TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 05, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

16

Sofía Vergara says filming sex scenes for Griselda 'kept me awake' and 'worried'



NATIONAL

| 7

Muslims failed to understand BSP: Mayawati after defeat **INTERNATIONAL**

|8

Will Ensure "Porn-Free" **Mode On X Platform: Elon Musk**



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Pages-12 Rs.-2/-Vol.-15 Issue-154

BRIEFLY

Govt withholds increments. promotion of then patwari Gharota

JAMMU, Jun 5 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government has penalized a former revenue official for misconduct uncovered during an inquiry. Mohinder Kumar, who served as Patwari Gharota, faces the withholding of two increments and a promotion as disciplinary measures

Thank you for keeping flame of **Democracy alive: Omar Abdullah To Voters**

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): A day after losing the Lok Sabha elections from Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Wednesday expressed his gratitude to voters for keeping the flame of democracy alive.

Abdullah was defeated by jailed former MLA Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid by a margin of 2,04,142

People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone was also in the

BJP workers celebrate Dr **Jitendra Singh's** hat-trick victory in Thathri

JAMMU, Jun 5 (AGENCIES): Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) on Wednesday celebrated the party's victory in Thathri. Lok Sabha elections after the results and trends started pouring in from all across the country. The BJP workers and leaders danced to the drum beats and distributed sweets among people at different areas of Thathri The main celebrations were held at Thathri. Dr Jitendra Singh retained Udhampur-Doda seat defeating Choudhary Lal Singh of Congress with 1,24,373 votes. Dr Jitendra Singh won the seats for third consecutive term. DDC Councillor thathri Sandeep Singh Manhas and Bharat kissan union Block president thathri Abrar ul haq were part of the celebrations at Thathri, speaking on the occasion, thanked the people of Udhampur for supporting BJP. Manu Sharma BJYM JKUT Executive member on the occasion said that the NDA will form government with Narendra Modi as prime minister for a third term.

Results for all Lok Sabha constituencies declared; BJP wins 240 seats, Congress 99: EC

(Agencies): The Election Commission of India has declared results for all Lok Sabha constituencies, with the BJP winning 240 of the 543 seats and the Congress 99.

The last result to be announced was that of Beed constituency in Maharashtra, where NCP (Sharad Pawar) candidate Bajrang Manohar Sonwane defeated the BJP's Pankaja Munde by 6,553 votes.

While the Lok Sabha has 543 members, countELECTION COMMISSIO

ing was held for 542 seats after the BJP's Surat candidate Mukesh Dalal was elected unopposed.

According to the final results, declared early on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is poised to form the government for a third consecutive term with the BJPled National Democratic Alliance (NDA) getting a majority in the Lok Sabha, notwithstanding crushing losses in three Hindi heartland states after a bitterly fought election that was projected as a referendum on his popu-

The BJP, whose candidates contested in the name of Modi, won in 240 seats, falling short of the 272 majority mark and needing the support of allies in the party-led NDA for government formation, a far cry from the 303 and 282 seats it had won in

2019 and 2014, respectively, to have a majority on its own

With support from key allies N Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which won 16 and 12 seats in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively, and other alliance partners, the NDA crossed the halfway mark.

The Congress, which is part of the opposition INDIA bloc, won 99 seats compared to 52 it won in

Turn to page 9

PM Modi tenders resignation to President Murmu ahead of next Govt Formation

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has submitted his resignation, along with his council of ministers, to President Droupadi Murmu ahead of the formation of the next Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA government.

This will pave the way for the dissolution of the 17th Lok Sabha, which ran from 2019 to 2024.

The President accepted the resignation and requested PM Modi and the Council of Ministers



to continue till the new Government assumes

This came after the

Cabinet meeting held here in the national capital on Wednesday.

Turn to page 9

Woman injured in mortar shell blast dies in hospital in J&K

JAMMU, Jun 5 (Agencies): A 76-year-old woman, who was among three people injured in a mortar shell blast, died at a government hospital here on Wednesday, officials said.

Semroo Devi, Rameet Singh (66) and Suriya Bibi (58) were injured after the rusted mortar

shell exploded in Khada Madana village in the Purmandal area of Samba district on May 27. Devi had suffered critical head injuries and succumbed at Govern-

ment Medical College here in the early hours of Wednesday, the officials

Turn to page 9

Judges reflect sense of continuity of values amid Elections: CJI Chandrachud

OXFORD, Jun 5 (Agencies): While elections lie at the core of India's constitutional democracy, judges reflect a sense of continuity of constitutional values that protect the system, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has said.

Addressing the famous Oxford Union Society



here on Tuesday on the topic of the humanising role adjudicators can

most judge of India's apex court highlighted the role of technology in injecting greater transparency into the judicial system.

Acknowledging some of the "unfair" criticism aimed at judges on social media, the Chief Justice asserted that the overall impact of technology is to

Turn to page 9

Woman drug peddler detained under PIT NDPS Act in Kishtwar

JAMMU, Jun 5 (Agencies): An alleged woman drug peddler was detained under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Abdul Qayoom said the detention of Mahfooza Begum, a resident of Sarkoot village, is part of a multi-pronged strategy to address "rampant" drug abuse in the district.

Investigations revealed Begum's involvement in numerous drug peddling cases, leading to her detention under the PIT

■Turn to page 9

Fire engulfs forest areas of Rajouri, Poonch

JAMMU, Jun 5 (Agencies): Fire engulfed two forest areas in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region on Wednesday, causing damage to vast tracts of land, officials

In Poonch, the fire erupted in Bhatadurian Turn to page 9

JPPF and Educational Institutions join forces to celebrate World Environment Day

Top News Report

JAMMU. Jun 5: JPPF (Jammu Province Peoples Forum) a decade old organization who has accomplished many social tasks, an amalgam of social, commercial, and other organizations, a strong voice of Dogra's and a common platform of all civil society members



to raise a united voice for the welfare of the people of Jammu province, cel-

ebrated World Environment Day by signing Turn to page 9

Gulmarg's 'Jai Jai Shiv Shankar' song famed temple gutted in fire

SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): A famous 20th century Shiva temple in Gulmarg of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, which enjoys close links to the valley's history as well as Bollywood, was gutted in a massive fire on Wednesday.

Fire and Emergency Services officials said that the blaze started

around 3.50 am causing extensive damage to the

religious structure. Situated atop a hillock, the Rani temple or Mohineshwar Shivalaya, is also famous for Bollywood hit number "Jai Jai Shiv Shankar" starring matinee heartthrob Rajesh Khanna and Mumtaz from film "Aap Ki
Turn to page 9 of his red scarf NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies) To those who watch the politics of Uttar Pradesh as closely as they do the sartorial choices of its politicians, one small piece of garment has been promi-

nent—a light red handwo-

ven towel acros Akhilesh

Yadav's shoulders.

Akhilesh Yadav

and the mystery

Locally called the 'gamcha' this weave of West Bengal literally means that which wraps around the body. Its uses are varied—from wiping the sweat, to being a barrier against the elements to packing small stuff. Its users across all manner of class and religion.

When interviewed by The Week, Yadav, whose most distinctive clothing element till now has been a red topi, drew attention to it.

In half jest he said- what is new is this gamcha. "Someone asked me to change something in my manner of dress, so I added this", he said. Even when gifted fancier pieces of garments on the election trail, the gamcha never left Yadav's shoulders.

The gamcha, a humble piece of cloth used by farmers, as well as by film stars in its purest form is soft and hand woven. Pale red or off white are its most prominent colours.

Yadav had said it was also a marker of his party's commitment to local. "We have given 20,000 orders for it as these were not available", he had said. This was in contrast to the BJP

Turn to page 9



ANTIM ARDAAS/TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, this is to inform you of the sad demise of our beloved S. Hartej Singh S/o Dr. Harbans Singh and Dr Balwinder Kaur R/o 106-A, Lane 2. Sector 11, Nanak Nagar.

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 06-06-2024 Thursday at 9:00 am &

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 08-06-2024 Saturday at 9:00 am at our residence.

Antim Ardaas and Kirtan Dewan at Gurudwara Shri Singh Sabha Nanak Nagar 10:30 am to 12:00 Noon.

Followed by Guru ka langar. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

(Father & Mother)

Dr Harbans Singh (Retd. Dy Director Health Services, Jammu) & Dr Balwinder Kour Sdn Harpreet Kour & Fateh Singh (Wife & Son)

Charan Kamal Singh(AGMO) & Manjit Kour(Sr. Supdt of Police) (Brother & Bhabhi)

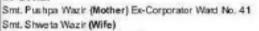
Dimple Arora & Sumeet Arora (Sister & Brother in law) Paramdeep Kaur & Harpal Singh (Sister & Brother in Law)

(Sister & Brother-in-Law)

lasieen Kaur(Add L District and Sessions Judge) & Sanjeev Sharma (Advocate HC)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Sanjeev Singh Wazir on 27-05-2024. TENTH DAY will be performed on 05-06-2024 (Wednesday) at our residence H.No 66 Wazir Lane Bohri Talab Tillo at 10 A.M. KRIYA will be performed at our residence on 08-06-2024 (Saturday) at 12 Noon. IN GRIEF



Shreya & Aradhya (Daughters)

Sh. Ashok Singh & Smt. Aparna Wazir (Brother & Sister-In-law)

Sh. Vinod Singh & Smt. Sushma Wazir (Brother & Sister-In-law)

Sh. Rakesh Singh & Smt. Ranju Wazir (Brother & Sister-in-law) Sh. Bikram Singh & Smt. Rachna Wazir (Brother & Sister-in-law)

Ishma & Abhishe k Jamwal (Daughter & Son In law)

Aditya Singh, Aryaman Singh, Shoorveer Singh, Rakshit Wazir, Rajyavardhan Singh,

Aadev Singh, Aadhya Wazir (Nephews & Niece) CONTACT: 9419117477, 8713084222, 9419611604, 9419211070, 9419103851.

10TH DAY KRIYA/13TH DAY KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Pritam Singh (Retd Tehsildar) S/o Lt Thakur Punjab Singh R/o Rani Park F-69 Jammu. 10TH DAY will be performed on 04-06-2024 Tuesday at our home Rani Park to proceed further for Rani Mandir at 10. AM. 13TH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at our residence Rani Park on 07-06-2024 SH. PRITAM SINGH (Friday) at 10.30 AM.



Sh. Sanjeev Singh Wazir

S. Hartej Singh

(RETD TEHSILDAR)

UTHALA will be performed on 07-06-2024 at Jain Hall (Back Side Prakash Mandir Rani Park) 4.30 PM. GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Satya Devi- Wife

NARANIA FAMILY AND ALL NEARS AND DEARS CONTACT: 6005362689, +919149698221, 7006514950

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief, we inform you that our beloved Mrs. Sheela Kaul W/o Late Mr. Brijindra Kaul resident of 349/Sector 9 Panchkula passed away for her heavenly abode on 28th May 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA ceremony will be held in Panchkula on 06th June 2024.



Mrs. Sheela Kaul

GRIEF STRICKEN FAMILIES: Kauls, Karihaloos, Durgas, Sharmas 9872455255, 7814151798

10TH DAY

We regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Asha Kaul (Sumitra Kaul) W/o Late Sh. Moti Lal Kaul R/o Dwarka New Delhi, who left for her heavenly abode on 01.06.2024.

10TH DAY will be performed on 10.06.2024. We all pray for Moksha of the pious departed soul. GRIEF STRICKEN:

Son and Daughters

Jyoti Kaul and Veena Jatta Kaul

(Mobile No. 9810189691)

Vasudha and Rakesh Malik Vandana Kaul Grand Children:

Ridhima Malik Tejaswi Kaul Dhand - Rishabh Dhand

Chaitanya Kaul Vibhor Malik

Family and Relatives: Smt. Ratni Wanchoo (Usha Saraf) W/o Late Dr. R. L. Saraf Ram Krishen Koul & Usha Kaul Vijay Saraf and Reeta Saraf

Tej Kishen Saraf and Seema Saraf

All Kaul's and Saraf's

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our revered mother Smt Kanta Devi Tiku W/o Lt. Sh Bihari Lal Tiku originally resident of 'Natipura' Srinagar at present House No. 49 Lane 2A Roop Nagar Enclave Jammu on 31st May 2024.

The Tenth Day shall be performed on 9-06-2024 at Muth Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 8 AM. Grief Stricken

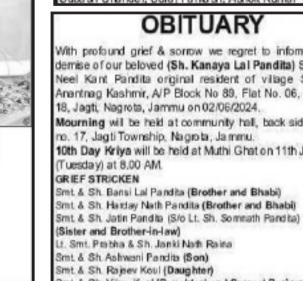
Son & Daughter-in-law

Pawan Tiku & Sunita Dhar (Tiku) Daughter & Son-in-law

Promila Koul & Vinod Koul Anupuma Raina & Ashok Raina

Ashok Kachru & Neerja Kachru -Brother & Bhabi

Grand Children: Yashodra, Akshita, Danish & Kartik Ph. No. 9419131697, 9419198098

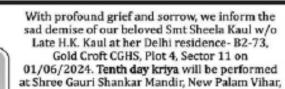




Smt. Asha Kaul

(Sumitra Kaul)

Smt Kanta Devi Tiku



IN GRIEF: (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sector 109, Gurugram on 10/06/2024, 11 AM.

Dr. Vijay K Kaul and Prof Renu (Madan) Kaul (Daughter & Son-in-law) Ms Sweety Kaul and Nalin Kaul Promila and Vir Abhimanyu Kaul

Grand Children: Dr Sanjeevini & Bhavishya, Eshaoni, Gaurav, Naija.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

All friends and family

ಿನಿಕ್-Contact Information # 9930550245 Sep. 1995

Smt. Indra Kumari

Piary Lal Koul

Sh. Romesh Chander

(ASI, JKP)

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

Smt Sheela Kaul

left for heavenly abode on

Saturday 01" June 2024.

OBITUARIES

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad ternise of our beloved **Smt. Indra Kumari** W/o Late Sh. Krishan Gopal. The 10th Day will take place on 6/6/2024 (Thursday) at Mahajan Hall from 10 A.M. to 11

KRIYA will be performed at our residence H No.36 New Kaleeth Nagar, Upper Gumat, Jammu at 12 Noon. Rasam Pagri will be performed at Mahajan Hall from 5 P.M. to 6 P.M on 15/06/24

Deeply Remembered By: Rajkumari W/o Late Sh Satpal Gupta Canta Gupta Wio Late Sh Romesh Chandra Gupta Son and Daughter in law Rajinder Gupta and Palak Gupta Sunil Gupta and Rashmi Gupta

fined Gupta and Bhavna Gupta Daughter and Son-in-law eelam Mahajan and Sudeshan Mahajan Sunita Gupta and Late Sh Anil Gupta

ovely Gupta and Rajinder Gupta Arti Gupta and Sanjeev Gupta Rajni Charak (Director of NHM) and Parveen Charak Shashi Gupta and Narendra Gupta Sushina Gupta and Tilak Raj Gupta

M/s Mahadev Agencies Upper Gummat M/s Tanishq Enterprises Mob. 94191-91756, 94191-87338, 94191-91083

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Piary Lal Koul S/o Late Shridur Koul R/o Subhash Nagar Jammu at present B663 M2 Trehan Luxury Floors, Ansal Esencia Sector 67 Gurgaon.

Tenth Day will be held on 10th June at 8:00 AM at Gauri Shankar Mandir, Phase-1, Sector 109 New Palam Vihar, Gurgaon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Nancy Kaul -Wife

Satish Koul -Son

Sunita Mirakhur -Daughter Pranit Kaul and Chakshoo Mirakhur - Grand Sons

Entire Kaul Family

Mobile No: 9818000745/9818502745/8700045742

17TH DAY With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Romesh Chander (ASI) JKP. R/o Ransoo, Shiv Khori on Dt. 22-5-2024 at GMC-Jammu.

17th Day on Friday, 07June 2024 by 11 am at Porajagir, Dadar Morh, Ransoo.

Contact No-8492825842

Grief Stricken Smt. Kamb Devi (Wife)

Bohram Sharma and Arti Devi (9596988183)

Raju Sharma and Isha Sharma

Arjun Sharma and Rekha Devi (Sons and Daughter-in-law)

Anita Sharma -Teacher and Tarlok Sharma - J KP (Daughter and Son in law) 7006981 707 Subash Chander, Suraj Parkash, Ashok Kumar -Brother (JKP)

OBITUARY

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved (Sh. Kanaya Lal Pandita) S/o Lt. Sh. Neel Kant Pandita original resident of village Shergund, Ananthag Kashmir, A/P Block No 89, Flat No. 06, Lane No. 18, Jagti, Nagrota, Jammu on 02/06/2024.

Mourning will be held at community half, back side of Land no. 17, Jagti Township, Nagrota, Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be held at Muthi Ghat on 11th June 2024 (Tuesday) at 8,00 AM.

Smt & Sh. Bansi Lal Pandita (Brother and Bhabi) Smt & Sh. Haiday Nath Pandita (Brother and Bhabi)

(Sister and Brother-in-law) Lt. Smt. Probha & Sh. Janki Nath Raina

Smt. & Sh. Ashwani Pandits (Son)

Smt. & Sh. Rajeev Koul (Daughter) Smt & Sh. Vikas Koul (Daughter) and Samast Parivar

9018091811, 8219494492, 8899524869, 7006014143

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mrs Usha Gadoo (Pyari) W/o Mr S L Gadoo.

10th Day Kriya will be held at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, Block T, New Palam Vihar, Sec 109, Mandir Lane, Gurgaon near DHBVN Office on 9th June at 10.00 AM.



Sh. Kanaya Lal Pandita

(Pyari)

Followed by Prayer meet at Maharaja Aggrasen Bhawan 199, M Block Vikaspuri New Delhi From 4.00 PM to 5.30 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Gadoo's, Thussoo's Hastu's, Warikoo's and Mattoo's Contact Ph No's: 9958881435,9810403623.

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEFAND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED KARAMYOGI SMT. PRABHA MUNSHI (RANI) W/O LATE H.N.MUNSHI ORIGINALLY FROM ALIKADAL BULBUL-LANKAR/ BARZULA SRINAGAR KASHMIR PRESENTLY RESIDING AT HOUSE NO:118, SECTOR-29 FARIDABAI HARYANA

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT MURAD NAGAI GHATS ON 9TH JUNE 2024(SUNDAY) AT 8.30 AM

GRIEVED: SMT NIRJA MATTOO MUNSH (DAUGHTER IN LAW) W.O. LATE RAVINDER MUNSHI PH: 8130038108 SMT. KRISHNA RAINA (BUA JI)

ASHOK KUMAR KOUL (SON IN LAW) HO LATE GIRJA MUNSH KOUL GRAND CHILDREN RICHA, RITU AND VIDHU SONIAAND RAKESH DAFTARI SHIKHAAND ARUN KOUL



10th Day, 13th Day Kirya, Rasam Pagri / Uthala

with profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Asha Jamwal w/o Mohan Singh Jamwal R/o Birpur at present- 42/14

(Wednesday) at Gorkha Mandir Sector 4 Nanak Nagar Jammu at 10 am. 13th day /Kirya will be performed on 8th June (Saturday) 12 Noon at our residence 42/14 Nanak Nagar Jammu. Rasam Pagri/Uthala will take place on 8th of June (Saturday) at 4 PM to 5 PM at Laxmi Naryan Mandir Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Grief Stricken: Mohan Singh Jamwal - Husband Manoj Singh & Mridhu - (Son & Daughter-in-law) Dr. Madhu & Keshav Singh - (Daughter & Son-in-law) Meharansh & Manya - (Grand-son & Grand-daughter) Anish - Grand Son

Mobile: 9469133234, 9419183232

10TH DAY KRIYA Vith profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad emise of our beloved mother **Smt. Rattan Rani** Wo Late Shri Hriday Nath Mantoo, original resi-N/O Late Shri Hinday Nath Mantoo, original res-dent of Sangrampora, Sopore Kashmir, presently residing at Sector A, Tirath Nagar, behind Mata Roop Bhawani Mandir, Talab Tillo, Jammu. 10th Day Kriya shall take place on 9th June 2024 Sunday) at Muthi Ghaat, near Office of Directorate

of School Education, Jammu at 8:30 am. RIEF STRICKEN aughter in laws and Sons handra Mantoo & Chander Kumar Mantoo angeeta Mantoo & Surendra Kumar Mantoo

aughters & Son in laws hrimati Veena & Shri Rattan Lal Ganjoo hrimati Sunita & Shri Vinod Ganjoo hrimati Sunita & Rajaji Tak Shrimati Daizy & Vinod Mattoo

All Grand Children

All Mantoo and Suri Pariwar's Contact No: 9906134655, 9103963987

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sac demise of our belowed BADI MUMMY Smt. Pushps Devi (Retired JK Medical Deptt) Wio Late Sh Manoha Lai of Nai Basti Reasi at Present Gangyal Jammu. 10th Day will be performed on 03 June 2024 (Tridaya) 11:00 am and Kriya will be performed on 07 June 2024 (Friday) 12:00 noon at our residence H No-3, Golde Lane, opposite Jants Flour Mills, Gangyal, Jammu. Uthala will take place on 07 June 2024 (Friday) 5:0 pm at DSST Hall, near Atal Ji park, Gangyal.

im at DSS1 Hall, near Atal ji Deeply Mourmed by:-Daughters & Son-In-Law Imt Kundana & Sh PR Verm Imt Kanta & Sh Yash Raj Rephew & Daughter-in-law

Nephew & Daughter-in-law

Smit. Pt

Sin Kishote Kumar & Smit Neelam Kumari

Grand Sons and Grand Daughter-in-Law

Col Ashish Bhardwaj and Dir lesha Bhardwaj

Mr Tushar Parashar, Marager TATA Projects and Surbhi Parashar

Mr Abishek Bhardwaj, Manager SJVN and Mrs Shikha Bhardwaj

Grand Daughters and Grand Son-in-Law

Mrs Shivari and Mr Vijay Kar, AEE (PDD)

Great Grand Children

Wester Shikhar Maraer Uthkereh Master Srip wa, Mee Ima, Miss Au

TENTH DAY KRIYA The 10th Day Kriya of Karamyogni Smt Rupa Wali Wo Late Sh Brij Lal Wali original resident of Hanand Chowalgam Kashmir, shall be held on 6th June 2024 at Gang-Naher Kasna Greater Noida and The Assembly shal be held at Parsvnath Edens Alpha 2 near Towe Block Greater Noida.

Grief Stricken: Sh Sham Lal Raina- Brother Smt Mohini Dhar-Sister Sister in laws mt Aruna Jigri mt Kanta Tickoo

Smit Ashaji Bhat W/o Sh Soom Nath Bhat Sh Sandeep Wall-Son Smit Sunaina Wall-Daughter in law Daughters & Sons in law Smit Lalita Bhat & Sh T N Bhat Late Binda Raina & Sh P N Raina Smit Asha Zutshi & Sh M L Zutshi

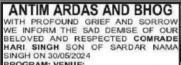
ND GRAND CHILDREN

KRIYA & UTHALA

You live in our hearts and thoughts forever Our dearest Shri Arun Kumar Sharma left for neavenly abode on May 27, 2024. Kriya will be held on Thursday, 6th June 2024 from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM at our residence. Uthala will be held on Friday, 7th June, 2024 at Gurudwara Talli Sahib, Talab Tillo, Near BEE ENN lospital from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Tania & Mohit Lav

Grand Children



AARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB ON 06/06/2024 AT HOME WARD NO. 16, SHIVA NAGAR KATHUA AT 9A.M BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH ON 08/06/2024 AT 9 AM AT HOME WARD NO.16, SHIVE

NAGAR, KATHUA. ANTIM ARDAS AND KIRTAN FROM 10 AM TO 12:15 PM ON 08/06/2024 FOLLOWED BY COMRADE HARI SINGH GURU KA LANGAR AT 12:15 PM ONWARDS AT GURUDWARA SINGH SABHA MAIN BAZAR, KATHUA

IN GRIEF: SWARN KOUR (WIFE) SWARN ROUR (WIFE)

(SONS AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW)

DEVINDER PAUL SINGH (A.E.E JDA) AND IOBAL KOUR (7006213267)

AJIT PAL SINGH AND HARMIT KOUR

(GRANDCHILDERN): GURLEEN KOUR, JAANVEER SINGH AND ERALLEN

TENTH DAY KRIYA

SRIEF STRUCKEN
Sin Radha Krishn Raina and Shmt Kishni Raina - Daver & Devrani
Sh Radha Krishn Raina and Shmt Kaki Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Kuldeep Raina and Shmt Sunita Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Kuldeep Raina and Shmt Sunita Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Satish Raina & Shmt Shilpa Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Satish Raina & Shmt Shilpa Raina - Son & Daughter & Son-in-law
Sh Ashwa in Pandita and Shmt Sandeep Pandita
Sh Ashsh Kaul & Shmt Superna Kaul
Grand Children: Rashika, Kathy, Sdhily, Ront, Arul, Aryan, Leisha, Ahana, Samyra
And Entire Raina Family of Kandi Khass, Bhan Family of Gotangoo Kupwar
Mobile No. 7889451663, \$005524146, 8800840901

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for



Nanak Nagar Jammu. 10th Day will be performed on 5th June



Smt. Asha Jamwal



10TH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA

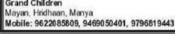
Smt. Pushpa Devi

aster Shikhar, Master Uthkarsh, Master Srijanya, Mas Iraa, Miss Aura, Miss Siyona Contact Number:- 9419690998, 9419368949

Smt Rupa Wali

ate Neelam Kaul & Sh K L Koul

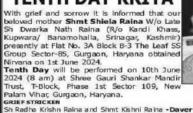
IN GRIEF Smt Shashi Sharma - Wife Daughters & Sons-in-law Shailja & Sanjeev



PROGRAM: VENUE:







DISCLAIMER

the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

GDC Kathua celebrates World Environment Day

Top News Report

KATHUA, June 5: NSS and NCC units of GDC Kathua in collaboration with the Department of **Environmental Science** of the college celebrated World Environment Day today on June 5. Various activities were conducted for the celebration of this day which includes a Symposium, Poster presentation, Plantation Drive and Save Environment Pledge ceremony. The celebration was held on the global theme of "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience" under the patronage of worthy Principal, Prof. Seema Mir. The celebration started with a symposium on the topic "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience" in which cadets participated and expressed various ways through which we can save our precious environment. Prof. Arvind Kumar, Head Department of environmental



sciences of the college delivered a descriptive speech about the importance of this day.

After the symposium, a plantation drive was conducted in which cadets and volunteers enthusiastically planted saplings of various tree species, including medicinal, fruitbearing, and shady trees in the Girls and Boys Hostels of the college, actively supporting the Save Earth Save Environment campaign. Both the NCC cadets and NSS

Volunteers also prepared various colourful posters highlighting the various measures to protect our environment and reduce pollution.

Following the plantation drive, a pledge ceremony was conducted in which cadets, volunteers, ANOs of NCC units, Program officers of NSS Units and staff members promised to make all possible changes in their lives to protect environment and promised to continuously motivate

their families, friends and others about the importance of environment friendly habits.

The whole event was supervised by Lt (Dr.) Daya Ram, ANO of 4 JK BN NCC Prof. Ajay Kumar CTO 1 J&K Naval Unit, Dr. Pinkey CTO 2 JK Girls Bn, Dr. Kulbir Singh and Prof. Arvind Kumar NSS Program officers of the college. The event was graced by Prof. Sanjeev Gupta, Warden Boys Hostel GDC Kathua and other faculty members.

Shrine Board celebrates World Environment Day

Top News Report

KATRA, June 5: In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at promoting environment sustainability, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has introduced an eco-friendly practice of distributing plants as souvenirs to devotees on the occasion of World Environment Day.

In this regard, Anshul

Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB today inaugurated a saplings outlet namely Vaishnavi Vatika at Niharika Complex of Shrine Board at Katra. Around 40 indigenous species of plants reared in the Board's high-tech nursery at village Kunia in Panthal area near Katra shall be available for devotees now onwards. These species have been shortlisted based on compatibility with the local climatic conditions and feasibility for ease of transportation and transplantation.

The Chief Executive Officer after inaugura-



tion of the outlet said that this innovative approach not only aligns with the Board's commitments to environmental stewardship but also fosters a deeper connection between spirituality and nature. He underscored that Shrine Board under the directions of Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor JKUT and Chairman, SMVDSB has been devoting high attention to conserve the environment and ecology and carry out the greening of Trikuta Hills and the spaces along the tracks leading to the Shrine by

planting more than 1.50 lakh seedlings every year in the Shrine area for soil and water conservation. This initiative not only serves as a major contributor for increasing the green cover in the region but also strengthening the ecology and building a healthier society,

he said.

A diverse selection of plants including medicinal, flowering and fruit bearing sapling are offered to devotees. These varieties of plants ensure that the initiatives cater to different preferences and local

environmental conditions across the nation. It may be recalled that the Board has been continuously recognized by the concerned Ministries of Govt. of India for its outstanding works in the field of water management and environment conservation.

CEO announced that to further this initiative another outlet of these plant saplings will also be made available later this month for the devotees at Vaishnavi Dham, Jammu that shall be run in collaboration with Central Govt. Pensioners Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA). Apart from locals, the Jammu based outlet shall facilitate Yatris embarking upon the Shri Amar Nath Ji Shrine slated to commence from June 29.

On the occasion, CEO alongwith other senior officers of Shrine Board also planted saplings of different species around the Vaishnavi Vatika and distributed a variety of plants to the devotees.

PM launches 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

Top News Report

DELHI, June 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign by planting a Peepal tree at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi. The campaign encourages people to plant a tree as a tribute to their mothers, symbolizing the nurturing nature of both Mother Earth and human mothers.

In a series of posts on X, the Prime Minister called upon everyone in India and around the world to join the campaign by planting a tree in the coming days. He urged participants to share photos of their tree planting using the hashtags #Plant4Mother and #ekpedmaakenam. Modi highlighted India's

progress in increasing forest cover over the past decade, emphasizing its importance for sustainable development.

The initiative is part

of broader efforts to combat land degradation, build drought resilience, and prevent desertification. Central and State Government Departments and Local Bodies will identify public spaces to support the campaign, aiming to plant 80 crore trees by September 2024 and 140 crore trees by March 2025. The "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society Approach" will involve individuals, communitybased organizations,

entities in these efforts. The Department of School Education has encouraged Eco-clubs

and various government

in 7.5 lakh schools to promote the campaign, integrating it into summer camps and the New Education Policy's experiential learning approach. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, along with institutions such as BSI, ZSI, ICFRE, and NMNH, will be actively engaged in raising awareness and facilitating tree plantation. Additionally, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Ministry of External

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi were also present at the event, supporting the Prime Minister's call for collective action to protect and nurture the environment.

Affairs will help spread

the message globally.

BJP loses grip in Jammu due to poor candidate selection: Datta

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Social activist Chandan Datta has criticized the BJP's high command for disregarding grassroots feedback during the candidate selection process, which he claims led to a significant reduction in vote margins in the Jammu region. Despite winning both seats, the BJP's victory margin plummeted from 5 lakh votes in 2019 to nearly 1 lakh in 2024. Datta predicted that Dr. Jitendra Singh's vote share would decrease, which proved accurate. He asserted that wrong candidate choices resulted in tough competition from rivals like Choudhary Lal Singh and substantial vote shares for Congress candidate Raman Bhalla.

Datta warned that if the BJP repeats such mistakes in future elections, Congress could completely oust them from Jammu. He highlighted Congress's strong comeback and the increased voting percentage for the party in Jammu, indicating a shift in political dynamics. He also criticized UT BJP leader Tarun Chugh for failing to align decisions with the will of the people

will of the people.

Datta pointed out the unity among Muslim voters against the BJP and the division among Hindu voters along caste and party lines. He condemned the religious and caste biases affecting the election results and called for a fair and inclusive approach to candidate selection in future elections.

GDC Billawar celebrates World Environment Day

Sciences on Land resto-

Top News Report

BILLAWAR, June 5: Government Degree College Billawar celebrated World Environment Day on June 5 with great enthusiasm under the patronage of worthy principal Prof. (Dr.) Alka Sharma. This year the theme of the day was "Land restoration, Desertification and Land Resilience". On this occasion, a lecture and plantation drive were organized by the Department of Environmental Sciences in collaboration with NCC and NSS units of the college to create awareness among masses to protect the environment.

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Kiran Kumari, HoD, and Department of Environmental

ration and land resilience. Students participated enthusiastically in the event and various environmental issues like biodiversity loss, greenhouse effect, global warming, and climate change were addressed focusing on land degradation and its restoration. Further, a plantation drive was conducted and some of the plants which were planted were Delonix regia, Callistemon, Alstonia, Cassia fistula and some fruiting plants like mango, guava, Indian blackberry and other citrus fruits.

Inaugural of Plant bank was also done with a motto to protect the environment as well as for a greener campus. Contribution by staff or students can be done in this bank for preservation and conservation of environment.
Prof. (Dr.) Alka Sharma,

Principal, GDC Billawar, gave her remarkable words and addressed the students on importance of plants and how they can contribute in combating climate change. She advised the students to act as the ambassadors for spreading the awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature with the motto "my environment, my responsibility".

Lastly, a vote of thanks was given by Akshay Sharma (ANO NCC). Other faculty members who were present during the event were, Prof. Kanchan Mala, Dr. Manu Sharma, Prof. Sunita Devi, Prof. Suneet Kumar and Prof. Sheetal.

Chandel congratulates Manoj Tiwari on becoming MP for Third Term

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Hinduist BJP national leader Guruji Raju Chandel, along with BJP workers and supporters, visited the residence of newly re-elected Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari to congratulate him on securing his third term. District President of BJP Scheduled Caste Front, Chandrapal Chandel, Senior Vice President Deepika Chandel, BJP leader Surendra Chandel, Anil Chuniana, and Pramod Mehraulia were among the dignitaries present.

Guruji Raju Chandel praised Tiwari as a "true



protector of Sanatan Dharma" and highlighted his record-setting victory from North East Delhi, where he defeated opponents who, according to Chandel, aimed to divide India. Chandel urged Prime Minister Narendra

Modi to include Tiwari in the Union Cabinet, emphasizing his contributions to the party and the nation.

Chandrapal Chandel acknowledged the hard work that led to BJP winning all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi. Deepika Chandel lauded Tiwari as a person with a dynamic personality and credited his success to divine blessings from Bageshwar Dham Hanuman ji. She emphasized Tiwari's role in protecting Sanatan Dharma and defeating his rival with a significant margin.

Addressing the media, Deepika Chandel noted the fluctuating political scenario in Uttar Pradesh and suggested that true supporters of Lord Ram would eventually prevail, leading the country forward under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Summer yoga camp organized in Trikuta Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Yoga is a way of life and if we incorporate yoga in our life slowly and make an integral part of our life, we would be in a peaceful state in our everyday life, in order to take decisions without getting clouded by our emotions. Under the guidance of Rahul Kohli, Former Branch President, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Trikuta Nagar, has arranged a Five days yoga camp for inhabitants of Trikuta Nagar and adjoining area with special focus on students, it would think and act with complete attention, focus and awareness.

It was inaugurated at Shiv Mandir Trikutana-

gar, Sector 3 by lighting the traditional lamp followed with Vedic prayer by the shikshaks of Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, Ravindra Kumar, President Bahu district and Shakti Kumar District Secretary. Some yogasans and Pranayam were practiced.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar

Jain, State yoga Commissioner, state chairman Indian yoga Association and President Vichar Kranti Manch International was special Invitee on the occasion, he in his address, said that Stress is a Buzzword of the modern world. Stress has become an acceptable way of life today, which is surely not at all good for our physi-

cal and mental health. Yoga seeks to replace this stress with calmness and peace. That is the importance of yoga. Yoga opens up the blockages at your mind, body, breath, and emotions level and takes us to a much higher plane of living.

The Yogic way of life ensures that every situation is not viewed as stress and the body is not always in the flight or fight mode.

Yoga paves the way for rejuvenation, rest, and growth of our body.

Dr. Jain threw light on 4 basic needs to be incorporated in the students: Discipline, Morality Study and yoga practice. Some simple yogasans

were demonstrated & Practiced, besides some pranayamas especially 'Bhramri', he explained that Pranayam seeks to extend our breath so that Pranayama seeks to extend our breath so that prana or the life force, is not dissipated and slowly converges inside our body leading to high level of positive clear state of

mind.
Vanita Kohli, President
of the Tripura Nagar
branch, Bharat Vikas
Parishad managed and
arranged the camp with
Association of Kalpana
Chopra Secretary, Ritu
Gupta finance Secretary and Neetu incharge
female wing. Kalpana
Chopra presented the
vote of thanks.

Police Public School Doda celebrates World Environment Day

Top News Report

DODA, June 5: World Environment Day was celebrated in Police Public School Doda in collaboration with the Forest Department in which worthy Tanveer Ahmed Wani (Principal Hr.Sec. School Doda) was the Chief Guest and Mahesh Thakur (DFO) was guest of honour and the event was attended by many forest officers and officials. All staff members of PPS Doda along with Principal and Nodal Officer PPS Doda were also present on the occasion.

The programme started at 08:30 am with the symposium on the preservation and protection of the environment by the teachers and students of PPS Doda. On this

Occasion, worthy Tanveer Ahmed Wani and officers from the forest department inspired the students by their splendid and motivational speech. In addition to it, after symposium on World Environment Day, rally was marched from Police Public School Doda to DPL Gate Doda by the students, teachers, Principal PPS Doda, DySP DAR DPL Doda (Nodal Officer), Tanveer Ahmed Wani (Chief guest) and Officers from forests department.

Moreover students of PPS Doda also brought placards with them on which a fruitful message to preserve as well as protect the environment was mentioned. The whole programme was held under the close supervision of Principal PPS Doda

and DySP DAR DPL Doda.

All the staff members of PPS Doda played an important role during the programme. All the students, staff and principal PPS Doda thanked Tanveer Ahmed Wani (chief guest) and Mahesh Thakur (guest of honour) for providing such a healthy environment.

On this Occasion, saplings of different species were also planted by the Officers from forest department in presence of principal, staff members and DySP DAR Doda within premises of school

within premises of school.

Finally the programme ended peacefully at 10:30 am. Hence a note on World Environment Day is submitted for favour of perusal please.

Auditions for Mahasangram of Talent held under Apna Kangra Entertainment Banner

Top News Report

KANGRA/JAMMU, June 5: As is customary each year, Apna Kangra Entertainment is hosting auditions for the Mahasangram of Talent across Himachal Pradesh. This year's auditions took place at Government Excellent Senior Secondary School, Gahlian, attracting around 70 to 80 participants.

The brand ambassador of Apna Kangra Entertainment, Prakriti Kaundal, along with brand promoters Prezi Sharma, RV Soni, and Bedanshi



Kaul, have brought considerable recognition to Kangra throughout India, including in Himachal

Pradesh. Participants showcased their skills in a variety of categories including singing, dancing, acting, modeling, yoga, and

painting. Those who are

selected will advance to

the next round to further display their talents.

The event featured Poonam Banyal, the acting Principal of Gahlian School, as the chief guest, and young poet Rajiv Dogra as a special guest. Director Sumit Gupta expressed his commitment to continuing this initiative to discover and nurture local

Gupta also mentioned that any institution interested in hosting Mahasangram of Talent auditions can reach out to him via WhatsApp at 9736454656.

EDITORIAL

PLANTATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Plantation, the act of planting trees and vegetation, plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance, promoting environmental sustainability, and combating climate change. As the world grapples with the consequences of deforestation, urbanization, and industrialization, the need for extensive and systematic plantation efforts has never been more critical. This essay explores the multifaceted benefits of plantation, its impact on the environment and society, and the steps needed to promote and implement effective plantation programs globally.

Trees act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere and releasing oxygen. This process helps mitigate the greenhouse effect, which is responsible for global warming. A single mature tree can absorb approximately 48 pounds of CO2 per year, significantly reducing the amount of this harmful gas in the atmosphere.

Tree roots bind the soil, preventing erosion caused by wind and water. They also improve soil fertility by adding organic matter through leaf litter and decaying roots. This is particularly important in agricultural regions where soil degradation can lead to reduced crop yields and food insecurity.

Trees play a vital role in the water cycle by intercepting rainfall, reducing runoff, and increasing groundwater recharge. Their root systems allow water to infiltrate the soil, reducing the risk of floods and maintaining the water table.

Forests and plantations provide habitat for a wide range of species, promoting biodiversity. Diverse ecosystems are more resilient to changes and disruptions, ensuring the stability of the environment.

Plantation activities create jobs in rural and urban areas. From planting and maintenance to processing and product development, the plantation sector can provide employment opportunities and improve livelihoods.

Urban green spaces and trees improve air quality by filtering pollutants and particulates. They also provide shade and cooling, reducing the urban heat island effect and promoting outdoor activities, which can enhance physical and mental health.

Plantations can be a source of raw materials for various industries, including timber, paper, and biofuels. Sustainable plantation practices ensure a continuous supply of these resources without depleting natural forests.

Trees and green spaces enhance the beauty of urban and rural landscapes, providing recreational areas for communities. They contribute to the well-being of residents by offering spaces for relaxation and social interaction.

Competing land uses, such as agriculture and urban development, limit the availability of land for plantations. Integrated land-use planning and policies that prioritize reforestation and afforestation can address this issue.

Plantation projects require significant investment in terms of money, labor, and materials. Governments, NGOs, and private sectors need to collaborate and allocate resources effectively to support large-scale plantation programs.

Ensuring the survival and growth of planted trees requires ongoing maintenance and protection from pests, diseases, and human activities. Community involvement and education

can enhance the success rates of plantations. Selecting the right species for plantation is crucial for the success of the project. Native species that are well-adapted to local climatic and soil conditions should be prioritized to

ensure ecological compatibility and resilience. Part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, the India's Green India Mission aims to increase forest and tree cover, restore degraded ecosystems, and enhance biodiversity. The program involves local communities in conservation and plantation activities, ensuring

sustainable outcomes.

Plantation is a powerful tool for addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges. By investing in and prioritizing plantation efforts, we can combat climate change, conserve biodiversity, and improve the quality of life for communities around the world. It is essential for governments, organizations, and individuals to work together in promoting sustainable plantation practices, ensuring a healthier and more resilient planet for future generations.

The message of voters is: Enough is enough!

By: Shikha Mukerjee

the popular sovereign leaves no room for deniability. The voters have called Narendra Modi's gigantic bluff, delivered on the floor of the Lok Sabha that the BJP would win 370 out of the total 543 seats in the Lok Sabha. The National Democratic Alliance is far short of the "400 paar" mark that Mr Modi guaranteed he would get.

Voters have said loud and clear that they don't entirely believe in Mr Modi's guarantees, whatever these may have been. That they believed even less in his weird "guarantee of guarantees" is quite obvious.

Voters across the country have delivered a verdict that, especially in the heartland state of Uttar Pradesh and in Maharashtra, have given the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance with the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the DMK, the Trinamul Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party led by Sharad Pawar, the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray on the one hand and the other partners in other states trashes the BJP's conviction of being the best ever, even better than the Congress led by Jawaharlal Nehru.

The mandate destroys the myth of the invincibility of Narendra Modi and the BJP that he leads. The mandate does two things simultaneously. It tells the political class what it does not approve; it also tells the political class what it wants the government to do. So, on the one hand, it is a rejection of the unprincipled politics of engineering defections, splitting parties to seize power in states where the BJP had not succeeded in winning the popular mandate. It is equally an emphatic rejection of

its dangerous divisive politics based on religious identities. It can also be taken as a rejection of the homogenising Hindutva that Mr Modi tried to bully the rest of the country into believing as the only valid way of practicing Hinduism.

On the other hand, the verdict signals serious disapproval of the policies pursued by the Modi government and its governance that took people for granted, imposing hardship without apology in the name of "vikas", that is, development. It challenges the "vision" of the new "Viksit Bharat" that Mr Modi described at length in a newspaper article on June 3 and his entirely unbelievable promise or guarantee that India would be an economic superpower, a land overflowing with milk and honey as it were, by the time India was ready to celebrate 100 years of being Independence.

Equally, the verdict does not deliver a victory for the INDIA bloc, but it does stop the Modi-Amit Shah-BJP juggernaut in its tracks. Mr Modi is no longer the man of the moment, who holds India in his tight grasp; that baton has passed on.

As a new narrative on the "UP ke Ladke" (Sons of Uttar Pradesh), namely Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, is crafted, the fact of the matter is that the combination of the Congress and powerful regional and smaller parties crafted an alternative that obviously captured the imagination of voters in crucial states, starting with Uttar Pradesh, moving on to Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar, Karnataka, Rajasthan and even succeeded in shaking awake voters in Mr Modi's bastion of Gujarat. The verdict in Maharashtra, where the BJP split the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party to burgle the majority held by the Maha Vikas Aghadi, is a decisive indictment against the skullduggery of the BJP masterminded by Mr Modi and Mr Shah. This is also the passing of the mantle to younger leaders -- Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, M.K. Stalin, Tejashwi Yadav -- the despised "shehzade" of political parties where leadership is passed down within the family.

The mandate is, above all else, a celebration of the diversity of India, rather a verdict against the overweening ambition of the BJP, which believed that it alone was qualified to represent every region, sub-region and corner of the world's most populated country. The regional parties are powerful stakeholders in the idea of India that is not hegemonistic as the BJP so clearly is. The manoeuvrings of the BJP to jostle its way into Kerala and Tamil Nadu and declare that West Bengal would give it the best results in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections is a part of its hegemonistic vision, that is all too evident in the idea of "One Nation-One Party" and its follow-up "One Nation-One Election".

The 2024 Lok Sabha election confirms that regional parties have come of age. They are no longer the feared, almost despised, "parochial" parties of the 1960s that popped up to "fragment" the nation, as political pundits propounded, fearing the imminent dismemberment of India. It was Mr Modi's mistake to believe in an idea that was obsolete, though he should have known better given his claim of fast forwarding India's economic progress in his 10 years of being on top.

India, as the 2024 verdict indicates, cannot be represented

by any one political party and certainly not by a leader whose ways are similar to the archetypal authoritarian demagogue. It is also a verdict that shows strong opposition to the idea of this demagogue telling the electorate that once his claim to power is confirmed, as Mr Modi did in West Bengal, he would overturn the popular mandate to the Mamata Banerjee government. Mr Modi and his partymen, in flagrant violation of democratic principles, repeatedly threatened Oppositionheld state governments during the campaign that they would be busted. He said it in West Bengal; he repeated it in other states, warning voters and the regional parties in power that the BJP would seize power, by hook or by crook.

The bottom line is that Mr Modi does not have the mandate, because the BJP has not won a majority of the seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha. By falling short, the BJP now has to depend on its allies to retain power. What the BJP does and how Mr Modi responds to this crisis of confidence will play out over the next few days. It is entirely likely that a period of hard bargaining within the NDA will follow as allies extract the maximum price for their support.

It would be a mistake for the BJP to hustle at this point; it not only needs to sound penitent for taking the voter for granted and abusing the power it held between 2014 and 2024, it also needs to act penitent. The INDIA bloc, at this point, is the declared alternative. To assume any other responsibility would betray the mandate. The one thing the INDIA bloc leaders should not forget is the responsibility of holding Mr Modi to account for his acts of omission and commission over the past 10 years.

Failing in a competitive exam is not the end of the world

By: Vijay GarG

Ife does not adhere to a rigid template or offer a one-size-fits-all formula that could potentially offer a sure-shot route to success for everyone. Living a life free of templates is not an easy choice because we are living in an age of meritocracy. While meritocracy itself is not a flawed concept, it is essential to subject it to a more thorough examination.

A recent tweet by a social media-savvy industrialist sparked a debate about the most challenging entrance exams in the academic world. It also brought to light the fact that three of the 10 most difficult exams to crack in the world are held annually in India. According to the World Ranking Website, the IIT-JEE (Joint Entrance Exam), the UPSC Civil Services Exam, and the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) are ranked the second, third, and eighth toughest exams in the world respectively. In this article, let us focus on IIT-JEE given its popularity among students and parents and its role in creating a perennial pipeline of highly skilled manpower.

Test composition

Each year, nearly 1-1.2 million young Indians take a crack at this exam, knowing fully well that around only 7-12% have a realistic chance of gaining admission into one of the 23 IITs. Such low odds of success make it seem more like winning a lottery than a reasonable chance to build a strong academic foundation on which future careers can be built. Further, it is not just the slim odds that should bother us, but the composition of the exams itself. While most aspirants want to become engineers of varying kinds, the test continues to check aptitude for subjects unrelated to these fields. The exams don't seem like an accurate assessment, let alone a fair gauge of a student's intelligence or potential.

Extremely competitive entrance exams like the IIT-JEE also ensure that everyone has a similar kind of coaching routine, as they shuttle between schools and institutes. Many even forgo regular schooling and dedicate three to four years of their lives to cracking the IIT-JEE. However, this is not a sustainable approach to building careers or shaping one's life.

Even if one is willing to look beyond the inherent flaws in IIT-JEE as a selection filter for future engineers, other pertinent issues remain. There is no room for debate over the academic excellence IITs deliver or the rigour required to finish the four-year programme. However, it is equally important to consider alternatives. The world, and India in particular, currently offers a multitude of alternative learning platforms and programmes across diverse streams, including Robotics, AI, Semiconductors, hardware, and so on, apart from typical programmes from IITs and NITs. These often have equally strong, if not better, and more focused admission processes and can lead to equally rewarding career outcomes.

Holistic approach

Therefore, instead of holding on to unreasonable notions like "It is either IIT or nothing", students and those who guide them in their educational pursuits may want to consider the following suggestions to help them take a more holistic and realistic approach to higher education, careers, and life in general.

Identify potential interest areas/career opportunities;

Research alternative educational platforms and edtech players that offer programmes suiting your career plans.

Take up projects and internships in your desired fields;

Network with seniors from school/coaching institutes, to understand what skills one needs to continue the learning journey:

Use the Internet to learn about trending technologies and learn from free resources/courses

Most importantly, take some time off. Failing to clear IIT-JEE or skipping it is not the end of the world. There are many ways in today's world to build successful careers. Focus on finding your individual strengths and accordingly figure out the steps to succeed using them.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout Punjab)

GDC Darhal organizes World Environment Day

Top News Report

DARHAL, June 5: In celebration of World Environment Day, the Government Degree College Darhal (GDC Darhal) organized a special event today to raise awareness about environmental conservation and sustainability. The event saw a great turnout of students, faculty members, and local community members who gathered to mark this important day.

The event was organized and coordinated by the NSS wing, headed by Dr. Mohd Akhlaq and the IQAC of the college, headed by Dr. M Saleem Wani

The theme of World Environment Day 2024 is land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience. The event began with a tree-planting cer-



emony where participants planted several saplings on the college campus as a symbol of their commitment to preserving the environment. This was followed by a series of informative sessions and talks on the importance of protecting our planet and taking proactive steps towards sustainable living.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Z.A Mirza, Principal GDC Darhal emphasized

the need for collective action to address pressing environmental issues and highlighted the role that educational institutions like GDC Darhal can play in promoting environmental consciousness among young minds.

Students also took part in various eco-friendly activities such as a cleanup drive and a postermaking competition on environmental themes. The creativity and enthu-

siasm displayed by the participants underscored the importance of involving young people in efforts to protect the envi-

ronment.

The event concluded with a pledge to continue promoting sustainable practices and to work towards a greener and healthier future for all. GDC Darhal initiative in organizing this event serves as a reminder of the crucial role that education and community engagement play in building a sustainable world.

As we mark World Environment Day, let us all commit to being stewards of the environment and take concrete actions to preserve our planet for future generations. Stay tuned for more updates on environmental initiatives and events in our community. The successful celebra-

tion of World Environment Day at GDC Darhal would not have been possible without the combined efforts and contributions of the faculty members and staff including Dr. Ghulam Abass, HoD Persian, Dr Taseem HoD Geography, and Dr Anzar Ahmed HoD Arabic Their commitment and dedication played a vital role in making the event a memorable one.

Sajad Reshi congratulates Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, JP Nadda, Karyakartas of BJP

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, June 5: Er. Sajad Reshi, IT Head of the J&K BJP Minority Morcha, extends his heartfelt congratulations to Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, JP Nadda, and all the dedicated Karyakartas of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for securing a remarkable third consecutive term. This unprecedented achievement is a testament to the trust and confidence that the people of India have placed in the leadership and vision of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

"This historic feat marks a significant milestone in India's democratic

Reshi. "The continued support from the electorate underscores their faith in the progressive and inclusive governance offered by the BJP under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP President JP Nadda."

Er. Sajad Reshi emphasized that this victory is not only a reflection of the party's commitment to development and good governance but also an endorsement of the transformative policies that have positively impacted millions of lives across the nation. "Our victories reflect the electorate's trust in our leadership's ability to steer the country towards a brighter and more prosperous future,' he added.

As BJP embarks on this new term, Er Sajad Reshi reassures the people that the party will continue to work tirelessly to fulfill the aspirations of every Indian citizen. He expressed gratitude to the voters for their unwavering support and reaffirmed the party's dedication to upholding the values of democracy, unity, and progress.

"We are deeply humbled by the mandate given to us by the people of India," concluded Er. Sajad Reshi. "Together, we will continue to build a stronger, more resilient and inclusive India."

Shahzadpur Cricket Club wins Shubham Mottan Cricket Tournament



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Shahzadpur Club won the final of Shubham

Cricket Club at Shahzadpur, today Thirty two clubs partici-

Mottan Cricket Tourna-

ment, defeating Rathua

pated in the tournament, which was organised by

G.Bhardwaj. Former JMC Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj who was the chief guest on the occasion, congratulated the victorious team and said that such events are helpful in enhancing synergy and cementing an affable relation amongst people of different areas. He further said that sports enhances the bonding amongst society and instills discipline in life.

Prominent persons present at the ceremony were Numberdar Pawan Sharma and Ex Panch Bishan Dass Mottan

GDC Thannamandi organizes Online Quiz on Cyber Security

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, June 5: The Department of Computer Science, Government Degree College Thannamandi organised an online quiz on cyber security awareness based on the theme "Cyber Crimes and Safety" under the patron ship of the Principal of the college, Prof. Dr. Farooq Ahmed. The competition was one of the series of monthly events organized in the Institution under the programme "Cyber Jagrukta Awareness Diwas" a program by the Ministry of Home

Affairs and Higher Education Department J&K for implementing the scheme called "Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)". Prof Supriya Gupta, HOD Computer Science and Nodal officer Cyber Jagrukta awareness programme of the college organized the quiz to aware the students about Cyber related crimes and security.

A number of students from different colleges participated and all the qualifying participants who secured more than 50% points were sent printable e-certificates.

Team from SHS NHM J&K visits Doda

Top News Report

DODA, June 5: To conduct the supportive supervision of National Health Programmes and on the directions of worthy Mission Director NHM J&K Nazim Zai Khan (IAS), a team from State Health Society NHM J&K headed by Programme Manager NHM J&K Dr Nazir Ahmed Dar along with Associate Programme Manager NHM J&K Dr Imtiyaz Shakeel Baba on conducted two days comprehensive visit to District Doda

The purpose of the visit was to review, discuss and to implement all the National Health Programme being run under the National Health Mission in the district and to bring rapid improvement in key performance indicators in a time bound manner.

Earlier on the day first, the visiting team held a meeting at CMO Office Doda which was attended by Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar, DIO Doda Dr Versha Sharma and District Programme Manage-

ment Unit NHM. During the meeting, the visiting team held detailed deliberations of NHM programmes besides review the functioning of DPMU NHM Unit of the district and later on the meeting

MS GMC Doda and NHM The team also visited different health facilities in the district which includes AH GMC Doda, AAM SC Dudhote, AAM SC Dranga, AAM SC Drudhu and SDH Bhaderwah, where the visiting team along with other health functionaries interacted with staff and reviewed functioning of

all health programmes

and services being pro-

vided to the community.

of same nature was also

held at AH GMC Doda,

which was attended by

The visiting while taking review of all key issues and advised the health staff for various measures and improvement to be adopted in order to make implementation of the mission more vibrant and result oriented.

The team during their interaction with the management staff, seeking their feedback and inputs for further improvement of their respective programmes and carrying out impact assessment of all the interventions so that corrective measures can be taken accordingly.

The team also expressed their satisfaction in smooth functioning of the peripheral health facilities and advised them to further improve the discrepancies where

Poshan Project Rajwar celebrates World **Environment Day at ICDS Center Pazalpora**



Top News Report

HANDWARA, June 05: Poshan Project Rajwar today celebrated world environmental day with great zeal and passion at Poshan Center Pazalpora Zone Magam area of District Kupwara

The event was headed by CDPO Rajwar Shakeela Wani along with many Supervisors and event was organised with the objective to raise awareness regarding the

role of poshan department with environment in all respects.

A total of 30 Children along with P/L and N/M were present from AWC Centers including the locals of Pazalpora, Chermandi, and health officials participated in this event.

The event was held at Beigh mohalla and it featured a wide range of activities designed to promote the importance of safeguarding our planet and to keep it a better place to live in.

The program was Held outside the ICDS Center within the area of Poshan

The aim of the Poshan Vatikas is to provide a fresh and regular supply of locally produced fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants to women and children straight from a nutri-garden at or near an Anganwadi Centre already established in all

Vivek Bali congratulates Nitish Kumar and Narendra Modi

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, June 5: Vivek Bali State General Secretary of Janata Dal (United) (JDU), extends his heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on their resounding victory in the general

"Congratulations to our dynamic leaders, Nitish Kumar and Narendra Modi, for their decisive win in the general elections. This historic victory marks the beginning of the 3.0 term for our esteemed Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and Lam confident that under his leadership, India will soon ascend to become the third-largest economy in the world," said Vivek Bali.

Bali also highlighted the outstanding performance of JDU in the Lok Sabha elections. "The strike rate of JDU has been commendable, reflecting



the unwavering support and trust of the people in our party's vision and leadership. Our leader, Nitish Kumar, has once again proven his mettle by steering our party to success, and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has also delivered an impressive performance across the nation."

In his statement, Vivek Bali expressed his gratitude to the voters and supporters. "I thank all the citizens for their support and belief in our leadership. Together, we will continue to work towards the prosperity and development of our

GDC Kishtwar stages play "Mein Dharti" on World Environment Day



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, June 5: Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar presented a powerful theatrical performance titled "Mein Dharti" in observance of World Environment Day. The play, a collaborative effort between the Department of Environmental Sciences, the NSS Unit, Kiru HE Project CVPPL, and JKPCC Kishtwar, delivered a thought-provoking message about human

impact on the planet. "Mein Dharti" showcased the destructive consequences of human greed through captivating storytelling. Fourteen talented GDC students delivered a compelling performance, highlighting various ways humans contribute to environmental degradation in daily life.

The event was organized under the expert guidance of Dr. Seh-

rish Gazal (HOD Environmental Sciences), Dr. Tabassum Saleem (Assistant Professor, Department of English), Dr. Yasir Ahmed (HOD Persian), and Dr. Ravi Sharma (Senior Manager Environment, Kiru HE Project). Dr. Gazal provided a brief introduction to the play and delivered the vote of thanks at the event's conclusion, while Dr. Saleem coordinated all proceedings.

Dr. Devansh Yadav IAS, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, served as the Chief Guest. He commended GDC Kishtwar for its impactful production and urged the college to continue its environmental initiatives in collaboration with the district administration. Ramesh Ojha (HoP Kiru HE Project) CVPP was the Guest of Honour. Additional guests included Dr. Mohan Snehi (Divisional Officer, Pol**lution Control Committee** Kishtwar) and Dr. Ravi

Project). Prof. Basharat Iqbal, Principal GDC Kishtwar, expressed his appreciation for the organizing committee, the student actors, and their powerful performance. He also extended gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for his support and participation. The event drew a diverse audience, including faculty members from GDC Kishtwar and GDC Chatroo, students and faculty from Al-Hilal Educational Institute, and representatives from the media. The play's emotional impact resonated with the audience, leaving a lasting impression and sparking important conversations about environmental protection. "Mein Dharti" stands as a testament to GDC Kishtwar's commitment to environmental awareness and serves as a call to action for all to take responsibility for safeguarding our planet.

er Environment, Kiru HE

BJP has started horse trading for formation of govt in centre: Dimple

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, has accused the BJP of initiating horse trading to form a government at the center. In a recent press note, Dimple announced that his struggle to preserve the identity, culture, demography, and history of Jammu & Kashmir is intensifying. He emphasized the need to restore Jammu & Kashmir's statehood before the assembly elections and implement the conditions of the instrument of accession. Dimple criticized the BJP's decisions made



on August 5, 2019, and vowed to reverse them, calling them unconstitu-

Dimple expressed respect for the mandate given to the India Alliance bloc and the NDA by the people of India, highlight-

ing their role in stopping the BJP from achieving its goal of winning 370 seats and crossing the 400-seat mark. He stated that the people's anger against the BJP's authoritarianism. dictatorship, and misuse of government agencies is palpable. Dimple insisted that the immediate restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood must be prioritized by whoever forms the central government. Welcoming the Chief

Election Commission's announcement to hold Jammu & Kashmir assembly elections soon, Dimple claimed this as a victory for the people of the region. He criticized the BJP for failing to meet the expectations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the country. He demanded the Chief Election Commission of India to announce the J&K assembly election

schedule without further delay. Dimple thanked the

people of Jammu &

Kashmir and India for the massive voter turnout, interpreting it as a clear expression of resentment against the BJP. He mentioned plans to meet with like-minded parties to strategize for the upcoming assembly elections, considering options to keep the BJP out of Jammu & Kashmir through seat sharing or contesting separately on the party mandate He reiterated the commitment to reverse the BJP's decisions made on August 5, 2019, if elected.

As Kangana Ranaut clinches the Mandi Lok Sabha seat, here is a look at how other celebrities fared in the General Election

The results of 18th Lok Sabha elections were declared on Tuesday. Keeping aside who wins and makes the government, we look at how it was overall a good day for actorsturned-politicians.

Grand debut

It has been a while since Kangana Ranaut tasted success at the box-office, but in her political debut she won against the Congress candidate from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, Vikramaditya Singh. "Heartfelt gratitude to all the people of Mandi for this love and trust... This victory belongs to all of you, this is the victory of your trust in Prime Minister Modi and BJP, this is the victory of Sanatan and in the honour of Mandi," she posted on X and Instagram. The actress on Tuesday morning also posted a heartwarming picture with her mother where she is donning a pink saree and the latter is offering her dahi cheeni, which is considered auspicious in Hindu culture before a big exam or result day!

After the victory, Kangana shared with The Tribune, "I am not going anywhere as was said by Congress, as this (Mandi) is my janambhoomi. My victory is a slap on the face of those who tried to malign a woman by making derogatory remarks against me. I want to contribute as a dedicated soldier to PM Modi's commitment to sabka saath, sabka vikas."

Tough fight

In Punjab's Faridkot, actor and AAP candidate Karamjit Anmol was running against singerturned-politician Hans Raj Hans. While many thought it would be a neck- to-neck fight between these regional celebrities, independent candidate Sarabjit Singh Khalsa won from the Faridkot constituency. It was a



not stick to one party! For the

unversed, Hans joined politics

with Shiromani Akali Dal and for

a brief period stayed with Con-

gress, before shifting to BJP in

When actor Raj Babbar's

name was announced as the

Congress candidate from Guru-

gram at the last minute, many

eyes rolled. The actor had faced

defeat during the 2019 and met

Despite BJP candidate Manoj

Tiwari's pre-poll fumble of giving

an interview to a journalist that

turned into a meme, it didn't

do much damage to his vote

bank. Manoj managed a big win

from North East Delhi against

Congress candidate Kanhaiya

Ramayana-fame veteran actor

Arun Govil registered a win

from Meerut constituency in his

debut political run, although a

Dalit woman Samajwadi Party

candidate put up a tough fight

against him. All-India Trinamool

Congress candidate from Asan-

sol, West Bengal, was veteran

actor and politician Shatrughan

Sinha and he won against the

BJP candidate. Sinha had won

the same fate in 2024.

Veterans fight

2016.

NCR scenario

big blow for seasoned politician Hans Raj Hans, but Karamjit Anmol put up a tough fight as a debutant politician.

Anmol, known for his coming timing, conceded defeat with grace. In a press conference, he said, "People are the heroes of this election and we respect the mandate they have given. I congratulate Sardar Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa, as people have voted in favour of the leader. I hope he would work for the welfare of those who supported him. I am thankful to everyone who supported us and all the volunteers who made polling a peaceful affair in Faridkot. We will sit and introspect with the party members on where we fell behind. I am happy to be a candidate from a place that is named after Baba Farid himself. I will stay connected to this place."

The 62-year-old Hans, on the other hand, is already an MP from North West Delhi. In the political arena for 15 years, during the 2024 Lok Sabha election he chose to run for an MP seat from his home state, Punjab, but lost badly. Perhaps, the voters didn't want a candidate whose ideology did

the 2022 Asansol bypoll following the resignation of Babul Supriyo, who served as a twotime MP before joining the TMC. Lady luck

Veteran actress Hema Malini, at 75, who was seeking a third term in the Lok Sabha as a BJP candidate from Mathura, won by a margin of 2.7 lakh votes against Congress candidate Mukesh Dhangar.

On the other hand, Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress and its women candidates put up a big fight in West Bengal. Trinamool divas — Rachna Banerjee, Sayani Ghosh, and June Maliah — all actressturned-politicians — had taken handsome leads in Hooghly, Jadavpur, and Medinipur constituencies in West Bengal, respectively. Rachna, host of the popular television show Didi No. 1, later won against BJP's actress-turned-politician Locket Chatterjee by a margin of 67,000 votes. Sayani in Jadavpur was ahead by 2.5 lakh votes by Tuesday evening.

Only Smriti Irani, BJP candidate and Union Minister from Amethi, another actress-turnedpolitician, lost by a huge margin. Bollywood report card

Smriti Irani Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

Lost by 1, 67, 196 lakh votes to Congress candidate Kishori Lal Shatrughan Sinha Asansol (actor)

Won by 59,564 votes against BJP candidate Surendrajeet Singh Ahluwalia

Ravi Kishan Gorakhpur (actor) Won by 1, 03, 526 votes against Samajwadi Party candidate Kajal Nishad

Suresh Gopi Thrissur (Malayalam actor)

Won by 74,686 votes against CPI candidate Sunil Kumar.

Sofía Vergara says filming sex scenes for Griselda 'kept me awake' and 'worried'



Sofía Vergara opened up she felt "worried" and insecure while filming sex scenes for the 2024 crime drama 'Griselda.'

During a Netflix FYSEE event, the Emmy nominee, 51, shared the experience of shooting intimate scenes for the miniseries was one of the times she felt out of her comfort zone, per The US Sun.

Portraying Griselda Blanco, the mastermind behind one of the most lucrative drug cartels in history, Vergara navigated the complexities of the character's life and death in 'The Cocaine Godmother.

"I don't think I've ever done like, a sex scene,"

she confessed, noting the absence of such scenes in 'Modern Family' alongside costar Ed O'Neill.

"I'm 50! I mean, when I was 30, I wouldn't have worried. I think I was worried that I was going to look horrific.'

She admitted, "I was like, 'Where are they shooting me? The cellulite? From the side.' Uh, I'm vain I guess. That one kept me awake I think."

The Hot Pursuit actress acknowledged that the scenes "came out good." "It's really dark and

Andy [Baiz], the director, is very artistic and he made me feel super

comfortable and he's like, 'We're never going to stay like a long time

on you [the camera]." Vergara's 'physical transformation' was the 'toughest aspects of the whole show'

During the production phase Baiz had highlighted Vergara's "physical transformation" as "one of the toughest aspects of the whole show".

Vergara said, "It was in Miami in the '70s and the '80s. Getting the look correct was very important to me."

"I needed to disappear."

The Modern Family star's hair stylish revealed, "We had five wigs, different time periods."

"She's wearing prosthetic eyebrow covers and false eyebrows that are glued on, a nose, and a plate of teeth slightly bucked."

The 'America's Got Talent' judge told People, "I'm going to fight it every step of the way. I know I don't look the same. But I don't think I am going to ever be the woman that has the courage to be, like, all-white hair."

"I feel like you have to take advantage of everything that is out there. I mean, if you care about aging," she told Allure while discussing her take on plastic surgery. "I feel like I'm going to do every plastic surgery that I can do when I'm ready."

for the love and support he got from Gurugram residents

Actor-turned-politician Raj Babbar, who contested the elections on a Congress ticket from the Gurgaon Lok Sabha constituency, gave one of the biggest fights to the contenders in Haryana. Taking on fivetime MP, BJP's candidate Rao Inderjit Singh, Babbar, who himself is a five-time Parliamentarian, put up a tough fight.

"We duly respect the mandate of people because that's democracy. However, I am humbled and grateful for the love and support Gurugram has given me. I was here for 20-odd days and while politicians cried hoarse calling me an outsider, people gave me full support and love. I may have lost the election, but not my connection with Gurugram. I will keep serving the people and always be available for them," said Babbar.



Babbar is a three-time Lok Sabha member and two-time Rajya Sabha member. Called by many names like a 'surprise' candidate, 'entertainment package', 'outsider' and 'scapegoat', Babbar emerged as 'master stroke' of the Congress that gave the BJP a run for their money in their most secure seat. With a campaign supported by his daughter Juhi Babbar, son-in-law and popular TV actor Anup

Soni, and his son Prateik Babbar, Raj Babbar brought the star quotient to the millennium city but his attempt will be best remembered for excellent door-to-door campaign.

This was Babbar's political debut in Haryana and he left an everlasting mark.

He previously faced defeat in the 2019 election as a Congress candidate from Fatehpur Sikri against BJP's Raj Kumar Chahar.

Raj Babbar, who lost, is grateful World Environment Day: Aahana Kumra says it's high time that people stop cutting trees now

She won't miss out her workout session at any cost. So, once done with it, actor Aahana S Kumra takes some time out and steps out on a sunny afternoon for a stroll with HT City at Delhi's Lodhi Garden. On the occasion of World Environment Day, the actor tells us how she has always been the happiest being an "outdoor girl". She explains, "I'm somebody who has always promoted maintaining parks and our surroundings. I make sure to push people to do sustainable things. It's nice to go outdoors and be aware about what's going on in the city. I don't like to boast about owning luxury cars and roaming in them, it's a privilege to walk around the nature."

The actor, however, finds it upsetting that the city that she lives — Mumbai — doesn't care much about its surroundings. "Sadly,



the footpaths and parks have been destroyed. It's not just the government, it's the people also who don't take as much care as they should. This is something that as citizens we should be held responsible for. The smaller cities in India are better maintained than a bigger city like Mumbai. I would like to see my city on foot, but unfortunately you can't do that. The pollution, and the spoiled footpaths and roads, won't let you," expresses Kumra, who hails from Lucknow.

Every year, World Environment Day is celebrated with a specific theme targeting the immediate problems at hand. This year's theme is land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience. Urging people to stay away from deforestation, Kumra asserts, "With the amount of trees we have cut in the last few years, especially from the agricultural land, things are just getting worse. We are getting so greedy as humans, it's going to lead to desertification. It's just going to ruin the land and there's going to be a scarcity of water. We will leave nothing for our kids. Every week, municipal authorities give us circulation that there's a scarcity of water and we should fill and keep water. It's all human actions that's adversely affecting our climate and environment. If this continues, we would be suffering majorly by 2050."

In tune with this year's Environment Day message — 'Our land is our future, we must protect it' — the actor hopes that everyone takes onus and acts responsibly. "You have to treat your land like your home. It is actually the future. What you do today, will come out for the next generation tomorrow. One has to be very particular about keeping the environment clean. Even if I see anyone spitting or loitering, I stand against it. My blood boils when people eat and throw wrappers on the streets. Flaura and Fauna can completely change if you keep doing such things. You have to ensure that everything is at least clean around now," says Kumra. Furthermore, the

39-year-old believes that one should use their stature as a public figure to raise awareness and influence more people towards environment conservation. "Instead of flaunting everything in their lives, stars should focus on promoting environment sustainability. If we don't create awareness about how normalcy can be, how will people adapt. If we have that power of influence or impact, we should use it. I don't think that if I am a celebrity. I should only be in my car, gym, or a film set. I try my best to be aware and spread awareness, especially through social media,' she concludes.

Marvel star Evangeline Lilly retires from acting: 'I am ready...and I am happy'

Marvel star Evangeline Lilly has announced that she has retired from acting. In a post on Instagram on Monday, June 3, the 44-year-old Lost alum said that she is "so filled with joy and contentment" and ready to "live out [her] vision."

Posting a 20-year-old video of herself, Lilly wrote, "Praise God, I feel so grateful for my blessings.

Stepping away from what seems like the

obvious choice (wealth and fame) can feel scary at times, but stepping into your dharma replaces the fear with fulfillment."

"I might return to Hollywood one day, but, for now, this is where I belong. A new season has arrived, and I AM READY...and I AM HAPPY," she added.

The throwback video shows Lilly, much younger, laying out her dreams for the future and saying



she would like to be a retired actress one day, with a family and two children.

She revealed her wish to become a writer and spend her time doing humanitarian work. Evangeline Lilly's

Lilly is best known for

her role as Kate Austen in the Lost series. She shared a daughter and a son with her longtime partner Norman Kali. Lilly also starred in Mar-

vel's Ant-Man as Hope van Dyne, and reprised her role in Ant-Man and the Wasp in 2018, and 2019's Avengers: Endgame. Most recently, she was seen in 2023's Ant-Man and the Wasp:

She notably also starred in Smallville, Real Steel, as well as two films in the Hobbit franchise.

Quantumania.

Lilly revealed in 2018 that a "bad experience" she had while working on Lost made her reject onscreen nudity for the rest of her life.

"In Season 3, I'd had a bad experience on set with being basically cornered into doing a scene partially naked, and I felt had no choice in the matter," she said at the time."And I was mortified and I was trembling and when I finished it, I was crying my eyes out and I had to go on do a very formidable, very strong scene thereafter."

NDA leaders meet in New Delhi, deliberate on details of government formation

TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar present at the meeting

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): Senior leaders of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance deliberated on the details of government formation at a meeting here on Wednesday, a day after the ruling coalition won a majority in the Lok Sabha election which paved the way for a third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and LJP (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan were among those who were present at the meeting chaired by Modi. Senior BJP leaders



were also in attendance.

The TDP, JD(U), Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the LJP (Ram Vilas) have won 16, 12, seven and five seats respectively and will play a crucial role in the government formation.

Sources said National Demo-

cratic Alliance (NDA) leaders are expected to formally repose their faith in Modi's leadership and that MPs of the coalition's constituents may meet in a couple of days to elect him as their leader.

"I have not come here to

demand anything. I have come here to support Modiji in forming the government. Modiji has got a majority. The NDA will form the government under Modiji's leadership," Shinde told reporters at the airport here.

Though there was no official word on the date for the oath-taking ceremony, there is a view among some members of the alliance that it may take place over the weekend if the contours of the new government are quickly worked out.

Parties like the TDP and the JD(U) are expected to demand some key portfolios as their support will be crucial for government formation and survival.

PM Modi launches tree plantation campaign on World Environment Day



NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi launched a tree plan-

tation campaign on Wednesday by planting a sapling at the Buddha Jayanti Park here to mark World Environment Day.

mark World Environment Day.

Under the campaign, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', millions of trees will be planted across the

country.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena joined PM Modi at the event.

Excise 'scam': Delhi court denies interim bail to CM Arvind Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Wednesday dismissed an application for interim bail on medical grounds moved by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja directed the Tihar jail authorities to take care of Kejriwal's medical needs in judicial custody.

The judge also extended Kejriwal's judicial custody till June 19.

The court is sched-



uled to take up on June 7 Kejriwal's application

seeking default bail in the case.

JD(S) leader Kumaraswamy heads to Delhi, says Congress bid to form govt will not happen

BENGALURU, Jun 5 (Agencies): JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said that the Congress bid to form government at the Centre will not happen.

Speaking to reporters before heading for New Delhi, he said the NDA constituents meeting would be held in the national capital, and he would be participating on behalf of JD(S). "Nothing will happen," Kumaraswamy said, replying to a query on the Congress

party's exercise to form the government. Kumaraswamy, the JD(S) second-in-com-

mand, won the Lok Sabha election from Mandya as an NDA candidate. Along with him, the party's candidate Mallesh Babu won from Kolar.

However, JD(S) candidate Prajwal Revanna lost the election from Hassan.

The NDA got 19 out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, in which the BJP won 17 and

JD(S) - 2

In 2019, the saffron party had won 25 seats along with a party-backed independent candidate in the state.

Meanwhile, the ruling Congress increased its tally from one seat in 2019 to nine this time. The Election Commission of India declared results for 542 of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies on Tuesday, with the BJP winning 240 seats and the Congress 99.

Will propose and support Modi for PM: JD(U) ends suspense ahead of NDA meet today



NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): BJP allies JD(U) and the TDP who hold the key to power at the centre on Wednesday said they would propose and support the name of Narendra Modi as prime minister at the meeting of the National Democratic Alliance later on Wednesday.

The Nitish Kumar led JD(U) said they would also join the new government if invited by the PM.

"There is no question of going here or there. Nitish Kumar had quit the INDI alliance after he was humiliated by them. Today they are saying they would have had the majority had Nitish been with them but we are firmly with the NDA," JDU general secretary KC Tyagi said this morning.

Tyagi said he and Nitish Kumar would attend the meeting of the NDA and would "propose and support Modi for PM." We will also join the government if asked to, said Tyagi.

The TDP had on Tuesday pledged support for PM Modi who would soon take oath as prime minister for the third time equalling predecessor Jawaharlal Nehru's record of returning to the PMO thrice in a row.

The NDA and opposition INDIA bloc will both hold meetings today in Delhi to flesh out next strategies, after Modi declared on Tuesday that his third term would see major decisions and a spirit of taking everyone along.

The outgoing union cabinet is meeting this morning for the final time before President Droupadi Murmu hosts ministers for dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

4 dead in Uttarakhand after group of 22 goes missing due to bad weather, 8 rescued

UTTARKASHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): Four people were killed after a 22-member trekking team, which had gone trekking to Sahastra Tal in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi, lost their way due to bad weather and got trapped along the route. Eight of them were rescued and the bodies of four trekkers were found in Uttarkashi.

Uttarkashi District Magistrate Meharban Singh Bisht said that the trekking team comprising 18 members from Karnataka, one from Maharashtra and three guides from Uttarkashi had gone on a trekking expedition to Sahastra Tal on May 29 and were to return on June 7.

While returning from Sahastra Tal, 20 people got stuck at Kufri top due to the bad weather.

Two buses then returned to the camp. After that, seven more



people came to base camp while 13 people got stuck at the Kufri top. Among the 13 people, four of them died.

A trekking agency, Himalayan View Tracking Agency, Maneri, which took the trekkers to the Sahastra Tal, informed authorities about four people who were feared killed and requested the evacuation of 13 trapped memAll the trekkers were registered by the district administration.

Bisht requested the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to send rescue teams to the spot and rescue the trekkers. He also ordered to send local-level rescue teams to the site as well.

The SDRF has reached out to 10 more people from the trekkers' group.

He said Sahastra Tal

is located at an altitude of about 4,100-4,400 metres and that the incident site is located in the border area of â€⟨â€⟨Uttarkashi and Tehri districts.

"For the quick rescue of the trekking team, we have set rescue teams to Uttarkashi and Ghansali Tehri sides," he added.

Sahastra Tal is a group of seven lakes on a peak and it is believed that Pandavas had left for heaven from this place.

The District Magistrate wrote to the Joint Secretary of the Central Defence Department for air rescue and the SDRF commandant for ground rescue assistance.

He also said the trekking agency had informed authorities to send people from Silla village to the spot to assist rescue teams. A request was also made to send teams of police and the forest department from the Tehri district to the spot. Rescue teams that were dispatched were facing delays in reaching the spot due to the inclement weather.

The Tehri district administration sent teams to rescue the trekkers trapped at Sahastra Tal. Talks were on to involve the Indian Air Force in the rescue operation.

Muslims failed to understand BSP: Mayawati after defeat

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): Following severe beating in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati gave a stern warning for its Muslim sympathizers. Pinning blame on them for her defeat, in a statement issued on Wednesday, she said that despite suitable representation being given to the community in every election, they don't appreciate the party; therefore in future, they will be given opportunity after careful consideration.

She further stated that her party had contested the elections alone and made every possible effort for better the results in which Dalits played the crucial role of a 'missionary' by voting for BSP.

"Among Dalits, people from my caste especially, voted for the BSP in majority. By giving most of their votes to BSP, they played an important role as missionaries. So I express my heartfelt gratitude to them."

"At the same time, the Muslim community didn't understand the BSP despite being given appropriate representation in previous elections including the present Lok Sabha elections. So now in this situation, they will be given an opportunity after careful consideration, so that the party doesn't suffer such a terrible loss in future like the present situation," her statement read.

The BSP has failed to secure a single seat this year, which turned out to be the worst



ever performance since its electoral debut in 1989. The party secured just 2.07 per cent vote share. It fielded candidates in 424 Lok Sabha seats including 80 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh. The decline in the BSP's support base was on the expected line as the party evidently didn't undertake a campaign actively and enthusiastically in these elections.

Arguably the BSP fielded a maximum number of Muslim candidates in the elections. According to the poll watchers including Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders who were keeping a close watch on the developments in Uttar Pradesh, despite their best efforts, Mayawati's sympathizers mainly the Dalits voted in favour of the SP helping Akhilesh Yadav led outfit to emerge as third largest party in this elections.

Mayawati's statement on Wednesday amply suggested that Muslims also voted

in favour of the INDIA bloc in large numbers especially the Samajwadi Party (SP) in Uttar Pradesh. Delhi BSP chief Lakshman Singh on Tuesday told agency that his party failed to put up an impressive fight as the party sympathizers drift away given the false narrative created by the opposition on reservation and the Constitution. "It is true that we haven't got the votes as we should have received. Majority of the BSP supporters used their franchise just to stop the BJP from coming to power. It is because of the story woven by the opposition that they shifted to the INDIA bloc," said Singh.

The party was formed by Kanshi Ram in 1984 to represent Bahujans -- Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. BSP first contested in the 1989 Lok Sabha polls. It nominated candidates in 245 seats but bagged only three and vote share was 2.07 percent.

Incessant fall in BSP's dominance in electoral politics and its dismal performance suggest that the social engineering formula promoted by the party has lost its charm thus marching towards irrelevance, added the poll watchers. Departure of its top leaders including MPs (some of them leaving the party on their own and others thrown out) has further caused a dent to BSP's electoral fortunes. Many of its 10 MPs either switched over to the BJP or SP before the elections.

Massive fire breaks out at children's eye hospital in Delhi

Soon after the incident, as many as 12 fire tenders arrived at the spot, and efforts to douse the fire is underway.



NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out at a children's eye hospital in Delhi on Wednesday. Soon after the incident, as many as 12 fire tenders arrived at the spot, and efforts to douse the fire is underway.

The incident took place at Eye 7 Children's Hospital in Lajpat Nagar.

As per the visuals, a dark plume of black smoke can be seen coming out of the build-

ing.
Further details regard-

ing the incident are awaited.

In a similar incident earlier in May, at least seven newborns died after a major fire engulfed a children's hospital in Delhi. According to the officials, a total of 12 newborn babies were safely evacuated from the hospital.

However, after the inci-

However, after the incident made headlines, it was found that the hospital had been marred by controversy a few years ago. Dr. Naveen Khichi, the owner of the hospital, was accused of assaulting a newborn during treatment. It was also found that the hospital was unregistered.

Rights group claims Israel has hit residential buildings with white phosphorous in Lebanon

Human rights advocates say it's a crime under international law to fire the controversial munitions into populated areas.

BEIRUT, Jun 5 (Agencies): A global human rights group claimed that Israel has used white phosphorus incendiary shells on residential buildings in at least five towns and villages in conflict-hit southern Lebanon, possibly harming civilians and violating international law, in a report published Wednesday.

Human Rights Watch said in its report that there was no evidence of burn injuries due to white phosphorus in Lebanon, but that researchers had "heard accounts indicating possible respiratory damage."

Human rights advocates say it's a crime under international law to fire the controversial munitions into populated areas.

Israel maintains it uses the white phosphorus only as a smokescreen and not to target civilians.

The white-hot chemical substance can set buildings on fire and burn human flesh down to the bone. Survivors are at risk of infections and organ or respira-



tory failure, even if their burns are small

The HRW report includes interviews with eight residents in conflict-hit southern Lebanon, and the group says it has verified and geolocated images from almost 47 photos and videos that show white phosphorus shells landing on residential buildings in five Lebanese border towns and villages.

The Lebanese Health Ministry says at least 173 people have required medical care after exposure to white phosphorus.

The researchers found that the controversial incendiaries were used in residential areas in Kfar Kila, Mays al-Jabal, Boustan, Markaba, and Aita al-Shaab, towns that are among the hardest-hit in eight months of fighting.

The New York-based rights group alongside Amnesty International also accused Israel of using white phosphorus in residential areas in October 2023, less than a month after clashes began between the Israeli military and the powerful Hezbollah group along the southern Lebanon-Israel border, a day after the Israel-Hamas war broke out on Oct. 7.

In its report, HRW called on the Lebanese government to allow the International Criminal Court to investigate and prosecute "grave international crimes" within Lebanon since October 2023

"Israel's recent use of white phosphorus in Lebanon should motivate other countries to take immediate action toward this goal," said HRW Lebanon Researcher Ramzi Kaiss.

More 400 people have been killed in Lebanon, most of them fighters but also including more than 70 civilians and noncombatants. In Israel, 15 soldiers and 10 civilians have been killed since October. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced on both sides of the border.

Fiji PM wins international athletics medal, at 75



WELLINGTON, Jun 5 (Agencies): Fiji's prime minister wound back the clock on Wednesday by winning a bronze medal at an international athletics championship, at the age of 75.

Sitiveni Rabuka, who competed for Fiji in both rugby and athletics in his youth, finished on the podium for his age category in the shot put at the Oceania championships held in Suva.

World leaders taking part in sports events is nothing new, but it is rare for one to walk away with a medal from an international compe-

Rabuka earned his bronze with a throw of 7.09 metres to finish behind two Australian rivals in the 75-79 category for the Oceania region.

"Even at 75, I hope to inspire the younger generation to develop a habit of keeping fit and staying healthy. It was indeed a morale booster for me," he posted alongside a picture of him holding the medal on his social media

page. The septuagenarian had previously missed another medal on Monday, by finishing fourth for his age in the discus.

It's 50 years since the politician represented Fiji in the hammer throw, shot put, discus and decathlon at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch. He also strummed down as a prop forward for the national rugby team.

A coup-maker turned politician, Rabuka is an ex-soldier who returned to the premiership in 2022 after a 23-year hiatus. The former lieutenant colonel led two coups in 1987, earning the nickname "Rambo" by seizing power after troops took over parliament on his signal.

He retired from the military to enter politics, taking his no-nonsense style of command from the parade ground to parliament.

He was elected prime minister in 1992 and held power until he was defeated at the 1999 polls. Rabuka returned to office as head of the coalition government following elections in December 2022.

Will Ensure "Porn-Free" Mode **On X Platform: Elon Musk**

SAN FRANCISCO, Jun 5 (Agencies): As social media platform X allowed users to post adult and graphic content earlier this week, its owner Elon Musk on Wednesday said he would ensure a 'pornfree' experience for those who do not want to watch such content.

Musk-run social media platform has tweaked its policy to formally allow users to post adult and graphic content.

When an X user asked the billionaire if he is going to allow porn, "Would it be possible to have a function that allows us to use X without being exposed to it like a porn-free mode?"

Musk replied "This is top priority", as policymakers all over the



world continue to curb the spread of such content on social media.

Another user commented that Musk should "seriously provide transparent options for people" who do not want to see such ads in comment threads.

"Just ban it all together," an X user posted.

According to X, users should be able to create. distribute and consume material related to sexual themes as long as it is consensually produced and distributed.

The new X rules also cover artificial intelligence (AI)-generated sexual videos and images.

Body recovery 'called off' at Papua New Guinea landslide site

With the recovery effort now called off, the true toll of the disaster will likely never be known.

PORT MORESBY, Jun 5 (Agencies): The bodies of hundreds of villagers feared buried in Papua New Guinea landslide will not be recovered, the military said Wednesday, describing recovery operations as "too dangerous".

"All efforts to recover bodies have been called off because of the danger", Major Joe Aku told agency, citing the risk of further landslides.

"Recovery is nonnegotiable at this stage," he said, dashing survivors' hopes of recovering loved ones.

Aku -- one of the leading military officers overseeing the site --



declared the highland disaster area a "no-go

It will be cordoned off to the community and authorities until further notice.

Papua New Guinea's government estimates 2,000 people may have been buried in a 600 metre-long (2,000 feet) mountain of soil and

boulders that engulfed a remote community in Enga province.

Aku said the toll could be closer to 650. Makeshift recovery efforts unearthed just nine bodies, according to local health authorities.

With the recovery effort now called off, the true toll of the disaster will likely never be known.

BEIRUT, Jun 5 (Agen-

cies): A Syrian man was

arrested after a shoot-

ing Wednesday near the

US embassy in Beirut,

the Lebanese army

said, with the diplomatic

mission saying its per-

The embassy, in the

northern suburb of

Awkar, "was subjected

to gunfire by a person

holding Syrian nation-

ality", the army said in

a statement on X, for-

was arrested and trans-

The army said it was

ported to hospital".

sonnel were safe.

be on-site at this stage. This is the worst and biggest landslide I have seen," he said.

"It is too dangerous to

Papua New Guinea is one of the world's most disaster-prone regions and landslides are extremely common in its highlands.

But the estimated 7,849 villagers near Mount Mungalo, in central Papua New Guinea were not prepared for the landslide that buried families and their homes in the early hours of May

While Edlyn Yaki managed to escape, her huschildren were buried.

Syrian Man Arrested After Shooting

Near US Embassy In Lebanon Capital

She sat in a white

makeshift aid tent, dressed in black clothes that others have given her. She had lost everything.

"I saw the other families who had fled, I was certain that I would see some of my family members. But unfortunately, all my family had been covered by the landslide," Yaki told UNDP Papua New Guinea.

After digging for 10 days and nights, she finally found the bodies of her two children and husband.

"But my daughter -- we still haven't found. She is still buried under the

"At this stage I can't do nothing but grieve."

Drought In Zimbabwe Leaves Children "Crying From Hunger"

The United Nations has appealed for \$429.3 million to help people affected by the drought.

HARARE, Jun 5 (Agencies): Mother of four Laiwa Musenza is already reliant on aid from a local NGO to feed her family and Zimbabwe's drought is only getting deeper.

"Imagine hearing your children crying from hunger when you cannot do anything about it," the 54-year-old said.

At a farm on the outskirts of the capital Harare, a queue of children, some as young as three, and a small group of elderly gather near two large cooking pans.

A volunteer calls out names from a register and, plate in hand, the hungry take turns to step forward and receive small portions of macaroni and a soy-

For most, it is their main, perhaps only, meal of the day.

The makeshift feeding station was the idea of Samantha Muzoroki and is the newest of five similar centres run by the immigration lawyer's Kuchengetana Trust.

It was started four months ago after parents at the Karibone Farm compound complained children were going to bed hungry as a result of crop failure in most parts of Zimbabwe.

Residents at Karibone earn a living from working part-time at neighbouring farms, but this year the farms had no jobs to



offer because of the drought. Budget halved

"We could only manage one meal per day. For those of us with young children it was particularly tough," Musenza told agency.

Kuchengetana, which means "looking after each other", provides two meals to an average of 1,500 children a day at its five kitchens.

But Muzoroki fears that her organisation may be overwhelmed as the drought continues.

"Our movement is donor driven. We have had a huge dip in donations. We are receiving \$400 every three months, down from \$600 which is way below half of our budget," Muzoroki

"We try to make sure that

every day everyone we cater for is able to get at least a meal a day if we fail to give them two meals.

"The drought is definitely going to affect us in many ways and I hope and pray that it doesn't lead us to closing any of our centres."

Zimbabwe is only one of a band of countries in Southern Africa experiencing food shortages due to the drought, which has been exacerbated by the El Nino climate phenomenon.

Last month, President Emmerson Mnangagwa declared a state of disaster, saying the country needed at least two billion dollars to respond to the drought.

At least 7.6 million people, almost half of the population, is in need of aid.

Skipping meals

The United Nations has appealed for \$429.3 million to help people affected by the drought.

UNICEF also launched an urgent \$84.9-million appeal last month "to provide lifesaving interventions... amidst a complex humanitarian crisis exacerbated by water and food shortages".

"Zimbabwe has been experiencing drought conditions now for a few months with failing harvests in key areas of agricultural production," UNICEF's Nicholas Alipui said.

Additionally, it is "experiencing overlapping emergencies through a cholera outbreak and we also have a situation of polio in the country", Alipui added.

In Epworth, a semi formal settlement east of the capital, families are skipping meals, while children are missing school as families struggle to find food. "We are having two meals

times we don't have food to

give the children and they miss

school."

a day instead of three," said merly Twitter. Letwin Mhande, a 36-year-old "Army personnel mother of four, whose fruit and deployed in the area vegetable store is struggling to responded to the sourcfind stock and customers. es of fire, wounding the "We eat once at midday and shooter," the statement once before going to bed, somesaid, adding that "he investigating the incident.

The US embassy said that "at 8:34 am local time small arms fire was reported in the vicinity of the entrance" to the high-security mission.

"Thanks to the quick reaction" of the Lebanese army, security forces "and our Embassy security team, our facility and our team are safe" it said on X.

It added that "investigations are underway and we are in close contact with host country law enforcement".

In September last year, a gunman opened fire at the US embassy, without causing casualties.

Lebanese police alleged the shooter was ing revenge for his perceived humiliation by security personnel.

a delivery driver seek-

That shooting coincided with the anniversary of a deadly 1984 car bombing outside the US embassy annexe in Beirut, which the United States blamed on the Iran-backed Hezbollah.

US diplomatic and military missions in Lebanon were attacked on a number of occasions during the 1975-1990 civil war when Islamic fundamentalists also took several US hos-

tages. The embassy relocated to Awkar after it was struck by a suicide attack in April 1983 that killed 63 people.

GDC Budhal celebrates World Environment Day

Top News Report

BUDHAL, June 5: The NSS and NCC units of Government Degree College, Budhal collaboratively organized an extension lecture on June 5 on the topic "Role of Green Technologies in Mitigating Climate Change" to celebrate World Environment Day, 2024. The event aimed to educate and inspire students on the importance of adopting green technologies to address the pivotal issue of climate change.

The session commenced with a cordial welcome address by Prof. Ishfaaq Ahmad,



emphasized the role of educational institutions in promoting environmental awareness. Prof. Tahir Mahmood, HOD English, beautifully carried out the proceedings of the programme whereas the essential technical support was provided by Wajid Ahmed Bhatti. The event featured Prof. Manzoor Ahmed Dar, HOD Botany, as the esteemed resource person. Prof. Dar elucidated the significant impact of green

ing the pressing issue of climate change, emphasizing advancements in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, energy-efficient practices and innovative waste management solutions. He highlighted the role of these technologies in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable development.

The event culminated with a formal vote of thanks, proposed by Dr. Atal Bharti, HOD Phys-

In acknowledgment of the NSS and NCC Units' efforts in organizing the event, the College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Mazammal Hussain, expressed that such events are of utmost importance to educate students regarding the important issue of climate change.

Vilakshan Singh expresses gratitude to voters for supporting JKNPP

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Vilakshan Singh, President of the J&K National Panthers Party, expressed his gratitude to the voters of J&K who supported the party's candidates in the recent Lok Sabha elections. He highlighted that the J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) was the sole recognized party in J&K to contest all five parliamentary seats in the Union Territory. Singh praised the dedication of the party's candidates, who tirelessly worked to connect with the electorate despite facing numerous challenges.

Singh emphasized the significant increase in the party's vote share in the valley, underscoring a threefold rise compared to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He extended congratulations to Hakim Arif Ali, the Election Incharge for Kashmir Province, and Farooq Ahmed Dar, the Provincial President Kashmir, for their pivotal role in the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections.

In Singh's view, the recent elections showcased the triumph of democracy. He said that the people have voted against the oppressive and anti people policies

KVK SKUAST-J Doda organizes one

cultivation of major Kharif Crops

day Training Programme on

of BJP. He asserted that the electorate's decision demonstrated to the BJP that no one is invincible. and those elected must prioritize public service, or risk being ousted by the electorate. Singh underscored the J&K National Panthers Party's acceptance across all regions of J&K.

Finally, Singh urged the public to support and strengthen the J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) in the assembly elections to realize the vision of Prof. Bhim Singh, who dedicated his life to serving the underprivileged and marginalized communities.

NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur celebrates World Environment Day



Top News Report

MAHANPUR, June 5: NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur in collaboration with Department of Physical Education celebrated World Environment Day on June 5. This year's theme of the World Environment Day is "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience." The Programme was organized by Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia, NSS P.O. and Dr. Jogbindar Singh Soodan, Physical Director under the supervision of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College. Several Environmental measures were taken in the College Campus to celebrate World Environment Day. Plantation, installation of water pots for birds and cleaning of dry pine needles were some of the environmental measures conducted in the campus. Many species of medicinal, ornamental and flowering plants were planted in the campus. Moreover, many water pots were installed in different areas of the College for the birds. Besides this, fallen dry pine needles underneath the pine trees were cleaned and collected as they not only prevent the growth of grass but also catch fire easily. The faculty members who were part of the Programme were Dr. Mohindar Nath Sharma, Nisha and Dr. Sapna.

The non-teaching staff who participated in the programme were Kishori, Kuldeep, Surjeet, Mangu Ram, Sunny, Anu, Anuradha and Shibo din. Refreshment was given to all the volunteers.

Astronomy Enthusiasts gather for Rare Planet parade in Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, June 5: In a rare astronomical event, students and teachers from Boys Higher Secondary School, 20 students from New Era School, 2 students SDM School, and 2 students from Jain Shashtri School witnessed a planet parade of six planets in the early hours of June 4.

The event was organized by the teachers and students of Boys Higher Secondary School in collaboration with Vyomika Space Lab.

Despite challenging weather conditions, the team successfully set up a GSO Dobsonian telescope, with Krishay and Danish setting it up and Rytham assisting. Teaching Arshad and Suneel Kotwal provided full support throughout the event

to students The students had to wait until 2 am on June 4 for the weather to clear, but their patience was rewarded with a spectacular view of the planet

Krishay addressed the students and families present, explaining the significance of the event and showcasing the planets through the telescope.

The planet parade was a unique opportunity for students to observe the alignment of six planets, fostering a sense of wonder and curiosity

about the universe. The event concluded with a sense of accomplishment and inspiration, encouraging students to pursue their passion for astronomy.

Twenty-five students waited until 4 am to witness the rare event. which was made possible by the dedication and hard work of the teachers and students involved. The event concluded at 7 am, with Suneel Kotwal, and Krishay thanking everyone for their participation.

The successful organization of this event highlights the importance of promoting STEM education and encouraging students to explore the wonders of the universe.



J, Doda organized one day training programme on "Cultivation of Major Kharif crops in district Doda" for the extension functionaries of Department of Agriculture, Doda at KVK Headquarter at Bhaderwah under the guidance of Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, SKUAST Jammu.

Dr. GN Jha, welcomed the extension functionaries in the training programme. He highlighted the importance of celebrating World Environment Day and awaring people about programmes.

Dr. AS Charak, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Doda delivered a talk on major crops grown in district Doda during Kharif season and management of insect, pest in these crops. He highlighted that due to global environmental changes, frequent rain, drought are observed globally, resulting intense insectpest & diseases (like cut worm, fall army worm, blast, etc) attack and damage to the standing crops. Further, he suggested some natural as

protection measures, adopting which, farmers can minimize losses. He also practically demonstrated the techniques related to judicious use of plant protection chemicals and implements with adopting all safety mea-

As per reports, the programme was attended by Sanjeev Kumar, Abid Farook, Arun Mehta, Rita Kotwal, Zaheer Ahmed, Ashok Kumar, Devinder Kumar, and other extension functionaries from the department of agriculture Doda. Programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. GN Jha, Scientist KVK Doda.

Judges reflect sense of continuity of values amid **Elections: CJI Chandrachud**

help the judiciary reach out to a wider section of society.

"Elections lie at the core of constitutional democracy ... judges are not elected in India and for a reason; judges reflect a sense of continuity of conditions, a continuity of constitutional values," he said in response to a question on the general elections, the results of which were declared earlier in the day.

"The judiciary has a vital role to play in a democracy, which is that we reflect a sense of tradition and we also reflect a sense of what the future of a good society should be," Chief Justice Chandrachud said

Asked about political and societal pressures he may have faced while handing down judgments, the Chief Justice stated that he has never faced a "sense of political pressure from the powers that be" in his 24 years as

"We live lives which are relatively isolated from the political arm of the government ... but obviously judges have to be conversant with the impact of their decisions on the polity at large. That's not political pressure but an understanding by the court of the likely impact of a decision," he said.

Chief Justice Chandrachud, who took questions from the student audience members, was asked about the Supreme Court's Special Marriage Act judgment that ruled against legalising same-sex marriage in India last

"I'm not here to defend the judgment because, as a judge, I believe once a judgment is delivered, it becomes the property of not just the nation but global humanity. The Special Marriage Act was a law enacted by Parliament ... which contemplates a marriage in a heterosexual relationship," he said, going on to share that he was in the minority in that case in a certain specific aspect as he was in favour of recognising civil unions for same-sex couples "until such time as Parlia-

ment stepped in". "Three of my colleagues didn't agree with us because they felt even the recognition of same-sex unions was beyond the purview of the court ... What happens in courts in modern democracies is not really to be looked at in terms of the substantive out-

comes of the case. The court is involved in a continuous process of dialogue, not only with the litigating parties but a dialogue with civil society," he said. This was the main motivation behind his

decision to livestream important constitutional cases, he added.

"We need to take the process of justice and the administration of law to the homes and the hearts of people," he said.

As an independent, student-led society with a membership primarily drawn from the University of Oxford, the Oxford Union Society, commonly referred to as the Oxford Union dates back to 1823 as one of the world's leading debating societies created to uphold the principles of free speech.

In his keynote address, Chief Justice Chandrachud spoke at length about the judiciary as an instrument of justice that brings order and certainty and combats the dehumanising effects in society through a humanising approach towards adjudication.

"Technological intervention has humanised the process for the parties and the administrative staff of our courts. It is my duty, however, to place a small caveat: I'm not a proponent of the complete automation of procedures. Since I believe that the absence of the human mind will remove the human element from the process," he noted.

"It is important that we understand and value the pros and cons of technological usage to ensure a humanised mechanism of justice. Artificial Intelligence is replete with unique possibilities for the future. We must also ensure that we impose guardrails to control Artificial Intelligence itself and not shift the process of communication from a judge to a robot," Chief Justice Chandrachud

Woman drug peddler detained under PIT NDPS Act in Kishtwar

NDPS Act to halt her activities and safeguard the youth of Kishtwar from falling into drug addiction, he said.

A special team apprehended the drug peddler and she is lodged in the Bhaderwah district jail, he added.

The SSP said the police's comprehensive strategy to tackle drug abuse includes organising awareness programmes across Kishtwar and taking stringent action against

Qayoom also sought people's support to tackle the drug menace and said there is no place for drug syndicates in Kishtwar.

FROM PAGE 1

Fire engulfs forest areas of Rajouri, Poonch

area near the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar belt and spread to nearby areas, they said. The administration, forest officials. army and locals are working to douse the flames, they added.

JPPF and Educational Institutions join forces to celebrate World **Environment Day**

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with several esteemed educational institutions, on June 5 with a series of impactful initiatives aimed at raising awareness and promoting environmental stewardship.

Aligned with this year's theme, 'Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience' our collective efforts will focus on bringing back healthy land, preventing environment and surroundings from getting polluted, and dealing with water shortages as trees, healthy soil, and clean water are vital for a healthy planet. From tree planting drives to educational workshops, JPPF and participating institutions are committed to fostering a deeper understanding of environ-

mental issues and inspiring positive action. MS Katoch (Working President) stated that more than 500 crores trees need to be planted in order to save the planet from extreme weather condition, he further said that "By partnering with educational institutions, we aim to empower the next generation of environmental leaders and instil a sense of responsibility towards our planet."

Throughout the year, JPPF will engage students and faculty in various activities to save the ecology, highlighting the significance of sustainable practices in mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity. Additionally, Mr M S Katoch appealed to the Govt and their departments to assist the organization for execution of all such activities so as to benefit the society at large. As part of our commitment to sustainability, JPPF encourages everyone to participate actively in World Environment Day activities and pledges to continue working towards a greener, more resilient future for all by logging on to our website www.jppf.in.

The Educational Institutions who signed MOU were Yogananda College of Engineering (Patoli, Jammu), IMS (Patoli, Jammu), National College of Education (Purkhoo, Jammu), Cambridge School (Purkhoo, Jammu), Kawa College of Education (Patoli, Jammu), Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing (Chak Bhalwal, Jammu), Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Pharmacy (Narwal, Jammu), Kawa College of Paramedical Sciences (Patoli, Jammu), Kawa Renewable Energy Pvt. Ltd, Shri Nanak Medical Institute of Health Sciences (Bishnah, Jammu), SDS Hospital (Bishnah, Jammu), Naveen Shiksha Kendra (Nagbani, Jammu), Tiny Tots School (Residency Road. Jammu) etc.

The prominent members of the organization present were Avinash Bhatia, Prof OP Sharma, Balwan Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Rajiv Mahajan, Ram Rattan Sharma along with Abhimanyu Katoch, Heena Jamwal, Ayush Katoch, Anjana Bavouria, Shalumol Jose, Arti Sharma (Asst Prof), Chanchal Shan, Amit, Dr. Sukhpeet, Dr. Shazia, Ajay Jamwal, Deepali Handa, Balbir Singh

Gulmarg's 'Jai Jai Shiv Shankar' song famed temple gutted in fire

Kasam" shot in 1974. Several fire tenders from nearby fire stations were rushed to the spot to douse the flames. The cause of the fire is being ascertained, the officials said.

The Maharani Temple was built by Mohini Bai Sisodhia, wife of Maharaja Hari Singh

Akhilesh Yadav and the mystery of his red scarf

which only paid lip service to 'local' while espousing the cause of 'videshi', he said. Yadav's use of the towel was picked up by other party workers and like the ram naami

(printed with the name of Ram) kerchief

became a distinctive piece of clothing. Uttar Pradesh is the third highest producer of fabric in the country. In 2022, the state government introduced a clothing and garment policy to improve the lot of its almost

six lakh weavers. On Tuesday, as the election results started to roll in, it became apparent that Yadav had used the garment to wipe off, not just the gruel of the polls; but also the might of his

opposition.

PM Modi tenders resignation to **President Murmu ahead of next Govt Formation**

The meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recommended the dissolution of the cabinet whose term ends on June 16.

Prime Minister @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Prime Minister tendered his resignation along with the Union Council of Ministers. The President accepted the resignation and requested the Prime Minister and the Union Council of Ministers...

According to the sources, as the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Janata Dal-United (JDU), the potential "kingmakers" have given the green signal, the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government and the swearing-in ceremony of PM Modi is likely to take place on June 8.

Woman injured in mortar shell blast dies in hospital in J&K

The condition of the other two is stated to be stable, they said.

They said Devi's body was handed over to her relatives after the completion of legal and medical formalities.

Results for all Lok Sabha constituencies declared: BJP wins 240 seats, Congress 99:

2019, eating into the BJP's share in Rajasthan and Haryana. As the Samajwadi Party kept the INDIA bloc's morale high in Uttar Pradesh with 37 seats, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), another key member of the opposition alliance, won 29 seats in West Bengal, higher than its 2019 tally of 22. The BJP, which had won 18 seats in the

last Lok Sabha elections, won 12 seats. The results did not throw up a landslide victory the BJP-led NDA had hoped for and what was projected by the exit polls.

More than 640 million votes were to be counted in the world's largest democratic exercise, conducted from April 19 to June 1 in seven phases.

NCC Unit of GDC Udhampur celebrates World Environment Day

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, June 5: The NCC cadets of 2 J&K girls battalion and 2 J&K boys battalion GDC Udhampur, under the patronage of principal Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta and the guidance of Col Munish Jasrotia commanding officer 2 J&K Girls bn and Col Rajesh Jasrotia Commanding Officer of 2 J&K boys bn, in collaboration with the Forest Department and the Department of Botany celebrated the World Environmental Day 2024. The Day was celebrated to put a spotlight on environmental challenges and the possible solutions to deal with it. To beat the heat, the cadets joined hands with the motto of global organizations like United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Tide Turners Plastic Challenge (TTPC) of

and Plastic Challenge of UNEP, Public servants associates of South Africa globally (PSA). Major General Navraj Dhillon General Officer Commanding (GOC) 71 sub area was the chief guest of the event. Brigadier Anil Jathalia Station Commander Military Station Udhampur was the quest of honour and Sh. Navneet Singh IFS Divisional Forest Officer Udhampur was the special guest of the occasion. Col. Parveen Singh, Col Q headquarter 71 sub area also presided over the function. The event was planned keeping in view the five goals, One Cadet One Tree, My Tree My Buddy, Lets Grow Green and Breathe Clean. Our Land Our Future, Not Me But You Too. The event started with lighting of lamp and bouquet presentation. It was followed by planta-

saplings of Amlook (Diospyrus kaki), Bottlebrush (callistemon), Pomegranate (Punica granatum), Arjun Tree (Terminalia Arjuna) and Sukhchain (Pongamia Pinnata) were planted in the Botanical Garden and college playground. It was followed by a poster making competition where eighteen cadets including fourteen SW cadets and four SD cadets displayed their creative expression artistically. The 1st prize was bagged by Tanya Sharma and 2nd prize was clinched by cadet Eesha Devi. The posters were displayed along the walls of Conference Hall serving as a visual reminder of the campaign's message. The posters were judged by Prof Shobna, HOD Zoology, Dr. Neena Sharma, HOD Botany, and Prof Shivi Mehra.

A seminar was also organised by 2 J&K boys

battalion, on the theme cadets for their dedication "Our Land Our Future". and determination turnout Total of eight cadets, in drill. While speaking on including four SD cadets the occasion, Divisional Forest Officer Udhampur, and four SW cadets, exhibited their knowledge Navneet Singh shared his and wisdom on the signifvaluable skills regarding combat forest fire and icance and importance of suggested ways and environment and its conservation. On the basis means to adopt sustainof content, language able and eco-friendly and delivery of speech, practices. Cadet Arnav Mahaian Principal of the colgot 1st prize whereas lege, Dr. Romesh Kumar cadet Aashish Singh Gupta, in his address

> for their vibrant involvement in the celebration of the World Environment Day. He also congratulated both the ANOs for the successful and fruitful conduct of the event. Prof Babu Lal Thakur, in his address, lauded the cadets as well as ANOs for their contribution in the well executed and ably culminated event. In the concluding remarks, a formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof.

Neena Sharma.

appreciated the cadets

Renault Nissan expands environmental commitment

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, June 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Limited (RNAIPL) is proud to announce its plans to rejuvenate five additional water bodies in and around Oragadam where the company is located. These water bodies are in addition to the ten lakes and ponds in the Oragadam/ Kanchipuram area that RNAIPL had already committed to revitalise in 2023, bringing the total number of water bodies protected and enhanced by RNAIPL as part of its environmental commitment to 15.

As part of its latest commitment, RNAIPL

will rejuvenate five more water bodies in the locality of Ezhichur, Kaduvanchery, Vanchuvancherry, Nariyampakkam villages during FY2024. These lakes will undergo comprehensive restoration measures aimed at improving water retention, enhancing biodiversity, and providing local communities with access to fresh drinking water.

Commenting on this initiative, Keerthi Prakash, Managing Director, RNAIPL, said, "At RNAIPL, water management is a core focus of our manufacturing operations. By revitalising these water bodies, we aim to not only enhance biodiversity but also support local communities and enhance their well-being by preserving natural resources. We believe in the power of collective action and initiatives like these can create a lasting positive impact on the ecosystem and the lives of people around us.'

Last year, RNAIPL initiated work to restore and rejuvenate ten lakes and ponds in and around Oragadam, Kanchipuram district, where its manufacturing plant is located. Today, significant progress has been made with rejuvenation efforts completed in nine out of the ten lakes and successfully handed over to the local authorities, enhancing the water resources and biodiversity for the neighbouring communi-

Saini felicitates MPs of Jammu & Udhampur for historic victory, congratulates PM Modi on Third Term

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Gurdeep Singh Saini, Co-Convenor of the BJP Panchayati Raj Cell in Jammu and Kashmir, today extended his heartfelt felicitations to the Members of Parliament from Jammu and Udhampur Lok Sabha constituencies on their historic election victories. Saini commended the tireless efforts and dedication of the MPs, recognizing their significant contributions to the development and progress of their respective regions.

In his statement, Gurdeep Saini emphasized the monumental nature of their achievements, highlighting the trust and confidence that the electorate has placed in their leadership. "The victory of our MPs from Jammu and Udhampur is a testament to their unwavering commitment to serving the people and addressing their needs. Their success is not just a personal triumph but a victory for the entire region," said Saini.

Gurdeep Singh Saini also took this opportunity to congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi on securing a third consecutive term in office. Saini expressed his admiration for the Prime Minister's visionary leadership and transformative

policies that have resonated with the people across the nation. "Prime Minister Modi's third term is a historic moment for India. The people have high hopes for him, and his leadership is crucial for realizing the dream of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

Gurdeep Saini reiterated the BJP's commitment to the principles of good governance, inclusive growth, and national development. He assured that the party would continue to work tirelessly under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi to meet the aspirations of the people and build a prosperous and strong India.

Suharwardy thanks voters for supporting INDIA Bloc

Top News Report

bagged 2nd prize. The

programme was judged

by Prof Shobna Sambyal,

HOD Zoology, Prof Rajni,

HOD Economics, Prof

Rosy Bamba, Depart-

Major Gen Navraj Dhil-

Ion, GOC 71 Sub Area,

during his interaction

with the cadets Major

Gen Navraj apprised

the cadets to develop

the habit of sustainable

development and save

their environment and

natural resources. He

further appreciated the

ment of Botany.

DODA, June 5: Provincial Sr-Vice President JKNC Khalid Najib Suharwardy while hailing the overall performance of INDIA Bloc at national level thanked the voters of Chenab region for supporting the INDIA bloc candidate Ch. Lal Singh in the recently concluded general elections from Kathua-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency. Suharwardy expressed his gratefulness particularly for the voters of Baniha, Doda and Inderwal Assembly Segments of the Parliamentary Constituency for voting overwhelmingly for the coalition candidate.

He said "Our conscious voters in Chenab region have once again affirmed their unwavering commitment in the people friendly agenda and approach of JKNC. The voters have lent their support

for the coalition candidate in accordance with the decision of the party President Dr. Farooq

Abdulla Sahib.' Suharwardy also conveyed his heartiest congratulations to Altaf Sahib, Agha Ruhullah Sahib and Hanifa Jan Sahib who have been elected from Anantnag-Rajouri, Srinagar and Ladakh Parliamentary Constituencies respectively with respectable winning margin. He also expressed his thanks to the NC District units of Kashmir and Rajouri Poonch for their tireless efforts and unrelenting commitment for the programs and policies of National Conference.

"Peoples' response to the call of party high command is a token demonstration of their belief in secularism, brotherhood and communal amity as practices by NC ever since "said Suharwardy.

BLSKS celebrates World Environment Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: To celebrate the "World Environment Day" and to promote the Folk Culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan in coordination with Sangam Tru Art production presented its 431ST Regular series musical play "Ped Lagao Desh Bachao" at Open Air Theatre Durga Bhawan Janipur, Jammu the theme of this year "Land Restoration, Stopping Desertification and Building Drought Resilience". A pledge was also administered by artistes of BLSKS on the theme of World Environment Day which was circulated by the Govt of India i.e. "Let's pledge to nurture nature so that our forests grow denser, air gets purer and oceans teem with life. Today let's wish that humanity lives in harmony with nature to balance the ecosystem and work towards preserving them. One Tree, One Life". The Program was inaugurated by Chief Guest VK Magotra, former Regional Director of Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ,Government of India, JK Raina, Producer, Director Films & Mukesh Singh Media Person were Guest of Honors. The day commemorated as "World Environment Day " as well with sole aim of rejuvenating the traditional, Primitive Folk, Art, Culture of J&K Region in particular and Indian nation in general awareness items. Specially prepared on the theme of like "Ped Lagao Desh Bachao", "Hariyali laye prithvi bachaen Hara bhra ho sansaar humara", " sundar sundar pyara pyara. Pardooshan ko rakhho door", "jivan ho shakti se bharpoor". Skits, Slogans Songs and Dances were presented to aware the masses and the music was composed by Music Director Mahesh Kotwal . The Chief Guest said it aims to raise aware-

ness, promote action. and encourage global cooperation on environmental issues and asked people to make collective efforts for building a better and greener world based on sustainability and lauded the efforts of the organizers in making such awareness programmes colorful and effective through the children of music and computer institutions. The program was recorded &: uploaded online

benefit of the people. Welcome address of Dr. ML Dogra, Chairman, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan said, World Environment Day is celebrated every year June 5 to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the

on Social Media for the

planet Earth and highlighted the importance of the day. We should follow the slogans i.e One Earth, One Chance - Protect Our Home." "Do Less, Try Again – For a Greener World." "Healthy Earth, Healthy Mankind." "Plant trees, save the future." On this World Environment Day, let us commit to taking action against plastic pollution by adopting sustainable practices and advocating for systemic changes.

Together, we can protect our oceans and ensure a healthier planet for future generations. Trees contribute to their environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. During the process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe. Dogra also said the Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan presenting more than 200 awareness programs this year through folk media in the far flung Villages of Jammu Province will be covered.

The singers, musicians and actors who performed were Rajni Gupta Bindia Okheda, Zulekha Bano, Naiya Digra, Renu Bala presented the enthralled performance. Master Deepak Kumar presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

University Campus Bhadarwah organizes Plantation Drive

Top News Report

BHADERWAH, June 5: In order to celebrate World Environment day, University Campus of Bhadarwah organised a Special Plantation drive here today.

The Department of Geography at the Institute of Mountain Environment spearheaded the function focussed on highlighting the menace of environmental degradation that has become a big challenge to the entire world in so far as survival of living beings is concerned.

On this occasion, both students and teachers enthusiastically planted trees across the campus, a release in this regard said.

The release stated that through a new initiative, each first-semester student will plant a tree and commit to nurturing it during his or her two-year course. "This

initiative spearheaded by Dr. Chhering Tandup, In-Charge Head of the Department of Geography, is supported by Prof. J. P. Singh Joorel, the Rector of Bhaderwah Campus," it further informed.

Meanwhile, Rector Bhaderwah Campus Prof. J. P. Singh Joorel congratulated the students and faculty of the Department of Geography for the initiative. He, however, emphasized the critical importance of tree plantation

environmental challenges," Joorel observed.

He further said that the event underscored the collective commitment of the Bhaderwah Campus community to fostering a greener and more sustainable environment.

"Plantation is the need of the hour This initiative will not only beautify our campus but also play a vital role in mitigating

"Geography Depart-

lings," he urged.

ment's ongoing efforts will serve as an inspiration for other departments and institutions to undertake similar environmentally conscious actions.' he added.

Dr. Chhering Tandup Incharge Department of Geography in his address highlighted the initiative's significance, stating, "Our goal is to instill a sense of environmental responsibility among students and contribute to the reduction of pollution, preservation of local ecosystem and overall improvement of biodiversity considering the campus.

Dr. Shayan Javed, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics also expressed his views on the occasion.

"The students should work for the betterment of society by planting sap-

Hardeep Kour, Naveen, Ramana Devi and Muskan were other dignitaries of the event.

World Environment Day celebrated at Aryans



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: To create awareness of the Environment and Nature. Arvans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh organized a tree plantation drive on World Environment Day, under the theme "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience". The students of Engineering, Law, Management, Nursing, Paramedical, Pharmacy, B.Ed, etc of Aryans participated in various activities including speech & poster making also.

Dr. JK Saini, Director, Aryans while interacting with students said that this day is celebrated on June 5 every year to remind people about the importance of nature. All kinds of ecosystem can be restored, including forests, farmlands, cities, wetlands and oceans. Restoration initiatives can be launched by almost anyone, He discussed.

On this occasion, a tree plantation drive was also organized & students from all departments participated enthusiastically.

Nissan registers consolidated wholesales of 6204 units in May

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, June 5: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) has announced wholesale figures of 6204 units for May 2024, showcasing a substantial surge from 3043 units in April 2024. Compared to May 2023 sales, Nissan

Motor India registered a growth of 34% with the total sales increasing from 4631 units in May 2023 to 6204 units in May 2024.

Of these, domestic wholesales accounted for 2211 units in May 2024, as against 2404 units in April 2024 and 2618 units sold in May

This month, export sales figures witnessed an impressive surge, reaching 3993 units, as against the April 2023 export wholesales of 639 units and 2013 units in May 2023. This impressive performance showcases Nissan's resilience to delivering exceptional

service quality and experiences to the customers.

Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said, "The optimistic mindset and a super solid effort by our team have played a pivotal role in driving our growth. It is truly inspiring to witness such collective effort leading

to exceptional results. As we move forward, our commitment to putting our customers first remains intact. We are dedicated to further expanding our reach and enhancing our offerings in the Indian market as we strive to exceed our customers' expectations at every step.

Two-day 'Varshik Niti Samvad Shivir' of NCC held in New Delhi

During the meeting, DG

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, June 5: A two-day 'Varshik Niti Samvad Shivir' of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) took place in New Delhi on June 4 and 5. The conference's primary focus was to review the progress of the ongoing expansion plan of NCC as per the Government directives to meet the aspirations of the youth. It was inaugurated by DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh and attended by Additional Directors General & **Deputy Directors General** representing NCC Directorates from across the

NCC highlighted the substantial efforts made in the last one year to enhance training, infrastructure and logistics functions of the NCC. He emphasised on the need for institutionalized training to be the raison de'être (reason for being) of all Directorates in order to meaningfully contribute towards nation building, social awareness and community development programmes. He reiterated NCC's unway-

ering commitment to

motivate young Indians

and transform them into

responsible citizens, in

sync with the Government policies towards making the country 'Viksit Bharat by 2047. The conference was

held at the newly-renovated Pratap Conference Hall, DG NCC Camp, Cariappa Parade Ground in New Delhi. The hall is named after Cadet Sergeant Pratap Singh of the 10th Punjab Battalion NCC, Gurdaspur who was awarded the Ashok Chakra Class III for his gallantry and selfless devotion to duty during firefighting operations at Gurdaspur Railway Station on September 13, 1965 during the war.

India open against gutsy Ireland in renewed quest for World Cup glory

NEW YORK, Jun 5 (Agencies): Sceptics call them 'old wine in new bottle' but a clutch of superstar Indian cricketers will leave no stone unturned to break away from their archaic template when they take on a plucky Ireland in their opening game of the T20 World Cup here today.

The team knows that it is a touch undercooked with a lot of confusion still persisting around what could be the best combination on a drop-in virgin strip. As is clear from the games so far, scoring won't be a walk in the park like it was during the IPL the last couple of months.

But the bigger concern is the baggage of being favourites who don't really make it count in the end.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have individually laid their hands on global silverware but an assortment of other cricketers, including Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja, have not and would be eager to know how it

The most poignant sight of last vear's ODI World Cup was a forlorn Rohit, desperately trying to cover his welled-up eyes from the TV cameras as he quietly climbed the steps of the Nar-



endra Modi Stadium dressing

There was also Kohli, who after scoring those 765 invaluable runs, could only get a fleeting blank gaze towards the podium where the trophy was kept. The best players sometimes don't add up to become the best team and while India have put faith in their most experienced lot, it can't be simply wished away that this current batch has faltered at the final two hurdles way too many times.

At 37, this could safely be termed as Rohit's last World Cup in the white-ball format.

A very gutsy Irish team with

some quality T20 players like Paul Stirling, Josh Little, Harry

Tector and Andy Balbirnie

awaits India. On a slow track and a substandard outfield at the Nassau County ground, how India play against Irish left-arm spinner George Dockrell will be inter-

Where India hold the advantage is their spinners who are way better compared to what the Irish team have though the pace attack, aside from Bumrah, looks a bit weak in absence of the redoubtable Mohammed Shami

Having too many options

sometimes is a headache, and so India have one at the top. To fit in skipper Rohit and team's most elite batter in Kohli, they have to probably sacrifice Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Rishabh Pant's batting at No. 3 in the practice game was like a breath of fresh air and Hardik Pandya's bowling form will indicate how India fare in this competition.

Batting legend Sunil Gavas-

kar feels Virat Kohli should open alongside skipper Rohit Sharma in India's T20 World Cup game against Ireland today with Yashasvi Jaiswal dropping down to the No. 3 position. There has been a lot of debate around Kohli's batting position in the T20 World Cup. Kohli has been India's designated No. 3 batter in the white-ball format for a long time. He heads to the marquee event on the back of an excellent IPL season. "Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to open the batting along with Yashasvi Jaiswal at three," Gavaskar told a TV channel while talking about his preferred batting-line up. Gavaskar picked the flamboyant Rishabh Pant ahead of Sanju Samson for keeping duties and Mohammed Siraj ahead of leftarm pacer Arshdeep Singh.

Netherlands open T20 World Cup campaign with six-wicket win over Nepal

The Dutch opted to bowl first and dismissed Nepal for 106 in 19.2 overs, led by captain Rohit Paudel's 37-ball 35



TEXAS. Jun 5 (Agencies): Netherlands beat Nepal by six wickets with eight balls remaining in a tight contest that was delayed by rain at the Grand Prairie here.

The Dutch opted to bowl first and dismissed Nepal for 106 in 19.2 overs, led by captain Rohit Paudel's 37-ball

Tim Pringle (3-20 in four overs) and Logan van Beek (3-18 in 3.2 overs) did the damage as Nepal lost wickets at regular intervals on a surface suited for fast bowlers.

Dutch opener Max O'Dowd led the successful chase, hitting 54

not out in 48 balls as his team finished on 109-4 in 18.4 overs.

Sompal Kami, Dipendra Singh Airee and Abinash Bohara took a wicket apiece. Nepal's hopes were briefly raised when Netherlands dropped to 80-4 in the 16th over after Bohara bowled Netherlands captain Scott Edwards (5).

But O'Dowd and Bas de Leede (11 not out) shared an undefeated 29-run partnership for victory.

India and Ireland meet in New York in the first of Wednesday's three games.

Australia takes on Oman at Bridgetown, Barbados and Papua New Guinea is against Uganda in Providence, Guyana.

Babar Azam banks on Shadab Khan, Haris Rauf's experience on 'unknown' USA pitches

DALLAS, Jun 5 (Agencies): Babar Azam addressed media personnel ahead of Pakistan's opener game of the T20 World Cup 2024 against the hosts USA at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas, Texas on June 6, Thursday. Babar admitted that the teams had not been aware of the conditions in the Americas yet. However, he banked on Pakistan players, including Imad Wasim, Haris Rauf and Shadab Khan's experience on the USA pitches. These players have taken part in the Major Cricket League in the USA. Rauf and Shadab represented San Fransisco Unicorns and Imad played for the Seattle Orcas

While speaking to the media. Babar showcased confidence in the Pakistan team to overcome the challenges and play to their strengths. "USA's team knows its conditions very well. Their players play all their cricket on these grounds. We will try to not repeat the mistakes we made in the past and our senior players have to take responsibility now. We rely on our strengths i.e. batting, as well as bowling, and I have full confidence in my team that we will get to see good cricket," Babar said.

The Pakistan team lost a 4-match T20I series 0-2 against England before coming into the T20 World Cup. They are expected to face a stiff challenge against the USA as well, who won the T20I series against Bangladesh and registered an emphatic win in their tournament opener against Canada by 7 wickets

Pakistan's quest for T20 World Cup

Babar admitted that the conditions in the USA could be a bit alien but wanted the players to give their best.

"The cricket that we have seen so far, there have not been a lot of sixes and fours. The teams are getting dismissed within 100 runs and no one is aware of the conditions as such.

But we can just have a look at the stats and see what to expect. We mostly have to rely on stats in such situations. We just want the players to step up and play no matter what the conditions are," Babar said.

"They do have some

idea of the conditions, like Imad, Haris and Shadab. They do have some idea as they have played cricket in the USA. That will help us a lot, and we will take the field while keeping in mind our plan, strengths, mindset during the T20 World Cup. Hopefully we will play good cricket," Babar added.

Babar exuded confi-

dence and kept Pakistan winning the T20 World Cup over his personal milestones. "I don't have any personal milestones for this tournament, my goals are secondary here. Our only goal is to win the World Cup for Pakistan" Babar took over the captaincy of the T20Is for Pakistan 2 months ahead of the marquee tournament from Shaheen Afridi.

Norway Chess: R Praggnanandhaa Loses To Magnus Carlsen; Vaishali Beats Anna Muzychuk

STAVANGER, Jun 5 (Agencies): Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa went down fighting against top seed Magnus Carlsen of Norway while his elder sister defeated overnight sole leader Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine in the eighth round of Norway chess tournament here. With the win, Carlsen stretched his lead to a full point over Hikaru Nakamura of United States, who lost to Firouzja Alireza of France. Meanwhile, World champion Ding Liren of China's dismal run continued as he lost to Fabiano Caruana of United States.

With just two rounds to go in the six-player double roundrobin tournament, Carlsen has 14.5 points ahead of Nakamura on 13.5. Praggnanandhaa on 12 is in third spot, a full point clear of Alireza.

Caruana is on nine occupying the fifth spot while Liren seemed to have resigned to his fate in this event being distant last on 4.5 points.

In the women's section, world champion Wenjun Ju of China scored over Pia Cramling of Sweden to surge ahead of the field on 14.5 points benefitting from Muzychuk's loss against Vaishali.

The Ukrainian remained in the second spot on 13 points,



1.5 points ahead of Vaishali and Tingjie Lei of China who accounted for Koneru Humpy in the other game of the day.

Humpy on eight points remained fifth in the standings, 3.5 points more than Cramling in the USD 161000 prize money tournament in both the sections.

All the three games in the in the men's category ended in draws in the Classical leading to Armageddon game as per tournament rules.

Carlsen could not really dent Praggnanandhaa's solid play in the Classical and with a laboured effort the world number one won a pawn but only ended up reaching a theoretically drawn rooks and pawns endgame.

However, in the return game, Praggnanandhaa could not match the guile of Carlsen and lost a handful of pawns while reaching the endgame wherein the Indian had two minor pieces against a rook. Eventually white's extra material had the final say.

In the Armageddon, the white player has ten minutes compared to black's seven but white needs to win the game.

For each win under Classical time control the players are awarded three points while in the Armageddon the winner gets 1.5 points compared to losers'

Nakamura remained within striking distance of Carlsen

despite losing to Firouzja Alireza in an exciting contest.

For Alireza, it was a good comeback and the Frenchman might fancy his chances in the last two rounds now.

Vaishali defeated Muzychuk for the second time in the event in the Armageddon. It was a finely played Classical game wherein neither players could reach an advantage but in the Armageddon Vaishali took advantage of her better placed rooks to call the shots.

Both players ran very short of time and Muzychuk was the one

Humpy's aspirations to make a comeback suffered a setback as she lost to Tingjie Lei. Humpy, known for bouncing back from difficult situations, now needs two wins to have a good finish in the event.

Results round 8 men: Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 14.5) beat R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 12) 1.5-1; Firouzja Alireza (Fra, 11) beat Hikaru Nakamura (Usa, 13.5) 1.5-1; Ding Liren (Chn, 4.5) lost to Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 9)

Women: R Vaishali (Ind, 11.5) beat Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 13) 1.5-1: Weniun Ju (Chn. 14.5) beat Pia Cramling (Swe, 5.5); Tingjie Lei (Chn, 11.5) beat Koneru Humpy (Ind, 8).

Sunil Chhetri's Last Dance In India's Must-Win Match Against Kuwait

KOLKATA, Jun 5 (Agencies): Emotions will run high when the talismanic Sunil Chhetri leads India out one last time in a crucial FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Kuwait here on Thursday, hoping to propel his team into the next round as a parting gift after dominating the national football landscape for 19 years. The 39-year-old Chhetri will hang his boots at the end of this match and would like to ensure that the team enters the final-18 stage of the World Cup qualifiers for the first time. The top two teams from nine groups of four teams each will go on to make the third stage. This round will decide FIFA's increased allocation of eight World Cup berths for Asia.

It will be a little far-fetched to imagine India in the 2026 World Cup in North America, but a win over Kuwait will take the team into the unchartered territory of being up against the best of Asia in at least 10 matches. That would also translate into some quality friendly games.

Occupying the second spot behind Qatar (12 points) in Group A with four points from four games, India are ahead of Afghanistan on goal difference and Kuwait, who have three points.

A victory here will put India firmly ahead of Afghanistan, who face Qatar in a tough fixture later on Thursday.

Afghanistan have a seven-goal deficit against India and a win against Kuwait will virtually keep the equation out of their

India face Qatar, while Afghanistan take

on Kuwait in the final round fixtures on Tuesday. For 19 years, Chhetri has carried the foot-

balling hopes of a nation labelled as the 'sleeping giant' of world football.

With 94 goals from 150 appearances and a dozen trophies in his cabinet, the diminutive Indian captain is a bonafide legend of the game. And it will be an evening of high emotions at the venue where his professional football career took shape with Mohun Bagan in early 2000s.

A packed crowd is expected at the Salt Lake Stadium to celebrate Chhetri's last dance

Chhetri has happy memories against Kuwait, having played a key role in the equaliser by Sahal Abdul Samad that forced a penalty shootout and eventually a 5-4 triumph for India in the 2023 SAFF Championship in Bengaluru.

That India had defeated Kuwait by a solitary goal from Manvir Singh in their group league opener in the away fixture in November last year will also be a moralebooster for Igor Stimac's side, who then suffered a slip-up by going down to Qatar



Then came the Asian Cup shock where the team drew a blank, losing all its three matches and failing to score even a single

It went from bad to worse for India, who resumed their World Cup qualifiers against Afghanistan, and failed to score in a goalless draw.

More misery was in store in their home match in Guwahati where the Blue Tigers suffered a 1-2 defeat, conceding a late goal to the South Asian neighbours.

The struggles against Afghanistan reveal deeper issues plaguing the national team. Despite creating opportunities, India's inability to finish crucial chances will be a significant concern.

The shortcoming was quite pronounced

against Afghanistan as the team managed just one shot on target compared to Afghanistan's five in their shock 1-2 defeat in Guwahati Midfielders Anirudh Thapa and Lallianzuala Chhangte also failed to make an impact, exacerbating the problem. Their lack of creativity and precision, made worse by ineffective ball control and passing, contributed to India's misery.

In between the sticks, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who at 71 matches is the next most experienced after Chhetri, will also have to step up. His penalty concession due to a communication failure resulted in Afghanistan scoring the winner in March. But India will be coming in with solid prep-

aration for this match. They have made some interesting addi-

tions in I-League forwards Edmund Lalrindika (Inter Kashi) and David Lalhlansanga (Mohammedan Sporting) who will be aiming to become the first players in five years to make national debuts from the second tier league.

The defence, however, will have to cope with the absence of Sandesh Jhingan who has been sidelined due to an injury from the Asian Cup in January.

It remains to be seen if the likes of Rahul Bheke, Anwar Ali and Subhasish Bose will be able to compensate for his absence, especially the aerial strength he has provided over the years.

Focus will also be on Lallianzuala Chhangte, who had a strong 2023-24 ISL season, scoring 10 goals and providing six assists for Mumbai City FC.

He will look to carry this form against Kuwait, who will have the firepower of Hassan Al-Enezi in the defense.

Kuwait are coming to the game after routing Afghanistan 4-0 with their key forward duo of Shabaib Al Khaldi and Mohammed Daham scoring three goals between them. The duo will once again be a big threat to the Indians.

Kuwait will also have Mohsen Ghareeb who performed well in their previous encounter, will be tasked with stopping Chhangte if he starts in the left-back posi-

Squads:

India: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (GK); Nikhil Poojary, Subhasish Bose, Anwar Ali, Jay Gupta; Jeakson Singh, Anirudh Thapa; Naorem Mahesh Singh, Brandon Fernandes, Lallianzuala Chhangte; Sunil Chhetri.

Kuwait: Sulaiman Abdulghafour (GK); Rashed Al-Dosary, Khalid El Ebrahim, Hassan Al-Enezi, Salman Bormeya; Eid Al-Rasheedi: Hamad Al-Harbi, Faisal Zayed, Azbi Shehab, Mohammad Daham; Yousef Nasser.

GDC Udhampur celebrates World Environment Day

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, June 5: Department of Environmental Sciences, GDC Udhampur, in collaboration with IQAC and NSS unit under the patronage of Prof. Dr Ramesh Kumar Gupta celebrated June 5 as World Environment Day under the theme of the year, "land degradation, desertification and Drought resilience". The programme was officially started by Prof. Asha Sohil, Head Department of Environmental Sciences by welcoming all the students that included the students of second semester, students of NSS unit and students from PG Department of Hindi and Chemistry. The schedule of the program was divided into two phases. The students of the college conducted a cleanliness drive in the college campus in the first phase to mark the initiative of restoring the degraded lands into more healthy



forms. The purpose of the cleanliness drive was to spread awareness among the community and young generation towards the restoration of unhealthy, unproductive and polluted lands towards more productive, healthy land for sustainable future.

Protecting the land Resource is also one of the sustainable developmental goals. In the second half of the event. a poster and slogan writing competition was held, all the students participated with great fervour. The slogan writing competition was evaluated by Prof. Shobna Sambyal, Head Department of Zoology and Prof. Tania Mahajan. The first position was secured by Ridhima Rathore (Semester 2nd), Suman Manhas and Simran Bharti (Semester

2nd) shared 2nd position

while Khushi Puri and Renu Devi (2nd Semester) secured 3rd position. For Poster Making Competition, 1st and 2nd position was secured by Shapali Thakur and Ahina Firdous from PG department of Chemistry. Prof. Babu Lal Thakur, Head Department of Education, was the chief guest and Prof. Shobna Samyal was guest of honour of the event. Prof. Babu Lal

Thakur emphasized on the importance of land resource for present generation as well as for the sustainable future of all the living organisms on earth. He concluded the event by the remarks with certain examples that will help to restore the land and make it a better resource, to reduce the amount of waste generated, afforestation and reforestation, organic agriculture. He also emphasized that the students should spread this awareness and this knowledge among their neighbors and the community, as a responsibility and duty of the institution as well as the young stakeholders for the better future. The program was coordinated by Asha Sohil and the NSS coordinators, Dr Gurpreet Kaur and Prof. Sanjeet. The event was concluded with formal vote of thanks by Prof. Manisha Kanchru, faculty Department of Environmental Sciences

GDC RS Pura organizes Plantation and Awareness Drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: World Environment Day is a global platform that encourages positive change in the environment. To encourage awareness and action for the protection of the environment, every year the June 5 is celebrated as World Environment Day. To celebrate the day, NCC units, NSS Unit along with Department of **Environment Science of** GDC RS Pura organized a multiple events based on the theme Beat Plastic Pollution under the banner of IQAC of the college and Mission Life initiative. The Volunteers of NCC and NSS of the college participated with great zeal, enthusiasm and fervor. The college held various events that started with a poster making competition among the volunteers followed by the Plantation Drive in the college. The entire program concluded with the Awareness rally in the markets of R S Pura in which the volunteers showcases the urgent need to save



environment and how can we all help to make the world a better place by individual efforts and could led to resolution

environmental concerns. These multiple events were organized under the able guidance of Dr Rajni Bhagat, Principal of the college. She apprised the students that together we could address the issue of global warming and should adopt environment eco-friendly habits and this day gives us a platform for raising public awareness against climate change and other environmental issues like marine pollution, unexpected growth in human population, global warming, wildlife consumption.. The entire programme was coordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral (NSS PO), Prof Priya Darshani (HOD, Department of Environment Science) and Dr Rakesh Choudhary (NCC ANO) of the college. Dr. Neena Gupta and Dr. Kiran Pathania were among the senior faculty members present on the occasion and applauded the efforts of the students and organising teams. Other members who participated in these events were Dr Sudesh Kumar, Dr Hari Singh, Dr Rakesh Kalotra and Dr Sunil Kumar Mangoch. Certificates were awarded to all the active participants.

25 Students of AESL Jammu become top scorers in NEET UG 2024



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces the outstanding achievement of 25 of its students from Jammu who scored 650 and above in the prestigious NEET UG 2024 examination. This remarkable feat is a testament to their hard work. dedication, and the highquality coaching provided by AESL. The results were announced by the **National Testing Agency** (NTA).

5 notable students who scored 700+ are Deedwer (State Topper) secured AIR 176 by scoring 715, Vanshika Sharma secured AIR 730 by scoring 707, Akshita Gupta secured AIR 1576 by scoring 701, Tvisha Gupta secured AIR 1610 by scoring 701, and Aarav Sharma secured AIR 1845 by scoring 700.

The students enrolled in AESL's classroom program to prepare for NEET, widely regarded as one of the toughest entrance exams globally. They attribute their remarkable success to their rigorous understanding of concepts and strict adherence to a disciplined study schedule. "We are grateful that Aakash has helped us with both. But for the content and coaching from AESL, we would not have grasped many concepts in different subjects in a short period of time," the students expressed.

Congratulating students on their extraordinary achievement, Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), said, "We congratulate the students for their exemplary feat. This remarkable success is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and perseverance. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and are confident that they will continue to excel in their future endeavors. Over 20 lakh students appeared for NEET 2024 from across the country. Their achievement speaks volumes of their hard work and dedication as well as the support of their parents. We wish our students all the best in their future endeavors. NEET is conducted annually by National Testing Agency as a qualifying test for students who wish to pursue undergraduate medical (MBBS), dental (BDS) and AYUSH (BAMS, BUMS, BHMS, etc.) courses in government and private institutions in India and also, for those intending to pursue primary medical qualification abroad.

TMF chairman greets public on World Environment Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Team Mask Force chairman Vijay Sharma in a press release here this afternoon greeted people of JKUT on world's Environment day which is celebrated on 5th June every year. Sharma in his statement said we cannot turn back time, but we can grow forests, revive water sources, and bring back soils. We are the generation that can make peace with land. We have to learn how everyone can

help restore land, prevent desertification and droughts.world Environment day in 2023 focused on solutions to plastic pollution. And whereas in 2022 the theme emphasized "Only one Earth & Need to bring people and nature back into balance .In 2021 the theme called for global urgent action to revive our damaged ecosystems their generation & restoration. He called for immediate remedial measures to be adopted by each & every individual to save mother Earth for survival of humanity.

ACD JKAS briefs media correspondent of Times of Kishtwar about ongoing development in area

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, June 5: Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Phulail Singh (JKAS), during his maiden tour to Block Thakrie, briefed the media correspondent of "Times of Kishtwar" about the ongoing developmental works and public grievances in the area

He stated that numerous development projects are underway across

various Panchayats of Block Thakrie. Regarding the construction of Panchayat Ghar Anjole, directions have been issued to BDO Thakrie and the concerned contractor to expedite the held-up work. They have also been asked to share weekly progress reports.

Additionally, instructions have been given to dismantle the unsafe building of Panchayat Ghar Dharbadan, which has developed cracks.

A new survey for the construction of the Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) will be conducted. An enquiry will also be launched to determine why previous work was not carried out according to the set guidelines.

All works under MGN-REGA, Capex Budget and SBM will be thoroughly checked to ensure compliance with the standards

GPWJ organizes Standard Writing Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 5: Government Polytechnic for Women Jammu (GPWJ), organized a Standard Writing Competition in collaboration with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), JKBO, Bari Brahmana, on June 5 under the guidance of our esteemed Principal, Er. Suket Gupta. In the event, 47 students participated. The Resource person from BIS Jammu, Dr. Rhythm Basson, informed the students about the motive of the event and importance of Quality of products in daily life. She also informed them how to check the authenticity of items by checking of license details on BIS Care app.

Er. Ankita Gupta, BIS Mentor GPWJ, apprised the participants about the rules and regulations for writing the standards. Anandi Singh (2nd Sem Computer) bagged 1st prize, Anushoka Ambardar (4th Sem) bagged 2nd prize, Saher (2nd Sem Computer) got 3rd prize and Palak Devi (4th Sem) was given the Consolation prize. These cash prizes were handed over to the winners by Principal. GPWJ along with the BIS team.

GDC Ramnagar celebrates World Environment Day





Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, June 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Nature's Club, NSS and NCC Units of Government Degree College Ramnagar organized a daylong event to celebrate World Environment Day 2024 in collaboration with Forest Department Ramnagar Division under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnaish Chand (Principal GDC Ramnagar).

The event consisted of five sessions in which 80 students were present.

In the first session, Plantation drive was carried out in the college campus which was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnaish Chand Naresh Majotra (DFO), Ashish Thakur (Ranger) Nature's Club, NSS Unit, NCC Unit, Teaching and Non-Teaching staff of the college. Approximately 20 saplings were planted in the campus.

In the second session, an awareness lecture on

the theme "Land Restoration. Desertification and Drought Resilience" was delivered by the resource person Naresh Majotra (DFO).

In the third session, a pledge ceremony was organized in which all present vowed to save the environment and contribute in every possible manner.

In the fourth session, an orientation by Naresh Majotra (DFO) was provided for summer internship program in the field of **Environmental Sciences** and Forestry which will be taken up by 85 students of the college. There was question- answer session

at the end of orientation. The last session consisted of cleanliness and deweeding drive which was taken up in the campus by NCC cadets and NSS volunteers, under the convenorship of Dr. Puyesh Kant Sharma (CTO) and Prof. Ritika Mahajan (PO).

Dr. Bhavnaish Chand, Principal in his address congratulated Nature's Club, NSS and NCC Units for organizing the event. He also threw some light on the issues of land restoration, desertification and drought resilience.

All the proceedings of the event were caried out by Dr. Sham Singh Kotwal, HOD Geology. The entire program was organized by Prof. Sumita Rao (Convenor Nature's Club), Prof. Ritika Mahajan (PO NSS) and Dr. Puyesh Kant Sharma (CTO NCC), Dr. Sham Singh and Prof. Sonia Raj. Other prominent faculty members present in the occasion were Prof. Ashni Devi, Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Dr Kewal Kumar, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pandit, Prof. Manmohan Singh, Prof. Jatinder Lal, Dr Sunil Kumar, Prof. Nazakat Hussain, Prof. Tanmeet Kour and Prof. Sanjay Malhotra.

The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Ritika Mahajan (PO NSS), HOD Chemistry.

Fun-filled Green Picnic marks Environment Day at SPPND GDC Samba

Top News Report

SAMBA, June 5: Basantar-Eco Club and Maitri-NSS Unit of Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, GDC Samba organized a funfilled Green picnic to commemorate World Environment Day. A series of events were organized on the occasion-an amalgamation of celebrating nature together with instilling a deeper sense of responsibility toward environment. The program kick started with Plant a sapling event by the worthy Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri. In her address,



she urged every faculty member to contribute towards protecting Mother Nature. She also highlighted the importance of investing in a greener and healthier future for generations to come, by planting more and more trees.

She appreciated the Gogreen initiative undertaken by the college staff. Every faculty member participated in the sapling plantation drive with great fervor. Bird feeders and nests were also hung within the college premis-

es by the faculty of the college followed by thoughtprovoking screening of three documentaries on environmental issues like climate change and plastic pollution. A captivating poetry recitation session was also hosted whereby

tions on nature conservation and the urgent need for environmental stewardship through a poetic tribute to Mother Earth. The event concluded with a delicious green fiesta offering sustainable greens for the students and faculty. In line with this year's

faculty shared their reflec-

theme of World Environment day which focuses on Land restoration, stopping desertification and building drought resilience, the college stands firm in its commitment to environment sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).