body temperature to digestion and muscle contraction."

The common symptoms include palpitations, weight loss, severe anxiety, thyroid enlargement, and increased appetite, tremors in hands and fingers, sweating and menstrual changes, he informed. Hypothyroidism occurs when the thyroid gland is underactive, or does not produce adequate levels of thyroid hormone, he said. The common symptoms include fatigue, difficulty concentrating, cold sensitivity, headaches, joint pain, dry

skin, constipation, menstrual irregularities, and depression. Dr. Sushil further said that keep in mind that symptoms of thyroid disease are subtle and develop slowly. In addition, symptoms are non-specific and that's why thyroid disease often goes undetected. While it's always a good idea to exercise, maintain a healthy weight, and manage stress to maintain overall good health, these factors usually don't directly affect your thyroid, he advised.

FROM PAGE 1

After successful polls, JK Statehood and Assembly Elections Next: Amit Shah

be held. We will complete the process before the Supreme Court deadline," he said. On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission of India to conduct elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, 2024. Commenting on the relatively high polling percentage in the Kashmir valley in the Lok Sabha elections, Shah said he believed that there has been a big change in attitudes there. "Voting percentage has increased. Some people used to say that people of the valley do not believe in the Indian Constitution. But this election was held under the Indian Constitution because Kashmir's Constitution is no longer there. It was scrapped. Election was held under Indian Constitution. People who sought a separate country, those who want to go with Pakistan — even they cast their votes overwhelmingly, both at the organisation level as well as individual people," he said. Shah said "it was a very big victory for the democracy and a big success of the Narendra Modi government's Kashmir policy, which it has been pursuing for the last 10 years." The three seats in the Kashmir valley — Srinagar (38.49 per cent), Baramulla (59.1 per cent) and Anantnag-Rajouri (53 per cent) — have recorded the highest voter turnout "in many decades", the Election Commission said on Saturday. When asked why the BJP did not field any candidate in the Lok Sabha elections in the Kashmir valley, he said the party was still working on strengthening its organisation in the valley. "We will definitely put up our candidates in future. Our organisation is getting expanded and our organisation is under process of strengthening," he added. Asked about the possibility of merger of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said it is his

personal belief that PoK could have been part of India in 1947-48, but it got away because of what he said was premature ceasefire by the Jawaharlal Nehru government in the first war with Pakistan over the region. "Had the ceasefire been declared four days later, PoK would have been with us," he said, adding that the possible merger of PoK with Jammu Kashmir can only be decided after lots of serious discussions. "Because this is an issue which is very important for the country," he said. He pointed out that the merger of PoK is part of BJP's manifesto. "Besides, there was a Parliamentary resolution on it ... unanimous resolution. The Congress party may not realise that they have also voted for it," he said. **PM waived loans Of 22 people but couldn't give Rs 9,000 Cr for HP monsoon disaster: Rahul** Vinod Sultanpuri, he said Modi handed over all storage facilities to one person to control the prices of apple. The share prices of Adani-owned companies rise whenever Narendra Modi is sworn in, Gandhi claimed. In his speech, Gandhi promised Minimum Support Price on crops and farm loan-waiver if his party comes to power in the Centre. He said poor families would get Rs 1 lakh every years till they are brought above poverty line. The former Congress president also promised to fill 30 lakh vacancies in government departments to provide jobs to the unemployed youths in the country. He claimed BJP leaders attacking the Constitution by saying they would abolish it He appealed to Congress workers to make effort to ensure the victory of party candidates in all four Lok Sabha seats to thwart the attempts of the BJP leaders to "attack" the Constitution of India. "My sister lives here in Shimla and Rahul and Priyanka are your soldiers at Delhi," he asserted. He also said media has lost its credibility. He said if the Congress comes

to power it will give one year assured jobs to youths completing graduation under the 'Pehli Naukri Pakki Adhikar' programme. **Seven newborns die in fire at East Delhi Children's Hospital** with those who lost their innocent children in this accident. Government and administration officials are busy providing treatment to the injured at the spot," he said. Vowing that whoever is responsible for this negligence will not be spared, Mr. Kejriwal said the cause of the incident is being investigated. Meanwhile, Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "Very unfortunate incident reported. I have asked Secretary [Health] to update about the current situation. Culprits will not be spared. Strictest punishment will be ensured for those found negligent or involved in any wrong doing." Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg said the fire was caused due to a blast in an oxygen cylinder and spread rapidly. Death of children due to fire in Delhi hospital heart-rending: President Murmu President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said the death of children due to a fire in a hospital in Delhi is heart-rending and prayed for strength to the bereaved parents. "I pray for the speedy recovery of other children injured in this incident," she said. **Punjab Police, BSF bust drugs smuggling module with arrest of seven people, recovers 5 kg heroin** recovered Rs 1.70 lakh in cash and 40 cartridges. "In a major breakthrough against trans-border narcotics smuggling networks, Fazilka police and BSF, in a joint operation, have busted an international narco smuggling module and arrested seven

drug smugglers with the seizure of 5.47 kilograms of pure-grade heroin, Rs 1.70 lakh drug money, 40 cartridges and more..." Yadav said in a post on X. "Preliminary investigations reveal that the arrested accused were in touch with a Pakistan-based smuggler," he said. A case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act has been registered, the senior officer said and added investigations are underway to establish the backward and forward linkages. **Leh-Bound Spicejet Plane suffers glitch; Returns to Delhi** per data available on flight tracking website flightradar24. Comments from SpiceJet are being awaited. **MeT says 'Heatwave' to continue for 3 more days as night temp rises in J&K** divisions and hot & dry weather is likely over hilly districts during next three days," he said, adding, "People should avoid heat exposure and drink lot of fluid and water." Meanwhile, night temperature also continued to stay above normal with Srinagar recording a low of 15.7°C against 13.8°C on the previous night and it was 3.7°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year. Qazigund recorded a minimum of 12.6°C against 10.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said. Pahalgam recorded a low of 8.3°C against 7.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 13.2°C against 11.1°C and it was 2.6°C above normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 11.5°C against 11.3°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.9°C for the place, the official said. Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 11.0°C

against 9.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 3.9°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 24.5°C against 22.4°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 0.4°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 15.0°C, Batote 18.4°C and Bhadrawah 15.4°C, he said. **Police Constable booked under NDPS Act dismissed from service in Reasi** In her detailed factual report, Sharma observed that the charges of violations of police rules and regulations, absenteeism, grave misconduct, indiscipline and negligence were proved against the constable, making him unfit to serve the department. "The stern departmental action of dismissal has been taken after the delinquent cop did not pay heed to series of signals, attendance notices and show cause notices which were served upon him," the spokesperson said. **Cash, Liquor, Drugs Worth Rs 95 Crore seized during Lok Sabha Polls in J&K** Model Code of Conduct compliance, the election authorities had established a command and control room at the CEO office in Jammu as well as in Srinagar. "Similar mini-control rooms were also established in every DEO office which were functioning round-the-clock. All electronic media channels, social media platforms were monitored here. Any violation so detected was reported and the concerned RO/ARO issued notice," the officials said. They said apart from checking for the MCC violations, the control room also had live feed of all polling stations and GPS vehicle tracking of all vehicles being used for poll parties.

'Make in India' Range Rover soon

JLR's Pune plant will be first to roll out luxury brand outside UK

NEW DELHI, May 26 (Agencies): Fifty-four years after it started manufacturing Range Rover in the UK, Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has decided to drive home the British luxury brand along with Range Rover Sport and produce these locally.

India will be the first country to manufacture the two SUVs exclusively outside the Solihull plant in the UK, the home of Range Rover since 1970. The additional production of the SUVs for the Indian market will supplement the global production of Range Rover.

The prices of the two luxury models, which will



produced at JLR's facility in Pune, are expected to come down in the range of 18-22 per cent. Range Rover Velar, Range Rover Evoque, Jaguar F-PACE and Discovery Sport are already locally manufactured in Pune.

"In our 54-year-long

history, we are witnessing an increasing demand for Range Rover across the globe. This is an unprecedented success story and India is a very important part of it. With local manufacturing, Range Rover will enable the brand to respond to the

growing demand across the country," said Geraldine Ingham, Managing Director, Range Rover.

In the last fiscal year, JLR India reported retail sales of 4,436 units, witnessing a year-on-year growth of 81 per cent and one of the best performances in the market

since the company's launch in India in 2009. The sales were the highest in the last five years.

"While Range Rover will now be 'Made in India' for clients in this market, its exemplary British design remains distinctive and will continue to define the aesthetic grace and technological sophistication that is synonymous to the Range Rover brand," said Lennard Hoornik, Chief Commercial Officer, JLR. Also, the move will enable the customer to benefit from shorter wait times for Range Rover's pinnacle vehicles, expanding JLR's ability to offer a modern luxury client journey.

Labour pangs: Punjab businessmen offer incentives



CHANDIGARH, May 26 (Agencies): Attendance and referral incentives, financial assistance, coolers and cold beverages at workplaces...the Punjab industry is going the extra mile to address the issue of acute labour shortage during the poll season.

In summers, migrants from UP, Bihar and other states usually return to their respective hometown, but it is for the first time, the industry is faced with such a severe labour shortage.

The prolonged 7-phase General Election (from April 19 to June 1) has made migrants extend their stay at their respective hometown. Besides, disrup-

tion of the train movement due to the farm agitation has hampered their travel plans.

"The shortage of labour is between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. We are offering attendance and referral incentives and cold beverages to draw workers' attention," says Amit Thapar, president, Ganga Acrowools Ltd. Industries, which are mainly concentrated in Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Amritsar, have cut down the manufacturing activity. In Ludhiana, many units are operating with 40-50 per cent labour force. SC Raihan, president, Ludhiana Hand Tool Association, says many industrialists are even offering their workforce financial aid to buy plots.

UCPMA chairman Charanjit Vishkarma says fans and coolers are being installed where labourers work. "We are not able to meet the deadline. Our biggest worry is that if the labourers who have gone back home do not return in time, we may lose some potential customers," says Jalandhar-based Narinder S Sagoo, president, Focal Point Association.

Jio Financial eyes Rs 36,000 crore deal with Reliance Retail

NEW DELHI, May 26 (Agencies): Jio Financial Services (JFS) is eyeing a deal worth Rs 36,000 crore with the retail arm of Reliance Industries (RIL), as it plans to step into the device leasing business, as per a postal ballot notice from the company.

According to the proposal, a unit of JFS, named Jio Leasing Services, will acquire telecom equipment and devices, including routers and cell phones. The approval from shareholders is still pending for the proposal.

These items will be rented out to customers of Reliance Jio Infocomm, the telecommunications arm of Reliance.

Jio Leasing Services aims to enter the operating lease business using a Device-as-a-Service (DaaS) model.

In this model, businesses or individuals lease goods along with associated services rather than buying them outright. These services usually include installation, maintenance, support, and sometimes updates.

Reliance Retail Limited (RRL) deals with devices and related



equipment. Jio Leasing Services will purchase customer premises equipment/devices and telecom equipment from RRL and provide them on operating lease to Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited customers.

The total value of these transactions is estimated to be Rs 36,000 crore over the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26. The split of purchases across these two years will depend on the demand for services and the deployment pace of broadband wireless devices.

Voting on the proposed items in the notice is set to conclude on June 22.

Jio Financial, separated from the Reliance Group last year, announced in its earnings investor presenta-

tion that it will also lease Jio Infocomm's AirFiber wifi services, phones, and laptops, among other products.

The company will face competition in the device-rental market from players like Hewlett-Packard and Lenovo.

In the quarter ended March 2024 (Q4FY24), Jio Financial Services Ltd reported a consolidated net profit increase of 5.8% year-on-year to Rs 311 crore, up from Rs 294 crore in the same quarter of FY23.

The total income of the company rose to Rs 418 crore in Q4FY24 from Rs 414 crore in Q4FY23. These were the first annual results of the company as a listed entity.

The journey of GIFT City and challenges ahead

More than 200 companies have established their presence in GIFT City, including 19 banking units, 25 insurance companies and numerous brokerages and financial service providers.

GANDHINAGAR, May 26 (Agencies): It took more than a decade for GIFT City in Gujarat, India's only international financial hub, to finally materialise with the help of better policies and regulatory clarity. GIFT City's inception in 2007 saw uncertainties until 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre. Approval as India's first operational IFSC in 2015 marked a turning point, positioning it as a significant contributor to India's economic growth.

After the establishment of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in 2020 and the introduction of specific regulations for managing funds in 2022, key businesses in GIFT City have experienced significant growth each year. The IFSCA is a regulatory body that oversees and regulates financial activities within GIFT City.

Businesses like managing funds, stock markets, international banking and leasing aircraft have all expanded notably in GIFT IFSC. More than 200 companies have established their presence in GIFT City, including 19 banking units, 25 insurance companies and numerous brokerages and financial service providers. Key players such as the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), National Stock Exchange (NSE) and international banks like Standard Chartered, State Bank of India, Dual and JP Morgan have established their offices and



operations within GIFT City. In 2023, when Silicon Valley Bank collapsed, GIFT City came to the limelight and approximately \$200 million moved there in a span of few days. This event positioned GIFT IFSC as an alternative on the global stage for international banking.

Trading of SGX Nifty futures at GIFT City via the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect, known as GIFT NIFTY, is set for substantial growth. The daily trading volume for SGX Nifty futures contracts stands at approximately \$1.8 billion, significantly surpassing the previous volume of \$150 million on NSE's international exchange within GIFT City. It has attracted more than 80 fund managers with total investments of \$2.9 billion across India and overseas.

According to EY, in GIFT City, Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) have made total investments of approximately \$3 billion as of 31 March 2024, with commitments raised amounting to around \$8.4 billion. On the other hand, banks have deployed funds totaling \$60 billion within GIFT City.

According to Aarti Harbhajanka, Co-Founder & Managing Director at Primus Partners, GIFT City has attracted a significant number of residents, with over 5,000 residential units already occupied, housing a population of around 15,000-20,000 people. The residential population is expected to grow to around 1 lakh by 2025 as more companies and professionals relocate to the smart city.

Despite remarkable progress, GIFT City faces challenges in talent retention, infrastructure development, connectivity, cost competitiveness and global visibility. "First, attracting and keeping top talent is tough with competition from cities like Mumbai, Singapore, and Dubai. Then, there's a need to build schools, hospitals, and fun places for the growing population. Improving connectivity with other cities and within the city itself is crucial too. People worry about the high cost of living and doing business there compared to other Indian cities. Lastly, GIFT City needs more recognition as a global financial hub both in India and worldwide," said Harbhajanka

of Primus Partners.

According to Lokesh Shah, partner with IndusLaw, units in GIFT City currently have to obtain approvals separately from both the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) authority and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). This dual approval process can lead to delays and duplication of efforts for businesses.

"The government should consider introducing a single approval mechanism to minimise time-lag and eliminate duplication in process. On an overall basis, I believe GIFT City is gradually becoming a gateway for global capital and financial services for the economy, though certain issues on infrastructure and talent crunch will need to be addressed quickly," Shah added.

However despite these challenges, India's only international financial centre is shaping up well. "Since the formation of the IFSCA authority under the IFSCAA Act, we have seen some real traction around GIFT City. The authority is also fairly proactive and keen to attract businesses in setting up a presence in GIFT," says Keyur Shah, partner with EY India.

He says like in the case of any financial centre it would take time for it to reach its full potential but adds that a lot more conversations are happening around GIFT City whether it is for funds, banks, broker dealers or even foreign universities or aircraft operators.

Researchers discover genetic cause of rare childhood immune disorders

WASHINGTON, May 26 (Agencies): Researchers have identified specific genetic changes that can result in newborns having little to no immune protection against illness.

Researchers from Newcastle University, the Wellcome Sanger Institute, the Great North Children's Hospital, and their collaborators were able to connect mutations in the NUDCD3 gene to rare and potentially fatal immunodeficiency disorders called Omenn syndrome¹ and Severe Combined Immunodeficiency in a recent study involving 11 affected individuals.

The normal development of the variety of immune cells required to fight various infections was impeded by these mutations².

The results, which were released in Science Immunology, present potential for this condition's early detection and treatment. Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) and Omenn syndrome are both rare genetic disorders that leave children without a functional immune system and at risk of life-threatening infections.

Without urgent treatment, such as stem cell transplants to replace the faulty immune system, many affected will not survive their first year.

While newborn screening methods can flag T cell deficiency, knowledge of the specific genetic cause increases confidence in the diagnosis of SCID and informs the choice of curative therapy. Currently this remains out of reach for at least 1 in 10 affected families. In this new study, researchers from New-



castle University, the Wellcome Sanger Institute and their collaborators studied 11 children across four families, two of whom had SCID while the other nine had Omenn syndrome. All had inherited mutations that disrupted the function of the NUDCD3 protein, which had not previously been linked to the immune system.

Using detailed studies of patient-derived cells and mouse models, the team demonstrated that NUDCD3 mutations impair a crucial gene-rearranging process called V(D)J recombination, essential for generating the diverse T cell receptors and antibodies needed to recognise and fight different pathogens.

While mice engineered with the same NUDCD3 mutations had milder immune

problems, the human patients faced severe, life-threatening consequences. Two patients did survive, however, after receiving a stem cell transplant -- reinforcing the importance of early diagnosis and intervention.

Dr Gosia Trynka, author of the study at the Wellcome Sanger Institute and science director at Open Targets, said: "For babies born with high-risk immunodeficiencies, early detection can mean the difference between life and death. These diseases leave newborns essentially defenceless against pathogens that most of us can easily fend off. The identification of this new disease gene will help clinicians to make a prompt molecular diagnosis in affected patients, meaning they can receive life-saving treatments more quickly."

Professor Sophie Hambleton, senior author of the study at Newcastle University and practicing paediatric immunologist at the Great North Children's Hospital, said: "SCID and Omenn syndrome are devastating disorders, requiring complex and timely treatments."

The more we can understand about its underlying causes, the better we can look after affected babies. Our research is aimed at filling in the gaps so that families can achieve a molecular diagnosis while we continue learning more about how the immune system works in health and disease. We are deeply grateful to the families whose invaluable participation in this study will help future generations."

Rise in hypertension among children, adults is a concern, warns AIIMS expert

NEW DELHI, May 26 (Agencies): Children and adults diagnosed with high blood pressure have double the risk of major cardiovascular problems. It slowly damages almost all the vital organs including the heart, kidneys, eyes and brain. Its manifestations are usually seen in adults when they present with end-organ damage. At a growing age, children are getting hypertension which is between 15-20 per cent. "It's alarming, warned an expert from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi.

Professor Sumit Malhotra at Centre for Community Medicine at AIIMS said, "Surveys, which are being done in different parts of the country, who have looked into the hypertension levels have found out that 15 to 20 per cent of the children and adolescents have high blood pressure. The figures are consistently rising." In children, hypertension is not as common as in adults. However, a globally increasing number of children are being diagnosed with hypertension. "Adolescents are not having a very good lifestyle in terms of physical activity, consumption of fruits and vegetables, and tobacco consumption. So all of this is indicative of a rise in hypertension," he said further. Nowadays, with the increasing prevalence of obesity, sedentary lifestyle, and drug abuse in teenagers, the prevalence of primary hypertension in children is also increasing. Approximately 22 crore adults are estimated to have high Blood

Pressure (BP) in India. There are gaps in its diagnosis, treatment, and control status, owing to a lack of awareness.

Every Year, May 17 is observed as World Hypertension Day. The whole month is dedicated to raising awareness about hypertension.

The Union Health Ministry launched an ambitious 75/25 initiative of screening and putting 75 million people with hypertension and diabetes on Standard Care by 2025. To raise awareness among the general public, about hypertension, public lecture and panel discussion, involving experts from diverse domains.

Several events were organised to raise awareness about screening for high BP including involvement and engagement of educational institutions, like schools, to tackle the rising burden of BP among young people. "So the preventive measure is to have a healthy lifestyle - fruits and vegetables in the diet, minimum 30 to maximum 60 minutes' physical activity in a day. Children should be encouraged to engage in outdoor activities. High screen time needs to combat with healthy options. We need to teach our younger ones, how to cope with stress, because it's bound to rise but what is important is how to be resilient and how to not get affected by it. It's very important," explained Sumit for a healthy lifestyle and staying away from hypertension that can lead to even heart attacks among the young population.

KKR vs SRH: Guru Gambhir's head versus Captain Cummins' heart in high-stakes final

Kolkata Knight Riders face a spirited Sunrisers Hyderabad in a mega IPL final here on today

CHENNAI, May 26 (Agencies): Tactician par excellence Gautam Gambhir couldn't have envisaged a battle of brains with a more different kind of adversary than the smiling yet ruthless Pat Cummins as Kolkata Knight Riders face a spirited Sunrisers Hyderabad in a mega IPL final here on today.

Marquee sporting clashes always pit one leader against another but this IPL final will be about Gambhir's brain, which is always ticking against a captain who has transcended boundaries to turn into a leader of men.

Somewhere along the line, KKR's Shreyas Iyer, who is playing his second final as captain, has turned into bit of a side-show as a global cricketing royalty in Cummins faces an IPL czar in Gambhir.

A decade ago, no one would have placed a bet on Cummins being a captain and winning the ODI World Cup, World Test Championship and Ashes in a space of six months, and now, leading SRH to their maiden IPL title would be the icing on the cake.

"A very practical guy, very humble, very empathetic to his fellow teammates and coaching staff. He is into the statistics and gets the information that he needs against a particular opposition in certain conditions," SRH assistant coach Simon Helmet described the skipper in a nutshell after the team's win against Rajasthan Royals in the second Qualifier.

"He doesn't waste time in (team) meetings. Our team meeting today was 35 seconds. But, a lot of information has already been spoken about," he said.

The two teams met in the first qualifier in which KKR outwitted



SRH with clever bowling plans on a massive Motera ground and in Chennai, Iyer's men will again start as favourites.

The last time KKR played an IPL final in Chennai, it was against Chennai Super Kings in 2012 in one of the most epic contests, which established Gambhir's credentials as an astute leader of men.

He not only had the right game plan but also had his heart in the right place during those heady years.

Gambhir went on to win another title in 2014, which made him a sentimental favourite and now he is on the cusp of becoming the man, who as captain and mentor has won the IPL trophy for the same team.

Obviously a bigger perk in Indian head coach's assignment awaits Gambhir and a trophy would not only burnish his credentials but also raise the demand to have him in that Indian dressing.

If one looks at man-to-man comparison, KKR tick more boxes in terms of overall match-winners with Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Rinku Singh, the two Iyers -- Shreyas and Venkatesh

-- the two Ranis -- Nitish and Harshit -- and spinner Varun Chakravarthy in their ranks.

However, SRH's uncapped domestic stars like Abhishek Sharma, Nitish Reddy have done really well along with out-of-favour India internationals such as Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T Natarajan and Jaydev Unadkat.

SRH's 36-run win over Royals on a difficult track will certainly boost their confidence but they also must realise that the Che-pauk wicket will be tailor made for Varun (20 wickets) and Narine (16 wickets), who have been in stellar form through the season.

SRH's spin department might be short on confidence but not in terms of heart as Abhishek and Shahbaz Ahmed showed during their cumulative haul of 5 for 37 in 8 overs, which changed the course of the second qualifier.

Any target between 180 to 200 could be a very competitive one if the pressure of playing the final is also factored in.

Travis Head and Heinrich Klaasen did get runs on a tricky surface but the likes of Abhishek, Rahul Tripathi and Reddy would need to play the

match of their lives for SRH to emerge triumphant.

On a track where taking the pace off deliveries will be the key, young KKR pacers Harshit and Vaibhav Arora will have to think out of the box against Head, who has so far amassed 567 runs.

One interesting aspect of the IPL final is that the match features no member from India's main T20 World Cup squad. The only Indian player associated with the final will be Rinku Singh, who is in the reserves.

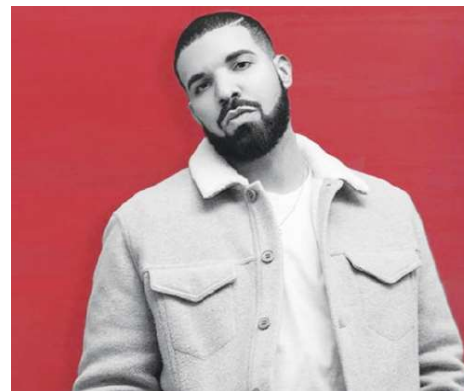
That again tells a story that IPL is won mostly by teams where 'Orange Cap' or 'Purple Cap' doesn't get much precedence in the face of team culture developed by Gambhir and Cummins.

Teams (from): Sunrisers Hyderabad: Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Aiden Markram, Abdul Samad, Nitish Reddy, Shahbaz Ahmed, Pat Cummins (c), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat, T Natarajan, Mayank Markande, Umran Malik, Anmolpreet Singh, Glenn Phillips (wk), Rahul Tripathi, Washington Sundar, Uppendra Yadav (wk), Jhathavedh Subramanyan, Sanvir Singh, Vijayakanth Vijaykannth, Fazal-haq Farooqi, Marco Jansen, Akash Maharaj Singh, Mayank Agarwal.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shreyas Iyer (c), KS Bharat, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rinku Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Sherfane Rutherford, Manish Pandey, Andre Russell, Nitish Rana, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora, Chetan Sakariya, Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma, Mitchell Starc, Dushmantha Chameera, Sakib Hus-sain and Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

KKR Or SRH? Grammy-Winning Artist Drake Places Rs 2.07 Crore Bet On IPL Final

Multiple Grammy-winning rapper Drake placed a massive USD 250,000 (around Rs 2.07 Crore) bet on Kolkata Knight Riders to defeat Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL 2024 final today.



TORONTO, May 26 (Agencies): Multiple Grammy-winning rapper Drake placed a massive USD 250,000 (around Rs 2.07 Crore) bet on Kolkata Knight Riders to defeat Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL 2024 final on Sunday. The Canadian musician, who regularly places bets on various sporting events around the world, took to social media platform Instagram to share a picture of the receipt. This was the first time that Drake placed a bet on any cricket match. The post quickly went viral with users commenting on the rapper's betting record.

When it comes to his bets, Drake has lost quite a bit of money including a USD 2 million bet that he placed on the UFC fight in 2022 between Israel Adesan-

ya and Alex Pereira. While Drake had his bet on Adesanya winning the fight, Pereira finally emerged victorious via technical knockout.

However, Drake got his SuperBowl 2024 prediction completely right as Kansas City Chiefs claimed a sensational victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

Kolkata Knight Riders topped the league stages with 19 points and then defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad in Qualifier 1 to comfortably book their spot in the IPL 2024 final. On the other hand, it has been a tough road for SRH who finished third in the points table despite showing a good run of form.

In the IPL Eliminator, SRH defeated Royal Challengers Bengaluru and the Pat Cummins-led side followed it up

with a comprehensive victory over Rajasthan Royals in IPL Qualifier 2 on Friday.

"The boys have been fantastic all season. There's a great vibe in the squad as you can see and the final was the goal at the start of the season and we made it. We knew our strength was our batting and we wouldn't underestimate the experience we have in this squad, it's a dream having Bhuvni, Nattu and Unadkat, makes my job easy. [on whose decision it was to bring Shahbaz as impact player] Dan Vettori, left-arm orthodox and wanted as many left-arm orthodox as possible."

"[on Abhishek's bowling] That was a surprise, tried to stick one out of him with a couple of right-handers and he bowled beautifully and those two won it with their bowling in the middle overs. 170 was a tough chase and had we got a couple of wickets we knew we had a chance. I will never pretend to work out the pitch and conditions ever, different every week. It is for the whole franchise, probably 60 or 70 of them who put their heart and soul into this and hopefully one more left," Cummins said.

T20 World Cup: Virat Kohli doesn't travel with team, delay due to pending paperwork

NEW DELHI, May 26 (Agencies): The reason behind Virat Kohli's absence from the first batch of Indian players departing for the USA has been revealed as there is some delay with his paperwork. Kohli, along with Rohit Sharma and some of the others stars were expected to fly out from Mumbai on Saturday, May 25. They were expected to head to Dubai before leaving for the USA.

The players arrived in Mumbai on Saturday, but Kohli was a major name that was missing in the group. The likes of Rohit, Ravindra Jadeja and others were spotted along with head coach Rahul Dravid and the support staff. It has now been revealed that Kohli will be flying out to the USA on May 30, Thursday. This means he could be a doubt for the clash against Bangladesh in the warm-up game before the tournament starts.

Apart from Kohli, vice-captain Hardik Pandya is also not with the first batch of players. Hardik is in London at the moment and is expected to join the team directly from there. India will start their campaign on June 4 against Ireland before taking Pakistan, 5 days later



in New York. Kohli's form heading into T20 World Cup 2024

Kohli has been in stunning form heading into the T20 World Cup as he enjoyed a prolific campaign in the IPL 2024 season. Kohli is currently the holder of the Orange Cap with 741 runs in 15 matches with an average of 61.75 and a strike-rate of more than 153.

This was Kohli's second best season in his IPL 2024 career as he silenced the critics, who had questioned his strike-rate. The Indian star played a crucial role in helping RCB enjoy a second half revival and reach the playoffs of the campaign.

Their run would come to an end in the Eliminator as they lost to RR and was eliminated.

Gautam Gambhir Keen To Replace Dravid As Head Coach, Says Report. But, Has 'One Condition'

The last date to apply for the head coach's role is May 27

NEW DELHI, May 26 (Agencies): As the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) intensifies its hunt for the men's national team's new head coach, the names of several renowned former cricketers have surfaced. VVS Laxman and Gautam Gambhir were the top Indian names to emerge as the board rolled out the advertisement to find Rahul Dravid's replacement. The likes of Ricky Ponting, Justin Langer, Stephen Fleming, etc. were also reported to be on the board's shortlist. But, it seems like the No. 1 candidate on the BCCI's



radar is Kolkata Knight Riders mentor Gautam Gambhir.

As per a report in news agency, Gambhir is also keen on taking up the job of India's head

coach, though this is only his first year as the mentor of KKR. But, the former India batter has 'one condition' before he fills out the application form.

The report claims that Gambhir is only willing to apply for the post if he is given a 'selection guarantee'.

The former India opening batter isn't keen to just be an applicant for the post. Only certainty of selection as Dravid's replacement would see Gambhir throw his hat in the ring.

The last date to apply for the head coach's role is May 27. It isn't yet known how many potential coaches have put their names across for the role. The BCCI, recently, had denied reaching out to the likes of Ricky Ponting and Justin Langer

for the head coach's job, though the duo claimed that they were approached but decided to turn down the offer.

If Gambhir does apply for the post and take up the role, he would have to leave his position as the mentor for the Knight Riders.

The former left-handed batter, who has also won the IPL with KKR as their captain twice, has been credited for the resurgence the franchise has shown this year. KKR's performances in IPL 2024 have been one of the biggest reasons behind Gambhir's stocks as India's potential head coach rising up.

Deepika falls to Lim again, returns empty-handed from World Cup

Deepika, who had lost in straight sets to settle for a silver in the Shanghai World Cup last month, managed to put up some fight taking two points off Lim after drawing the second and fourth sets.

YECHAEON, May 26 (Agencies): Deepika Kumari fell short of a successive Archery World Cup medal in her international comeback after becoming a mother, losing to world No 2 Lim Sihyeon and No 3 Alejandra Valencia here on Sunday.

Indian archers thus returned empty-handed in the Olympic discipline recurve category, while securing two medals (one gold and one silver) in the compound section of the World Cup Stage 2.

India had won the women's team gold and mixed team silver in the compound event on Saturday, but none of the recurve archers other than Deepika were able to make the medal rounds.

The rising 20-year-old from heavyweights South Korea, Lim prevailed 6-2 (28-26, 28-28, 28-27, 27-27) in the semifinal, notching back-to-back wins over the former world No 1 Indian in less than a month.

Deepika, who had lost in straight sets to settle for a



silver in the Shanghai World Cup last month, managed to

put up some fight taking two points off Lim after drawing

the second and fourth sets. But her three 8s, shooting

in the red circle in the first, third and fourth sets cost Deepika dear as Lim sealed the match in four sets.

Fighting for a bronze, Deepika lost to Valencia 4-6 (26-29, 26-28, 28-25, 27-25, 26-29).

Deepika continued her miserable run and shot four 8s in first six arrows to trail 0-4 against the Mexican.

But the Indian bounced back in the next two sets to make it four-all before falling by the wayside in the decisive fifth set with yet another

poor round.

This was Valencia's second win against Deepika in four matches. The two losses should serve as a wake-up call for Deepika before she trains her bow for a fourth consecutive Olympics in Paris under South Korean coaching legend Kim Hyung Tak. Deepika will be training under Kim for a second stint in six months before she heads to the final Olympics qualification at the World Cup Stage 3 in Antalya in June.

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

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: Shiv Sena Hindustan has expressed serious concern over failure of concerned authorities to address unscheduled power cuts posing significant challenges to the residents and businesses alike. Addressing media persons in Arnia, Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri said that electric power cuts in summer caused discomfort and inconvenience to all the sections of society. Without electricity, essential amenities such as fans, air conditioners, and refrigerators become non-functional, making daily life unbearable,



particularly for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and infants and particularly for students who find it hard to prepare for exams and necessary tests. Kesri further said that businesses reliant on continuous power supply, such as restaurants, hotels,

and medical facilities, suffer financial losses and operational disruptions during prolonged outages. On the other hand poor households are unable to invest in alternative power sources such as inverters, generators, and solar panels to ensure uninterrupted electricity

supply during outages like rich and affluent persons. While these solutions provide temporary relief, they often come with significant financial implications, making them inaccessible to economically disadvantaged households, added Kesri. Kesri observed that

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

3 NCC Cadets of NCC Group Jammu Bring Laurels to JK&L NCC Directorate

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: Three cadets from the NCC Group Jammu have brought great Laurels to the JK&L NCC Directorate by getting shortlisted for the prestigious Mountaineering Expedition 2024 to Mount Kang Yatse-II. Cadet Arun Singh, son of Sub Amar Singh from SPMR College, Jammu, 2 J&K Boys Battalion, Cadet Mohit Kanathia, son of Mr. Khushi Ram from 4 J&K Battalion, and Cadet Dishu Thakur, daughter of Mr. Rashpal Singh from GGM Science College, 2 J&K Girls Battalion, have achieved this



remarkable feat.

The cadets were initially shortlisted at the Directorate level after excelling in the Basic Mountaineering Courses at HMI Darjeeling, where they all received Alpha Grading. They then underwent rigorous physical endurance tests and written

assessments at the DG NCC Camp in Delhi, emerging amongst the top selected cadets from hundreds of participants.

This significant achievement was made possible through the timely support and guidance of Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, ADG JK&L Directorate. His leadership and encouragement have been instrumental in preparing these cadets for such high-level accomplishments. JK&L NCC Directorate is proud of Cadets Arun Singh, Mohit Kanathia, and Dishu Thakur, and wishes them the very best for their expedition to Mount Kang Yatse-II.

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

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, May 26: Welcoming the statement of Chief Election Commissioner of India regarding initiation of process to hold assembly elections in J&K, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today asked the Party workers to prepare for elections and strengthen their roots at the ground level across Vijaypur Block.

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

"It's a welcome statement given by the Chief



Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar that the Election Commission of India would initiate a process of holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir very soon following encouraging voter's turnout," said Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh in the meeting.

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

"The people have had no elected representatives in

Jammu and Kashmir for a long time, and hence, it becomes important to give them a democratic voice to address their issues and restore their confidence in the democratic system," he added. He said that it becomes imperative for the Commission to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir as soon as possible because the people have lost their faith in the bureaucratic system that listens to no one.

"The bureaucracy has encouraged the liquor mafia and mining mafia snatching the rights of the

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

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

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

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

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Rehearsal'

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: Natrang featured 'Rehearsal', a play in Hindi written by Lakshmi Kant Vaishnav and directed by Neeraj Kant today at Natrang Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre.

In the play the writer has very satirically mocked on the people who want to do something without its proper knowledge and also without possessing the basic eligibilities of the field.

The play 'Rehearsal' very interestingly portrays the rehearsal scenario of a play where the cast is all women. Though they (Kitty-mates) want to present a good show, their approach is not good enough and too much immature. The basic ingredients which are required to mount a professional theatre production like discipline, punctuality, team spirit, self-motivation, neutrality of the mind etc were all



missing in these ladies and they were instead full of the traits like jealousy, gossip, lack of coordination and egotism.

The rehearsal becomes a free for all situation where everyone reveals her mind in a dramatic manner. Though there is a director also but because of her own limitations and lack of mettle, she is not able to control the team. Where these ladies were

required to act with compassion towards their fellow artists they had their own whims and fancies, few of them even had proud in their mind as their husbands are at higher posts resultantly they seek pampered treatment. Finally the rehearsal which was shown in the play Rehearsal ended up to be a chaos leaving a stern message that we need to be disciplined

and committed to create a meaningful work of art. Natrang's young actors who performed in the play included Vrinda Gujral, Vandana Thakur, Priya Kashyap, Payal Khanna, Lalita Sharma, Kushal Bhat, Sana Devi and Mehak Chib. Lights were operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the sound was rendered by Kushal Bhat. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Menstrual Hygiene Day observed at Aryans Institute of Nursing



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: To highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene, break stigma around menstruation, and raise awareness about challenges regarding access to menstrual products, Aryans Institute of Nursing, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh observed Menstrual hygiene day. Under the corporate social responsibility, Aryans B.Sc Nursing, GNM & ANM students distributed sani-

tary napkins and raised awareness.

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

cation and awareness to manage their menstrual health and hygiene, she asserted.

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

CUJ Placement Records New High of 10.5 LPA

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: The Central University of Jammu organized the campus placement drive for the session 2023-24 for their students. CUJ placement cell said in its statement that Management and Science students have achieved a significant milestone this year, securing the highest annual package of 10.5 LPA. This outstanding accomplishment reflects the high caliber of our students and the excellence of our academic programs.

Students from MBA Marketing secured 10.5 LPA, M.Sc Zoology 10.5 LPA, MBA (TTM) 8.5 LPA, M.Sc Botany 7.5 LPA, MA (English) 7.5 LPA, M-Tech 6 LPA, M.Sc Mathematics 5.5 LPA, MBA(MSCM) 4.75 LPA, B.VOC 3 LPA these packages received students from Talent Serve, Satguru Travels, Ease-MyTrip, Jaro Education, Planet Spark, Kalvium, HDFC life, Gainers India, APML, India Mart, Niva Bupa, Safe Express, Uflex, IJRDO, Urban Money - Hiring companies on campus.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu con-

gratulated the selected students, faculty and placement cell on this remarkable success and for conducting the drive successfully. Prof. Jain expressed his delight at this significant achievement and said that "We are immensely proud of our students for achieving this considerable milestone. It is a testament to their hard work and the quality of education at Central University of Jammu. We are dedicated to continuing our efforts in enhancing the employability of our students through industry collaborations, skill development programs and to provide exceptional opportunities and support for our students," said Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

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

ARCHS starts Counselling cum Awareness Program

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 26: Association of Recognized Colleges of Health Sciences in collaboration with Directorate of School Education (Jammu) is organizing Counselling cum Educational Awareness program in Nursing / Paramedical / Pharmacy / Allied Health etc courses in all the districts of Jammu province tailored specifically for 10th & 12th class pass out students. Mr. M S Katoch while interacting with the media state that ARCHS intention is to create a comprehensive and interactive platform that will guide students in making well-informed decisions about their educational and career paths after completing their 10th & 12th grade. He further added that due to lack of awareness among the student community regarding avenues / opportunities in the healthcare sector the applicants for the said programmes are less in numbers as compared to the enrolment ratio from other parts, it was observed by the members that there is a need to educate the students about the scope of the above-mentioned



health care courses.

He further stated that the program is beginning from Monday i.e. 27th May 2024 in the very reputed and oldest Shri Ranbir Higher Secondary School, Jammu from 9:30 AM onwards and continuing on 28th May 2024 at Govt Higher Secondary School R S Pura, 29th May 2024 Govt Higher Secondary School (Boys) Akhnour & 30th May 2024 GMHSS Marh. He also appealed to the students of Govt as well as private schools to come a grab this golden opportunity to secure their career as these are the only programs that comes with job opportunities not only nationally but globally also due to tremendous increase in the demand of the Healthcare professionals nationally and globally which has gone multifold after Covid 19.

He further added that the association is going to conduct similar programs in all the districts of Jammu Province such as Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch and information regarding the same shall be available on our website at www.archsjk.com. This initiative shall not only act as a direct contact between students and institution but will avoid all kinds of exploitation by third party agencies.

Finally the Association extends its heartfelt thanks to the Director, Joint Director of School Education and their entire team in order to make this event a grand success. The members who were present in the event were Dr. Sukhpreet Singh, Mr. Kunal Saini, Mr. Abhimanu Katoch.