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PAK POLITICIAN'S SOCIAL MEDIA POST FOR KEJRIWAL ON POLING DAY INVITES BJP'S IRE - PAGE -9

Jharkhand records around 63 pc voter turnout, polling peaceful

Jamshedpur registers highest polling at 66.79 per cent, Giridih sees 66.14% turnout, Ranchi 60.10%, Dhanbad 59.20%

UCIL employee dies during election duty

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: John Mardi (35), an employee of UCIL assigned to polling duty, passed away in the evening at Tata Main Hospital after falling ill while on election duty. Mardi was stationed at the Jaduguda processing plant of UCIL and had been deployed to the Gudabhadra block office for election duty. His health deteriorated around 11 o'clock, prompting his transfer to Dhalbhumgarh Primary Health Center for initial treatment. However, due to the severity of his condition, he was subsequently transferred to Tata Main Hospital for advanced medical care, where he was pronounced dead by doctors. John Mardi, a resident of SitaDaga in the Jaduguda police station area, is survived by his wife, two children, and a large extended family, including parents and a brother. His sudden demise while on election duty has sparked interest and concern in the Jaduguda community. (w/nkm)

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 25: Polling was held peacefully in four Lok Sabha constituencies in Jharkhand on Saturday with a voter turnout of 62.74 per cent, officials said.

Voting commenced at 7 am in Giridih, Dhanbad, Ranchi and Jamshedpur constituencies. It was peaceful in all the four constituencies, officials said.

"A voter turnout of 62.74 per cent was recorded in Jharkhand today. Jamshedpur registered the highest polling at 66.79 per cent, followed by Giridih (66.14 per cent), Ranchi (60.10 per cent) and Dhanbad (59.20 per cent)," Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) K Ravi Kumar said. He said in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Giridih had registered 67.12 per cent voter turnout, Dhanbad

60.47 per cent, Ranchi 64.49 per cent and Jamshedpur 67.19 per cent. The turnout is being updated and it is likely to increase further, he said.

"The voting remained peaceful across four Lok Sabha constituencies, excluding some cases of MCC (model code of conduct) violations. Three FIRs have been filed for violation of MCC," Kumar said. The CEO said that an unfortunate incident took place in Jamshedpur Lok Sabha seat where a polling staff member died.

"The staff identified as JaanManjhi, who was deployed at Ghorabandha under Jamshedpur Lok Sabha seat, complained of uneasiness. He was immediately taken to Tata Main Hospital but he died in the course of treatment," Kumar said. Jharkhand police

Malfunctioning EVMs, VVPATs, control units replaced

Ranchi, May 25: Jharkhand state additional chief electoral officer Neha Arora said that till now 14 ballot units, 8 control units and 43 VVPATs have been changed during the voting. Neha Arora said that in Dhanbad, 6 ballot units, 4 control units and 8 VVPATs have been changed due to technical glitches. At the same time, only 14 VVPATs were changed during voting in Giridih. Four ballot units, 2 control units and 14 VVPATs were replaced in Jamshedpur. In Ranchi, four ballot units, two control units and seven VVPATs have been changed.



Village head on his way to vote trampled to death by elephant

Jamshedpur, May 25: Surendranath Hansdah, the 65-year-old village head of Gobarabani village in Muturkam Panchayat, Baharagora block of East Singhbhum district, was trampled to death by a wild elephant. The incident occurred on Saturday morning as Hansdah was on his way to the polling booth at Dholabeda through the forest to cast his vote.

According to reports, Hansdah was attacked by a wild elephant, which led to his immediate death at the scene. The news of the incident quickly spread, and a crowd of villagers gathered at the spot. The forest department has been notified of the tragedy.

Local residents have expressed growing concern as elephants have been causing havoc in the area for several days. An estimated 25 wild elephants are reportedly roaming the region, posing a significant threat to the safety of the villagers.

Phase 6: 59.06 pc voter turnout recorded, West Bengal leads with 78.19 pc



New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) The sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections for 58 parliamentary constituencies witnessed a cumulative voter turnout of 59.06 per cent, as per the data shared by the Election Commission on Saturday (May 25). As per the poll body, West Bengal recorded the highest voter turnout of 78.19 per cent, followed by Jharkhand 62.74 per cent, Odisha 60.07 per cent, Haryana 58.37 per cent, Delhi 54.48 per cent, Uttar Pradesh 54.03 per cent, Bihar 53.30 per cent, and Jammu and Kashmir 52.28 per cent. The phase six of polling also saw violence with panchayat-level leader of the ruling- TMC being killed in East Midnapore district just hours before the voting began.

said all 8,963 booths were being closely monitored. Of these, 186 are being managed by women and 22 by youth. Additionally, there are 15 unique booths, showcasing the specialties of the respective areas.

About 36,000 poll personnel have been deployed in this phase, Kumar said. In the Ranchi Lok Sabha seat, Congress' Yashaswini Sahay, daughter of former Union minister Subodh Kant Sahay, is contesting against BJP MP Sanjay Seth. Dhanbad is witnessing a fight between

BJP's Baghmara MLA Dulu Mahato and Congress' Anupama Singh, the wife of the party's Bermo legislator Kumar Jaimangal.

In Jamshedpur, BJP MP Bidyut Baran Mahato has been pitted against JMM's Baharagora MLA Samir Mohanty. In Giridih, AJSU Party's Chandra Prakash Chaudhary is up against JMM's Tundi MLA Mathura Mahato. A student leader, Jairam Mahato, has added a twist to the contest by challenging candidates of both the INDIA bloc and the NDA.



spokesperson and IG Operations, Amol V Homkar said no untoward incident was reported from any place and a very good voting took place even in the Maoist-hit pockets such

as Parasnath Hills and Pirtand in Giridih and Jhumra and Luguburu in Bokaro.

Homkar said as many as 764 polling booths fell under Maoist-affected cate-

gory. Twenty-seven candidates are in the fray from Ranchi, 25 each from Dhanbad and Jamshedpur, and 16 from Giridih.

Around 82.16 lakh voters

are eligible to cast their votes in these four constituencies, with Dhanbad having the highest number of electors at 22.85 lakh, and Giridih having the lowest at 18.64 lakh. The CEO

24 dead in gaming zone fire in Gujarat's Rajkot, 9 were children

Rajkot, May 25 (IANS): At least 24 people, including 9 children, died after a massive fire broke out at a gaming zone in Gujarat's Rajkot on Saturday.

Several people are feared trapped after the entire facility at the TRP Game Zone was engulfed in flames.

Four fire brigade vehicles rushed to the scene to bring the blaze under control and initiate a rescue operation. Efforts to control the fire and rescue any trapped individuals are underway.

The blaze erupted at a temporary structure in the TRP game zone, as per report. The cause of the fire remains unknown at this



time. Visuals from the site showed officials involved in firefighting operations.

Rajkot Police Commissioner Raju Bhargava confirmed that around 20 bodies have been recovered. "We are trying to retrieve as many bodies as possible. As of now,

around 20 bodies have been recovered, and they have been sent to the hospital for further investigation. Investigations will be carried out," Raju Bhargava said. He said that the gaming zone is owned by a person, identified as Yuvraj Singh Solanki.

In age of LED bulbs, lantern lights up just one house in Bihar: Modi

Patliputra (Bihar), May 25 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday accused the Rashtriya Janata Dal and Congress of undermining constitutional principles by conspiring to allocate SC/ST/OBC quotas to their vote bank and also emphasised that RJD's lantern lights up just one house, keeping the rest of Bihar in a state of darkness during their reign.

Addressing a massive election rally in the Patliputra Parliamentary constituency, PM Modi highlighted Bihar's role in championing social justice, saying the people of the state have fought a long battle for the right to reservation for SC-ST-OBC communities.

"However, I would like to reveal a bitter truth today. The RJD-Congress and their allies are betraying these very communities. The Constitution and Baba Saheb Ambedkar clearly stated there should be no reservation based on religion. Yet, the RJD-Congress are conspiring to allocate SC-ST-OBC quotas to their vote



bank, undermining constitutional principles," he said.

PM Modi added: "Every caste, including Yadav, Kurmi, Kushwaha, Kalwar, Teli, Suri, Kanu, Nishad, Paswan, Ravidas, and Musahar, has been robbed of its rightful reservation. These actions are not just unconstitutional but also a grave injustice to the children of Dalits, backward classes, and tribals, whose

admission quotas have been unfairly reduced in favour of Muslims. This is a stark violation of the principles of social justice and the Constitution".

Taking a dig at the INDIA bloc, Prime Minister Modi said that while he is working hard throughout the day to build a self-reliant India, the opposition alliance "has no work but to lie and abuse him" day and night.

ED summons Manish on May 28

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 25: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a fresh summons to IAS Manish Ranjan to appear on May 28.

ED had called IAS Manish Ranjan for questioning on May 24 to investigate the tender commission scam case. But IAS Manish Ranjan did not appear on the call of ED. A letter was sent to ED requesting the next date. After this, ED has issued summons to him again. Let us tell you that Manish Ranjan is currently the secretary of land revenue department, before that he was the secretary of rural development department. According to ED sources during the investigation in the tender commission scam case, ED had found information about a person named Manish in an excel sheet.

Tragic fire breaks out during theft attempt in Latehar

Latehar, May 25 (IANS): A minor was charred to death while two others received severe burn injuries after they barged into a grocery shop to steal in Jharkhand's Latehar district, police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred in Pakri village when three minor "thieves" entered a grocery shop for stealing with the help of a candle on Friday night. The candle slipped from their hand and it fell into petrol stored at the shop, a police officer said. The Balumath deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Ashutosh Satyam said that three persons received burn injuries and one of them was killed. He said that of the two injured, one had fled after the incident. "He was caught by the police and admitted to hospital. Both of the injured are under treatment at hospital," he said. Of the two, one injured received around 75 per cent burn injury, a doctor said.

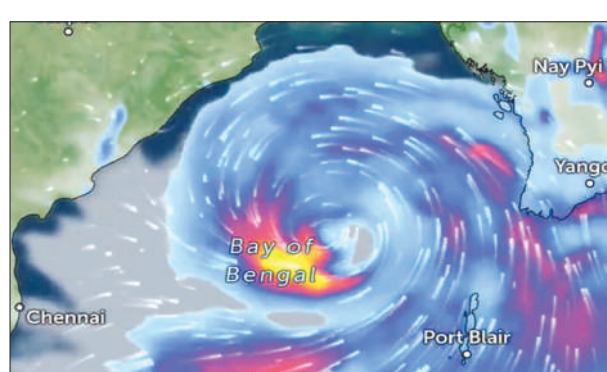


Cyclone 'Remal' to impact Jharkhand

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 25: The impact of cyclonic storm 'Remal' will be seen in Jharkhand also. According to the weather center, from Sunday, May 26 to May 31, there may be rain with thunder, lightning and strong winds in many places of the state. According to the Meteorological Department, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain with thunder and lightning at some places in the eastern, southern and central parts of the state on May 26 and 27. There is also a forecast of strong winds during this period. Wind speed can be 40 to 50

kilometers per hour. Its effect will be seen in Garhwa, Palamu, Chatra, Latehar, East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Simdega, Seraikela-Kharsawan, Ranchi, Bokaro, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Khunti, Ramgarh districts. "There is a possibility of thunderstorm along with thunderstorm in many districts of Jharkhand from May 26. Thunderstorm at isolated places in the eastern part of the state on May 28. There will be thunderstorms and strong winds. During this period the wind speed is likely to be 30 to 40 kilometers per hour. There is a possibility of light rain with thunder at isolated places in



the eastern parts of the state from May 28 to 31.

Its effect will be seen in Garhwa, Palamu, Chatra and Latehar districts. However, rain will continue in many districts of Jharkhand till May 31. There is no possibility of

any major change in the maximum temperature in Jharkhand during the next 24 hours. However, the temperature may drop by three to five degrees Celsius in the next two to three days. According to the weather centre, the low

Kolkata airport to suspend ops for 21 hours from noon today

Kolkata, May 25 (IANS): Flight operations will remain suspended for 21 hours, from 12 pm on Sunday till 9 am on Monday, as West Bengal braces for the impact of Cyclone 'Remal'. The authorities of Kolkata airport announced the suspension of flight operations following a meeting with the stakeholders. The weather department has issued an orange alert for Kolkata on May 26 and 27. An orange alert signifies very heavy rain between 11 cm to 20 cm, while a red alert indicates heavy to extremely heavy rain of over 20 cm in 24 hours. Extremely heavy rainfall is likely in the coastal districts of West Bengal and north Odisha on May 26 and May 27.

pressure formed in the Bay of Bengal will turn into a cyclonic storm by the morning of 26th May. It is moving in north-eastern direction. From midnight of 26th May, this storm will turn into a storm with a speed of 110 to 135 km per hour.

Toddler's insistence leads polling personnel to unique gesture

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: The sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections, and the third phase in Jharkhand, concluded peacefully in Ranchi, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, and Giridih on Saturday. The polling witnessed high enthusiasm from voters of all ages, undeterred even by the scorching heat. Amidst this fervor, an amusing incident unfolded in Jamshedpur, where polling personnel had to accede to the demands of a two-and-a-half-year-old girl. The



incident occurred at the Samyukt Seva Sangh polling station in Vidyapati Nagar, Jamshedpur, when Khiranshi Gagrai accompanied her mother,

Pumima Digi, to cast their votes. Witnessing her mother receiving the blue ink mark before voting, Khiranshi insisted on having the same mark on

her hand. Her persistent crying prompted the polling personnel to comply with her request, using the blue pen at their disposal to mark her finger. Only then did Khiranshi calm down, and a photo was taken with her mother. The polling in Jamshedpur saw remarkable enthusiasm among voters despite technical glitches causing delays at some booths. Despite initial frustrations, the elections proceeded smoothly across all assembly constituencies. (w/nkm)

NRI student casts vote at Jusco School, Kadma

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: Amidst the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections in Jamshedpur, special arrangements were made for voters at Jusco School in Kadma. Voters were observed exercising their franchise since morning in the polling booth, which was themed around eco-friendliness. One notable voter was Nishita, an NRI student who had travelled from Canada to cast her vote. After participating in the democratic process, Nishita urged everyone to



enthusiastically take part in this significant event. She expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made at the polling center, remarking that they had left a strong impression on her. Nishita further elaborated that her decision to come

from Canada to vote was influenced by her admiration for the works of Prime Minister Modi. She emphasized the importance of exercising the right to vote and contributing to the democratic process. (w/nkm)

Voting stand off by villagers delays polling

Jamshedpur, May 25: In an unusual turn of events, not a single vote was cast at the Upgraded Middle School in Chhodiya, located in the Ghatsila subdivision of East Singhbhum district, until 12 noon. It was only after concerted efforts by the subdivision administration that voting began. The breakthrough came when Kartik Singh Sardar cast the first vote of the day, following persuasion by Ghatsila subdivision's DCLR, Neel Nikhil Surin. His efforts finally convinced the villagers to participate in the electoral process. Villagers expressed their dissatisfaction, citing the lack of attention from elected representatives as a reason for their initial reluctance to vote. They reminisced about former MLA Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu, who had provided essential facilities such as roads, a club building, and drinking water. In contrast, they claimed that former MLA Laxman Tudu, current MLA Ramdas Soren.

SSP, City SP cast votes with families at Loyola School



Jamshedpur, May 25: The SSP and City SP of the district, accompanied by their families, arrived at booth number 161 of Loyola School in Bistupur,

Jamshedpur, to exercise their franchise. Both the SSP and City SP urged city residents to wholeheartedly participate in this festival of democracy. They emphasized the importance of voting as a cornerstone of democracy and encouraged citizens to view the voting day not merely as a holiday, but as an opportunity to strengthen democracy through active participation. (w/nkm)

DC, DDC cast votes at Loyola School booth

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: Jamshedpur Deputy Commissioner, Ananya Mittal, exercised his franchise on Saturday at booth number 161 located at Bistupur's Loyola School. Following his vote, Mittal urged citizens to participate in the electoral process to uphold a robust democracy. Stressing the importance of voting as a fundamental right, he



expressed his anticipation for this day and encouraged everyone to utilize their voting rights. Mittal also

expressed satisfaction with the increased voter turnout in rural areas compared to urban regions. He appealed to urban voters to cast their votes before the polling booths closed at 5 pm. Accompanying the Deputy Commissioner was DDC Manish Ranjan, who also cast his vote at the same booth. During the voting process, both officials took photographs at the designated selfie point. (w/nkm)



Enthusiastic voters defy scorching heat as the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections, including the third phase in Jharkhand, concludes peacefully on Saturday.



Tangrain School students lead voter mobilization initiative

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: During the polling day on May 25, students from the Scout and Guide Unit of Upgraded Middle School Tangrain demonstrated a remarkable initiative at booth number 230 in Potka. While a large crowd of voters gathered early in the morning at the polling station, these dedicated students took to the villages of Tangrain, Jojodih, Sonajuri, Davanatand, and Shavarnagar, encouraging residents to participate in the voting process. The students went door-to-door, urging villagers to cast their votes and emphasizing the importance of their participation in the democratic process. In addition to their mobilization efforts, they played a crucial role in managing the polling station by controlling crowds, organizing queues, and assisting handicapped voters. Their efforts were highly praised by both the polling personnel and the police administration, highlighting the positive impact of their involvement in the electoral process. (w/nkm)

Tata Steel honoured with Franz Edelman Finalist Award by INFORMS, USA

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: Tata Steel has been awarded the prestigious Franz Edelman Finalist Award by the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences (INFORMS), USA, during the Edelman Gala night at INFORMS Business Analytics Conference 2024, Orlando, USA, on April 15, 2024. Recognised as the world's leading Operations Research and



Analytics Award, this accolade celebrates successful industrial applications of operations

research. Tata Steel's project on the Optimisation of Continuous Annealing

Process was selected as a finalist after a rigorous three-month assessment by INFORMS Society

assessors. In the steel industry, continuous annealing is crucial for controlling the quality of cold-rolled steel strips through heat treatment. The project demonstrated significant improvements in quality, reduction in specific fuel consumption, and decreased CO2 emissions. The Tata Steel team, with support from their academic consultant, IIT Bombay, successfully implemented this innovative solution,

showcasing the power of analytical decision-making in industrial processes. This achievement places Tata Steel alongside esteemed global organisations such as American Airlines, McDonald's China, ALDI Süd Germany, Molinsjen Denmark, and Transvision Netherlands, all of whom were finalists. During the Edelman Gala night, Tata Steel and IIT Bombay were inducted as members of the prestigious Franz Edelman Academy.

Fire engulfs food van at Kadma Ganesh Puja Ground



Jamshedpur, May 25: Chaos ensued at the Kadma Ganesh puja ground when a food van parked there suddenly burst into flames on Saturday afternoon. The incident sparked panic as flames engulfed the van, creating an atmosphere of chaos. According to reports, the food van, a regular fixture at the Ganesh Puja ground, was laden with food items and four gas cylinders. After the fire broke out, authorities swiftly alerted the fire department. The Tata Steel fire brigade promptly responded to the call, reaching the scene within minutes and managing to bring the fire under control within half an hour. The fire department confirmed that the blaze originated in the food van and was successfully contained upon their arrival. Fortunately, despite the presence of gas cylinders in the van, there were no explosions. However, significant damage was incurred, with the van and its contents completely destroyed by the fire. (w/nkm)

Protest thwarts Tata Steel's plan to enclose Burmamines Puja Ground

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: Teams from Tata Steel Land Department and Tata Steel UISL (formerly Jusco) made an attempt to encircle the Durga Puja ground situated at Burmamines. However, their efforts were met with staunch opposition from the residents of the colony and members of the puja committee, leading to the company team retreating empty-handed. The Burmamines Durga Puja ground hosts two Durga Puja annually, along with a fair that draws large crowds. Concerns were raised by the residents and the puja committee members regarding the potential impact of cordoning off the ground. Consequently, when the company's team arrived on



Friday to initiate the process and install a gate, they were met with resistance. Upon learning of the situation, members of the Durga Puja Committee swiftly intervened, halting the company's proceedings and voicing their protest. They argued that given the high footfall during Durga Puja festivities, a minimum of five gates should be installed for ease of access and crowd management. In response to the escalating tension, BJP leader Rambabu Tiwari arrived at the scene to mediate. Tiwari engaged with

officials from Tata Steel UISL and successfully negotiated a temporary resolution. It was agreed that further discussions would take place on Monday to address the concerns raised, after which a decision would be reached. Following this agreement, the Tata Steel team withdrew from the site, defusing the immediate tension. The outcome of the forthcoming discussions will determine the course of action regarding the proposed changes to the Durga Puja ground's layout. (w/nkm)

Shikar Festival on June 3

Mail News Service

Jaduguda, May 25: The Shikar festival is set to be celebrated on June 3 in Rajdoha village, located under the jurisdiction of the Jaduguda police station. This decision was made during the recent Gram Sabha meeting held in Rajdoha.

Villagers have extended an invitation to the hill deity of the village to participate in the festival. Gram Pradhan Majhi Yuvraj Tudu announced the decision and emphasized that the festival will prioritize the protection of wild animals and the conservation of trees and plants. Additionally, preparations for the festival include the welcoming of Dishua, as discussed in the meeting. (w/nkm)

Dead body recovered from Kharkai River

Jamshedpur, May 25: Authorities recovered a deceased individual's body from the Kharkai river in Shastrinar block number 3 of Kadma police station area. The discovery was made by residents living along the riverbank, who noticed the body floating in the water and promptly alerted the Kadma police station. Upon receiving the report, police personnel arrived at the scene and, with the assistance of local fishermen, retrieved the body from the river. Following the completion of necessary formalities, the body was transported to MGM Hospital. It has been placed in the hospital's cold storage for further examination. Preliminary observations suggest that the body, estimated to be 4-5 days old, may have drifted downstream from another location. As of now, the identity of the deceased remains unknown, and the police have initiated an investigation into the matter. (w/nkm)

Bail granted to accused in Gangour Sweets theft case

Jamshedpur, May 25: In the case involving the theft of Rs 20 lakh from Bistupur Gangour Sweets shop, all three accused, including the jailed cashier, were granted bail by the court of District Head and Sessions Judge Anil Kumar Mishra. The accused were identified as shop cashier Tapan Bera, dispatch worker Pradyut Guha, and salesman Tapan. Initially, the court had remanded Bera, Guha, and Tapan to judicial custody due to insufficient evidence. However, Bera was subsequently granted bail. The case stemmed from a FIR filed by hotel owner and Jugsalai resident operator D Singh Bhatia alias Raja on May 7, 2024. (w/nkm)

Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan casts vote at ATI polling booth



Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 25: Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan exercised his voting right early morning at the polling booth situated at ATI. After casting his ballot, the Governor posed for a photo at the selfie point. Speaking to reporters, he emphasized his vote for development and urged the people of Jharkhand to actively participate in the democratic process by casting their votes.

MS Dhoni cast vote



Ranchi, May 25: Former captain of the Indian cricket team Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Saturday cast his vote. He reached his booth at around 12.30 to vote. Dhoni was wearing an orange T-shirt and black glasses. He reached his booth in a Range Rover car. As soon as he got down from the car, media persons surrounded him. However, he got down from the car amidst the media persons and reached the polling booth. However, it is not known for whom Dhoni has voted. On seeing Dhoni, amazing enthusiasm was visible among the people at the booth.

CEO votes in Ranchi



Ranchi, May 25: Jharkhand's Chief Electoral officer K Ravi Kumar cast his vote with his family at polling station number 372 of the Government Model High School located at BMP Ground, Doranda in the district.



BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) candidate Dhulu Mahato casting his vote in the Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat elections today.



Santhals to decide BJP exit from centre: Kalpana

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 25: JMM leader Kalpana Murmu Soren wife of jailed former chief minister Hemant Soren said that people of Santhal region will decide the complete departure of dictatorial forces from Centre.

Addressing rally in Boarijore and Maheshpur in favor of Vijay Hansda, the JMM candidate from Rajmahal Lok Sabha constituency, Kalpana Murmu Soren said that only the people of Santhal will decide the complete departure of dictatorial forces from Delhi.

"Many historical revolutionary stories have

Kalpana Soren cast vote in Ranchi

Ranchi, May 25: Kalpana Soren, wife of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and leader of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, who is contesting the by-election from Gandey Assembly, cast her vote at St. Francis School in Ranchi. She reached the polling station with her son at around 11 am.

She also interacted with the people standing in line to vote. Kalpana Soren said during the conversation that with the power of the ink in my hand, I can change the future of the country. This power is with the citizens of India and it is most important to use it. Kalpana Soren said that the festival of India's beautiful democracy is being celebrated today and I am very happy to cast my vote in this Lok Sabha seat in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand.

been written in the heroic land of SanthalPargana. In the last phase of this

election in the country, the people of SanthalPargana will work to wipe out BJP

from Jharkhand. Hemant was raising the rights of Jharkhand, hence BJP

conspired and put him in jail. But he is also the son of respected Dishom Guru ShibuSoren, he never bowed down," said Kalpana.

Kalpana further said, the key of Hemant Soren's jail is with the people.

Praising two-term MP Vijay Hansda, she said that their MP always worked to raise issues related to water, forest, land and Jharkhandi self-respect in the Lok Sabha. "But the BJP government sitting at the center did not listen to Jharkhand. Now that INDIA bloc government is being formed in Delhi, the issues of Jharkhand will also be raised in the House. They will also be resolved.

On June 1st, press the bow and arrow button on number 4 and make Vijay Hansda win by huge votes," she urged.

At Natundih ground of Jamtara district Nala block, KalpanaSoren addressed an election rally in favor of INDIA bloc JMM candidate NalinSoren.

Kalpana Soren fiercely targeted the Central Government.

"We are fighting against Modi's dictatorial government. BJP, which came to power in 2014 by making big promises, has not fulfilled even a single promise in its 10-year tenure. The Centre has discriminated against Jharkhand," she said.



Congress candidate Yashaswini Sahay, contesting from Ranchi Lok Sabha seat, voted with her family. Yashaswini along with her father SubodhkantSahay and other family members voted in Dhurva Sector-3. After voting, Yashaswini Sahay said that today is a very important day. I have exercised my franchise. I appeal to everyone that you too should come out of your house and vote.



Leader of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and I.N.D.I.A. candidate Mathura Prasad Mahato casts his vote alongside his supporters in the Girdih Lok Sabha elections.

Women's hockey-themed polling station inspires electors in Jharkhand

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 25: It was a nostalgic moment for 33-year-old voter SwetaSwansi as she arrived at the polling station, which was adorned with the theme of 'Jharkhand Women's Hockey', to cast her vote for Ranchi Lok Sabha seat.

The polling station, consisting of six booths at the CM School of Excellence in Bariatu, was adorned with banners and posters featuring hockey players, including state icons such as Olympian and

Indian women's hockey team skipper SalimaTete, Olympian Nikki Pradhan, and SangitaKumari.

"I liked the theme, and it made me feel nostalgic. The theme refreshed my childhood memories when I used to play the game. I am sure that like Jharkhand women hockey players, who are making our country proud, voters would also make democracy strong by exercising their right to vote," Swansaisaid.

Hockey and archery have been the preferred choices



of tribal youths in Jharkhand. Both sports have produced numerous Olympians and international-level players from the state, which is otherwise known for its mines and minerals.

The presiding officer of booth No. 379 AnmolAnkur said, "The theme of the polling station is aimed at inspiring and attracting voters to polling booths. Besides, it is also an effort to popularise women's hockey." More than 7,000 voters are registered with the polling

station. "The theme has caught the attention of the voters, particularly girls," he said.

Voter PritiKumari, 23, said, "The banners and posters of our Jharkhand players are instilling new energy within us to do something for the country." An official of the Ranchi administration mentioned that the unique theme was designed on the directive of the deputy commissioner Rahul Kumar Sinha to motivate voters and popularise women's hockey.



Polling officials return back with EVM machines and other polling materials in Jamshedpur after the end of phase 6 polling.



People show inked mark finger after casting their vote during 6th Phase of Lok Sabha Elections in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Saturday, May 25, 2024

Swati Maliwal assault case: CM Kejriwal's aide moves Delhi court for bail



New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar, who is accused of assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha member and former DCW chief Swati Maliwal, has moved a local court seeking bail. The court has issued a notice to Delhi Police for its reply. The matter will be heard next on May 27.

On Friday, the court sent Kumar to four-day judicial custody.

Produced before the court on the expiry of his five-day police custody, he was sent to judicial custody till May 28.

Bibhav Kumar was arrested on May 18 in connection with the assault on Maliwal on May 13, and produced late at night before a local court which sent him to five days under police custody.

During this period, he was also taken to the CM's residence where the crime scene was recreated. Bibhav Kumar was taken to three locations in Mumbai, said police sources privy to the probe. "Kumar had formatted his phone on one of the locations, which was revealed after technical investigation," said the source.

According to police, he had formatted his phone on May 17, citing a malfunction.

Delhi Police registered a case against Kumar after he allegedly assaulted Maliwal at the Chief Minister's residence.

The FIR at the Civil Lines police station includes charges under Sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354(B) (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 509 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code.

Man who killed son-in-law in Bihar nabbed from Delhi

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) A 42-year-old man from Bihar's Chhapra has been arrested here for shooting dead his son-in-law, who married his daughter without his consent, right on a road in the state, Delhi Police's Crime Branch said on Saturday.

The accused was identified as Dharamvir Jai Ram Giri.

According to police, a tip-off was recently received that an accused in a sensational murder case in Bihar occasionally comes to Delhi.

"Acting on the inputs, technical surveillance was also mounted. The team developed information and were able to track the presence of the accused in Geeta Colony in Delhi," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime, Rakesh Pawariya said.

A trap was laid and Giri was apprehended near the SDM Office in the area. On interrogation, Giri disclosed that he had tried to prevent his daughter from marrying his son-in-law, Surajkant Giri, who had already been married earlier.

Siddaramaiah directs suspension of police officials over youth's custodial death

Mysuru, (Karnataka) May 25 (IANS) Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday directed the suspension of a Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy SP) and Police Inspector in connection with the death of a youth in police custody. "It is not a case of lockup death. However, I have directed the suspension of the Dy SP and police inspector as the accused was kept in the police station without filing an FIR," Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said.

On Friday, the police took, Adil (30), into custody on alleged charges of organising illegal betting (Matka), where he died in police custody.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the deceased had epilepsy (brain disorder) and died in the hospital. "I have suggested that bringing the accused to the police station without an FIR is wrong. No one should be brought to the police station without an FIR," he said.

Davanagere SP Uma Prashanth said the accused was not kept in the police station for more than six to seven minutes.

Haryana MLA Rakesh Daultabad dies of cardiac arrest; PM mourns demise

Gurugram, May 25 (IANS) Independent MLA from Badshahpur Assembly constituency in Gurugram district Rakesh Jhangu alias Rakesh Daultabad died after suffering cardiac arrest on Saturday morning, a family member said.

Daultabad (45) was the Chairman of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation (HAIC). He is survived by his wife and two sons aged 16 and 21. His younger brother died due to Covid in 2021.

Daultabad was rushed to a private hospital after feeling uneasy on Saturday morning where he breathed his last.

"After an initial check-up, he was admitted to the ICU but sadly he didn't respond to the treatment," Daultabad's brother Sombir told IANS.

Morning Daultabad's death, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X: "I am deeply saddened by the sudden demise of Haryana MLA Rakesh Daultabadji. With his hard work and dedication, he created a distinct identity among the people at a very young age. His demise is a big loss for the state's politics. May God give strength to his family and supporters in this hour of grief. Om Shanti."



Porsche crash accused Agarwals confined, lured and threatened driver to take 'blame'

Pune (Maharashtra), May 25 (IANS) In a shocking revelation, the Pune Police said on Saturday that the accused minor's grandfather, Surendra Kumar Agarwal had confined and threatened the family's driver, forcing him to take the blame for the Porsche car crash of May 19 which killed two techies.

Commissioner of Police Amitesh Kumar told media persons that the Agarwals allegedly lured the driver, Gangaram Poojari with cash to claim responsibility for the accident committed by the minor, and when he didn't agree they threatened and confined him for two days at their home.

Kumar said that the driver -- now a prime witness in the case -- was compelled to make a statement that he was at the wheel of the luxury car



at the time of the accident in a bid to save the minor boy, but he refused to oblige. Agarwal, who was nabbed after interrogation around 3 a.m., was produced before a Pune court and remanded to police custody till Tuesday (May 28). The Police Commissioner said that after the crash, Surendra Kumar Agarwal and his builder son Vishal Agarwal -- currently in judicial

custody for 14 days -- went and picked up the driver (Pujari) who was going home. They snatched his mobile, confined him in a room, and barred him from going out or speaking with anybody.

"The Agarwals then pressured Pujari and coached him on what statement to give to the police, tried to bribe him with cash in return for taking responsibility for

the accident, and when he was not swayed, they threatened him with consequences," said Kumar. When Pujari did not return home the next day his anxious wife and some other relatives trooped to the Agarwal home, she screamed and shouted and rattled by the loud ruckus, he was allowed to go. Scared and shaken by the ordeal, Pujari stayed put at home till the next day when the Pune Police summoned and recorded his statement when he spilled the beans.

Later on Friday (May 24) during the search of Agarwal's home, the Crime Branch sleuths found Pujari's uniform, which has been seized. The driver will be given police security as he is now catapulted as a key witness in the high-profile case, said the Police Commissioner. During the

court hearing, Vishal Agarwal had claimed that it was Pujari -- and not the minor boy -- who was at the wheel, but the driver's statement proved damning for the minor boy. "It was not my fault, the Agarwals tried to pressurise me. Initially, I was scared and responded in panic. I was in great mental stress and trauma as the family kept me in a room," the shaken Pujari had told the investigators, said the Police Commissioner.

Agarwal's son Vishal S. Agarwal was arrested and sent to police custody which ended on May 24 and he has now been remanded to two weeks judicial remand. Agarwal's grandson and the prime accused minor boy is under detention at a juvenile correctional home till June 5 after he rammed his speeding Porsche car into the young duo

returning home on their motorcycle early that morning.

The three generations of the Agarwal family are in hot soup under various charges in the same Porsche car accident case in which the Madhya Pradesh IT engineers -- Ashwini Koshtha and her friend Aneesh Awadhya -- were killed and snowballed into a nationwide uproar.

Meanwhile, hundreds of citizens will take part in a silent candlelight vigil near Kalyani Nagar as a homage to the two departed souls.

Late on Friday, the Pune Police suspended two policemen of the Yerawada Police Station -- PI Rahul Jagdale and API Vishwanath Todkari -- for alleged dereliction of duty and other lapses pertaining to the accident, as public anger continues to simmer.

Delhi L-G, AAP accuse each other of hatching conspiracy to trouble voters

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena and AAP leaders late on Friday accused each other of hatching a conspiracy to trouble voters and vitiate the polling process in the national capital, where voting started on Saturday morning.

In a post on X, AAP Minister Atishi said, "Information has been received that the Delhi Lt Governor today (Friday) ordered Delhi Police to slow down voting in areas where there are a large number of INDIA bloc voters so that people face difficulty in casting their votes. Any such attempt by the administration to make the BJP win is illegal, undemocratic and



unconstitutional. And I hope the Election Commission will take cognizance of this, and stop any such attempt." Replying to the post, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "This is shocking. EC should ensure smooth voting in Delhi." Later, the Lt Governor's office issued a statement, saying: "Information has been

received that on the orders of Arvind Kejriwal, who is out on interim bail till June 1, power and water minister Atishi Marlena has instructed the power companies and Delhi Jal Board to deliberately cut power supply and stop water supply tonight (May 24) and throughout the day tomorrow (May 25) so that the people of Delhi are

troubled." "The LG has directed that these orders of Kejriwal should not be followed. Information has also been received that Kejriwal is doing this so that he can habitually confuse and cheat the people of Delhi by blaming the Central government," it stated. In a post on X at 12.27 a.m. Saturday, the Lt Governor called Atishi's statement unwarranted and false.

"You have made it a habit, Kejriwal Sahab, to keep crying irrespective of the situation you may be in. I have taken a stern view of this unwarranted & false statement on the eve of election against a constitutional authority by a Minister, endorsed by you," Saxena wrote.

Threat to police: Should we let off BJP MLA just because he is a MLA, law is same for all: K'taka CM

Mangalore, May 25 (IANS) Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that an FIR has been registered under IPC 353 in connection with the case of police intimidation by BJP MLA Harish Poonja.

He was speaking to the media at Mangalore International Airport on Saturday. Reacting to the opposition's allegation that the Congress is pressing for the arrest of BJP MLA Harish Poonja, the CM said that the law is the same for everyone.

An FIR has been registered under IPC 353,



which is a non-bailable offence. According to this law, there is a possibility of seven years imprisonment. Should the allegations against Harish Poonja be denied just because he is a MLA? The CM asked. Responding to Poonja getting station bail, the CM

said that two cases of threatening police have been registered against him.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara has stated in Bengaluru that those who issue threats to the police in the police station could not be spared. Action will be initiated without any mercy, he maintained.

BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra had warned that if Poonja is arrested, the Congress government and the state police will face the consequences. Poonja has moved the court for bail.

Mullaperiyar dam issue: TN asks EAC to reject Kerala's proposal

Chennai, May 25 (IANS) After conveying objections to the Centre on the Mullaperiyar dam issue, the Tamil Nadu government has asked the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) to reject the Kerala government's proposal for constructing a new dam. The committee is scheduled to meet on May 28. A senior official of the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department told IANS that the state was expecting the EAC not to go ahead with the proposal of the Kerala government for constructing a new dam at Mullaperiyar. He said that Tamil Nadu has presented before the EAC and the



Union Environmental Ministry the various Supreme Court rulings regarding the construction of a new dam. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had on Friday sent a letter to Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav to instruct the officials concerned and member secretary of the

EAC to drop the agenda item on the proposed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed new dam during the EAC meeting.

According to the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department, several expert panels found the existing Mullaperiyar dam to be safe.

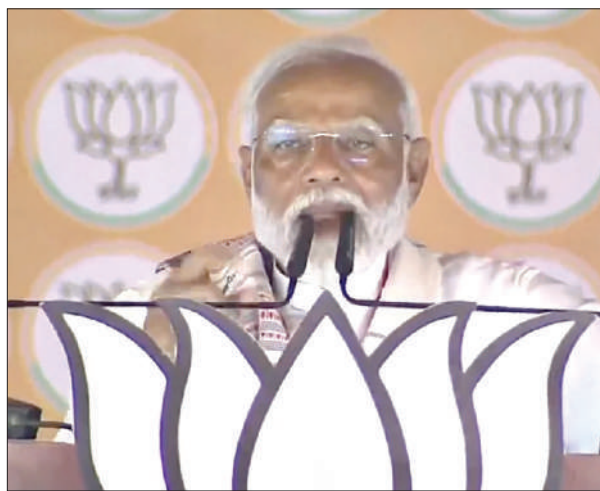
Ghazipur rally: PM Modi slams INDI Alliance for betrayal, says Cong regimes kept the region in ruins

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Addressing a poll rally in UP's Ghazipur on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the INDI Alliance of betraying the land of freedom fighters, and blamed the successive Congress and Samajwadi Party regimes for the flourishing mafia in the region, adding that this has become a thing of past under Yogi Adityanath's government.

Holding the grand old party responsible for the backwardness of the region that boasts of many eminent personalities, even after seven decades of Independence, PM Modi said that past Congress governments ensured that development doesn't reach here.

PM Modi said the development of the region was never a priority for the Congress as even schemes like 'One Rank, One Pension' got cleared only after the NDA government came to power.

He said the Congress



has great expertise and experience in blocking projects as well as snatching the rights of others.

"Congress had vowed not to develop this area. The people were forced to live in poverty. Gahmari Babu first raised the problem of extreme hardships before Jawaharlal Nehru in the Parliament, but even then the Congress politicised the matter," PM Modi said.

"Gahmari Babu, with tears in his eyes, had then explained how people of the region had to pick wheat from animal dung," the Prime Minister said recalling his statements, adding that things changed only after the NDA came to power and started providing free ration to the poor.

Slamming the Samajwadi Party, he said that 'goondas' and mafias mushroomed and thrived during its rule while common men were reduced to margins.

The Prime Minister also hit out at the INDI

Alliance parties for their alleged attempts to usurp the rights of OBCs, SCs, and STs and hand them over to the Muslim community.

He claimed that the Opposition was banking on 'vote jihad' and also referred to the Calcutta High Court, which struck down the West Bengal government's decision to include more than 70 Muslim groups in the list of OBCs. "Till the time I am alive, I won't allow anyone to snatch the rights of OBCs," he asserted. Hailing the region's rich legacy, the Prime Minister said, "More than the historians, the nation's borders are aware of Ghazipur and its contributions to securing the frontiers."

"The land of Ghazipur tells the tales of valour and bravery. The tradition of Ghazipur and Gamhar village... The name itself is enough. The entire country is indebted to this land where brave soldiers emerge from every house," he pointed out.

Richest woman Savitri Jindal casts vote, confident of PM Modi's third term

Chandigarh, May 25 (IANS) BJP leader and richest Indian woman with \$33 billion net worth, Savitri Jindal, whose youngest son Naveen Jindal is also in the fray, on Saturday cast her vote at her hometown Hissar in Haryana.

Besides former state minister Savitri Jindal (74), who is the chairperson of the Jindal Group, founded by her late husband, Om Prakash Jindal, in 1979, Chief Minister Nayab Saini and his predecessor Manohar Lal Khattar were among the early voters to cast their votes at their respective polling stations. After casting the vote, Savitri told the media that the country has developed at a fast pace under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Seemingly confident about the BJP's prospects in the general elections, she added, "Prime Minister Modi will be elected for a third consecutive term." Savitri's youngest son Naveen Jindal (54) is the BJP's candidate from Kurukshetra, the seat he represented between 2004 and 2014.

Mehbooba sits on dharna alleging PDP workers have been arrested

Anantnag, May 25 (IANS) Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate for Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat, Mehbooba Mufti sat on a dharna on Saturday alleging that her party workers had been arrested to prevent their participation in the voting process.

Mehbooba Mufti blocked the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Bijbehara area after she sat on a dharna on the highway. She claimed that her party workers and some polling agents had been arrested to prevent their participation in the poll process. "Why have my party workers and polling agents been arrested? Is this the participation in the voting process that the government has in mind?" she asked officials who came to persuade her to end the sit-in.

"I have not been able to make any calls since morning. There is no explanation for this sudden suspension of services on the day of polling in the Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency," she said.

Quiz and drawing competitions mark Sri Sri Anandmurtiji's Avdaan Diwas



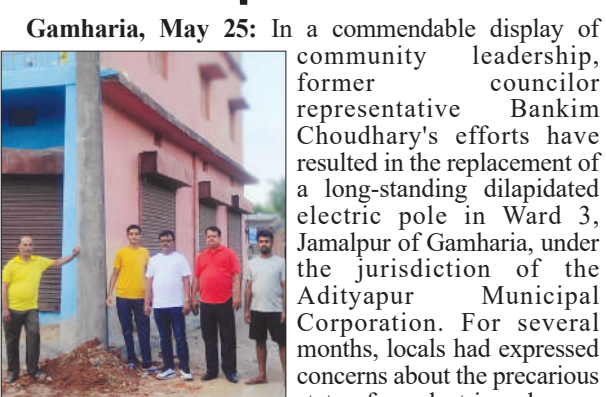
Gamharlia, May 25: An array of events marked the Avdaan Diwas of Sri Sri Anandmurtiji Ji at Anandmarg School, Kandra. The celebration featured various activities including quiz and drawing competitions, as well as dance performances showcasing Prabhat Sangeet, Kaushiki, and Tandav, among others. A multitude of enthusiastic school children participated in these competitions, exhibiting their talents with fervor. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed observers V. Sudarshan, Principal of Harishchandra Vidya Mandir, Jag Durlabh, and Raj Kumar. Children enthralled the audience with captivating dance performances and spirited renditions of the Bhagwan Shree Tandav. Additionally, their artistic prowess shone through in the quiz and drawing competitions. The culmination of the event saw the felicitations of outstanding participants including Ragi Das, Soumya Jamuda, Shubhojit Dev, Varalakshmi, Pratima, Sanjay Soren, Shubham Murmu, Shubham Tudu, among others. District Bhukti Pradhan Gopal Burman of Anandmarg Pracharak Sangh extended gratitude to all attendees, marking the end of the program. (w/nkm)

Santhali album "Yeh Dular Gaate" filming unveils scenic beauty of Kandra



Gamharlia, May 25: The shooting for the highly anticipated Santhali album "Yeh Dular Gaate" unfolded against the stunning backdrop of Kandra, showcasing the scenic charm of the region. Produced under the esteemed banner of Dear Anita Productions, the filming extravaganza captured the essence of Kandra, including its renowned Bus Stand and various other locales. Spanning across diverse locations like Adityapur, Sakchi, Jubilee Park, Rangamati, and Sonari, the shoot promised a visual feast for viewers. Director Surendra Tudu expressed excitement about presenting an enthralling narrative intertwined with soulful melodies, aimed at showcasing the cultural vibrancy of Jharkhand and beyond. Scheduled for a June release on the Dear Anita Productions YouTube channel, "Yeh Dular Gaate" is poised to captivate audiences with its blend of music and storytelling. The album features a stellar cast, including Dear Anita, Dinesh Hansda, Ramesh Tudu, and Mama Hembram, delivering performances that are bound to resonate deeply with viewers. As anticipation builds for the album's release, fans eagerly await the unveiling of this cinematic masterpiece, promising to offer a glimpse into the rich tapestry of emotions and landscapes captured during the filming journey in Kandra. (w/nkm)

Replacement of dilapidated electric pole in Ward 3



Gamharlia, May 25: In a commendable display of community leadership, former councilor representative Bankim Choudhary's efforts have resulted in the replacement of a long-standing dilapidated electric pole in Ward 3, Jamalpur of Gamharlia, under the jurisdiction of the Adityapur Municipal Corporation. For several months, locals had expressed concerns about the precarious state of an electric pole near the residences of Shrikant Shukla and Raju in Basti, fearing the imminent risk of accidents. Promptly responding to these concerns, former councilors Pinky Choudhary and Bankim Choudhary swiftly liaised with senior officials of the Electricity Department, advocating for the urgent replacement of the deteriorated pole. Thanks to their proactive approach and effective coordination with departmental authorities, the dilapidated pole was successfully replaced, restoring electricity supply to the area on Friday. Residents of the colony have expressed relief and gratitude towards the former councillor and the electricity department officials for their prompt action, acknowledging the significant improvement in safety and infrastructure. The success of this endeavor was made possible through the collective efforts of community members including Abohdh Sinha, Sanjay Choubey, Shrikant Shukla, Raju Dev, Sanjeev Choubey, Sonu Sah, among others, whose cooperation contributed to the timely resolution of the issue, ensuring the well-being and safety of the neighborhood. (w/nkm)

Six-month imprisonment in cheque bounce case

Jamshedpur, May 25: In a verdict delivered by the court of First Class Judicial Magistrate Pawan Kumar, Sakchi resident and owner of Sah Palak Enterprises, Naveen Mishra, found himself convicted under the Negotiable Instruments Act (NI Act) for a cheque bounce incident. Mishra has been sentenced to six months of imprisonment and ordered to pay compensation amounting to one lakh rupees. Advocate Janardan Singh, representing the plaintiff Praveen Kumar Jha from Kadma, revealed that Mishra had borrowed two and a half lakh rupees from his brother-in-law for his trading business. In return, he issued a cheque of the same amount, which later bounced due to insufficient funds. Subsequently, Jha filed a case against Mishra in 2018. Following due legal proceedings, the court found Mishra guilty and imposed a sentence of six months' imprisonment, coupled with a compensation payment of one lakh rupees. Mishra now faces the obligation of settling a total amount of three and a half lakh rupees, inclusive of the original cheque amount. (w/nkm)

Murder of notorious criminal Bholu Kumhar sparks fear of gang warfare in Seraikela

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: The recent slaying of history-sheeter Bholu Kumhar, also known as Tarini, in Kadma, Jamshedpur, has once again stirred apprehensions of escalating gang violence within the criminal underworld of Seraikela. Sources suggest the involvement of fugitive criminal Vicky Nandi in Bholu's demise, intensifying concerns within the region's criminal fraternity. According to insider accounts, Bholu was allegedly lured to the site of his murder under Vicky's instructions before meeting



implication in a railway scrap theft case. Associated with the Manoj Sarkar gang, Vicky's pursuit of independent ventures led to strained relations with former allies, culminating in violent conflicts and isolation. Recent attacks on Vicky's associates, coupled with his increasing vulnerability, have reignited his involvement in criminal pursuits. The motive behind Bholu's murder is believed to stem from his connections with rival criminal factions, notably Kartik Munda, Sagar Lohar, and Santosh Thapa, and his purported involvement in arms trafficking. The

implication in a railway scrap theft case. Associated with the Manoj Sarkar gang, Vicky's pursuit of independent ventures led to strained relations with former allies, culminating in violent conflicts and isolation. Recent attacks on Vicky's associates, coupled with his increasing vulnerability, have reignited his involvement in criminal pursuits. The motive behind Bholu's murder is believed to stem from his connections with rival criminal factions, notably Kartik Munda, Sagar Lohar, and Santosh Thapa, and his purported involvement in arms trafficking. The

implications of Vicky's alleged involvement in the murder raise concerns of impending gang warfare in the Adityapur area. As investigations into Bholu's murder unfold, the Kadma police have initiated inquiries to ascertain the veracity of allegations against Vicky. However, the situation remains precarious, with the potential for further violence looming large. The urgency of apprehending Vicky cannot be overstated, as his continued evasion poses a significant threat not only to his own life but also to the stability of the criminal landscape in Seraikela. (w/nkm)

300 railway workers to receive quarters in Tatanagar

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: Vacant quarters across various colonies in Tatanagar will be allocated to branch line railway employees. This directive was issued by the Chakradharpur Railway Division on Wednesday, aiming to provide accommodation facilities to railway workers serving from Adityapur, Gamharlia, Asanbani, Haldipokhar to Bahalda, Rairangpur, and Badampahar surrounding Tatanagar. The initiative comes in response to the pressing need for accommodation among branch line railway workers, who have been facing challenges in securing quarters for their families. Currently, over 300 quarters lie vacant in Tatanagar, while railway employees serving in branch lines have been compelled to reside in rented accommodations while performing their duties. It has been observed that despite the availability of quarters, second and third class railway employees have opted for House Rent Allowance (HRA) instead. In light of this, the Railways has undertaken repair works to refurbish the vacant quarters, making them habitable for allocation. The decision to allocate these quarters to branch line railway workers was deliberated upon at the Divisional Headquarters and subsequently approved, addressing the longstanding issue of accommodation scarcity faced by railway employees in the region. (w/nkm)

Workshop at Women's University IGNOU introduces 5E Model of Lesson Planning

Jamshedpur, May 25: In a recent workshop held at the IGNOU Study Center of Women's University in Jamshedpur, participants delved into the significance and application of the 5E model of lesson planning. The workshop, a part of the B.Ed. program, spanned over several days, with the third day witnessing insightful sessions on various educational methodologies. Under the guidance of Dr. Tripura Jha, the center coordinator, the day commenced with a prayer meeting followed by an introduction to the day's agenda, emphasizing the importance of the 5E model. Dr. Suchitra Behera, Head of the M.Ed.

Department at Kolhan University, led the first session, elaborating on the nuances of the 'approach of 5E paradigm' through an illuminating PowerPoint presentation. Subsequently, Assistant Professor Ajit Kumar Dubey from Jamshedpur Co-operative College enlightened participants on the 'process and use of integration of ICT resources in teaching learning' during the second session. Dr. Manoj Kumar of Kolhan University, serving as the resource person for the third and fourth sessions, provided insights into creating audio-visual programs and structuring educational components for optimal learning experiences. In

the final session, attendees were apprised of the importance of developing learning resources, with a focus on utilizing locally available materials.

This was facilitated through a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation. Notable contributions to the organization of the workshop were made by Neha Suruchi Minj, Prabhakar Rao, and Upendra Sharma. The workshop concluded with the rendition of the national anthem, attended by teachers, students, and esteemed resource persons, marking a fruitful endeavor in enhancing pedagogical practices. (w/nkm)

Truck collision on Baharagora Flyover claims driver's life

Jamshedpur, May 25: An accident occurred on the flyover of NH 18 at Kalinga in the Baharagora police station area of East Singhbhum district. On Friday night, a truck traveling from Ranchi collided with a stationary trailer, resulting in the death of the truck driver. The deceased has been identified as Asif Ansari, a 30-year-old resident of Ranchi. The incident happened as the truck, loaded with goods from Dhulagarh in Kolkata and heading to Ranchi, struck the rear of the parked trailer. The impact trapped both the driver, Asif Ansari, and the co-driver, Samsad Ansari, inside the cabin. Upon receiving information about the accident, the police arrived at the scene. They managed to extricate both individuals from the wreckage, both of whom sustained injuries. The injured were rushed to the Community Health Center in Baharagora where Asif Ansari succumbed to his injuries during treatment. The co-driver, Samsad Ansari, suffered minor injuries and is reported to be out of danger. On Saturday, the police sent Asif Ansari's body to Jamshedpur for post-mortem. (w/nkm)

Mango Fire Station driver passes away

Jamshedpur, May 25: Mukru Honhaga, a 56-year-old fire vehicle driver at Mango Fire Station of the Jharkhand Fire Department, has passed away. Originally from Chaibasa, Mukru had been serving at Mango Fire Station since 2022. He had been unwell for the past 15 days and was receiving treatment at MGM Hospital where he passed away during treatment on Thursday. The entire department is mourning his loss. Fire station in-charge Braj Kishore Paswan expressed his condolences, noting that Mukru had been a valued member of the Mango Fire Station team for the past two years. (w/nkm)

Brothers brutally attacked in Jugsalai

Jamshedpur, May 25: Abdul Rahim and his brother Arman, residents of Hillview Colony in the Jugsalai police station area of Jamshedpur, were viciously assaulted by Shadab Alam and his accomplices, resulting in severe injuries. Abdul Rahim is currently in critical condition, while his brother Arman sustained injuries to his hand. The harrowing ordeal unfolded on Thursday night, prompting immediate action by the Jugsalai police. Abdul Rahim, a truck driver, revealed that he had been facing issues with Shadab Alam, the owner of the truck he drove, who had failed to pay him for two months despite repeated requests. Matters escalated when Abdul Rahim confronted Shadab Alam on Thursday night, demanding the overdue payment of Rs 50,000. In a brazen display of violence, Shadab, accompanied by 4 to 5 associates, attacked Abdul Rahim with a sharp weapon, leaving him critically wounded. Arman, attempting to intervene, was also assaulted during the altercation. The assailants fled the scene after issuing threats, leaving the brothers in a dire state. Prompt police intervention led to their admission to MGM Hospital for urgent medical treatment. Currently, the police are actively investigating the incident to apprehend the culprits and ensure justice for Abdul Rahim and Arman. (w/nkm)

Cong-JMM complain against Nishikant

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 25: A joint delegation of JMM and Congress lodged a complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer against Godda MP Nishikant Dubey. The delegation said that on May 23, Nishikant Dubey has given a statement regarding ED summons to ministers Badal Patralekh and Hafizul Hasan.

The news of ED issuing summons to Badal Patralekh and Hafizul Hasan was also broadcast in some news channels. But this matter was neither officially confirmed nor denied by ED officials. No ED summons has been received by Badal Patralekh and Hafizul Hasan. It is said that Badal Patralekh and Hafizul Hasan are MLAs-cum-ministers elected from Jarmundi and Madhupur assembly under Godda Lok Sabha constituency.

The Congress and JMM leaders alleged that the statement was given by BJP candidate Nishikant Dubey as part of a well-planned conspiracy with the intention of influencing the elections.

Protest halts JBVNL's pole installation at JEMCO Ground

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: In a stand against the installation of poles at the JEMCO ground near the Gurudwara gate in Telco police station area, residents and members of the Aam Aadmi Party thwarted the efforts of the JBVNL team on Thursday. The residents expressed their dissent, highlighting the ground's significance as a hub for social and cultural activities, as well as a recreational space for morning and evening walks and children's play.



Amandeep Singh, President of the Aam Aadmi Party, emphasized the ground's importance, stating it serves as a vital space for various programs, especially sports, benefiting numerous

communities in the vicinity. Residents from JEMCO Basti, Mishra Bagan, Jhagdu Bagan, Laxmi Nagar, Prem Nagar, Machhua Basti, Mahanand Basti, Manifit, and

neighboring areas joined forces to oppose the encroachment on the ground. Zorawar Singh, head of Jamco Gurudwara, condemned the enclosure of the playground, affirming that the protest will persist until the ground is reinstated. The protest led to the suspension of the JBVNL team's activities, causing a stir in the area. Notable figures present during the protest included Balwinder Singh, Aman Singh, Jagraj Singh, Sumit, Jagdish Singh, Sumit Kumar, Rajkumar, and Pintu Kumar. (w/nkm)

Santali Cinema mourns the loss of Sonot Sano Murmu

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: The Santali and regional cinema world has lost another star as Sonot Sano Murmu, a revered writer, lyricist, and singer of the first full-length Santali film "Chando Likhon," passed away late on Friday night at the age of 55. Murmu had been battling cancer for a long time and ultimately succumbed to the illness. His death has sent shockwaves through the regional language film industry, leaving the entire Jollywood community in mourning.

Many individuals from the cinema and art culture world visited his native village, Govardhan, in the Rajnagar block on Saturday to pay their respects and bid a tearful farewell to their fellow artist. Sonot Sano Murmu was a passionate advocate for the Santali language and a dedicated servant of the Olchiki script. Although a permanent



resident of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, his contributions were primarily in the East Singhbhum district. In the 1980s, he spearheaded the opening of Olchiki teaching centers, where he taught people of all ages to read and write in the script. The widespread understanding of Olchiki in the region today can be largely attributed to Murmu's hard work and dedication. Murmu was celebrated as one of the finest lyricists in the Santali music scene. Known for his traditional songs and music, he gained immense popularity in the 1980s and 1990s. He was a

multifaceted artist who wrote, composed, and sang his songs, which resonated deeply with the rural populace. His songs, rich with the essence of the land, were a staple at weddings and gatherings during the era of cassette tapes. As a founding member of the Rusika Dramatic Club and Rusika Orchestra Group, Murmu performed hundreds of live shows across Jharkhand, Bengal, Odisha, and other states. He was a versatile performer who could manage the stage, play instruments like the Mandar, and entertain audiences with his cheerful demeanor. Santali cinema producer-director and actor Dhashrath Hansdah expressed profound sorrow over Murmu's death, calling him a foundational pillar of the Santali cinema world. Hansdah reminisced about their long collaboration and close relationship, describing Murmu as more of a brother than a colleague. (w/nkm)

EC warns BJP, Cong MLA and SAIL Bokaro

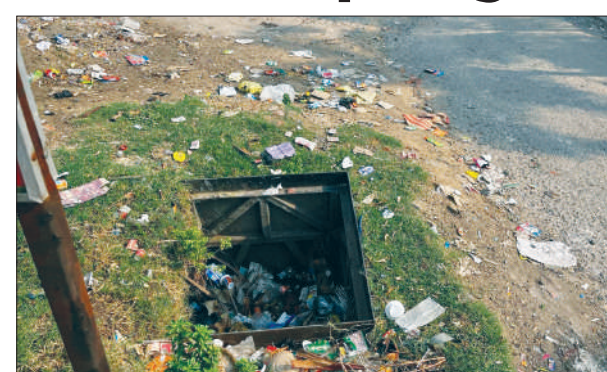
Ranchi, May 24: The Election Commission has warned Jharkhand BJP, Congress MLA Irfan Ansari and Bokaro's Steel Authority of India (SAIL) for violation of the Model Code of Conduct and has directed them to follow the rules in letter and spirit. Following the instructions of Jharkhand CEO K Ravi Kumar, the Bokaro Steel Plant management has revised its order and announced to give paid leave to its employees on May 25. Along with this, the workers who go to vote in shifts will also get one day leave within two months. BJP is accused of distributing more than 400 voter slips with slogans, photos, election symbols etc. instead of standard voter slips at polling stations during the fourth and fifth phase of voting in Jharkhand. An FIR has also been registered regarding this.

Safety concerns rise due to open garbage bin in Adityapur

By Varun Jha

Jamshedpur, May 25: An open garbage bin located on the edge of the road beside NOVANTA Hotel in M type, Adityapur, is causing significant safety concerns for daily commuters and pedestrians, especially at night when visibility is low. The bin, which frequently overflows, has become a serious hazard. Poor lighting in the area exacerbates the problem, making it difficult for drivers and pedestrians to

see the bin and the scattered trash, leading to numerous near-miss accidents. "I narrowly avoided hitting the bin while driving home late at night," said Rajesh Singh, a local resident. "The streetlight near the hotel is dim, and the garbage spilling onto the road is a major hazard." Pedestrians share similar worries. Priya Das, a college student, expressed, "Walking past the NOVANTA Hotel in the evening is dangerous. You have to be careful not to trip over the garbage on the



sidewalk. It's both unsafe and unhygienic." Businesses in the vicinity, including the NOVANTA Hotel, have also voiced

their concerns to local authorities. "Our guests frequently complain about the smell and the mess outside the hotel," said

Ravi Kumar, the hotel manager.

"It affects our business and poses a safety risk to our guests. We have reported this to the municipality, but no action has been taken." The Adityapur Municipal Corporation is urged to address this issue promptly. Potential solutions include relocating the bin, ensuring it is covered, and increasing the frequency of waste collection to prevent overflow. Improving street lighting in the area could also help mitigate the risks

associated with low visibility. "We need a safer, cleaner environment," said Anjali Sharma, a local shop owner.

"The open garbage bin is a small issue that could lead to significant problems if not addressed. We urge the municipal authorities to act quickly for the safety and well-being of everyone in the area." As night falls, the dangers posed by the open garbage bin underscore the urgent need for municipal intervention to ensure the safety of Adityapur's residents and visitors.

Improving hygiene to save lives

The rise in diseases due to poor hygiene and inadequate attention to antibacterial measures is alarming. A study published in The Lancet indicates that implementing proper infection prevention measures could save approximately 750,000 lives annually in lower-middle-income countries. Essential steps include hand hygiene, regular cleaning of hospitals and healthcare centers, disinfecting equipment, ensuring clean drinking water, maintaining proper hygiene, and timely vaccination of children. The findings underscore the critical impact of bacterial infections, which cause one in eight deaths worldwide each year. Researchers stress the need for improved access to antibiotics to combat antimicrobial resistance effectively. Without these measures, meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those focused on child health, will remain a challenge. Regular vaccination of pregnant women and children alone could save about 182,000 lives each year, a relatively simple task that remains unmet for many. Climate change exacerbates these issues, introducing new bacterial threats that can prove fatal if not controlled promptly. Vaccinations, starting from birth for both pregnant women and children, are a vital preventive measure. However, many people remain negligent or lack access to essential health services. The persistent presence of polio, despite years of vaccination efforts, highlights this issue. Diseases such as malaria, hepatitis, and Japanese encephalitis continue to emerge, often with deadly consequences.

A significant portion of the population is forced to live and work in polluted environments, with many lacking access to clean drinking water. This situation makes controlling infectious diseases difficult. Despite numerous promises, the public health infrastructure remains inadequate, making antibiotic availability inconsistent. Urban areas might see better conditions, but rural regions often lack basic sanitation, leading to increased vulnerability to infectious diseases.

The correlation between poor sanitation and high infant mortality rates due to infectious diseases is evident. The latest Lancet study calls for immediate government attention to address these issues seriously. The need for improved hygiene practices, better health infrastructure, and widespread vaccination is clear. By prioritizing these measures, we can significantly reduce the burden of infectious diseases and save countless lives. The time to act is now, and the responsibility lies with governments, health organizations, and individuals to ensure a healthier future for all.

From the Editorial Desk

SP's Parivaarvad has no answer to BJP's nationalist politics, says BJP nominee Nirahua

New Delhi, May 24 (IANS) BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) has fielded Dinesh LalYadav, popularly called Nirahua against Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate DharmendraYadav from the AzamgarhLokSabha constituency.

The Bhojpuri star had snatched the seat from SP in 2022 by-elections and added it to BJP's kitty. Nirahua, in an exclusive interview with IANS, said that the script of SP's dynastic politics has become a 'super flop' and added that it has no answers to BJP's nationalist politics. He also talked about several other election issues.

Here is the full interview: IANS: You won the 2022 by-elections. How difficult is the fight this time?

Dinesh Nirahua: There is no difficulty. Those who were given the opportunity from here for a long time have fled. The people have also understood that they (the opposition) run away, whether they win or lose.

BJP was given a chance, and the lotus bloomed. In a year and a half, so much work has been done here that the people here have



understood that Azamgarh will see rapid growth only under the BJP government and they fully support us.

IANS: SP candidate DharmendraYadav says he does not take you seriously and accuses you of following BJP's script blindly. What do you have to say?

Dinesh Nirahua: We (BJP) have the script of nationalism and nation-first policy. We take our work to the grassroot level. They (SP) have the script of dynastic politics, which is a super flop, but still, they are holding onto it.

IANS: BahujanSamaj Party (BSP) candidate GudduJamali

(Shah Alam) was considered the factor of your victory in 2022 by-elections. Now that he is with SP, how challenging is it?

Dinesh Nirahua: He has the entire vote bank of BSP gone with SP because GudduJamali joined SP? It is not so. He has gone alone, gathering merely 5000-7000 votes.

Yes, in 2019, there was an alliance between SP and BSP, and because of that, AkhileshYadav won. But, in 2022, when SP fought alone, DharmendraYadav lost the election, and in 2024, he is facing the same situation again.

IANS: Is Azamgarh also known as Mulayamgarh?

Dinesh Nirahua: The Yadavs here have understood in 2019 and 2022 that whether they (BJP) win or lose, they stay. However, whether they (SP) win or lose, they flee. Only Dinesh LalNirahua has done the work here. The Yadav community is also with us.

IANS: SP MLA RamakantYadav is in jail, while his son, ArunkantYadav is in the BJP. How is he helping you?

Dinesh Nirahua: Whoever is in our party, everyone is working hard to secure the victory.

IANS: Your statement on employment is widely discussed. The opposition also raised a lot of questions. What do you have to say?

Dinesh Nirahua: The opposition escalated the matter by editing my statement. I did not say anything about either Hindus or Muslims. Opposition finds appeasement everywhere.

IANS: Bhojpuri actors and singers are now contesting elections after earning fame and money. How do you see this?

Dinesh Nirahua: In a democracy, anyone can contest elections. Whoever wants to contest can do so from anywhere. What is the problem with that?

IANS: You are demanding Ahir Regiment. Do you think it is possible in the Agniveer Scheme?

Dinesh Nirahua: There should be an Ahir Regiment. Opposition is dead against the Agniveer scheme without knowing anything about it. In this scheme, along with training, money is also being given. When they retire, they will have a good amount of money. They will be able to start their own business and also get priority in jobs.

Saran violence may polarise voters in remaining 16 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar

The recent violence in Chapra area in Saran may polarise voters in the remaining 16 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar that will go to polls in the sixth and seventh phases.

The MaharajganjLok Sabha seat will be directly affected by the violence as four Assembly seats of Saran District come under the constituency.

In such a situation, polarisation of votes will make matters unpredictable for all the political parties in the fray. During the fifth phase of elections in Saran, the dispute between the BJP and RJD supporters started with a scuffle and turned into firing.

In the firing at the Bhikhari Thakur Chowk in Chapra, three RJD workers were hit, resulting in the death of one and grievous injuries to the other two. The victims belong to the Yadav community and the two BJP supporters who fired the gunshots are from the Rajput caste. Politics and blame game has already started over the reprehensible incident.

BJP and RJD leaders have blamed each other for the dispute that started at booths 318 and 319 of Saran on May 20. The RJD's RohiniAcharya has accused the BJP's cadres of misbehaving with her and trying to kill her.

On the other hand, the BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy stated that the May 21 firing took place in self-defence.

From the statements of all political parties, it seems that an attempt is being made to keep the issue alive till the next two phases of elections.

In the sixth phase of the election, the effect of this incident will be seen on the MaharajganjLok Sabha seat that is adjacent to Saran as this constituency has been created by combining some areas of Siwan and



Saran Districts. There are six Assembly seats here which include four, namely Taraiya, Baniyapur, Ekma and Manjhi in Saran District and Goriyakothe and Maharajganj in Siwan.

With more than 4.50 lakh voters, Rajputs dominate this constituency, followed by Bhumihars at 4 lakh.

There are also around 2.5 lakh Brahmins and 2.5 lakh Yadav voters in the constituency. In the MaharajganjLok Sabha constituency, BJP's outgoing MP Janardan Singh Sigrival is pitted against Congress candidate Akash Singh.

Akash Singh is the son of Congress state President Akhilesh Prasad Singh. He belongs to the Bhumihar caste and Maharajganj has a good number of Bhumihars.

Here the Congress was hoping for the MY equation to be added to the Bhumihar votes, assuring it a victory.

However, after the Saran incident, if caste mobilisation takes place then the Congress candidate may suffer a loss, as Bhumihars come under the upper caste category and are considered the core voters of the BJP

in Bihar. The fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections has been completed and voting for 16 seats will be done in the remaining two phases.

In the sixth phase on May 25, voting will be held on eight seats, which includes Valmiki Nagar, West Champaran, East Champaran, Sheohar, Vaishali, Gopalganj, Maharajganj and Siwan.

In the seventh phase also, voting will be held on eight seats that include, Nalanda, Patna Sahib, Pataliputra, Arrah, Buxar, Sasaram, Karakat and Jehanabad.

East Champaran, Sheohar, Vaishali, Maharajganj, Siwan, Ara, Buxar, and Karakat are some of the constituencies where the population of upper castes and MY voters is sizable. If there is a polarisation of votes here after the Saran incident, then NDA and INDIA bloc candidates may suffer losses on these seats.

PurviChamparan, Sheohar, Vaishali, Maharajganj, Arrah and Buxar are the constituencies where the NDA has given tickets to upper caste candidates.

Parties pull out all stops as battle for Purvanchal heats up in UP

As the Lok Sabha elections enter the final phases, Uttar Pradesh is poised for an intense battle, with the BJP and its allies facing a strong competition from the SP-Congress alliance in Purvanchal region.

Purvanchal, comprising 27 Lok Sabha seats (14 in the sixth phase and 13 in the seventh and last phase), has emerged as a pivotal battleground, drawing attention due to its electoral significance and complex political and caste dynamics.

The 2022 Assembly poll results set the stage for a closely-contested battle between the BJP-led NDA and the SP-Congress combine.

Unlike in the 2019 General Elections, the BSP has preferred to go solo in 2024. It may benefit or harm the NDA and the INDIA bloc on some seats depending on local factors since the contest appears to be a straight one between the NDA and the INDIA bloc. In the 2022 Assembly polls, the SP had won 45 out of 135 Assembly seats in Purvanchal. The Congress also made inroads with victories in two constituencies, while the BSP had bagged only one seat.

The BJP managed to win 69 seats with its allies securing an additional 18. The fight may be even



more intense in the sixth phase featuring 14 Lok Sabha seats.

It was in this region alone that the SP won more seats than the BJP in the 2022 Assembly polls.

Of the 70 Assembly seats under the 14 Lok Sabha constituencies, the SP emerged victorious on 34 seats while the NDA bagged 43 seats with the BJP winning 34 and its allies nine.

The SP had swept all the Assembly seats under Ambedkar Nagar, Lalganj and Azamgarh LS constituencies. The Congress and the BSP also won one Assembly seat each in this region in 2022.

The SP won 11 of the 70 Assembly seats under the 13 Lok Sabha constituencies that will go to polls in the last phase on June 1. The

Congress also emerged victorious in one Assembly segment under MaharajganjLok Sabha seat. The rest of the seats went to the NDA -- 43 to the BJP and nine to its allies.

The battle for Purvanchal was not an easy one for the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections either.

Of the total 16 seats that the BJP-led NDA lost in UP in 2019, seven were in Purvanchal alone, five of them being in the sixth phase. The BJP won the Machhlishahr seat by a very thin margin of just a few hundred votes.

The seats that the NDA could not win in 2019 LS polls in Purvanchal were Azamgarh, Ambedkar Nagar, Shrivasti, Lalganj, Jaunpur, Ghosi and Ghazipur.

While the SP won

Azamgarh, its then alliance partner BSP captured the remaining six seats.

The evolving alliances further complicate the electoral calculus. In 2019, the BSP was aligned with the Opposition, whereas in 2022, a rainbow coalition led by prominent OBC leaders, including OP Rajbhar, Swami Prasad Maurya and Dara Singh Chauhan bolstered the SP's presence.

This time, the BSP is not part of any alliance while all the OBC leaders, barring Swami Prasad Maurya, have returned to the NDA fold.

The BJP will rely heavily on these OBC leaders, including the Apna Dal (S) chief Anupriya Patel, for maximising seats in the remaining last two phases in Purvanchal.

If contesting MLAs win, UP can face a 'mini-assembly' election

Uttar Pradesh could be heading for a mini-assembly election after the Lok Sabha polls are over if the 15 legislators contesting the parliamentary elections emerge as winners.

The 15 legislators, including three ministers of the Yogi Adityanath government, are trying their luck in the elections while a Rajya Sabha member of BJP is also contesting the Lok Sabha polls.

To fill up the assembly seats, vacated by the winning candidates, elections will have to be held within six months.

The BJP, SP, Congress, RLD and Nishad Party have fielded their MLAs in the election for Lok Sabha seats of the state. The declared candidates include 13 state assembly members and two members of the Legislative Council. The BJP has nominated NeerajShekhar as its candidate for the Ballia Lok Sabha seat. Neeraj is currently a member of the Rajya Sabha and his tenure as a Rajya Sabha member is till



November 2026. The BJP has fielded Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh in the Yogi government to contest the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat against MP Dimple Yadav, daughter-in-law of SP founder late Mulayam Singh Yadav and wife of SP

chief AkhileshYadav. Jaiveer, who was elected MLA from the Mainpuri seat in the 2022 assembly elections, now faces the challenge of making the lotus bloom in the Mainpuri parliamentary constituency. AnoopPradhanValmiki, minister of state for revenue

in the Yogi government, was the candidate from Hathras reserved seat.

Anoop is an MLA from Khair reserved seat of Aligarh district.

Similarly, Ghaziabad MLA AtulGarg will contest, on the BJP ticket, for the Ghaziabad Lok Sabha seat.

In Nagina reserved Lok Sabha seat, currently held by the BSP, the BJP has placed its bets on its MLA Om Kumar from Nahtaur reserved assembly constituency of Bijnor district. Praveen Patel, MLA from Phulpur assembly constituency of

Prayagraj, is contesting as a BJP candidate in the election battle of Phulpur parliamentary constituency. One MLA each from RLD and Nishad Party, who are part of BJP's NDA, are also in the fray for LS polls.

RLD has placed its stake in its MLA Chandan Chauhan, elected from the Meerapur assembly seat of Muzaffarnagar district. He is contesting from Bijnor parliamentary constituency, one of the two Lok Sabha seats under its quota.

Similarly, the Nishad Party's MLA from the Majhnaw assembly seat of Mirzapur district, Vinod Kumar Bind, is the BJP candidate from the Bhadohi Lok Sabha constituency.

Not only the ruling BJP, but the SP has also fielded five of its MLAs candidates for the Lok Sabha elections.

Leading from the front is the SP President and leader of the Opposition in the state, AkhileshYadav, who is contesting from the KannaujLok Sabha seat.

Presently, Akhilesh is a member of the assembly representing the Karhal

assembly segment of the MainpuriLok Sabha seat.

To challenge BJP candidate and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the prestigious LucknowLok Sabha seat, SP has fielded MLA RavidasMehrotra, who represents the Lucknow Central Assembly seat.

SP has nominated its MLA Awadhesh Prasad from Milkpur reserved seat to challenge the sitting BJP MP Lallu Singh on Faizabad Lok Sabha seat in Ayodhya. The party has also given a ticket to Katheri MLA LaljiVerma for Ambedkar Nagar Lok Sabha seat. The SP has fielded ZiaurRahmanBarq as its candidate from Sambhal. ZiaurRahman was elected MLA from the Kundarki assembly constituency of Moradabad in 2022 on an SP ticket. Among the two Congress MLAs, Virendra Chaudhary, elected from Pharenda assembly seat of Maharajganj district, is also contesting from MaharajganjLok Sabha to challenge the BJP that has fielded Union minister

Pankaj Chaudhary from MaharajganjLok Sabha seat. The two members of the Legislative Council (Upper House) contesting the elections are BJP's Jitin Prasad and BSP's BhimraoAmbedkar.

The BJP has fielded Jitin Prasad, PWD Minister in the Yogi government from the PilibhitLok Sabha seat.

Prasada was nominated as a member of the Legislative Council on September 27, 2021, for six years. In such a situation, his tenure as a member of the Legislative Council is till September 26, 2027. If Prasada is elected MP from Pilibhit, he will have to resign from the membership of the council.

The BSP has also given the ticket to its Legislative Council member BhimraoAmbedkar from Hardoi seat reserved for Scheduled Caste. However, even if BhimraoAmbedkar wins the MP election, there will be no need to hold separate elections because his six-year tenure in the council ended earlier this month.

Gambhir's strategic mastery faces off Cummins' leadership in mega showdown

Chennai, May 25 (IANS) In the forthcoming IPL 2024 final in Chennai on Sunday, the stage is set for a clash of wits between two contrasting leaders: the strategic mastermind Gautam Gambhir and the affable yet fiercely competitive Pat Cummins, as Kolkata Knight Riders take on a resolute Sunrisers Hyderabad.

While marquee sporting events often spotlight the clash of leadership styles, this final elevates the narrative to a battle of minds. Gambhir, known for his tactical brilliance, finds himself pitted against Cummins, who has emerged as a leader both on and off the field, transcending boundaries with his leadership prowess.

Despite Shreyas Iyer's presence as KKR's captain, this final seems to revolve around the captivating duel between Cummins, hailed as cricketing royalty on the global stage, and Gambhir, the seasoned IPL veteran.

A decade ago, envisioning Cummins as a captain conquering the ODI World Cup, World Test Championship, and Ashes within six months would have been improbable. Yet, leading SRH to their maiden IPL title could serve as the ultimate testament to his remarkable journey.

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

"He doesn't waste time in (team) meetings. Our team meeting today was 35 seconds. But, a lot of information has already been spoken about," he said. In the first qualifier, KKR showcased their strategic prowess with clever bowling tactics to outmaneuver SRH on the expansive grounds of Motera. As they head to Chennai for the final, Shreyas Iyer's squad holds the favored position once again. The memories of KKR's last IPL final in Chennai, back in 2012 against Chennai Super Kings, evoke a sense of nostalgia for fans. It was a contest that etched Gautam Gambhir's name as a sagacious leader into the annals of IPL history. His leadership wasn't just about having the perfect game plan; it was also about leading with heart and

IPL 2024 Final, KKR vs SRH



conviction. Following their triumph in 2014, Gambhir became a sentimental favorite among fans. Now, on the brink of potentially securing another title, he stands poised to etch his name further into the record books, possibly becoming the first individual to clinch the IPL trophy both as captain and mentor for the same team. Beyond the glory of the IPL, there looms a grander opportunity for Gambhir - the prospect of helming the Indian cricket team as head coach. A victorious campaign in the IPL final would not only enhance his credentials but also intensify calls for his presence in the Indian dressing room.

A closer examination of the two sides reveals KKR's edge in terms of match-

winners. With stalwarts like Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Rinku Singh, and the dynamic duo of Iyer - Shreyas and Venkatesh - as well as the talented Ranasinghe, Nitish and Harshit, alongside spinner Varun Chakaravathy, KKR boasts a formidable lineup capable of turning the tide in their favour. SRH's roster is studded with unsung heroes from the domestic circuit like Abhishek Sharma and Nitish Reddy, who have shone brightly alongside seasoned campaigners such as Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T Natarajan, and Jaydev Unadkat. Their recent 36-run victory over the Royals, earned on a challenging pitch, undoubtedly injects a surge of confidence into the SRH camp. However, they must acknowledge that the Chepauk surface is tailor-

made for spinners like Varun (with his impressive tally of 20 wickets) and Narine (with 16 scalps to his name), who have been in peak form throughout the season. While SRH's spin arsenal might be grappling with a crisis of confidence, players like Abhishek and Shahbaz Ahmed showcased immense grit, collectively bagging 5 wickets for 37 runs in 8 overs during a pivotal moment in the second qualifier.

Considering the pressure cooker atmosphere of the final, any target ranging from 180 to 200 runs could pose a significant challenge for the chasing team. Travis Head and Heinrich Klaassen's success on tricky surfaces notwithstanding, the onus falls on the shoulders of players like Abhishek, Rahul Tripathi,

Hayden, Pietersen back Kolkata to win final against Hyderabad

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have set up the Indian Premier League (IPL) final against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) after crushing Rajasthan Royals (RR) by 36 runs in Qualifier 2 on Friday. Ahead of the title encounter, former Australia batter Matthew Hayden and former England batter Kevin Pietersen have backed KKR to win the title.

In Qualifier 1, KKR toppled SRH by eight wickets in Ahmedabad to progress to the summit clash. Both teams have started their IPL campaign against each other in which Kolkata won the battle by four runs.

Hayden feels that KKR's spin duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy will make an impact in the match. The spinners share 36 wickets between them in the ongoing season for KKR.

"I'm very confident that KKR are going to win here, as having a few days off, having the ability to watch this match, and understanding what the strengths and weaknesses of Sunrisers Hyderabad are will be helpful. KKR, having defeated SRH, is going to have great momentum. I also just feel that the quality spin of Narine and Varun Chakaravathy on the red clay is going to make a difference," Hayden said on Star Sports Cricket Live.

Pietersen added that Hyderabad's last defeat against Kolkata will also give the latter a lot of confidence in the final but feels happy for the Pat Cummins-led side to reach the title decider.

"I didn't like the way the Sunrisers threw in the towel the other evening in Ahmedabad, and I think it's going to put them on the back foot for the start on Sunday. The way they just finished that game off, Pat Cummins gave Travis Head the ball, and Shreyas Iyer just went bang, bang, bang. It'll give KKR a lot of confidence going into the finals knowing that they've already beaten SRH a couple of days ago," he said.

and Reddy to conjure their best performances for SRH to lift the trophy.

In a contest where mastering the art of varying pace is paramount, young KKR pacers like Harshit and Vaibhav Arora will need to innovate against the formidable Head, who has amassed an impressive 567 runs thus far in the tournament.

The absence of players from India's main T20

World Cup squad in the IPL final adds an intriguing layer to the narrative. Rinku Singh, who finds himself in the reserves, stands as the lone Indian representative associated with the final showdown. This observation underscores a compelling aspect of IPL success: it often hinges less on individual accolades such as the 'Orange Cap' or 'Purple Cap', and more on the cohesive team culture

fostered by leaders like Gambhir and Cummins. In a league where star power often takes center stage, it's the synergy within the team, cultivated by astute captains like Gambhir and Cummins, that ultimately determines triumph. This emphasizes the significance of team ethos and collective effort over individual brilliance, a hallmark of successful IPL campaigns.

Not something that I'm keen on at this stage of my life, says Hussey on India's head coach role

Perth, May 25 (IANS) Michael Hussey, the former Australia left-handed opener, said being the head coach of the India men's side is something he's not keen on considering the stage of life he's at right now.

On May 13, BCCI said it was inviting applications for Rahul Dravid's successor at the top job, with a deadline set for May 27. The next India head coach would be appointed for the period from July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2027, with Secretary Jay Shah denying claims that Australian coaches were approached for the top job. Hussey recently completed a stint as an assistant coach with the Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2024. He's also the head coach of Welsh Fire in The Hundred and is also a commentator for Fox Cricket during the Australia home summer. "They play more cricket than probably anyone in the world really, they're literally going from tour to tour to tour. So that would be a pretty challenging sort of role where you'd have to be there, boots on the ground. You're probably only getting the IPL off, which is eight to 10 weeks, but then the rest of the year you're going to be pretty much on the go."



Archery World Cup: Indian women's compound archery defeats Turkey to secure gold

Shanghai, May 25 (IANS) Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami have won their third successive gold medal for India at the Archery World Championship beating Turkey 232-226 in a lopsided compound women's team final.

This marks a hat-trick for the highly successful trio as they won the gold medal in France and Italy heading into the tournament.

The Indian contingent began the contest dominantly as they took a one-point lead in the first round and followed it with an exemplary second round which saw them hit five perfect 10s with two X, and one 9 extending their advantage to four points by the halfway point.

Despite Turkey's attempt to regain footing in the contest a resilient Indian contingent maintained their four-point lead heading into the fourth round and went on to secure the contest by scoring 58 in the final round to claim gold.

Malaysia Masters: Sindhu storms into final after hard-fought victory against Ongbamrunghan

Kuala Lumpur, May 24 (IANS) India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu has progressed to the final of the women's singles in the Malaysia Masters after defeating Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunghan in the semi-final match here at Axiata Arena on Saturday. In the hard-fought encounter, Sindhu outclassed the higher-ranked Thai shuttler 13-21, 21-16, 21-12 in the 88-minute-long encounter. She will play her first final in any tournament since March last year.



This is also Sindhu's fourth final at BWF World Tour Super 500 events. Playing in his first semi-final of the year, the two-time Olympic medalist lost the opening game before unleashing her true valour on the court.

In the second game, she took the lead from world no. 10 after a highly competitive battle and entered the halfway mark with two points lead. She kept her composure and added to her lead to win the game 21-16. In the deciding game, she came out with all guns blazing and gave no chance to her opponent to make a comeback in the match. Before switching sides, Sindhu had 11-5 lead which she took to eight match points at the end. She easily took the game 21-12 to seal the encounter.

Sindhu will next take on China's Wang Zhi Yi in the final on Sunday. The reigning Asian champion outclassed compatriot Zhang Yiman in straight games to book a final berth.

Para-Athletics Worlds: Indian contingent records highest-ever medal tally

Kobe (Japan), May 25 (IANS) Simran Sharma won gold in the Women's 200 metres T12 category as medals continue to pour for India at the 2024 Para-Athletics World Championship in Kobe, Japan. Preethi Pal won her second medal of the Championship with a bronze in the Women's 100 metres T35 category.

Preethi had earlier won bronze in 200 meters in the same category.

India's Navdeep won a bronze medal with a season-best performance of 42.82 meters in the Men's Javelin Throw F41 category. With Saturday's medals, India's tally



reached 17 including six gold, five silver and six bronze, their highest ever in the history of the esteemed competition surpassing the 2023 tally. The Indian para-athletics team's performance in Kobe is a testament to their hard work, resilience, and

the robust support system provided by coaches, support staff, and the Athletics Federation of India. Their success serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes across the country and reinforces India's growing stature in international para-athletics.

Bangladesh 'hopeful' of Taskin Ahmed's return for T20 World Cup opener against Sri Lanka

Dhaka, May 25 (IANS) Bangladesh Cricket Board's chief physician Debashish Chowdhury has confirmed that pacer Taskin Ahmed, who is undergoing rehabilitation in the USA, will recover in time from his injury and will be available for their T20 World Cup 2024 opening match against Sri Lanka on June 8.

Taskin was named in Bangladesh's 15-member squad for the T20 pinnacle despite healing from the displaced fracture in the rib region on the right side. However, Debashish Chowdhury is satisfied with the pacer's progress following the recent MRI scan result. He added that Taskin will resume



bowling with the short run-up in the coming days.

"Taskin's improvement is very good and satisfying. He is going through a rehabilitation process and undergoing

gym training. He is doing running sessions and we will introduce bowling later," Debashish Chowdhury told Cricbuzz.

"We just got the reports (of the MRI scan) and talked to the doctor, and it seemed the fracture is almost healed and now we will slowly introduce him to short run-up bowling and later increase the intensity. He is not having any problem with running and now we will be doing throwing sessions in the coming days before starting to bowl with short run-ups. We are hopeful he will be available from the opening game of the World Cup if he continues to progress in this manner," he added.

T20 World Cup: Shaheen Afridi declines offer to become Pakistan vice-captain: Report

Birmingham, May 25 (IANS) Left-arm fast-bowler Shaheen Afridi has declined the offer to become the vice-captain of Pakistan for the upcoming 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, to be held in West Indies and the USA from June 1.

A report in ESPNcricinfo on Saturday said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) selection committee did raise the prospect of Shaheen being named as Babar Azam's deputy for the Men's T20 World Cup, only for him to reject the offer.

"In the end, the World Cup squad, which was named hours before the

ICC deadline to submit the final squad, did not officially have a vice-captain," it added.

Shaheen had been named as Pakistan's T20I captain after Babar had stepped down from the role after Pakistan's league stage exit from the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup in India. But after captaining the side in a five-match T20I tour of New Zealand in January and new PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi taking charge, Babar was soon back as the captain, with Shaheen ousted from the role.

"Though Shaheen had opted to put the matter of being stripped of the T20



captaincy after one series behind him, a sense of injustice continues to linger. The player has never felt the reasons for his dismissal were ever adequately explained to him, and having been unceremoniously dumped from one leadership position, he was understood to not be keen to jump into

another," added the report. What has also complicated matters was a PCB statement in March, which had Shaheen offering Babar warm words of encouragement on being back as the Pakistan captain. But after some time, it emerged that quotes attributed to Shaheen were never made and Naqvi rushed to the training camp at Kakul to seek a truce with the fast-bowler.

"While Shaheen remained thoroughly unimpressed and betrayed by the manner of his dismissal, an uneasy truce was understood to have been reached. That Shaheen turned down

another chance at a leadership position, though, demonstrates how uneasy that truce still is."

"Shaheen is among the core leadership group of the T20 side, but is understood to feel he does not need to take up an official role delineating it, particularly as the role is a demotion on the position he held just weeks ago," further said the report.

The report also said names of Shadab Khan and Mohammad Rizwan were discussed as options for Babar's deputy for the mega event. But with Shadab having indifferent form and Rizwan not being a youngster, neither was

appointed to the vice-captain role.

Pakistan are currently participating in a T20I series in England, with the second match to be held in Birmingham on Saturday. The 2009 World Cup champions will begin their Men's T20 World Cup campaign against Group A opponents, co-hosts USA, in Dallas on June 6.

They will then face India in a highly anticipated clash in New York on June 9, followed by facing Canada at the same venue on June 11 and will travel to Lauderhill, Florida, to play against Ireland on June 16 for their last Group A match.

Dewarman reveals secret to Bopanna's longevity, says "we're seeing a fearless version of him"



New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Indian veteran Somdev Devvarman revealed the secret behind Rohan Bopanna's longevity and said we are "seeing a fearless version of him."

Rohan Bopanna has been the pillar of Indian tennis for a better part of two decades. In an exclusive conversation with IANS, Somdev Devvarman talks about the secret behind the 44 year old's longevity.

An Arjuna awardee, Bopanna made his Davis cup debut in 2002 and has been the leading force in the country ever since. He also became the oldest player to ever win a grand slam title when he along with Matthew Ebden won the men's doubles category in the Australian Open in January 2024.

"You know, with Rohan, it's always been determination, it's always been drive, it's always been passion, finding new ways to improve. I think he's done about as well as anybody could have imagined. You know, even before the last five months, he'd had a stellar career, world number three, major finals, mixed doubles major at the French and he did it for a very long period," Devvarman told IANS.

Bopanna will be lacing his boots for the upcoming Roland Garros tournament, the mecca of clay courts. Despite Bopanna's struggle on the surface in the past, he will be looking to have a strong outing as he will be coming back to this exact court for the 2024 Paris Olympics to represent team India.

"The last five months, you're just seeing a fearless version of him. He was always pretty fearless, but now it's like he knows exactly when he needs to press, how he needs to hold serve at key moments, and what kind of pressure to add. So it's just all the experience coming together and his body still holding up. He's very motivated by success and it's just great to see that he's getting it at this stage of his career," concluded the Indian tennis veteran.

Earth-Sized World With Potential For Life Discovered Just 40 Light-Years Away

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Astronomers have discovered a potentially habitable exoplanet, Gliese 12 b, located 40 light-years away in the constellation Pisces. The finding, detailed in a new paper published today in Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, has scientists excited about the possibility of life beyond our solar system.

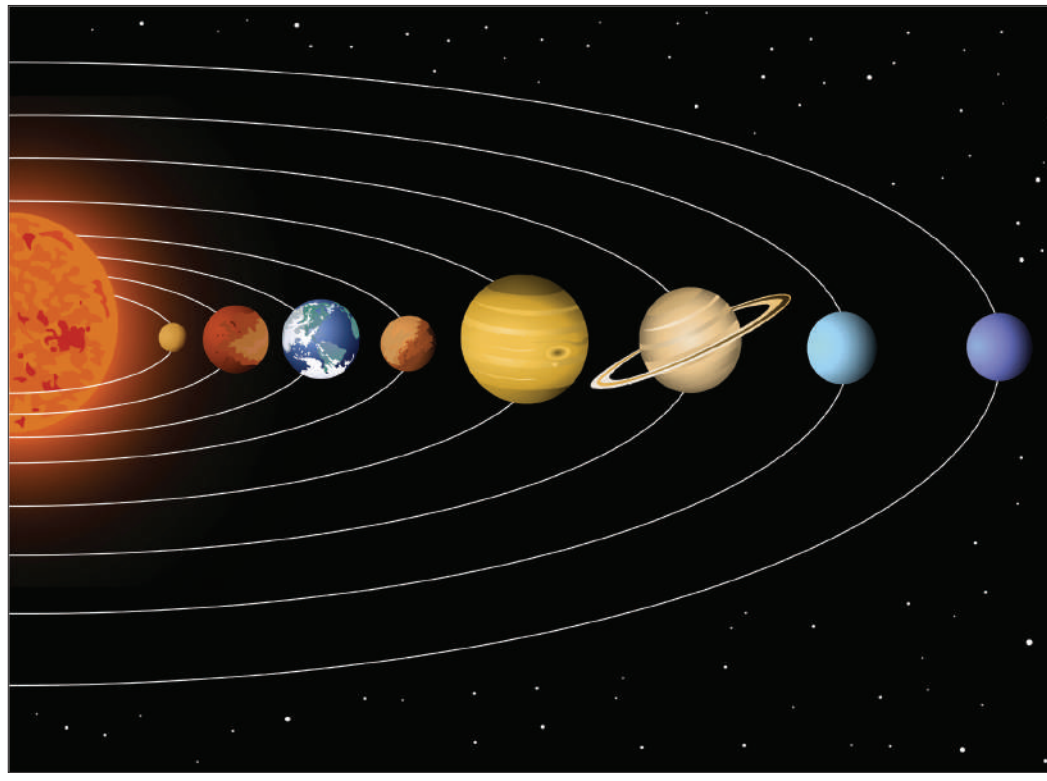
As per the research paper, Gliese 12 b is slightly smaller than Earth and similar in size to Venus. With an estimated surface temperature of 107 degrees Fahrenheit (42 degrees Celsius), it's warmer than Earth's average but cooler than many other exoplanets. This temperature range raises the possibility of liquid water existing on the planet's surface, a key ingredient for life as we know it.

However, the big question remains: does Gliese 12 b have

an atmosphere? The planet could have an Earth-like atmosphere, making it a potential haven for life. But it could also have a scorching atmosphere like Venus, or no atmosphere at all. The possibility of an entirely different kind of atmosphere is also on the table.

"Gliese 12 b represents one of the best targets to study whether Earth-size planets orbiting cool stars can retain their atmospheres, a crucial step to advance our understanding of habitability on planets across our galaxy," said Shishir Dholakia, a doctoral student at the Centre for Astrophysics at the University of Southern Queensland in Australia, in a press release. Dholakia co-led the research team that made the discovery alongside Larissa Palethorpe, a doctoral student at the University of Edinburgh and University College London.

The exoplanet's host star is



about 27 per cent of the size of our Sun and has a surface temperature that is around 60 per cent of our own star.

However, the distance separating Gliese 12 and the new planet is just 7 per cent of the distance between Earth and the Sun.

Gliese 12 b therefore receives 1.6 times more energy from its star as Earth does from the Sun and about 85 per cent of what Venus experiences.

This difference in solar radiation is important because it means the planet's surface temperature is highly dependent on its atmospheric conditions. As a comparison to Gliese 12 b's estimated surface temperature of 42°C (107°F), Earth has an average surface temperature of 15°C (59°F).

"Atmospheres trap heat and - depending on the type - can change the actual surface temperature substantially," Dholakia explained. "We are

quoting the planet's 'equilibrium temperature', which is the temperature the planet would be if it had no atmosphere.

"Much of the scientific value of this planet is to understand what kind of atmosphere it could have. Since Gliese 12 b gets in between the amount of light as Earth and Venus get from the Sun, it will be valuable for bridging the gap between these two planets in our solar system."

Palethorpe added: "It is thought that Earth's and Venus's first atmospheres were stripped away and then replenished by volcanic outgassing and bombardments from residual material in the solar system."

"The Earth is habitable, but Venus is not due to its complete loss of water. Because Gliese 12 b is between Earth and Venus in temperature, its atmosphere could teach us a lot about the habitability pathways planets take as they develop."

Reducing plastic pollution by 5pc yearly may stabilise ocean microplastics



New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Cutting down plastic pollution by 5 per cent per year may help stabilise the level of microplastics -- plastics less than 5 mm in length -- on the surface of oceans, finds a study on Friday.

From human blood to testicles, to flora and fauna, microplastics have long been known as a significant environmental and health concern worldwide.

To predict its impact on oceans, researchers at Imperial College London and GNS Science developed a model of eight different scenarios of plastic pollution reduction starting from 2026 up to 2100.

The results, published

in Environmental Research Letters, showed that a reduction in plastic pollution by more than 5 per cent each year will stabilise and also prevent the increase of microplastics in the ocean.

However, the modelling also predicted that even a yearly reduction of 20 per cent will "not significantly reduce existing microplastic levels, meaning they will persist in our oceans beyond 2100".

Zhenna Azimrayat Andrews, from the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London noted that "stabilising microplastic levels is the first step towards elimination" as

they "never be a completely successful removal" from oceans.

"But the current global output of plastic pollution is so great, that even a 1 per cent annual reduction in pollution would make a big difference overall," added Zhenna.

Meanwhile, the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA) aims to adopt a legally binding resolution to completely eradicate the production of plastic pollution from 2040, including ocean microplastics.

For this "a more coordinated international policy is necessary", and "changes should happen on an industrial and commercial level", the researchers argued.

India-assembled flagship Range Rovers arriving soon, says company

Mumbai, May 25 (IANS) In a fillip to the government's "Make in India" initiative, Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) on Friday said it plans to start assembling the flagship Range Rover model, along with Range Rover Sport, in India for the first time, significantly bringing down the prices.

The company's Pune plant currently assembles the Range Rover Velar, Range Rover Evoque, Jaguar F-PACE, and Discovery Sport models.

The India-assembled Range Rovers will be available for delivery by the end of this month while Range Rover Sport will arrive in the market by August.

N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, said the local assembly of the flagship models "marks an inflection point for the India subsidiary and shows the confidence the company has in the market".

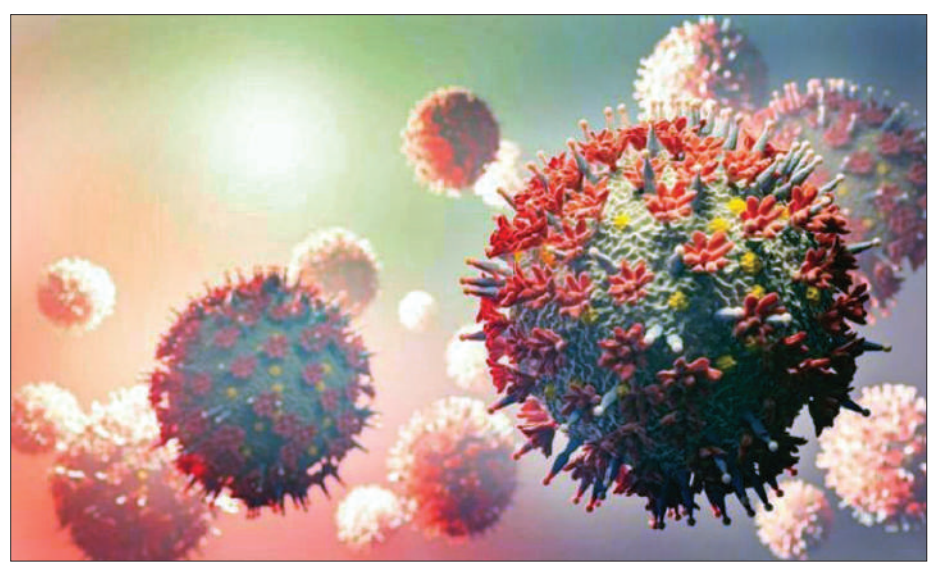
According to the company, the first delivery of the locally manufactured Range Rover will begin May 24.

The move, according to the company, is likely to reduce prices by 18 to 22 per cent. Certain reports mentioned that the prices may come down by up to Rs 56 lakh.

Geraldine Ingham, Managing Director of Range Rover, said they are seeing the "highest levels of client demand" for Range Rover in their 53-year history and "India is a very important part of this success story."



Covid pandemic reversed progress of last 10 years in global life expectancy: WHO



Geneva, May 25 (IANS) The recent deadly Covid-19 pandemic reversed the last 10 years' steady gain seen in life expectancy at birth and healthy life expectancy at birth (HALE) worldwide, according to a new report by World Health Organization (WHO) released on Friday.

The report, World Health Statistics 2024, showed that between 2019 and 2021, global life expectancy declined by 1.8 years to 71.4 years (back to the level of 2012).

Similarly, within just two years global healthy life expectancy dipped by 1.5 years to 61.9 years in 2021 (back to the level of 2012).

"In just two years, the Covid-19 pandemic erased a decade of gains

in life expectancy," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

Stressing the importance of the Pandemic Agreement, he said it will "not only strengthen global health security, but protect long-term investments in health and promote equity within and between countries".

In 2020, Covid infection ranked as the third highest cause of mortality globally, while it emerged as the second leading cause of death in 2021.

"Nearly 13 million lives were lost during this period," the report said.

Further, the report showed that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as ischaemic heart disease and stroke, cancers,

chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and diabetes accounted for 78 per cent of non-Covid deaths during the pandemic.

The pandemic also increased obesity in young and old (over one billion), underweight (more than half a billion) and malnutrition in children.

"About 148 million children under five years old were affected by stunting (too short for age), 45 million suffering from wasting (too thin for height), and 37 million overweight," the report said.

The report called for "accelerating progress" to meet the health Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sara Tendulkar's Latest Instagram Entry Will Make You Want To Plan A Vacation With Your "Fav"

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) When Sara Tendulkar is not swamped with work, she makes sure to treat herself to a relaxing vacation. Sara has a love for travelling and her social media entries are proof. Once again Sachin Tendulkar's daughter packed her bags and jetted off to a new destination, this time with her mother Anjali Tendulkar. Treating her Instagram family with glimpses of her envious trip, Sara dropped a video of herself sitting in a cafe with her mother.

The video opens by showing the Regent's Canal and as Sara pans the camera, we also get a glimpse of mom Anjali Tendulkar sitting right in front of her. Sara shared the clip with a location tag reading, "London, United Kingdom." Just below that she wrote, "W my fav (With my favourite)."

Next, Sara Tendulkar dropped a picture of herself sitting in the middle of a lush garden.

Just like Sara Tendulkar and Anjali Tendulkar, if you



are planning a London vacation, here are a few spots apart from Regent's Canal that you must visit.

Buckingham Palace
How can we not start our list with Buckingham Palace? It is the official residence of the monarch of the UK. From touring the 19 staterooms to watching the 'Changing of the Guard' ceremony, the Royal Palace is definitely a must-visit spot in London. It is an architectural marvel boasting impressive gates

and gardens.

Hyde Park
This is the largest royal park, spread across 142 hectares. If you are travelling with your kids, this is an amazing location to visit in London. Popular attractions within the park include the Serpentine Lake, the Joy of Life fountain, the Serpentine Bridge, the Statue of Achilles, the Serenity Statue and the Diana-Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain.

Westminster Abbey
If you are an architectural enthusiast, then a trip to London will more than satisfy your love for Regency-era design.

Westminster Abbey is a 10th-century Gothic Church. This architectural marvel has historical events including the coronation of monarchs like Queen Elizabeth II as well as royal weddings and funerals.

Big Ben
Also known as Elizabeth Tower, this is a world-

famous clock face. Weighing more than 13 tones, Big Ben is an enormous bell in the clock tower. In addition, you can visit the mechanism room to observe the functioning of the clock.

Kensington Palace
This royal palace is the residence of members of the British Royal Family, including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was this palace where Queen Victoria was born in 1819.

Popular dog Kabosu, who inspired crypto currency Doge coin & ShibaInu, dies

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Popular Japanese dog Kabosu, who became the face of the cryptocurrency Dogecoin and ShibaInu, died on Friday at the age of 18 years.

As per reports, the dog was suffering from leukemia and liver disease.

The demise of Kabosu was also announced by Dogecoin in a post on X, saying, "Our community's shared friend and inspiration, peacefully passed in the arms of her person. The impact this one

dog has made across the world is immeasurable."

The dog's owner revealed in a blogpost that a "farewell party for Kabo-chan will be held on May 26".

The demise of the internet's favourite dog broke netizens' hearts, as words of love and condolences flooded in for Kabosu.

"Rest in peace, Kabosu! The Doge meme brought smiles to millions of faces around the world. Your wrinkled face and curled tail will forever be a

symbol of Joy, Humour and Internet Culture. You will be Doge forever," a user wrote on X.

"Kabosu, the Japanese dog behind the Doge meme, has died at the age of 18. This day should be declared International Dog Day," another user posted.

Another said "You were and will always be the best of Doges. You brought joy to so many people and inspired a whole generation to strive to do more good every day. Gone but never forgotten. Rest in peace, Kabosu."



NDA won't spare those who looted Bihar, this is Modi Ki Guarantee: Modi

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on a whirlwind campaign trail in Bihar, launched an all-out attack on the Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) alliance on Saturday and said that his government will crack down on all those, irrespective of their stature, who looted the state for personal gains. While addressing a rally in Bihar's Karakat, PM Modi said that the 'timid' Congress and RJD centred their politics around fear psychosis and ruled the state by frightening the people. He added that there is no room for fear in the NDA

government and all powerful and mighty, be it Shehzada or the other, will have to face the law. In a clear message to RJD, the PM said, "Those who usurped the land of the poor in the name of jobs will not be spared, their countdown has begun. This is NDA's guarantee, this is Modiki guarantee." Notably, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and his family are facing probe over land for jobs scams, in which they have been accused of acquiring land parcels at huge discounts from those who were given jobs in Railways, apparently during Lalu's

tenure as Railway Minister. PM Modi started the rally by making two 'predictions', drawing huge applause and loud cheers from the gathering. "The first thing that will happen by the evening of June 4 is that RJD will start saying that Congress spoiled their chances, and both parties will fight each other. Another would be ShahiParivaar heading to foreign locales for exquisite vocation while making MallikarjunKharge the scapegoat of the Congress debacle in the state. He will be left to face the wrath of party workers," PM Modi said, mocking the Cong-



RJD combine. His praise for Bihar residents also saw the crowd getting into a frenzy mode. "People of Bihar perfectly gaze the pulse of politics. They don't waste their vote, they do it after calculation and due deliberation," PM Modi said.

He also had a message for first-time voters of Bihar as he advised them not to fall into the Opposition's trap of jungle raj. He reminded them of the 'terrible times' of RJD rule and said that they must not give them another chance. "Looters and goondas (ruffians and goons) are currently in their hideouts, they are waiting for revival. You must not give them a chance to come to life again," the PM told the first-time voters. He also invoked the Bihari pride and told the gathering how the residents of Bihar are subjected to abuse and humiliation by

DMK leaders in Tamil Nadu, Congress CM in Telangana and repeated slurs by Mamata Banerjee and said that Congress and RJD don't bother about their insults, they are only bothered about their vote bank. He further accused the INDI Alliance of snatching the reservation of OBCs, SCs and STs and giving it to the Muslim community. "By one legislation, they changed the character of educational institutions and deprived backward community of the rights for their vote bank and gave it to the Muslim community," PM Modi said while also

mentioning Calcutta High Court's recent rap to Mamata government over OBC certificates. He said that the INDI Alliance wears a mask of social justice but only does appeasement politics for its vote bank. "NDA will unmask their dangerous designs and plot," he added. Notably, the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) leader Upendra Kushwaha is NDA's candidate from the Karakat Lok Sabha constituency. Mahagathbandhan has pitted Raja Ram Singh of the Communist Party of India- Marxist- Leninist (CPI-ML) against him.

CJI Chandrachud votes in Delhi, urges people to fulfill civic duty



New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, accompanied by his wife Kalpana Das, cast their votes in the national capital, which went to the polls in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections. After voting, the CJI said: "Today by voting, I have fulfilled my duties as a citizen of the country." He stressed the significance of this civic responsibility, saying: "I had earlier also said that this is a major responsibility of every citizen." Earlier, the CJI had urged citizens not to miss the opportunity to vote in the general elections, saying that it is one of the "foremost duties" in a constitutional democracy.

Congress would be restricted to 40 LS seats, says HM Amit Shah in Himachal

Una (Himachal Pradesh), May 25 (IANS) Claiming that the Congress would be restricted to 40 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday praised four-time BJP MP Anurag Thakur, saying "the BJP has sent a very big leader to your constituency". "You people are lucky to get an MP like Anurag Thakur. Vote wisely," Amit Shah said while addressing an election rally at Amb in Himachal Pradesh's Una district in support of Union Minister Anurag Thakur, the BJP candidate from the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat. Praising Thakur for the

development of Hamirpur and connecting youngsters to BJP's ideology, the Home Minister said, "Modiji has given you a readymade minister. I have known Anurag 'bhai' for years. Now he's working as PM Modi's companion in the Cabinet. "You will not find such a parliamentarian even if you search with a lamp. Modiji loves the Himalayas and Himachal. Sometimes the people of Gujarat get jealous thinking whether Modiji is from Himachal or Gujarat," he said. Reiterating that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) "is a part of India and we will take it", Amit Shah hit



out at the Congress for trying to "frighten us" by saying the neighbouring country possesses atom bombs. "Rahul 'Baba', we are from the BJP, we are not scared of atom bomb. POK is India's, it will remain so, and we will take it," he said. The Home Minister also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already won 310 seats in the first five phases of Lok Sabha

polls and the target of '400 paar' would be achieved in the remaining two phases. Since his maiden electoral victory in the May 2008 parliamentary bypoll at the age of 34, Anurag Thakur served as the BJP's youth wing President from 2011 to 2016. He won the 2019 Lok Sabha polls by a record margin of 3.87 lakh votes, with a vote share of 69 per cent. The Congress last won from Hamirpur in 1996 after which the seat remained a BJP bastion with Anurag Thakur's father and two-time Himachal Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhupal

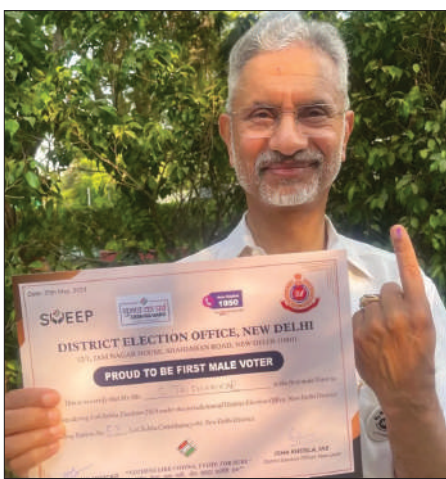
winning the seat thrice. The seat has been with the BJP since 1998 when Suresh Chandel was elected as the MP. However, Chandel was caught in a sting operation after the cash-for-query scandal in the Parliament in 2005. In 2007, Dhupal became the MP from Hamirpur but later resigned to take over as the Chief Minister. This necessitated the bypoll in 2008 which Anurag Thakur won before retaining the seat in 2009, 2014, and 2019. Polling in the four Lok Sabha seats in Himachal Pradesh will be held on June 1. The results will be out on June 4.

Jaishankar, Hardeep Puri, Bansuri Swaraj among early voters in 6th phase of LS polls

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Voting is underway for all seven seats in the national capital under the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is aiming to maximise voter turnout before noon. The party is actively encouraging voters to reach polling booths through booth-level management by its workers. Also, prominent leaders and candidates cast their votes early in the morning to motivate both workers and voters. Among those who cast their votes early in the day include Union Ministers S. Jaishankar and Hardeep Singh Puri, BJP's Delhi State President Virendra Sachdeva, former MP and former international cricketer Gautam Gambhir, and Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor. BJP candidate Bansuri Swaraj, contesting from New Delhi, voted after offering prayers at Jhandewala temple; while Harsh



Malhotra, the candidate from East Delhi, cast his vote after visiting a temple. Praveen Khandelwal, BJP candidate from



Chandni Chowk, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, candidate from South Delhi, and Yogendra Chandolia, candidate from North

West Delhi, also exercised their voting rights. To inspire public participation, several BJP leaders voted with their families. Following their votes, senior BJP leaders appealed to public to come out and vote, expressing confidence in winning all seven seats in Delhi and forming an NDA coalition government again at the Centre. To secure victory in all seven seats in Delhi, BJP has fielded Kamaljeet Sehrawat from West Delhi, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri from South Delhi, Yogendra Chandolia from North West Delhi, Harsh Malhotra from East Delhi, Manoj Tiwari from North East Delhi, Praveen Khandelwal from Chandni Chowk, and Bansuri Swaraj from New Delhi. Meanwhile, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Congress are jointly contesting against BJP in Delhi, with AAP contesting four seats and Congress three seats, according to their alliance formula.

CM Naveen Patnaik casts vote, says BJD will form stable govt in Odisha again

Bhubaneswar, May 25 (IANS) Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday asserted that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will form a stable government in the state again. The 77-year-old BJD leader went to the polling station on foot from his residence, Naveen Niwas to cast his vote at the Aerodrome Colony UP School here. Interacting with media persons after casting vote, CM Patnaik said, "I expect the Biju Janata Dal to emerge victorious in both the Assembly and parliamentary elections. We will form a very stable government in the state again with the blessings of the people and Lord Jagannath." "I request all voters, especially the young voters, to come out and exercise their right to franchise," CM Patnaik added. Polling is underway at 10,551 polling booths in six Lok Sabha constituencies - Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Puri and Bhubaneswar - and 42 assembly segments under these constituencies for the third phase of polling in Odisha.

EC releases absolute numbers of voters turnout for first five phases

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) The Election Commission of India on Saturday said that they have decided to further expand the format of the release of turnout data to include the absolute number of voters in every parliamentary constituency as it announced these figures for the five phases completed so far. "The Commission feels duly strengthened by the Supreme Court's observations and verdict on the process of release of turnout data by the Election Commission of India. This brings upon the Commission, a higher responsibility to serve the cause of electoral democracy with undeterred resolution." "The Commission has therefore decided to further expand the format of the release of turnout data to include the absolute number of voters in every parliamentary constituency, which of course is discernible Parliamentary Constituency wise by all citizens themselves by applying the turnout percentage to total electors, both already made available in the public domain," it said.

Elated & committed after using my fundamental right: Paytm CEO

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Paytm Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma said that India has a true momentum across growth parameters and he wants an extension of that momentum, as he cast his first vote in Delhi during the sixth and penultimate phase of the Lok Sabha elections on Saturday. "Bharatiya hone ke mool adhikar ka sadupayog" (Exercised my fundamental right of being a true Indian). Elated and committed," Sharma posted on X. "India has momentum and I want an extension of that momentum. I am privileged to be part of the golden age India is in. The world has changed and India is winning," said Sharma, who earlier voted in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, where he was born. "The current government has the right attention towards financial inclusion and post June 4, there will be further amplification of the fintech sector," he said.



Patients cast votes in LS elections with hospital's help in Delhi



New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) To strengthen democracy, the Manipal Hospital in Delhi's Dwarka area on Saturday helped patients cast their votes during the sixth and penultimate phase of the Lok Sabha elections. The hospital said this initiative aims to highlight the importance of voting as a fundamental duty of every responsible Indian citizen. "By supporting our patients in exercising their right to vote, we are not only prioritising their health but also empowering them as active participants in our democracy. Every vote matters, and we are proud to ensure that our patients' voices are heard," said Viji Verghese, Director, Manipal Hospital, Dwarka. Meanwhile, people turned out in large numbers at the polling stations across the seven parliamentary constituencies in Delhi on Saturday. The voting process began at 7 a.m. with more than 2.52 lakh first-time voters participating in this crucial phase of elections.

Bengal: Violence spreads to tribal-dominated Jhargram constituency

Kolkata, May 25 (IANS) The eight Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal recorded a high voter turnout at 70.19 per cent in the sixth phase polling on Saturday. Such a high polling percentage till 3 p.m. was despite constant flooding reports of poll-related tension and violence from different pockets in the state since the first hour. While till 1 p.m. such reports of tension and violence were restricted mainly to Tamluk Lok Sabha constituency in East Midnapore district, Medinipur and Ghatal constituency in West Midnapore district, similar



reports started coming from the tribal-dominated Jhargram constituency during the last couple of hours. After the BJP candidate from Jhargram Pranatudu reached a village at Garbeta, suddenly a group of around 200 Trinamool Congress activists which included women blocked his vehicle. First, they started staging protests by shouting 'go-back' slogans and then suddenly some of the protesters started pelting stones and bricks at his vehicle. The attack was so sudden that even the

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel escorting Tudu got unnerved initially. The glass window of Tudu's vehicle got smashed and he himself received minor injuries on his head. The CAPF somehow escorted him out of the place and took him to a primary health centre where he was provided with first-aid. As per the latest report available, the BJP candidate from Tamluk and the former judge of the Calcutta High Court Abhijit Gangopadhyay has started staging a protest at Myona, alleging unnecessary harassment of his party workers there.

Pak politician's social media post for Kejriwal on polling day invites BJP's ire

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Amid the ongoing sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections in eight states/UT, Pakistani politician Fawad Chaudhry caught the attention of netizens on Saturday after he posted a message for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Though Kejriwal was quick to snub Chaudhry with a terse reply, the matter drew multiple angry reactions from the BJP leaders, who also advised the city residents to 'vote wisely'. Kejriwal cast his vote along with his family members on Saturday and also shared a photo on social media. Fawad Chaudhry, who was a minister in the erstwhile

Imran Khan-led government in Pakistan, shared Kejriwal's post with the caption, "May peace and harmony defeat forces of hate and extremism," using the hashtags #More Power #India Election 2024. The BJP took exception to the former Pakistan minister's 'laudatory' message for Kejriwal and slammed the Delhi CM for giving a handle to Pakistani politicians to meddle in India's affairs. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla questioned the "relation between India's enemies and Kejriwal", as he asked, "Is this why Congress and AAP doubted surgical strikes and



Balakote strikes?" Further advising Delhi voters to 'vote wisely', he said, "They may cosmetically condemn it but we all know where INDI Alliance's 'aatma' is. They never condemned when Fawad Chaudhry supported Rahul Gandhi,

"Arvind Kejriwal must stop his drama; Kanhaiya, whom you supported called the Indian Army rapists and Naxalites martyrs. "Congress gave a clean chit to Pakistan and Kasab on 26/11, Congress opposes the removal of Article 370. And you yourself had raised questions on Batla House encounter and the surgical strikes," he added. Calling the Pakistan politician's support for Kejriwal "shocking", BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa said, "Why is Pakistan supporting Kejriwal and wanting more powers for him? This raises serious questions." Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said that

Pakistan's support for Kejriwal on polling day was neither surprising nor shocking, because it's a known fact that he enjoys the support of the country's enemies. "Kejriwal is friends with India's enemies. He takes political funding from them. This is the reason behind Pakistan's support for Delhi CM on polling day," Sachdeva said. He also said that Kejriwal has become a threat to the nation's security and the people of the city and country have understood this fact clearly. Meanwhile, Kejriwal responded to the post by asking Chaudhry to refrain from commenting on Indian elections.

Health

Experts warn undetected thyroid diseases can lead to major health complications



New Delhi, May 24 (IANS) The ASSOCHAM CSR Council, under the Illness to Wellness initiative, hosted a panel discussion on the eve of World Thyroid Day titled 'Thyroid Matters: In Health & Disease' with the primary goal of increasing awareness about thyroid diseases and the need to encourage early treatment of thyroid dysfunctions. The panel comprised Dr. (Prof.) Chandrakant Sambhaji Pandav, Member, National Council on POSHAN Abhiyan and Former Head, Centre for Community Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi; Dr. Subhash K Wangnoo, Senior Consultant - Endocrinologist & Diabetologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi; and Dr. Mudit Sabharwal, Consultant Diabetes & Endocrinology, Fortis La Femme Multi Specialty Hospital and Director and Consultant, Diabetologist, Dharma Diabetes and Metabolic Clinics, Delhi & NCR. The session was moderated by Dr. Rajesh Kesari, Founder and Director, Total Care Control, Delhi-NCR, and EC Member, RSSDI.

Dr. Pandav explained the importance of awareness in tackling the rise in thyroid diseases. He also mentioned that adequately iodised salt is needed to stave off thyroid diseases. "Without awareness, you cannot move forward. Awareness is necessary to ensure early detection of thyroid diseases and can prevent major ailments. Historically, iodine deficiency has been a major cause of thyroid disorders. Although iodization programmes have reduced goiter prevalence, iodine deficiency still exists in some regions," he said. Anil Rajput, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM National CSR Council, said: "The increase in the prevalence of thyroid-related health issues warrants heightened awareness and pro-active measures to be put in place with a greater sense of urgency to effectively address this challenge of significant proportions. "Thyroid ailments affect both men and women with the latter reporting a higher incidence necessitating the need for gender-sensitive approaches to be looked at in greater detail. On World Thyroid Day, it is important to galvanise public awareness about thyroid disorders across all age groups and I am confident that together we can empower individuals, families, and communities to effectively address thyroid ailments and move towards a healthier and more resilient nation." Talking about the symptoms, Dr. Sabharwal said there are two types of thyroid disorders - Hypothyroidism (symptoms include- fatigue, weight gain, dry skin, cold intolerance) and Hyperthyroidism (symptoms include weight loss, heat intolerance, increased appetite) "A simple exercise like Surya Namaskar can help control/prevent hyperthyroidism. After Covid-19, we have seen a rise in cases of hyperthyroidism. We must remember that cholesterol and diabetes are also linked to thyroid, therefore, people should ensure a healthy lifestyle to prevent health issues like thyroid ailments," he said.

Dr. Wangnoo said unexpected weakness, postpartum depression in women, and lethargy are signs of thyroid dysfunction to watch out for.

"Thyroid does a lot of work to help metabolise and maintain blood pressure, body temperature and heart rate. Pregnant women also need to be very careful. Postpartum depression is something that women are vulnerable to due to thyroid issues. The intelligence quotient in babies may be affected if there is late detection," he said.

Anjali Tatrari turns from boss lady to loudmouth for her duplicate role in 'Vanshaj'

Mumbai, May 25 (IANS) Anjali Tatrari, who is known for her bold and sassy role as Yukti in the show 'Vanshaj', has now transformed herself to play Chinki, which is a Punjabi girl.

In the current storyline, DJ (Mahir Pandhi), along with his mother Gargi (Parinitha Seth), plots to isolate Yuvika (Anjali) and strip her of any support.

To achieve this, he introduces her lookalike, Chinki Kaur (Anjali), to take over the Mahajan empire entirely. Chinki comes from the harsh realities of poverty in Punjab. Discovered by Srishiti Verma (Utkarsha Naik), Koel's mother, Chinki, is carefully transformed to look like Yuvika. Her arrival is marked by her Punjabi cursing, recklessness, and wild, unrefined dancing.

Talking about playing Chinki, Anjali shared: "After playing Yuvika and now Yukti for so long, I am excited to step into a completely different avatar with Chinki. Being a Punjabi myself, I love the opportunity to play a Punjabi girl. I feel lucky to portray such a diverse role in one show itself." "Shedding my boss lady avatar to turn into a loudmouth and uncouth Chinki was fun but also challenging. Despite her rough exterior, Chinki is smart and cunning, with survival instincts sharpened by years of hardship," said Anjali. The actress added: "Chinki is going to be a key player in DJ's plotting against Yuvika, and her entry will create a lot of ruckus. She will introduce countless twists and turns, while DJ's cunning strategies reach new heights, and it will be fascinating to watch how Yuvika handles these challenges."

Chinki's entrance throws Yuvika's life into chaos, as she claims to be the real Yuvika. This cunning move by DJ aims to outsmart Yuvika, beating her at her own game.



Anil Kapoor lauds 40 years of Anupam Kher: 'Privileged to see your unmatched talent'

Mumbai, May 25 (IANS) Anil Kapoor on Saturday congratulated veteran actor Anupam Kher for his 'incredible' 40 years in the industry, calling his journey nothing short of inspiring. Anil took to X and re-shared Anupam's post, where the latter shared a video of his 40-year acting journey. Anupam, who made his acting debut in 1984, with the Mahesh Bhatt-directed drama film 'Saaransh', penned a heartfelt note, expressing gratitude: "40 YEARS IN CINEMA AND STILL ROCKING: My first film #Saaransh released today on May 25, 1984. My directorial film #TanviTheGreat is my



541st film. God, my producers, directors and my AUDIENCES have been kind and generous to me." "I have celebrated my successes and failures with equal humility and gratitude! I am still travelling on this path of creative journey with the same sense of wonder as I had 40 Years back," the post read. "Thank #MaheshBhatt Saab and @rajshrifilms for

giving me my first opportunity! I don't believe in looking back so I have not looked back since May 25, 1984. There is so much to do. I am not a #Legend or a #Thespian or a #Veteran YET. I am a newcomer every single day. Years just get added since there is a calendar by default. Thank you for your continuous love, support and blessings," he added. Re-sharing Anupam's post, Anil wrote: "Dear Anupam, Congratulations on an incredible 40 years in the industry! Your journey has been nothing short of inspiring. From our earliest days together to the heights of your amazing career, I've been privileged to witness

your unmatched talent, dedication, and heart. @AnupamPKher." "Your passion for your craft and the warmth you bring to everyone around you are truly special. Here's to celebrating your many achievements, and I'm especially looking forward to your next directorial venture, Tavni the Great! I'm so proud of you, my friend," added Anil. On the film front, Anupam last featured in 'Kaagaz 2', and 'Kuch Khatata Ho Jaay'. He next has 'The Signature', 'Vijay 69' in the pipeline. Anil was last seen in 'Fighter' and 'Animal'. He will be next seen in the thriller film 'Savi', starring Divya Khosla in the lead.

After archiving wedding pics with Deepika, Ranveer celebrates beauty of his 'sunshine'

Mumbai, May 25 (IANS) Actor Ranveer Singh on Saturday appreciated the beauty of his wife and soon-to-be mom, Deepika Padukone, a.k.a his 'sunshine', saying, 'buri nazar wale tera moonh kala'.

An avid social media user, Ranveer, who is known for his fun and quirky posts, took to Instagram stories and shared a series of pictures of his ladylove, Deepika.

This is Ranveer's first post for Deepika, post May 7, when he was in the headlines for archiving the wedding pictures with Deepika from his Instagram account.

The snaps show Deepika wearing a yellow sleeveless gown, flaunting her pregnancy glow and baby bump.



The 'Chennai Express' actress opted for a minimal makeup look and tied her hair in a low bun. She accessorised the look with small pearls and diamond earrings.

The series of posts are captioned: "My sunshine",

"Uff! Kya karun main? Marr jaun?" and "Buri nazar wale tera moonh kala."

The couple tied the knot in November 2018, in both traditional Konkani and Sindhi ceremonies, in Italy. They are expecting

their first baby together.

On the professional front, Ranveer next has action drama 'Singham Again' with Deepika in the pipeline, directed by Rohit Shetty.

Deepika also has 'Kalki 2898 AD' in the kitty.

Sharvari: Wish Munjya's world meets those of 'Stree', 'Bhediya' in due course

Mumbai, May 25 (IANS) Actress Sharvari, who will be seen in the upcoming horror comedy 'Munjya', is happy to have the movie in her filmography and wishes that it meets the world of popular films such as 'Stree' and 'Bhediya' in due course. Talking about the film, Sharvari said: "I have been fortunate to have been guided and chosen to be a part of this huge franchise by Dinesh Vijan, who I reckon is one of the best minds in our industry. For him to believe in me, is a huge validation of my craft." The actress is extremely proud of 'Munjya' and is grateful to have the film in her filmography. "The horror-verse has huge stars of our industry, and I'm honoured to be a part of this universe. I wish Munjya's world meets the worlds of 'Stree' and 'Bhediya' in due course of time. I'm secretly praying for that to happen soon," she added. Sharvari added: "Without giving out too much, I would like to say that I'm a big surprise factor in the film, which will be revealed by the makers in due course of time. I'm hoping I shock and awe people and win their hearts with this film."



'Sustainable sundari' Shweta Tripathi: Fashion needs to make me feel me

Mumbai, May 25 (IANS) Actress Shweta Tripathi, who believes in sustainable style, says that for her, fashion does not have to be uncomfortable but needs to make her feel like herself.

Shweta on Saturday took to Instagram and shared a string of pictures in an outfit by designer Payal Pratap.

In the pictures, the 'Mirzapur' star is seen rocking an anti-fit outfit in a navy blue ensemble paired with a geometrically designed jacket with floral prints. She completed her look with minimal make-up and green stilettos.

"One of the best things about being an artist is meeting, appreciating, wearing work of other artists/designers. I wore @payalpratap for my Delhi interviews and felt absolutely (love emojis) in them," she said.

The actress also shared her thoughts on fashion.

"I don't think fashion needs to be uncomfortable. For me, fashion



needs to make me feel (smiling face with heart-eyes emoji) and (partying face emoji) and most importantly-me. #SustainableSundari What's fashion to you?" she concluded.

On the film front, Shweta was seen in the 2023 film comedy film 'Kanjooos Makhichoos' directed by Vipul Mehta. The film, which also stars Kunal Kemmu, is based on the famous Gujarati play 'Sajan Re Jhoot Mat Bolo'.

She was also seen in the series 'Kaalkoot', a 2023 crime drama, with Vijay Varma, Seema Biswas, and Yashpal Sharma.

London, May 25 (IANS) Legendary singer and songwriter Madonna revealed she had no idea of her specific address because she was used to being driven around in the UK when she resided with Guy Ritchie.

Madonna and the 'Gentlemen' filmmaker were married from 2000 to 2008 and spent most of their time together in the director's mansion, Ashcombe House, in Wiltshire, South West England.

Eventing champion William Fox-Pitt was contacted by Madonna asking for riding lessons, and he recalled to the Daily Telegraph newspaper: "She Googled me and said she wanted some lessons, but didn't have a horse. I asked her where she lived, and she said she didn't know."

"I told her I'd never heard of anyone not knowing where they lived, but she said she had only been driven there, and we established it might be

Madonna reveals she didn't know her address when she resided with Guy Ritchie

somewhere near Salisbury. But she ended up coming to Hinton St Mary for lessons." The Olympic veteran had a "good relationship" with Madonna, but she didn't always listen to instructions, and he was left terrified one day when she fell off her horse and thought she was "dead", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He said: "I regularly had to pinch myself. We had a good relationship, she was a good learner but she didn't always want to learn. There were days when she just wanted to go for a ride.



But it was a big risk [because of who she was] not to fall off." "After she'd built an indoor school at Ashcombe, she got me over to see her new horse," he added.

"She was brave but not really a jump rider, and she fell off. I didn't know where to look. She was lying on the floor, didn't move and I was thinking, 'oh my god, she's dead'."

Then she proceeded to come alive very quickly. And vocally." Madonna was furious that William's priority was to look after the horse.

Why ex-NSD director Anuradha Kapur says actors are not abandoning theatre for films

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) "People have to earn a living, even actors. And what is wrong if National School of Drama (NSD) pass-outs go to Mumbai looking for work? In a country that has very few theatre repertoires, what choice do they have?" she asked. The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award-winning director Anuradha Kapur, who taught at NSD, Delhi for over three decades and was its Director for six years (2007-2013) stresses that this "exodus" started in the 70s when Naseeruddin Shah and Om Puri went to Film & Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune after finishing drama school. "In

a way, it is not showing disrespect to either theatre or cinema. A trained actor can easily adapt to different mediums over time," asserted this Phd holder in Theatre from Leeds University, England.

Even while most digital platforms have started following an algorithm where crime thrillers rule, Kapur sees a silver lining in terms of stories and their treatment. "Directors are willing to experiment and many are giving enough space to trained actors to showcase their potential. And this is very exciting for theatre school pass-outs. No wonder you see many of them doing phenomenal in



different series being streamed," she told IANS.

The theatre director completely disagreed with those who feel that drama school pass-outs are abandoning theatre for films and OTTs. "Several of them are working in

both mediums, and not just the established ones but fresh pass-outs too. It is a tradition that started in England, where actors trained in theatre would not completely abandon the stage." A major thrust area during her term as the

Director was to ensure that students from across the country, even those whose mother language was not Hindi, should enroll. "I am content that when I was heading it, several students from the northeast including Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland joined the School. What was important for me was the fact that across languages and cultures, students were getting together and acquainting each other about their respective cultures, and also learning from one another," smiled Kapur who has taught at several institutions

in India and abroad, and was a Fellow at the Freie Universitat, Berlin in 2016-2017. Kapur also executed the Extension Programme, the brainchild of former NSD Director (late) B. V. Karanth. "He always wanted the School to go to the student who cannot reach NSD. I focussed on the northeast, which also led to the starting of the second chapter of the NSD." While the NSD at Bangalore had taken shape during former Director Kirti Jain's tenure, it was Kapur who started it along with those at Tripura and Sikkim, not to mention the Theatre in Education (TIE) initiative.

US-China trade war deepens as tariff exclusions end on hundreds of Chinese products

Washington, May 25 (IANS) In a bid to cut dependency on Chinese products, the US has banned, restricted or put high tariffs on hundreds of goods imported from the country in recent months to promote local manufacturing.

Now, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has further extended additional tariffs duties on about half of 429 products.

In prior notices, the USTR modified the actions in the "Section 301" investigation of China's acts, policies, and

practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation by excluding additional duties on certain products of China.

The current 429 product-specific exclusions (352 previously reinstated exclusions and 77 COVID-related exclusions) are scheduled to expire on May 31, 2024.

In a new notice, the US trade regulator has announced to provide a 14-day transition period for all current exclusions, extending them through

June 14, 2024, and to "extend certain exclusions through May 31, 2025".

"To allow for a transition period, the US Trade Representative is extending all of the currently expiring exclusions through June 14, 2024," it said in a statement.

Some of the products receiving continued exclusions till May 2025 include motors and medical equipment from China.

The USTR found that "extending these exclusions will support efforts to shift sourcing



out of China, or provide additional time where, despite efforts to source products from alternative sources, availability of the product outside of China remains limited".

In March last year, The USTR decided to reinstate certain previously granted and extended "Section 301" tariff exclusions for Chinese products.

Former President Donald Trump had launched a trade war with China and levied additional tariffs on over \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports, citing the so-called Section 301

of the Trade Act of 1974.

To offer relief for some companies in certain industries, Trump approved tariff exclusions for certain products.

Last week, US President Joe Biden announced to quadruple tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) and hiked duties for solar cells, semiconductors and other "strategic" sectors.

The US President directed his trade representative to increase tariffs under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 on \$18 billion worth of imports from China.

Gaming firm Nazara logs Rs 17 crore in net profit in Q4, revenue drops 8 pc

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Gaming and sports media platform Nazara Technologies on Saturday announced net profit from its continued operations at Rs 17.1 crore in the January-March quarter of FY24, up 43.6 per cent compared to Rs 11.9 crore in the same period in the last fiscal year.

The operating revenue was at Rs 266.2 crore for the quarter, down 8 per cent year-on-year, from Rs 289.3 crore in the same quarter in FY23.

For the full fiscal year, net profit increased by 21.8 per cent to Rs 74.8 crore as against Rs 61.4 crore in FY23, the company said in a statement.

The revenue went up 4.3 per cent for FY24 to Rs 1,138.3 crore as against Rs 1,091 crore in FY23.

"FY24 has been a year of building a strong foundation for rapid future scaling. We achieved a 4.3 per cent revenue growth and a 16.5 per cent EBITDA growth," said Nitish Mittersain, Founder, CEO and Joint MD of Nazara Technologies.

Notably, the operating cash flow increased to Rs 131.4 crore, reflecting the company's strong underlying performance.



"We raised Rs 950 crore at Nazara and subsidiaries, our largest fundraise to date, resulting in a net cash balance of Rs 1,450 crores," he informed.

Nazara operates in gaming (World Cricket Championship, Kiddopia, Animal Jam, Classic Rummy etc), esports (Nodwin Gaming, Sportskeeda) and advertising (Datawrkz).

"We are optimistic about FY25, expecting accelerated growth in both revenue and EBITDA," said Mittersain.

The company has announced acquisition of 100 per cent stake in Nextwave Multimedia Private Limited, developers of the popular mobile cricket games under the "World Cricket Championship" franchise."

WhatsApp exports your user data every night : Elon Musk

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Saturday slammed Meta-owned WhatsApp for allegedly exporting users' data every night.

An X user posted that WhatsApp exports user data nightly, which is "analysed and used for targeted advertising, making users the product, not the customer".

Musk replied that "WhatsApp exports your user data every night". "Some people still think it is secure," said the tech billionaire. Meta or WhatsApp were yet to comment on Musk's allegation. Computer programmer and video game developer, John Carmack, responded to Musk, saying is there any evidence that the content of messages is ever scanned or transmitted?

"I assume usage patterns and routing metadata is collected, and if you invoke a bot in a conversation you are obviously opening it up, but I am still under the impression that the message contents are secure by default," Carmack posted on X. The X owner has attacked Mark Zuckerberg-run Meta Platform in the past too.

Earlier this month, the billionaire claimed that Meta is super greedy at taking credit for advertisers who run campaigns on its platform.

The rivalry between Musk and Zuckerberg is well known. They were apparently set for a "cage fight" some time back -- dubbed as the fight of the century.

However, the showdown between the tech leaders never happened.



India needs 'economic engines' at district level for balanced regional development: Zoho CEO

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) India needs economic engines at every district level for a balanced regional development, cloud software major Zoho's CEO Sridhar Vembu said on Saturday.

Calling himself an "experimental economist", he said that the idea of the "economic engine" could be for a city or a district.

"I always ask 'what do we sell to the rest of the world from this region, to balance against all the things we buy from the rest of the world?' -- that stuff we sell from our region is the economic engine," Vembu posted on X social media platform.

We then take the revenue from that economic engine and consider the "value added in the region" which includes all the labour income as well as the profits paid to people in the region.

"Now regional prosperity is very easily understood: what is the value added per person (including all the population of the region) by our 'economic engine'? If that measure is high, we have a prosperous region," he explained.

For example, Zoho adds an economic value of \$100 million a year to the Tenkasi region in Tamil Nadu.

With a population of about 1.4 million in the district, Zoho's own contribution to



regional prosperity would be about \$70 per person at the entire district level.

"We need such economic engines at every district level in India, in all our 800+ districts. That is the key to balanced regional development," the Zoho founder emphasised.

If a rural district in India is able to achieve even \$1,000 per capita value added in its economic engines, it would be prosperous.

This would be a measure of "value added per capita by what the region exports to the world outside this region".

Google infuses \$350 million in Walmart-owned Flipkart

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) As the Indian e-commerce space heats up with a spurt in the digital economy, Google has invested nearly \$350 million in Walmart-owned Flipkart, taking the homegrown company's valuation at nearly \$36 billion.

In a statement, Flipkart said it has added Google as a "minority investor" in the e-commerce platform as part of the latest funding round led by Walmart.

The company, however, did not disclose the financial details. The move, coming at a time when the Indian digital economy is growing at a much faster pace, is subject to receipt of regulatory and other customary approvals by both parties, the homegrown e-commerce firm said in a statement.

"Google's proposed investment and its Cloud collaboration will help Flipkart expand its business and advance the modernisation of its digital infrastructure to serve customers across the country," it said.

Established in 2007, Flipkart has enabled millions of sellers, merchants, and small businesses to participate in India's digital commerce revolution. Currently, it has a registered user base of more than 500 million and the marketplace offers over 150 million products across more than 80 categories.

According to the company, there are over 1.4 million sellers on the platform, including Shopsy sellers.

Markets hit all-time high amid strong FII comeback

Mumbai, May 25 (IANS) Indian equity benchmarks closed at an all-time high this week as Nifty touched the 23,000 points milestone amid a strong comeback from foreign institutional investors (FII). Nifty closed at 22,957 after touching a new all-time high of 23,026 intra-day, up 455 points or 2.02 per cent. Sensex ended with 1,404 points or 1.90 per cent gains at 75,410 after hitting a new high of 75,636.

The rally has been led by large-cap stocks. The BSE large-cap index shot up nearly 2 per cent this week.

Adani Energy Solutions, HAL, Adani Total Gas, Adani Power, BEL, Adani Enterprises, and Hindustan Zinc were major gainers. On the other hand, Indigo, Zydus Lifesciences, Bajaj Holdings, Sun Pharma, Nykaa, and Zomato were the major laggards.

Midcap and smallcap stocks also



saw decent gains this week.

In midcap, Vodafone Idea, Uno Minda, Solar Industries India, Union Bank of India, ABFRL, Balkrishna Industries, Zee Entertainment, and Samvardhana Motherhood Int were major gainers, while Deepak Nitrite, Max Financial, PB Fintech, and Max Healthcare Institute were major losers. In smallcap, RVNL, Bharat Dynamics, PNC Infra, Cochin Shipyard, Finolex cables, Garden

Reach Shipbuilders, and Dredging Corp were major gainers. On the other hand, Parag Milk, Dodla Dairy And Global Health, and IFGL Refractories were major laggards.

Around Rs 1,165 crore worth of stocks were sold by FIIs in the market this week, which is the lowest in the last several weeks and shows that buying by foreign investors is returning. At the same time, domestic investors invested Rs 6,977 crore in Indian markets this week. According to market experts, the situation is once again slowly changing in favour of the ruling dispensation.

"The base case scenario appears to be a clear verdict in favour of BJP/NDA. Also, the FII's massive selling has ceased and they have even turned buyers in recent days," they said.

RBI fines Hero FinCorp for breach of norms

Mumbai, May 25 (IANS) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3,10,000 on Hero FinCorp Limited for breach of norms related to the fair practices code for NBFCs.

An RBI inspection has revealed that Hero FinCorp did not convey the terms and conditions of loans in writing to the borrowers in the vernacular language understood by them.

The statutory inspection of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2023.

Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the company advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the directions.

After considering the company's reply to the notice, oral submissions made during the personal hearing and examination of additional submissions made by it, the RBI found, inter alia, that the charge against the company was sustained, warranting imposition of monetary penalty.

The RBI also said: "This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customers."

Share of organised employment in India on the rise: Finance Ministry report

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) There has been a decline in annual as well as quarterly unemployment rates since the highs witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic which has been accompanied by a rise in the share of employment in the organised sector of the Indian economy, according to the latest monthly economic review of the Finance Ministry.

The declining unemployment rates have been accompanied by a rising formalisation of employment. There is evidence of increasing net payroll additions under the Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), with more members rejoining than exiting the social security net, the report states.

The creation of digital identities like Aadhar, registration of unorganised workers on the e-shram portal and registration of MSMEs on the Udyam portal has played a



significant role in promoting the formalisation of the economy. As of May 22, 2024, 4.4 crore MSMEs have been registered on the Udyam Portal (including informal enterprises registered on the Udyam Assistance Platform), more than 97 per cent being micro-enterprises.

The EPFO net payroll addition stood at 1.47 crore members during FY24, amounting to a year-on-year rise of 6.3 per cent

from 1.39 crore members in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Around 1.08 crore new subscribers were enrolled in FY24, with 56.7 per cent of the newly joined subscribers being in the age group of 18-25 years, indicating healthy hiring for youth. The relatively high number of members rejoining EPFO signifies a churning labour market opting to extend its social security protection.

Across months, the

number of subscribers rejoining EPFO has been higher than new subscribers or existing subscribers' deletions. During FY24, 1.64 crore members rejoined after exiting previously.

According to EPFO, these members switched their jobs and joined the establishments covered under EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement, thus extending their social security

protection. The number of existing EPFO subscribers' deletions has also been lower in FY24 compared to the previous year. 1.25 crore EPFO subscribers exited during FY24, compared to 1.34 crore in the previous year, the report adds.

It also states that at a broader level of the manufacturing and services sector as well, rising job creation is evident. The PMI Manufacturing employment sub-index suggests the generation of more employment opportunities in the manufacturing sector supported by improvement in operating conditions, buoyant demand, uptake in new business intakes and scaled-up production. Similarly, the PMI Services sub-index shows a step-up in employment generation in the services sector from a combination of buoyant domestic demand, new business gains and an upturn in international sales.

Indian-origin researcher discovers new tech that can charge electric car in 10 min

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Indian-origin researcher Ankur Gupta and his team have discovered a new technology that could charge a dead laptop or phone in a minute or an electric car in 10 minutes.

In the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the researchers discovered how tiny charged particles, called ions, move within a complex network of minuscule pores. According to Gupta, an assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering at the US-based University of Colorado Boulder, this breakthrough could lead to the development of more efficient energy storage devices, such as 'supercapacitors'.

The discovery is important not only for storing energy in vehicles and electronic devices but also for power grids, where fluctuating energy demand needs efficient storage to avoid waste during periods of low demand and to ensure speedy delivery during high demand, Gupta said.

Supercapacitors, energy storage devices that depend on ion collection in their pores, have fast charging times and longer life spans compared to batteries, he added.

As per researchers, the primary appeal of supercapacitors lies in their speed. Before this study, ion movements were only defined in the literature in one straight pore. This discovery allows for the simulation and prediction of ion flow in a complicated network of thousands of interconnected pores in minutes, the researchers mentioned.



EaseMyTrip logs Rs 15 crore in net loss in Q4, revenue surges 41 pc

New Delhi, May 25 (IANS) Online travel company EaseMyTrip on Friday reported a net loss of Rs 15 crore in the January-March quarter of the last fiscal year (FY24), as against a profit of Rs 45.6 crore in the previous quarter.

The net loss can be attributed to its one-time expense of Rs 72.4 crore which consisted of "advances to supplier written off" and trade receivables that were written off by the startup.

The revenue from operations by Nishant Pittled startup surged 41 per cent (year-on-year) to Rs 164 crore in Q4. "In Q4 FY24, we acquired a 50 per cent stake in Jeewani Hospitality to develop a luxurious 150-room Radisson Blu hotel in Ayodhya, expanding our portfolio with high-quality hospitality offerings to 1.5 lakh daily visitors," Pitti said. The company also launched a new subsidiary, EaseMyTrip Insurance.

Jamshedpur registers 66.79% voter turnout in peaceful polling

Baharagora - 44	70.25%
Ghatsila - 45	68.16%
Jamshedpur East - 48	56.66%
Jamshedpur West - 48	56.34%
Jugsalai - 47	67.59%
Potka - 46	70.70%

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: In a testament to the resilience and democratic spirit of its citizens, Jamshedpur saw a 66.79% voter turnout in the recent parliamentary elections, conducted amidst tight security. Despite the shadow of naxal threats in the region, particularly in the red zones of East Singhbhum district, the rural populace came out in significant numbers to exercise their franchise, ensuring that the electoral process proceeded smoothly and peacefully. Election officer Ananya Mittal lauded the successful conduct of the elections, noting, "The entire voting process was held peacefully under strict vigil.

The parliamentary seat has witnessed an overwhelming response." This year's elections saw heightened security measures, including special surveillance, which played a crucial role in maintaining order throughout the day. The voting percentage in the six assembly areas under Jamshedpur were Baharagora 70.25 percent, Ghatsila 68.16 percent, Jamshedpur East recorded 56.66%, Jamshedpur West - 56.34%, Jugsalai 67.59% Potka 70.70 percent. The polling day began at 7 AM and concluded at 5 PM, with long queues of voters evident at various polling stations, notably in areas like Jugsalai and Mango. The enthusiasm among



voters was palpable, reflecting their commitment to participating in the democratic process. With 25 candidates contesting for the prestigious Jamshedpur parliamentary seat, the stakes were high. The total electorate for the constituency stands at 1,869,278, comprising 937,412 male voters, 931,733 female voters, and 1,333 transgender voters. Notably, the constituency also includes 15,869 voters identified as Persons with Disabilities (PWD), highlighting the inclusive nature of the electoral process.

The infrastructure to support the voting process was comprehensive and well-organized. The constituency featured a total of 1,887 polling stations, with 1,132 polling halls, 688 booths in urban areas, and 1,199 booths in rural areas. This extensive setup ensured that voters across all regions had ample access to polling facilities. Given the naxal threat in certain areas, security was a primary



Samir Mohanty and family cast their votes at Abhyas Middle School

Jamshedpur, May 25: Samir Mohanty, the Lok Sabha elections candidate for INDI Alliance in Jamshedpur, arrived at his designated polling station, 50 Abhyas Middle School, on Saturday accompanied by his family to cast their votes. Alongside his wife, Naina Mohanty, nephew Rakesh



Mohanty, and sister Shubhadeepa Das, Mohanty queued up among villagers to participate in the democratic process. Displaying a

sense of humanity and responsibility, Mohanty assisted an elderly individual by escorting him from the polling booth gate to the voting booth. The administration deployed significant resources to ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the elections. Security personnel were stationed at all polling stations, and additional measures, including aerial surveillance, were implemented to monitor and mitigate any potential threats. Election officer Mittal emphasized the importance of these measures, stating, "The tight security and vigilant monitoring were crucial in

ensuring that voters could cast their ballots without fear or disruption." The enthusiasm among voters was evident from the early hours of the morning. Residents of Jugsalai and Mango, among other areas, were seen lining up at polling stations well before the official start time. This eagerness to vote was mirrored across the constituency, reflecting a strong engagement with the electoral process. Inderjit Singh, Founder President of Aagaaz, who cast his vote at booth number 132,

Reflecting on the significance of voting, Mohanty emphasized that it is a crucial aspect of democracy, urging every citizen to fulfill their responsibility by electing a competent public representative. Mohanty further stressed the egalitarian nature of the voting process, asserting that the value of each vote, whether cast by a president or a laborer, remains equal. (w/nkm)



Sardar Lakhinder Singh Joura (Lali) and Harjinder Singh Joura (Prince) along with family flaunt their inked finger after casting their vote at a polling booth in Jamshedpur.

and awareness campaigns conducted by various organizations, played a significant role in encouraging voter turnout and ensuring that citizens were informed about the importance of their vote.

This election will take country to newer heights: Raghubar

Odisha Guv and family cast votes in Jamshedpur

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: Despite the blazing temperatures, the influential figures of Jamshedpur turned up in full force to exercise their franchise during the Parliamentary Election-2024. Odisha Governor and former Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das also cast his vote in the steel city and said this election will take the country to newer heights. Raghubar Das,



arrived in the city the previous night specifically to cast his vote. Early in the morning, accompanied by

his wife, he was seen at Booth No. 21, Harijan Middle School, Bhalubasa, Jamshedpur.

It is our responsibility and duty to vote: Tata Steel MD

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: T V Narendran, CEO cum Managing Director of Tata Steel, donned in a casual cotton shirt and blue jeans, along with his spouse Ruchi Narendran, showcased their inked fingers after voting at Loyola School in Jamshedpur. The couple, widely recognised in the city, managed to capture the attention of the shutterbugs as they smiled for the cameras. Despite the scorching heat, voters in line were pleasantly surprised to see Narendran and his wife standing among them, setting a notable example of civic duty. "It



is our responsibility and duty to vote.

We have heard earlier that the voting percentage was less last time in Jamshedpur. I hope it will get better this time and there will be more people who will come and vote," said TV Narendran after casting his vote. Security was notably tight at the Loyola School booth from early morning. However, this VIP status did not deter a substantial number of people from casting their votes. While some voters were unaware of the VIP attendees, others felt their presence did not significantly alter their voting experience.

Jamshedpur's who's who exercise their voting right



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 25: Despite the blazing temperatures, the influential figures of Jamshedpur turned up in full force to exercise their franchise during the Parliamentary Election-2024. Governor of Odisha, Raghubar Das, arrived in the city the previous night specifically to cast his vote. Early in the morning, accompanied by his wife, he was seen at Booth No. 21, Harijan Middle School, Bhalubasa, Jamshedpur. Banna Gupta, Health and Disaster Management Minister and a senior leader of the Congress party, also made his presence felt. Along with his spouse and son, he cast their valuable votes at their respective polling booths. T V



Narendran, CEO cum Managing Director of Tata Steel, donned in a casual cotton shirt and blue jeans, along with his spouse Ruchi Narendran, showcased their inked fingers after voting in the steel city. The couple, widely recognised in the city, managed to capture the attention of the shutterbugs as they smiled for the cameras. Despite the scorching heat, voters in line were pleasantly surprised to see Narendran

and his wife standing among them, setting a notable example of civic duty. Security was notably tight at the Loyola School booth from early morning. However, this VIP status did not deter a substantial number of people from casting their votes. While some voters were unaware of the VIP attendees, others felt their presence did not significantly alter their voting experience. "It is really good to see the managing director of a steel



company leaving his comfort and coming out to vote on a hot and sultry day. I have seen him practicing his franchise earlier also. Narendran never misses the chance to vote and that's no doubt an inspiration for many who avoid leaving their drawing rooms to come out and vote," commented a resident of Circuit House area. Senior officials from various companies, along with their spouses, also turned up to vote, although they



declined to comment on the elections, choosing instead to pose for photojournalists. "Though a number of VIPs are on the list at Loyola School booth, I had little problem in casting my vote, all were treated like common citizens," remarked a voter upon exiting the booth. In addition to corporate leaders, prominent political figures also exercised their franchise. BJP leader Amarpreet Singh Kale, along with his family, voted

at SakchiShriSakchi Gujarati English School, designated as Booth No. 287. Kale, known for his active participation in the city's political scene, expressed his gratitude to election officials and volunteers for ensuring a smooth voting process. His presence is viewed as a motivational factor for others to vote.

In a brief media interaction, Kale underscored the importance of voting and urged



Jamshedpur residents to fulfill their civic duty. "If you have not voted yet, please do so and perform your duty. Every vote counts in shaping the future of our city and our nation," he appealed. Reports indicate that the voting process at Booth No. 287 has been orderly, with adequate measures in place to ensure a smooth and secure experience for all citizens. Jamshedpur East MLA Saryu Roy, Jugsalai MLA Mangal Kalindi,



former Jamshedpur MP Dr Ajoy Kumar, Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Vijay Anand Moonka, CAIT national secretary Suresh Sonthalia, BJP Leader Bharat Singh, Yuva Congress Leader Rakesh Sahu and others exercised their franchise. As the day progresses, it remains crucial for the remaining residents to make their voices heard by participating in this vital democratic exercise.