

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 05, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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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

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 votes.

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

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

JAMMU, Jun 5 (AGENCIES): Bharatiya 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 kisan 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

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (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, count-



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 BJP-led 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 popularity.

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 half-way mark.

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

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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 office. This came after the

Cabinet meeting held here in the national capital on Wednesday.

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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 Government Medical College here in the early hours of Wednesday, the officials said.

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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 play in society, the senior-

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

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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

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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 said.

In Poonch, the fire erupted in Bhatadurian

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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

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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 hillcock, 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

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Akhilesh Yadav and the mystery 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 prominent—a light red handwoven towel across Akhilesh Yadav's shoulders.

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

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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, fruit-bearing, 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 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, community-based organizations, and various government entities in these efforts.

The Department of School Education has encouraged Eco-clubs

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 Affairs will help spread the message globally.

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.

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.

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

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

Sciences on Land restoration 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 Chuniara, 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 Trikutanagar,

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 Commission, 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 'Bhramiri', 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.

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 talent.

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 mandate delivered by 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 party-men, in flagrant violation of democratic principles, repeatedly threatened Opposition-held 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

Life 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 peren-

nial 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 ceremony



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 clean-up drive and a poster-making competition on environmental themes. The creativity and enthusiasm displayed by the participants underscored the importance of involving young people in efforts to protect the environment.

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 celebration 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

journey," said Er. Sajad 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

Mottan Cricket Tournament, defeating Rathua Cricket Club at Shahzadpur, today.

Thirty two clubs partici-

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 patronship 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 of same nature was also held at AH GMC Doda, which was attended by MS GMC Doda and NHM Staff.

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 Bharderwah, where the visiting team along with other health functionaries interacted with staff and reviewed functioning of all health programmes and services being provided to the community.

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 ever found.

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 Sha-keela Wani along with many Supervisors and event was organised with the objective to raise awareness regarding the

role of poshan department 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 Vitaka.

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 AWCs.

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 elections.

"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 I am 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 nation."

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 JKPC Kishwar, 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-

ish 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 Kishwar, 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) CVPPL was the Guest of Honour. Additional guests included Dr. Mohan Snehi (Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee Kishtwar) and Dr. Ravi

Sharma (Senior Manager Environment, Kiru HE 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 Chattroo, 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.

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 unconstitutional.

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 actors-turned-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 singer-turned-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



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

not stick to one party! For the unversed, Hans joined politics with Shiromani Akali Dal and for a brief period stayed with Congress, before shifting to BJP in 2016.

NCR scenario

When actor Raj Babbar's name was announced as the Congress candidate from Gurugram at the last minute, many eyes rolled. The actor had faced defeat during the 2019 and met the same fate in 2024.

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 Kumar.

Veterans fight

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 Asansol, West Bengal, was veteran actor and politician Shatrughan Sinha and he won against the BJP candidate. Sinha had won

the 2022 Asansol bypoll following the resignation of Babul Supriyo, who served as a two-time 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 actresses-turned-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-turned-politician, 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.

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



Sofia 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 co-star 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."

Raj Babbar, who lost, is grateful 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 five-time 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 Praetik 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.

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. Flora 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 career

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: Quantumania.

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

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 Modi in forming the government. Modi has got a majority. The NDA will form the government under Modi'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 Minister 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.

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-command, 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," JD(U) 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 members.

All 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 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 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 building.

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 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 resi-

dential 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 competition.

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 'porn-free' 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 non-negotiable 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 zone".

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. Make-shift 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.

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

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 24.

While Edlyn Yaki managed to escape, her husband, father and three children were buried.

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 rocks," Yaki said.

"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 soybean stew.

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 said.

"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 a day instead of three," said Letwin Mhande, a 36-year-old mother of four, whose fruit and vegetable store is struggling to find stock and customers.

"We eat once at midday and once before going to bed, sometimes we don't have food to give the children and they miss school."

Syrian Man Arrested After Shooting Near US Embassy In Lebanon Capital



BEIRUT, Jun 5 (Agencies): A Syrian man was arrested after a shooting Wednesday near the US embassy in Beirut, the Lebanese army said, with the diplomatic mission saying its personnel were safe.

The embassy, in the northern suburb of Awkar, "was subjected to gunfire by a person holding Syrian nationality", the army said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter.

"Army personnel deployed in the area responded to the sources of fire, wounding the shooter," the statement said, adding that "he was arrested and transported to hospital".

The army said it was

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

a delivery driver seeking revenge for his perceived humiliation by security personnel.

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 hostages.

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

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 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

UNEP, Mission Life, 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 guest 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-

tion drive where in 200 saplings of Amlook (Diospyros 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 "Our Land Our Future". Total of eight cadets, including four SD cadets and four SW cadets, exhibited their knowledge and wisdom on the significance and importance of environment and its conservation. On the basis of content, language and delivery of speech, Cadet Arnav Mahajan got 1st prize whereas cadet Aashish Singh bagged 2nd prize. The programme was judged by Prof Shobna Sambyal, HOD Zoology, Prof Rajni, HOD Economics, Prof Rosy Bamba, Department of Botany. Major Gen Navraj Dhillon, 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

cadets for their dedication and determination turnout in drill. While speaking on the occasion, Divisional Forest Officer Udhampur, Navneet Singh shared his valuable skills regarding combat forest fire and suggested ways and means to adopt sustainable and eco-friendly practices. Principal of the college, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, in his address appreciated the cadets 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.

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 communities.

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

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 heartfelt congratulations to Altaf Sahib, Agha Ruhullah Sahib and Hanifa Jan Sahib who have been elected from Anantnagar-Jajouri, 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 unremitting commitment for the programs and policies of the Coalition 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". "Hariyali laye prithvi bachaen Hara bhra ho sansaar humara", "sundar sundar pyara pyara. Pardooshan ko rakkho 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 awareness, 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 on Social Media for the 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

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 rakkho 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 awareness, 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 on Social Media for the benefit of the people.

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

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 saplings," he urged. 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, Aryans 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.

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

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

country. During the meeting, DG 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 d'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 unwavering 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.

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

2023. This month, export sales figures witnessed an impressive surge, reaching 3993 units, 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."

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 Samyals 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 Environmental 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 showcased 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

crimes and sustainable consumption.. The entire programme was coordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral (NSS PO), Prof Priya Darshani (HOD, Department of Environmental 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 high-quality 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 day-long 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 de-weeding drive which was taken up in the campus by NCC cadets and NSS volunteers, under the con-venorship 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 carried 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 fun-filled 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 Go-green 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 premises

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

faculty shared their reflections 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 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.