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PM MODI'S 'SANKALPS' FROM KANYAKUMARI BHARAT'S NEXT GIANT LEAP TO GREATNESS - PAGE -9

## LS Election result: Third Term For Modi or INDIA bloc's Resurgence?

Counting of votes begin at 8.00 am today; Three-tier security at counting centers

**New Delhi, June 3 (IANS):** All eyes are on counting centres as the verdict of general elections will be announced on Tuesday, June 4. The exit polls on Saturday predicted a landslide victory for the BJP-led NDA despite the opposition parties forming the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A.). The counting of votes across 543 Lok Sabha seats will begin at 8 am.

Under Rule 54 A of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961, the counting of postal ballot papers shall be started first at the Returning Officer's (RO) table. Counting of votes from EVMs can begin on



Security personnel stand guard outside a strong room, where EVMs are kept in Ranchi on Monday.

scheduled time if there is no postal ballot paper in the constituency. The average of 12 exit polls released on Saturday

showed that the NDA is likely to claim victory in around 366 seats, which is way ahead of the halfway mark of 272. The INDIA

bloc officially claimed that it would get 295 seats in the Lok Sabha but exit poll survey hinted that it might not cross 150-200. The

### Counting of votes for 26 Assembly seats across 13 states today

**New Delhi, June 3 (IANS):** The results for by-elections on 26 assembly seats held across 13 states alongside Lok Sabha polls will be announced tomorrow on June 4. It included six constituencies in Himachal Pradesh where Congress MLAs were disqualified for rebellion against their government led by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The Election Commission of India (ECI) had earlier announced that these by-elections will coincide with the Lok Sabha polls, which were held from April 19 to June 1. The states where the by-elections were held on various assembly seats included Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

Election Commission revealed on Monday that 64.2 crore voters of the 96.8 crore registered

voters cast their ballots during the Lok Sabha elections that spanned from April 19 to June 1.

### BJP reviews preparations for counting day



**New Delhi, June 3 (IANS):** Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, held a meeting today to discuss the party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections and its preparedness for the counting of votes on Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is eyeing a record-equaling third straight term with all exit polls predicting a clean sweep for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. The meeting, presided over by BJP president J.P. Nadda, also discussed the exit polls results and the prevailing political situation. BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde said the voting pattern observed during all seven phases of polls was discussed at the meeting. The party also deliberated on the deployment of its polling agents across the country for counting of votes, he said. Meanwhile, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Modi in Delhi though there was no official word on the details of the meeting.

### INDIA bloc leaders to be in Delhi today for post-result meet

**New Delhi, June 3 (IANS):** The INDIA bloc leaders will hold a meeting in Delhi after results are announced for the Lok Sabha elections. The decision to convene a meeting to discuss and deliberate strategy after the poll results announcement was taken on June 1, as per sources. The meeting of the top leaders of INDIA bloc will be held either tomorrow evening or Wednesday morning, sources said.

### Palamu: 32 wild monkeys drown in irrigation well

**Medininagar, June 3 (IANS):** As many as 32 wild monkeys were suspected to have drowned in an irrigation well in Jharkhand's Palamu district during their bid to quench their thirst, a forest official said on Monday. It took place in Sorath village in Panki block and the corpses were found on Sunday, but officials were yet to ascertain the exact date of the incident.

"A total of 32 wild monkeys were found dead in an irrigation well in Sorath... the corpses were fished out," Medininagar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kumar Ashish said. The entire area is reeling under heatwave conditions, with temperatures hovering around 44-45 degrees Celsius. "Sources of water in the area have almost dried up... wild animals are coming to villages to quench their thirst... these monkeys apparently drowned during their bid to quench their thirst," Ashish said. The well in which the monkeys died had ample water, he said, adding autopsy was conducted but the reports were yet to be received. A few days ago, three jackals wandering in search of water in Chainpur forest died in a well, he said. Last week, four persons died of sunstroke in Jharkhand while 1,326 others were admitted to the hospital amid sweltering heat in most parts of the eastern state. All district hospitals and other medical facilities have been asked to set aside air-conditioned rooms and empty beds for heatstroke patients, officials said.

### Cong asks workers to be vigilant at counting centres

**Ranchi, June 3:** Jharkhand Congress president Rajesh Thakur said that tomorrow on the day of counting, all the party workers, office bearers and senior leaders will have to be alert at the counting centre so that no kind of malpractice can be done. Rajesh Thakur said that we have not forgotten Khunti where the BJP candidate was made to win the election by tampering with the counting. The margin of victory and defeat was only 1400 votes. Rajesh Thakur said that tomorrow at the counting place, no worker or official should blink or else the saying 'close your eyes and the box is gone' will come true. BJP is an expert in this. He put a question mark on the credibility of the exit polls released by agencies in newspapers.

### LeT commander Riyaz Dar, one more terrorist killed in J&K gunfight

**Srinagar, June 3 (IANS)** Top LeT commander Riyaz Dar and one more terrorist were killed in the ongoing encounter between security forces and terrorists in J&K's Pulwama district on Monday, officials said. The encounter took place in the Nihama village of Pulwama. "Following specific intelligence input, security forces, including police, army and the CRPF, surrounded Nihama village to carry out searches. As the security forces closed on the hiding terrorists, they opened fire at the surrounding security forces triggering an encounter. Two terrorists have been killed in this operation so far," an official said.

One of them was identified as Dar. Security forces had even brought Dar's family to the encounter site to give the local terrorist commander a chance to surrender. However, even after repeated appeals by the family to surrender, Riyaz Dar continued firing at the security forces. Meanwhile, the house that the terrorists were using as a fortified bunker caught fire.

## Sensex, Nifty race over 3% as exit polls predict massive win for BJP-led NDA

**Mumbai, June 3 (IANS):** The NSE Nifty climbed 733.20 points or 3.25 per cent to finish at 23,263.90. During the day, it soared 808 points or 3.58 per cent to hit a fresh intra-day all-time high of 23,338.70.

A sharp rally in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and State Bank of India propelled the indices to lifetime high levels. Strong GDP data also added to the

buoyancy in equity markets. Shares of all Adani Group companies continued their sharp rally Monday, with Adani Power surging nearly 16 per cent, in line with a massive surge in the equity market. Among sectors, PSUs, Power, Utilities, Oil, Energy, Capital Goods, and Realty indices soared up to 8 per cent. Exit polls Saturday predicted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will retain power for a



third straight term, with the BJP-led NDA expected to win a big

majority in the Lok Sabha polls. "The markets opened at new highs today

largely because of Exit polls predicting landslide victory for the BJP-led NDA. This will result in a positive surprise of policy continuity with higher seats for the NDA government," SAMCO Mutual Fund Manager & Head of Equity Research Paras Matalia said. Among the 30-Sensex companies, NTPC, State Bank of India and Power Grid jumped over 9 per cent each. Larsen & Toubro,

Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were the other big gainers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, "Exit poll has activated the optimism of a memorable win for the ongoing government, PSUs had a humongous rally, in anticipation of continuation of the reform gains, triggering further re-rate."

### 3 killed, one injured in car-bus collision

Mail News Service

**Gumla, June 3:** Three people have died in a road accident in Sadar police station area of Gumla district of Jharkhand, while a girl has been injured.

It is being told that a car and bus collided head-on near Khora village. With the help of local people, the injured were brought to the hospital after the accident, where doctors declared three people dead, while a girl was injured.

The girl Josephine Minj (6 years) travelling in the car was injured. The deceased include

Father Theodore Kujur (58 years), Sister Nirmala Kujur (45 years) and Kevin Johnson Kujur (12 years). All of them were sent to Sadar Hospital Gumla with the help of local people, where doctors declared all three dead during primary treatment.

When the Christian followers got the news of the death of three people in the Gumla road accident, a large number of people gathered in Sadar Hospital Gumla.

According to the information received about the incident, all the people had left Ranchi in an XUV vehicle to go to Barwadih Jari. All three

died due to a direct collision between the XUV vehicle and the bus near Khora village at around three in the afternoon. Josephine Minj was injured in this accident.

Along with the Christian followers present in the Sadar Hospital, Central Catholic Sabha President Set Kumar Ekka also reached Sadar Hospital. He told that Father Theodore Kujur was born in Raigarh. Regarding Sister Nirmala Kujur, it is being told that the Fathers of Jashpur have been informed about this. As soon as they got the news, they left for Gumla.

### JMM asks EC to prove its impartiality

Ranchi, June 3:

On the eve of counting, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's central general secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya, while addressing the press, on the one hand claimed a lead in 10 out of 14 Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand, while on the other hand raised serious questions on the role and impartiality of the EC. Supriyo Bhattacharya has alleged EC had closed its ears and eyes during the entire election campaign. The EC locked the complaints received against the ruling party in its drawer.

### Asst teacher dies during poll duty

Mail News Service

**Ranchi, June 3:** Assistant teacher Dinesh Ravidas (48 years) of Utkramit Prathamik Vidyalaya Dholbazza, who was working as a polling worker in Rajmahal Lok Sabha elections of Jharkhand, died while being taken to Ranchi for treatment. His health deteriorated during the polling duty itself. After this, he was being treated in the hospital. Suddenly his health deteriorated, so he was referred to Ranchi. While coming in an ambulance, he died on the way in Jamtara. Teachers have expressed grief over his death. According to the information received, the polling work for Rajmahal Lok Sabha elections in Sahibganj was completed on June 1. In this, assistant teacher Dinesh Ravidas of Utkramit Prathamik Vidyalaya Dholbazza was deployed in election work. He was working as a polling worker at polling station number-83, Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya Bariyarpur of Barhet assembly constituency. His health deteriorated during the voting itself. After this, the health department team admitted him to the Primary Health Center, Damruhat (Sundarpahari) of Godda district by ambulance, where he was undergoing treatment. Suddenly on Sunday, Dinesh Ravidas's health deteriorated. Seeing this, the treating doctor referred him to Ranchi. After that he was being taken to Ranchi by ambulance.

## DEO, SSP inspect counting center at Co-operative College

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** With the parliamentary election results looming, District Election Officer Ananya Mittal and Senior Superintendent of Police Kishore Kaushal conducted a thorough inspection of the counting center at Co-operative College Jamshedpur. Their visit aimed to ensure meticulous preparations and provide necessary instructions for the



smooth, transparent, and impartial counting of votes, scheduled to

commence at 8 am on June 4. During the inspection, Mittal and

Kaushal scrutinized various aspects of the counting process,

including table arrangements, computer installations, internet connectivity, and security measures. They interacted with assigned officers and personnel, seeking detailed information on arrangements and issuing directives to ensure adherence to Election Commission guidelines.

Emphasizing the importance of punctuality, Mittal instructed counting personnel to report at the center by 5:30 am without

fail, underscoring the need for timely commencement of the counting process. Additionally, guidelines were issued for the efficient functioning of the media center, emphasizing the dissemination of accurate information to the public. All officers and personnel involved in the counting process were reminded to strictly adhere to Election Commission guidelines to uphold the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

## Trained Assistant Teachers Association holds district-level meeting

Mail News Service

**Seraikela, June 3:** The Trained Assistant Teachers Association convened a district-level meeting chaired by District President Vijay Lenka. Conducted at the New Bus Stand premises in Kudarsai, Seraikela, the meeting was orchestrated by Shankar Barik, addressing critical issues concerning the union.

Foremost among the discussions was the longstanding demand for a pay scale or equivalent honorarium for the union members. Attendees were informed that the Chief Minister had pledged to address their concerns post-elections, prompting the formation of a committee to liaise with the government. Highlighting the urgency of the matter, it was announced that a state-level meeting is scheduled in Ranchi on June 9, where the district committee's representation is imperative to advocate for local interests.

The consensus among participants was clear: should the government fail to meet their demands in the forthcoming assembly session, resorting to protest actions would be inevitable. Notable attendees included Nikhil Ranjan, Jayraj Das, Chamaru Tudu, Saket Shekhar, Seema Mahapatra, Vishnu Kumar Mahato, Pushtam Hajam, Gadhhar Mahato, Subhash Chandra Mahato, and Sushmita Das, among others. The resolute stance of the Trained Assistant Teachers Association underscores their commitment to securing fair compensation and recognition for their invaluable contributions to the education sector. (w/nkm)

# Tight security arrangements for vote counting in Chaibasa

Mail News Service

**Chaibasa, June 3:** For the Lok Sabha elections 2024, Mahila College Chaibasa has been designated as the counting center for the 10 Singhbhum Lok Sabha constituency. The vote counting is set to begin tomorrow, June 4th. In preparation, a detailed briefing session was conducted today under the joint chairmanship of the District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police for all magistrates and police officers assigned to the counting duty. During the briefing, the District Election Officer reiterated the work responsibilities and deputation locations to all officers. Emphasizing adherence to Election Commission guidelines, he



instructed that any issues should be promptly reported to senior officers. Strict punctuality and diligence were mandated, with no tolerance for negligence. Unauthorized persons will be barred from entering the counting premises, and all officers were urged to conduct the election process with integrity and without fear. The Superintendent of

Police outlined the three-layer security measures in place at the counting venue. Officers assigned to security were reminded that no communication devices, electronic equipment, or flammable materials are allowed in the counting area. These measures will be rigorously enforced. Following the briefing, a dry run was conducted at

the counting site. The District Election Officer and Superintendent of Police jointly inspected the entire premises. They visited each workplace within the counting hall, clarifying duties and addressing questions. The progress of tasks, as per earlier instructions, was also reviewed. Additionally, they inspected the control room



to monitor CCTV activities for security purposes and stressed the importance of continuous surveillance. Key officials present during the briefing included Deputy Development Commissioner Sandeep Kumar Meena, Product Director ITDA Smriti Kumari, Assistant Returning Officers Sunil Kumar Prajapati

(Seraikela), Animesh Ranjan (Chaibasa), Kamleshwar Narayan (Manjhagaon), Mukesh Machhua (Jagannathpur), Lily Enola Lakra (Manoharpur), and Reena Hansda (Chakradharpur). Additionally, all deputed magistrates, police officers, nodal officers of various cells, officers in charge, and workers were in attendance. (w/nkm)

## Progressive rites challenge traditional practices in Santhal society

Mail News Service

**Seraikela, June 3:** Last Sunday witnessed a significant departure from traditional customs as the shraddha karma and tribute program for Dr. PR Mardi's late mother, Delho Mardi, unfolded at their residence in Kulludih village, under Itagarh Panchayat of Gambaria block. The event aimed to redefine the Santhal society's trajectory with progressive ideologies, advocating for the abandonment of

conservative norms and practices. In Santhal tradition, burial or cremation rituals are commonplace, yet often, these practices have led to disturbing acts against the deceased. Such actions not only defy legal frameworks but also contravene the principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution and human rights statutes. It is not uncommon for the deceased to be stripped of their clothes, leaving them exposed and vulnerable. Some argue that since humans enter the world



naked, they should exit it similarly. However, this viewpoint fails to acknowledge the inherent dignity and rights of the

deceased. Setting an example of progressive thought, the Mardi family refrained from adhering to these outdated customs.

Instead, they honored Delho Mardi's memory by cleansing her body, adorning her with new garments and jewelry, akin to preparing for a festival. The deceased was laid to rest without any undignified rituals, challenging centuries-old traditions. This bold step not only highlighted the need for reform within Santhal society but also underscored the importance of upholding constitutional rights and human dignity. Dr. PR Mardi and his relatives led by example,

demonstrating that cultural evolution must prioritize respect and honor for the departed. Witnesses to this historic event included village dignitaries such as Mutlu Mardi Majhi/Pradhan, Lal Baske Naik, along with community members like Yadunath Mardi, Ramsai Mardi, Ampa Hembrom, and many others. Their collective endeavor marks a pivotal moment in challenging entrenched norms and embracing progressive values within the Santhal community. (w/nkm)

## Heatwave returns: Seraikela braces for 43°C

**Seraikela, June 3:** After experiencing three days of storm and rain, bringing temporary relief from the heat, residents of Seraikela-Kharsawan district are once again bracing for scorching temperatures. The Meteorological Department forecasts a rise in temperatures, with the mercury expected to soar to 43 degrees Celsius. Although the recent rainfall brought respite, Monday saw the mercury climb, with temperatures reaching a maximum of 39 degrees Celsius. The intense heat prompted residents to stay indoors, seeking refuge from the relentless sun. While the monsoon has initiated its journey towards Jharkhand after entering Kerala, relief is expected in Seraikela in approximately 10 to 12 days. The impending monsoon offers hope for cooler weather and relief from the sweltering heatwave. Despite the recent rainfall, the return of high temperatures underscores the need for residents to take precautions against heat-related illnesses and stay hydrated as the district prepares to endure another wave of scorching heat. (w/nkm)

## Seraikela Police conduct flag march ahead of vote counting

Mail News Service



**Seraikela, June 3:** In anticipation of the Lok Sabha election vote counting scheduled for Tuesday, the Seraikela police conducted a flag march in the city area to uphold law and order and ensure compliance with Section 144 regulations. As per directives from the Seraikela Superintendent of Police, a police contingent embarked on a flag march from the main road within the Seraikela

police station area. The march traversed through marketplaces and various localities, culminating at the court turn. The objective of the flag march is to reinforce adherence to the model code of conduct and Section 144 regulations among political parties, ordinary citizens, and other stakeholders. The police emphasized the importance of maintaining decorum and following legal guidelines during the vote counting process. Any infractions will be treated as punishable offenses under the law. (w/nkm)

## Jharkhand Gilli Danda Association hosts training seminar



Mail News Service

**Seraikela, June 3:** The picturesque Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary served as the backdrop for an essential one-day training cum trainer-judge seminar organized by the Jharkhand Gilli Danda Association. Spearheaded by State General Secretary Ganesh Chandra Kalindi, the seminar aimed to uphold and promote the traditional game of Gilli Danda.

Gilli Danda enthusiasts from across the district, including players like Sangeeta Kalindi, Mansingh Banra, Tannu Mukhi, Reshma Mahli, Sushma, Nikki Godsora, Anupriya Gop, and Vanee Raj Munda of Seraikela Kharsawan district, participated in the event. Notably, Sangeeta Kalindi, Mansingh Banra, Tannu Mukhi, and

Reshma Mahli excelled in the skill tests conducted for trainers and judges. National trainer-cum-judges, Jeetu Khalko and Sukmati Bodra, led the seminar, ensuring comprehensive guidance for the participants. Ganesh Chandra Kalindi, the State General Secretary of the Jharkhand Gilli Danda Association, emphasized that such initiatives would be extended across Jharkhand to revive and popularize this ancient game. The association's immediate focus includes organizing village-level competitions to engage the masses and promote active participation. Recognizing the adverse effects of technology-driven lifestyles on children's health, Kalindi highlighted Gilli Danda's potential to foster physical fitness and concentration, traits vital for holistic development. (w/nkm)

## Mangilal Rungta School pledges to protect environment

Mail News Service

**Chaibasa, June 3:** Mangilal Rungta +2 School Chaibasa has been actively engaged in environmental conservation since 2016, inspired by Principal Shilpa Gupta. Under the "Ek Paudha Matrubhumi Ke Naam" program, where each student plants one tree, approximately 15,000 plants have been planted by the school's principal, teachers, and students.

Continuing this green initiative, the school community has been urged to plant over 2,000



additional trees this year, under the theme "One Plant in the Name of the Motherland."

Principal Shilpa Gupta emphasized that it is mandatory for every student to plant at least

one tree. Students can plant these trees either on school grounds or at a suitable location near their homes.

They are required to document this by taking a photograph and

submitting it to the school. The "Each One Plant One" initiative is even included in the school's enrollment form, highlighting the commitment to this cause. Gupta stressed the urgency of tree planting to combat the increasing temperatures and intense heat, underscoring the importance of tree plantation and environmental promotion. This ongoing effort demonstrates the school's dedication to environmental conservation and their proactive approach in instilling these values in their students. (w/nkm)

## JMM workers convene meeting for vote count participation

**Seraikela, June 3:** Under the leadership of JMM Block President Dharmendra Kumar Munda, a meeting was held at the Kuchai JMM office on Monday, gathering JMM workers to prepare for participation in the vote counting process in support of Mahagathbandhan's Khunti Lok Sabha candidate, Kalicharan Munda. Addressing the assembly, Block President Dharmendra Kumar Munda expressed confidence in the victory of Mahagathbandhan's candidate in the Khunti Lok Sabha constituency on Tuesday, June 4. In anticipation of this triumph, hundreds of JMM workers from Kuchai block are slated to depart for Khunti. Detailed discussions were conducted regarding the logistical arrangements for this endeavor. Munda assured the attendees that all necessary preparations had been completed, ensuring the provision of adequate facilities for the workers traveling to Khunti. Departure from Kuchai to Khunti is scheduled for 9 am, with arrangements made for a LCD display at the JMM block office to provide updates from various parts of the country for those unable to travel. Key figures present at the meeting included Block Secretary Munna Soy, Mukhiyas Karam Singh Munda and Ram Soy, as well as Sukhram Munda, Rahul Soy, Banwarilal Soy, Janum Singh, Naresh Munda, Jeevan Kandir, Sanjeev Sardar, and Kalika Prasad, among others. (w/nkm)

# Jatra Cup Cricket Competition 2024 concludes

Mail News Service

**Chaibasa, June 3:** The two-day Jatra Cup Cricket Competition 2024, organized by the Adivasi Oraon Samaj, concluded successfully. The final match was played between Sarna Brothers Jamshepur and Rakha Chakradharpur. Rakha Chakradharpur batted first and scored 29 runs in the stipulated overs.

In response, Sarna Brothers Jamshepur managed to score only 16 runs, leading Rakha Chakradharpur to victory and the title. In the semi-finals, Sarna Brothers secured their place in the final by defeating Telengakhuri Junior by 27 runs. Rakha



Chakradharpur reached the final by defeating Tonka Tola by 31 runs. The competition saw participation from 24 teams across the Kolhan division and has been a continuous tradition for 25 years. The closing ceremony

was graced by Forest Area Officer Shankar Bhagat, District Olympic Association President Nitin Prakash, Oraon Samaj Regional Committee President Sanchu Tirkey, Secretary Anil Lakra, and several other dignitaries. The

organizing committee felicitated them, and trophies and cash prizes were awarded to the winners, runners-up, and outstanding players. During the prize distribution ceremony, the guests praised the event for fostering unity and

goodwill. They emphasized the importance of education, noting that it leads to the development of homes, villages, and society, with the Oraon society being a prime example. Special acknowledgments were

given to the top performers of the tournament.

Rohit Oraon of Chakradharpur was named Man of the Series, Ayush Turkey of Sarna Brothers Jamshepur received the Man of the Match award, and Somra Kachhap of Nadipaar Chaibasa was recognized as the Valuable Player of the Series.

The organizing committee, led by Cricket Committee Chairman Lalu Kujur, Vice President Deepak Kujur, Secretary Sukhdev Minj, and Treasurer Rohit Khalko, along with numerous other members, played a crucial role in the success of the event. (w/nkm)



Jharkhand Director General of Police (DGP) Ajay Kumar Singh reviewed a high level meeting with Senior Police Officials to submit a report of Murder, cocaine, theft, extortion, kidnap and rape in the last three years at Police Headquarters in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Monday, June 3, 2024. He also instructed to control and curb the criminals and to keep an eye on drugs trafficking and drug peddlers. Photo: Rajesh Kumar

### Bureaucrat's daughter commits suicide in Mumbai; suspected academic pressures

Mumbai, June 3 (IANS) Lipi V. Rastogi, daughter of a senior IAS couple, allegedly jumped to her death from a building at Nariman Point, early on Monday morning, officials said. The deceased is the daughter of IAS officer Vikas C. Rastogi, attached with Higher & Technical Education Department, and Radhika V. Rastogi, posted in the Home Department. Around 4 a.m. this morning, Lipi jumped from the 10th floor of the building and was rushed to G. T. Hospital where she was declared dead on admission. Living with her parents at Suniti Apartments, housing government officers near the Y. B. Chavan Centre, 26-year-old Lipi has left behind a suicide note which has been seized by the Cuffe Parade Police. A student of Law at a college in Sonapat, Haryana, Lipi has reportedly pointed to academic pressures, which may have prompted her to take the extreme step. She also claimed in her suicide note that nobody should be blamed for it. The Cuffe Parade Police have filed an accidental death report and are investigating the matter. Her last rites are slated for later on Monday.

### SC to hear on June 4 Sisodia's bail pleas in excise policy cases by CBI, ED

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Tuesday the Special Leave Petitions filed by former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, challenging refusal of grant of bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged excise policy scam. As per the cause list published on the website of the apex court, a Bench of Justices Arvind Kumar and Sandeep Mehta will take up the matter for hearing on June 4. On May 21, the Delhi High Court denied bail to the senior AAP leader saying that he failed to pass the triple test for grant of bail in the corruption case and the twin conditions required under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. A Bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma of the High Court clarified that former Dy CM Sisodia could continue to meet his ailing wife every week, on the same terms as set earlier by the trial court.

### Taj Express catches fire in Delhi, no injuries reported

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) A few coaches of the Taj Express train caught fire in Delhi's Sarita Vihar area on Monday, a fire department official said, adding that no one was injured in the incident. According to the fire department, a call regarding the blaze was received at 4:25 p.m. "Six fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the fire in coach number D-3, D-4, and a small portion of D-2," said Delhi Fire Service (DFS) chief Atul Garg. "No injuries have been reported. The reason for the fire is yet to be ascertained," he added. "On reaching the spot, the police noticed that three coaches of the Express train caught fire -- D-2, D-3, and D-4," said a senior police officer. "These were general coaches. The train was running about 10 hours late, and had left the New Delhi Railway Station for Jhansi at 3 pm. It caught fire between the Okhla and Tuglakabad railway stations," the officer said.

### Elon Musk's X allows users to post adult, graphic content

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Despite much hue and cry over surge in porn content, Elon Musk-run X social media platform has tweaked its rules to formally allow users to post adult and graphic content, with some riders. In its updated policy, X says the users may share consensually produced and distributed adult nudity or sexual behaviour, "provided it's properly labelled and not prominently displayed." According to the social media platform, users should be able to create, distribute, and consume material related to sexual themes as long as it is consensually produced and distributed. Sexual expression, whether visual or written, can be a legitimate form of artistic expression, said the platform. "We believe in the autonomy of adults to engage with and create content that reflects their own beliefs, desires, and experiences, including those related to sexuality," read the updated policy. Users can now post consensually-produced NSFW (not safe for work) content as long as it is prominently labelled as such. "The new rules also cover AI-generated videos and images," said the X platform.

### Forest fires in Himachal destroy 12,718 hectares, CM issues directive

Shimla, June 3 (IANS) With forest fires in Himachal Pradesh destroying 12,718 hectares, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu on Monday expressed concern and directed the Forest Department to make concerted efforts to address the issue. He instructed them to initiate long-term measures along with immediate initiatives to curb the problem. He stressed the people's participation in these efforts and said that the number of forest fire incidents is gradually decreasing. The Chief Minister said 1,318 fire incidents have been recorded so far this year, affecting 12,718 hectares of land, including 2,789 hectares of plantation area, causing a preliminary financial loss of Rs 4.61 crore. He said to mitigate these losses, the government is contemplating to form a dedicated battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) specially equipped and trained for firefighting to reduce the losses to the forest area. He said 374 forest beats are highly sensitive to forest fires and called for strengthening the fire-tackling services in these areas.

## Centre asks States/UTs to follow fire-safety norms in healthcare facilities

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Amid reports of fire incidents in hospitals due to rising temperatures, the Union Health Ministry on Monday directed all States/UTs to strictly follow fire-safety norms in healthcare facilities. "Safety and wellbeing of patients (both outpatients and inpatients), staff and visitors is of utmost importance in any healthcare facilities," the ministry said. "It is imperative that strict protocols and measures be put in place to prevent, detect, and respond to fires effectively," it added. The ministry noted that the recent fire incidents "are a result of short-circuits due to suboptimal electrical maintenance and/or



overload of electricity lines due to use of Air-Conditioners and other equipment." It called for establishing a robust fire safety plan and regular fire evacuation and safety drills. "As temperatures escalate during the present summer months and hospital fires become a more significant threat," the

ministry said, advising States/UTs to "conduct regular preventive fire risk assessment drills to identify potentially vulnerable areas."

The latest review meeting, held on May 29, attended by 15 representatives from State Health Departments and around 390 Health Care Organisations emphasised "the need for strict compliance and rigorous periodic assessment" regarding fire safety norms.

In addition to a checklist on 'Prevention and Maintenance of Fire Safety', States/UTs and institutes were also advised to better coordinate with PWDs and local fire departments for timely fire safety NOC.

## Australia seeks inputs on developing 'new roadmap' for closer economic engagement with India

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) The Australian government has invited public submissions as it prepares a new roadmap for the country's closer economic engagement with India. The roadmap will not only take stock of Australia's existing economic initiatives with India but also explore innovative ways of doing more together.

"There has never been a better time to engage economically with India: already the most populous country in the world, India's economy is growing at pace. In 2023, India was our fourth-largest export market and is on track to be the world's third-largest economy by the end of this decade. Australia is well positioned to both benefit from and contribute to India's

growth story - if we target our efforts wisely," believes Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

The Department mentioned that work on both sides in recent years has delivered results, including through the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), the opening of a Consulate General in Bengaluru - which was matched by India's in Brisbane - and the establishment of the Centre for Australia India Relations. Alongside this, the next stage of trading relationship, the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), is currently under negotiation between the two countries. As the relationship between Quad partners continues



to expand both strategically and economically, DFAT detailed that there have been as many as 23 Australian ministerial visits to India and 15 Indian ministerial visits to Australia since May 2022.

Besides the "high tempo of senior Ministerial visits," the India-Australia 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue, the annual Foreign Ministers Framework Dialogue, joint hosting of the Indian

Ocean Conference in February 2024, and working closely on the Quad initiatives have been the highlights of partnership between India and Australia. "Our partnership with India will be crucial to the Albanese

government's vision for 'A Future Made in Australia'.

The new roadmap will help secure Australia's place in a changing global economic and strategic landscape and help make Australia a renewable energy superpower," stated DFAT. The public submissions, which are open till August 5, aim at seeking inputs to the roadmap from voices in Australia and India, especially from businesses working in both countries, research centres and academia, members of Indian-Australian communities, India-focused NGOs and civil society organisations, state and territory governments, etc.

DFAT said that it will also be conducting consultations in state capitals in Australia and in India.

## Ex-Brahmos Aerospace engineer awarded life term for spying for Pakistan's ISI

Nagpur, June 3 (IANS) An ex-engineer of Brahmos Aerospace, Nagpur, who was arrested in a sensational case of spying for Pakistan's ISI, has been awarded a 14-year jail term by a sessions court here on Monday.

Nishant Agarwal -- an aerospace engineer -- was arrested in 2018 for allegedly leaking sensitive information about India's Brahmos missiles to the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan in a suspected honey-trap operation.

Besides the 14-year sentence under the Official Secrets Act, Additional Sessions Judge M.V. Deshpande also imposed a fine of Rs 3,000 on Agarwal, special public prosecutor Jyoti Vajani told the media.

At the time of his arrest six years ago, Agarwal was working as a senior



systems engineer with the Brahmos Aerospace, a joint venture of the DRDO and the Military Industrial Consortium of Russia. Agarwal was part of the teams working to develop India's supersonic cruise missile that could be launched from land, sea, air, and underwater, giving an edge to the country's defence muscles. The spy scandal hit the headlines then as Agarwal, who was

working with the company for over four years, reportedly fell victim to a honey-trap operation purportedly managed by the ISI.

After it was detected, a team of Military Intelligence along with the ATS of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh swooped to arrest him. In April 2023, he was granted bail by the Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench).

## Delhi court extends BRS leader K Kavitha's judicial custody till July 3 in excise policy case

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) A Delhi court on Monday extended till July 3 the judicial custody of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leader, K Kavitha, in connection with a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

On May 29, the court had issued production warrants for Kavitha and co-accused Chanpreet Singh in the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) money laundering probe in the case.

After Kavitha was produced before the Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of Rouse Avenue Court on Monday, the judge extended her custody for a month.

Meanwhile, the judge granted bail to three co-accused persons - Prince, Damodar and Arvind Singh - who were not arrested but were named in the charge sheet.

Last time, the judge had



taken cognisance of the sixth supplementary charge sheet filed by the ED, stating that there was sufficient material to proceed against the accused. The probe agency had filed the sixth supplementary charge sheet on May 10, detailing further evidence and allegations against the accused in the case.

Official sources had said that the prosecution

complaint has been filed under Sections 45 and 44 (1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and runs into over 220 pages.

A total of 18 people have been arrested in the case so far, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy Delhi CM Manish Sisodia, several AAP leaders, Kavitha, and others.

## Southwest monsoon arrives early in Telangana

Hyderabad, June 3 (IANS) The southwest monsoon entered parts of Telangana on Monday, the met office said.

Monsoon has entered Nagarkurnool, Gadwal and Nalgonda districts of south Telangana and is advancing rapidly.

Usually, the monsoon enters Telangana in the second week of June but this time it has arrived early, providing much-needed respite to people from sweltering heat and raising hopes of a good crop among farmers.

Monsoon on Monday covered some more parts of Karnataka, Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra Pradesh.

According to Hyderabad Meteorological Centre, conditions are favourable for the southwest monsoon to cover entire



Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Andhra Pradesh over the next four to five days. Telangana and the rest of coastal

Pre-monsoon rains lashed parts of Telangana on Sunday night. Hyderabad and surrounding districts received light to moderate rains accompanied by gusty winds. The winds uprooted trees at few places, disrupting the electricity supply.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert in Telangana for the next five years.

Hyderabad Meteorological Centre's head Dr K. Nagarathna said that thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 km per hour speed are very likely to occur at isolated places in all the districts on Monday.

Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places in the districts Nirmal, Nizamabad, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet and

Jogulamba Gadwal on Tuesday (June 4).

Thunderstorms with rain accompanied with lightning and gusty winds (40-50 kmph) are very likely to occur at isolated places in almost all districts on Tuesday as well.

Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places in the districts Nirmal, Nizamabad, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Kamareddy and Mahabubnagar on June 5.

Further, heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places in the districts Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy and Jogulamba Gadwal on June 6.

Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and gusty winds (30 kmph) are very likely to occur at isolated places in all the districts of Telangana on June 7.

## Panic ensues as eight foot python emerges

Mail News Service

**Seraikela, June 3:** The tranquility of Kudrasai Upar Tola in Seraikela was disrupted on Monday morning by the sudden appearance of an approximately eight-and-a-half-foot-long python snake, sending the villagers into a state of panic. As news of the snake spread, curious onlookers began to gather, eager to catch a glimpse of the serpent.



Swift action was taken as locals promptly alerted Seraikela's renowned snake catcher, Raja Barik, about the situation. Responding swiftly to the call, Barik arrived at the scene and, after considerable effort, successfully rescued the python snake. With expertise honed through years of experience, he carefully secured the snake and relocated it to its natural habitat in the nearby Kope forest, ensuring the safety of both the residents and the reptile. In light of the incident, Raja Barik advised vigilance, especially during periods of changing weather, when snake sightings may become more frequent. He urged the community to exercise caution and refrain from disturbing snakes encountered in or around residential areas, emphasizing the potential dangers posed by such encounters. (w/nkm)

## Murder mystery solved: Love affair turns fatal

**Gamharia, June 3:** The police have unraveled the mystery surrounding the body discovered in a closed sack near Kendu Gachh in Gamharia on May 18. The victim, identified as Ranveer Sharma, hailing from Navgachhiya, Bihar, fell victim to a tragic murder stemming from a love affair. Adityapur police have arrested Ruby Devi, the deceased's girlfriend, along with her husband Partti Sharma, in connection with the case. Ranveer Sharma, a carpenter by profession and a father to four daughters and a son, had traveled to Jamshedpur to visit his village. During his stay, he visited the residence of his alleged niece in Manjhi Tola. However, on the fateful night of May 16, Partti Sharma allegedly discovered Ranveer Sharma in a compromising position with his wife, Ruby Devi.

Enraged by this discovery, Partti Sharma reportedly resorted to extreme measures, fatally stabbing Ranveer Sharma with a knife and strangling him with a cloth. Subsequently, the body was concealed in a sack and discarded. Further complicating the case, Visheshwar Sharma and his wife, also implicated in Ranveer's murder, are currently absconding. The investigation continues as authorities work to bring all involved parties to justice in this tragic affair of love turned fatal.

## Shani Shanti Yagna at Jugsalai Shanidev Temple on June 6

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** A significant religious event, the Jharkhand Shani Shanti Yagna (Havan), will be organized by Damodar Shani Baba on Thursday, June 6, at the Shanidev Temple located on Satyanarayan Mandir Road near Jugsalai Dukhu Market.



Commencing on the auspicious occasion of Amavasya, the Navgrah Puja and Havan will commence at 8 am and continue until 1 pm. Prasad distribution is scheduled from 11 am to 3 pm. Additionally, a special citizens' Havan Puja will be conducted from 5 to 6 pm. Addressing the media, Damodar Shani Baba outlined the day's schedule, highlighting a bhajan program from 7 pm onwards, featuring performances by local artists from Prem Agarwal and Party. The religious proceedings will be overseen by 11 pandits, led by Pandit Ashok Sharma and Gyani Sharma. The yagna is dedicated to fostering the progress and peace of India, inviting all devotees to partake in the religious rituals and seek the blessings of Shani Baba to become a part of virtue.

The event's success and final preparations are being diligently managed by a dedicated team including Manoj Puria, Nandkishore Thakur, Saurav Agrawal, Arvind Mishra, Arun Goyal, Dharmendra Sharma, Vishnu Sonkar, Raju Sonkar, Ankit Garg, Ashok Sharma, and Gyani Sharma, among others. (w/nkm)

## Newborns in Jamshedpur get gift from IWC East



**Jamshedpur, June 3:** In celebration of the centenary year of Inner Wheel Club, members of IWC Jamshedpur East undertook a heartwarming initiative. They donated 100 gifts, each bearing the club's name, Inner Wheel logo, and a blessings message, to 100 newborn babies discharged from Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital in South Park, Bistupur. This thoughtful gesture aimed to bring joy and blessings to 100 families during a time of great excitement. Club members thanked Past President Vinita Jha for her efforts in arranging these special gifts. Special gratitude was also extended to Tarulata Gandhi of IWC Jamshedpur for her support in this touching project.

# BDO convenes meeting to discuss Night Blue Program with health workers

Mail News Service

**Gamharia, June 3:** In an effort to combat the spread of filariasis, a crucial meeting was convened by the Block Development Officer (BDO) with employees of the Health Department to discuss the Night Blue Survey program. The initiative, aimed at preventing the proliferation of filariasis, has been launched under

the auspices of the Health Department.

During the meeting, it was outlined that the program entails the collection and testing of blood samples from individuals above the age of 20. The first phase of the survey is scheduled to take place in Kuluptanga, located in Ward No. 35 of Adityapur, on June 5 and June 7, from 8:30 pm to 12 am. Subsequently, a similar survey will be



conducted in Mirudih, under the jurisdiction of the Krishnapur Sub Health Center, on June 11, 13,

and 15, during the same hours. Emphasizing the importance of nocturnal sampling, it was explained that the bacteria microfilaria, responsible for filariasis, is most active during nighttime hours. Teams have been mobilized to conduct these nighttime surveys efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, the BDO underscored the significance of prompt treatment for individuals diagnosed with filariasis, ensuring immediate medical attention to those in need. The collective

efforts aim to eradicate filariasis from the district, promoting the health and well-being of its residents.

Present at the meeting were key stakeholders, including Medical Officer-in-charge Dr. Lakshmi, along with BPM, BM, Women Supervisor, SI, MTS, and block-appointed officers, all contributing their expertise and dedication to the success of the Night Blue program. (w/nkm)

## Honoring blood donors and voter selfie contest winners



Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** On the day of voting, the PSF and BSSR Union extended their gratitude to blood donors and honored winners of the voter selfie contest. The event, held in Jamshedpur, was a testament to community engagement and altruism.

During the polling day, the PSF and BSSR Union

felicitated blood donors, recognizing their noble act of donating blood. Subsequently, the winners of the voter selfie contest were also honored for their active participation. A noteworthy aspect of the event was the blood donation camp organized by Rare Group, where 25 units of blood were donated.

This noble initiative

was dedicated to the late Dilip Bhattacharya, garnering appreciation from all attendees. Over the past month, the PSF and BSSR Union conducted a comprehensive campaign encompassing voting, refreshment, and blood donation drives from the city to remote villages. To further boost blood

donation during the summer vacation, a selfie contest was organized, receiving overwhelming support. Approximately 40 winners of the blood donors and selfie contest were awarded prizes, recognizing their significant contributions. Moreover, 25 blood donors paid homage to the late Dilip Bhattacharya ji during the blood donation

camp. District Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Manish Kumar, Senior Superintendent of Police Kishore Kaushal, and other esteemed guests felicitated these blood donors and contest winners.

Their selfless acts were appreciated and acknowledged by all present, including Jharkhand Gramin Bank Secretary Nalini Ram Murthy, General Manager Sanjay Chaudhary, Jharkhand Gramin Bank Regional General Manager Shrikant Katara, and Dr. Vijay Mohan Singh, among others. (w/nkm)

## Rly allocates 287 quarters

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** Tatanagar Railway has announced the allocation of 287 quarters across four categories to branch line railway employees. These quarters, located in seven colonies, will facilitate railway personnel from Adityapur, Gamharia, Asanbani, and Bahalda Haldipokhar routes to reside with their families in Tatanagar. The allotment list, categorized by the size of quarters, was issued from the Chakradharpur division headquarters. This decision follows discussions between the Railway Men's Congress and the DRM in Chakradharpur regarding the utilization of vacant quarters for branch line employees.

# EVM votes to be counted on 96 tables

Postal ballots on 42 tables and ETPBS votes on 7 tables

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, June 3 :** With the anticipation of the upcoming vote counting day on June 4, meticulous arrangements have been put in place by the district administration. The process of randomization of counting personnel was conducted assembly-wise under the supervision of General Observer Killu Shiv Kumar Naidu, Counting Observer Sanjay Kumar Dhattarwal, and District Election Officer Ananya Mittal at the Collectorate.

Deputy Development Commissioner Manish Kumar and all Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) were also present during the randomization process. It was decided that EVM votes would be counted on 96 tables,



postal ballots on 42 tables, and Electronic Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) votes on 7 tables.

Ananya Mittal, the District Election Officer, outlined the sequence of events for the vote counting day. The counting will commence

at 8 am, starting with the tallying of postal ballots and ETPBS votes. Subsequently, at 8:30 am, the counting of EVM votes will commence. Breaking down the counting process further, it was revealed that each assembly constituency will have a designated

number of rounds and tables for counting. For instance, for Baharagora (Assembly Constituency 44), there will be 19 rounds conducted across 14 tables, while for Ghatshila (Assembly Constituency 45), 20 rounds will take place on 15 tables. Similar

## Dry Day today

**Jamshedpur, June 3 :** In a significant announcement, District Election Officer Ananya Mittal has declared June 4, the day of vote counting, as a dry day across the East Singhbhum district. This decision aims to ensure a peaceful and orderly environment during the counting process. According to the order issued by Mittal, all retail product shops, hotels, restaurants, and bars, along with any other licensed premises, will remain completely closed on this day. The sale, serving, or distribution of any spirituous or intoxicating liquor or similar substances will be strictly prohibited in all establishments, including hotels, restaurants, clubs, eateries, kitchens, and shops. The directive mandates that no intoxicating substances can be sold, served, or distributed in any private or public place within the district.

arrangements have been made for other assembly constituencies. The allocation of counting personnel has been done in strict adherence to the guidelines provided by the Election Commission of India. Mittal assured all candidates of a transparent and fair counting process, affirming that the instructions of the Election Commission

have been meticulously followed. For the counting of EVM votes on 96 tables, each table will be manned by a supervisor, a counting assistant, a micro observer, and a fourth-class employee. Similarly, for counting postal ballots and ETPBS votes, the requisite number of personnel has been assigned to each table.

## Sukoo Singh found guilty in Samola Singh murder case

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** In a significant development, the court of Chief Justice cum District Judge Anil Kumar Mishra-1 has pronounced the verdict in the murder case of Samola Singh,

the verdict was delivered on Monday, with the court scheduling a hearing for the sentencing on Tuesday. The

case, which involved the murder of Samola Singh, saw the testimony of seven individuals. The court found Sukoo Singh guilty under Section 302 (murder) and Section 201 (concealing evidence) of the

Indian Penal Code. Bhadru Singh, the deceased's husband, had informed the police that on the day of the incident, he had left for work as usual, only to return home at 9 pm to find his wife missing.

Further inquiry revealed that Samola Singh had left home around noon, with Sukoo Singh being among the last individuals seen with her, reportedly providing her with money before her disappearance.

# Tribute to great poets at Ravindra Nazrul Jayanti in Sakchi

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** The Jharkhand Bang Bhashi Coordination Committee recently organized the Ravindra Nazrul Jayanti and Guni Jan Samman Samaroh at Sakchi High School, paying homage to the legendary poets Ravindra Nath Tagore and poet Nazrul Islam. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and offering floral tributes to these eminent literary figures.

Dr. Sourajyoti De, Chief of Works at Timplat Company, graced the occasion as the chief guest, enlightening the audience about the profound impact of poets Ravindra Nath Tagore and Nazrul Islam on society, emphasizing their role in inspiring and energizing

## International Yoga Guru Anshu Sarkar felicitated

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** The Jharkhand Bangbhashi Coordination Committee honored International Yoga Guru Anshu Sarkar, who has brought fame to the Iron City through his exemplary achievements in the field of Yoga.

During a function held at Sakchi High School on the birth anniversary of Kavjiguru Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, committee president Vikas Mukherjee felicitated Anshu Sarkar, presenting him with Ang Vastram, a certificate, and a memento. Anshu Sarkar, currently serving as the President of the World Fitness Federation of Yogasana Sports India (Bharat), has



garnered hundreds of accolades from various national and international forums and institutions for his significant contributions to Yoga. Expressing his gratitude, Anshu Sarkar remarked that while receiving recognition nationally and internationally is indeed gratifying, being honored by one's own society

in their city holds a special significance. He pledged to continue his efforts in promoting health and wellness through Yoga, striving to empower people with vitality and vigor. The organizers lauded Anshu Sarkar's dedication and commitment towards promoting a healthy lifestyle through Yoga, emphasizing his role in preventing diseases and enhancing overall well-being.

In response, Anshu Sarkar extended his heartfelt thanks to the organizers for bestowing this honor upon him, reaffirming his dedication to the cause of health and wellness.

the populace. Committee President Vikas Mukherjee, in his welcome address, briefly acknowledged the

committee's endeavors and shed light on the illustrious lives and contributions of both poets. A cultural extravaganza enriched the

event, featuring performances by renowned artists. Kakoli Chakraborty mesmerized the audience with

renditions of Ravindra Sangeet, while Ayush Mitra enthralled with Nazrul songs, accompanied by Swaroop

Sinha on tabla. Verbal artistes Mithu Mandal and Malay Acharya, along with his daughter Sujita Acharya, presented captivating recitals of poems by Rabindranath Tagore and Nazrul, respectively.

In recognition of their exceptional contributions to society, 14 distinguished individuals were honored by the chief guest and Vikas Mukherjee. The honorees included Dr. Jahar Banerjee, Tapas Mitra, Dr. Ram Ranjan Sen, and others, representing various fields. The vote of thanks was delivered by Sandeep Sinha Chaudhary, the secretary of the committee, expressing gratitude to all participants and supporters for their invaluable contributions to the event's success. (w/nkm)

## Counting to take place at 40 centres in Bihar amid tight security

**Patna, June 3 (IANS)** The counting of votes for all the 40 parliamentary seats of Bihar will take place in as many counting centres set up in 33 districts amid tight security, officials said here.

The counting will start at 8 a.m. on June 4. The preparation for the counting is currently underway in the districts where the centres have been established.

The control units, electoral units (EVMs) and VVPATs have been kept in specially designed strong rooms with three layers of security. The strong rooms are being monitored round the clock through CCTV cameras. The paramilitary forces and state police have been deployed at the centres for the security of EVMs.

The Election Commission has also issued two helpline numbers -- 0612-2217601 and 0612-2217602 -- at the state headquarters in Patna. They will work from 7 a.m. on June 4 and anyone can register



complaints.

According to an official of the Election Commission, the counting centres were not established in the Sheohar, Saharsa, Sheikhpura and Arwal districts while one centre was established for two Lok Sabha constituencies in some districts.

In Patna, Anugrah Narayan College is the venue of the counting centre for Patna Sahib and Patliputra Lok Sabha constituencies.

The Patna district administration has decided to close the traffic operation on Boring

Road from 5 a.m. on June 4. The commuters will not be allowed to enter that stretch from Boring Road Chowk on one end and the water tank area on the other side except for emergency services like ambulances. Commercial vehicles will be also prevented from going on the Boring Canal Road from Rajapur Bridge to Hartali Chowk.

The counting centre of Sasaram (SC Reserved) seat was formed in Kaimur while the counting centre of Karakat was formed in Sasaram.

## EC asks CAPF's 400 companies to stay in Bengal till June 19

**Kolkata, June 3 (IANS)** Fearing post-poll violence, the Election Commission (EC) has decided to retain 400 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in West Bengal till June 19. Results for the Lok Sabha polls will be announced on Tuesday.

Initially, it was decided that 400 companies would be retained in the state only up to June 6, just two

days after the counting date (June 4). However, insiders from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, said in the wake of ground-level reports hinting towards the possibility of a breakout of massive post-poll violence, it has been ultimately decided to increase the retention period of CAPF in the state till June 16. They added, that the



rest of the arrangements relating to the retention of CAPF after the counting date will be the same. Of

these 400 companies, 115 companies will be of the Central Reserve Police (CRPF), 118 will be of the

Border Security Force (BSF), 71 of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), 60 of Sashastra Seema Bal and 36 of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). To recall, post-poll violence broke out in different pockets of West Bengal after the 2021 state assembly polls. The National Human Rights Commission had then visited West Bengal to review the situation.

## Nine NTTF students shine in placements

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** The R D Tata Technical Institute, based in Golmuri and affiliated with NTTF, recently witnessed a flurry of campus placements by esteemed companies such as Makino, Hi Tech Robotics, and Orangewood. The selection process comprised rigorous evaluations of written examinations, individual talents, and technical prowess, culminating in interviews where students showcased their best performances, ultimately bringing laurels to the



institute.

Among the standout performers were Ayush Kumar, Krish Kumar, and Deepak Kumar Singh, final year students of Diploma in Mechatronics, who secured a lucrative package of 3.60 lakhs

from Makino Company. Similarly, three students from the final year Diploma in Mechatronics Engineering - Rahul Gupta, Aastha Kumari, and Keshav Vishwakarma - secured a package of 3.80 lakhs each from Hi

Tech Robotics. Anish Kumar Sinha and Chitij Rai were offered packages of 3 lakhs in Orangewood Company, located in Bengaluru.

The institute takes pride in the remarkable achievements of its

students, with placement officers Mithila Mahato and Neha playing pivotal roles in facilitating these opportunities. Principal Preeta John extended her heartfelt congratulations to all the successful candidates, acknowledging their dedication and hard work.

Additionally, Ramesh Rai, Pankaj Gupta, Deepak Sarkar, Ajit Kumar, alongside Deputy Manager Administrative Officer Varun Kumar, joined in congratulating the students and wished them a prosperous and successful future ahead. (w/nkm)

## Rajatendu Rath advocates for Seraikela Chhau Dance as a classical Indian art

Mail News Service

**Seraikela, June 3:** Rajatendu Rath, a promising Chhau artist and recipient of the Senior Fellowship Award from the Sangeet Natak Academy, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, asserts that Seraikela Chhau dance embodies the essence of classical Indian art. Rath made these remarks upon the completion of his two-year project titled "Influence in Spiritual Dimension, Yoga Formula, and Development of Resources and Choreography in Seraikela World Famous Chhau Dance Culture."

According to Rath, Seraikela Chhau dance, recognized by UNESCO as an invaluable heritage, adheres strictly to Hindu classical and traditional customs. Rooted in Lord



Shiva and Shakti, the dance form epitomizes

Indian classicality in its entirety, with every

movement reflecting a yogic ethos. Various civilizations and mythologies influence this unique art, with dances such as Ardhanarishwar, Prajapati, Mayur, Ratri, and Devdasi drawing inspiration from religious texts.

Rath's project underscores the classical status of Seraikela Chhau, resonating with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's acknowledgment of the dance culture's spiritual dimensions. Modi praised Chhau dance for its yogic influence, a sentiment echoed by Rath in his comprehensive project.

Born into a traditional Chhau family in Seraikela, Rath traces his lineage to Kedarnath Rath, the founder of the region's first Chhau dance training institute, and his father, Motilal Rath, the director of Vijay Laxmi

Kala Bhavan. Rath's journey in Chhau dance began under the tutelage of Padmashree Sudhendra Narayan Singhdev at the tender age of five.

Recognized for his talent and dedication, Rath has garnered accolades and awards, including the National Award of Junior Fellowship. As the founder of Rajatendu Kala Niketan, Rath is committed to nurturing Chhau dance in rural areas. Through workshops and training camps, he aims to pass on his knowledge of Chhau dance, yoga, and meditation to children and youth.

Rath's choreographic repertoire includes iconic pieces like "Vande Mataram," "Akrit Gyan Gadha," and "Ahe Neela Sahila," showcasing his innovation and mastery in the art form. (w/nkm)

## Forest Dept promotes environment conservation through Rakshabandhan celebration

**Seraikela, June 3:** In a unique initiative aimed at promoting forest and environment conservation, the District Forest and Environment Protection Department organized a Rakshabandhan festival in the Kope and Paharpur forest areas of Seraikela block. Led by Forester Sunil Kumar Mahato, along with Forester Shubham Panda and Forest Guards Sita Soren and Shravanti De, local villagers participated in the event, tying rakhi to the trees with traditional rituals & performing Aarti. The significance of the festival was underscored by a collective pledge taken by all attendees to safeguard and enhance the trees and forested areas. Forester Sunil Kumar Mahato emphasized the

importance of celebrating Rakshabandhan in the forest area as a means of raising public awareness and consciousness regarding environmental protection, greenery development, and overall forest preservation.

The enthusiastic participation of villagers reflected their commitment to contribute to the conservation efforts by actively engaging in tree planting and forest development initiatives. The event served as a symbolic gesture of solidarity between humans and nature, highlighting the vital role of community involvement in ensuring the sustainable management of forest resources and the preservation of biodiversity. (w/nkm)



Dead bodies of a herd of monkeys floating in a well in Panki block in Palamu District of Jharkhand on Monday, June 3, 2024. According to the Forest and Environment Department of Jharkhand Government, At least 40 monkeys have died after jumping into a well to quench the thirst to beat the scorching heat in Panki Block in Palamu district of Jharkhand on Monday.

## Staff delay hampers Chakradharpur JLN College operations

Mail News Service

**Chakradharpur, June 3:** Despite the creation of posts for non-teaching staff at JLN College, Chakradharpur, affiliated with Kolhan University (KU), the restoration process is yet to commence. Approved by the state government in 2022, the initiative has seen minimal progress, with only 20 percent of the designated positions currently filled, leading to significant operational challenges.

Temporary recruitment on a contractual basis has been the interim solution, as the college grapples



with the shortage of staff. Among the 20 created posts, the majority pertain to the fourth class category, notably including 13 positions for peons. Additionally, single posts have been sanctioned for roles such as head clerk, librarian, counter clerk, and typist,

along with three positions for LD clerk, all categorized under the third class. Despite the approval, a dearth of permanent teachers persists, with the majority serving on a contractual basis, posing financial strain on the college administration.

Consequently, student services suffer, impacting over a thousand students enrolled in undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) programs.

Efforts to address the staff shortage include proposals for the creation of security guard positions, albeit without success.

The government's decision to augment peon posts instead of diversifying staff categories further complicates the situation. Future recruitment processes are likely to adhere to this limited scope, prolonging the challenges faced by JLN College. (w/nkm)

## JD(U)'s polling agent killed in Bihar

**Patna, June 3 (IANS)** A polling agent of the Janata Dal (United) was killed by unidentified persons in Bihar's Nalanda district on Monday.

The family members of the deceased claimed that election enmity could be the reason for the murder and have pointed fingers at the opposition party leaders. The victim had been receiving threatening calls ever since he became the polling agent of JD(U).

The incident took place in the Maua village of Parbalpur police station area. The deceased, Anil Kumar (62) was on the way to a nearby market to buy vegetables when around four to five attackers ambushed him, his family members said.

Police found several stab wounds on his body.

"In the Lok Sabha election, he was a polling agent at the village booth (polling booth number 323). There was a clash between the supporters of the ruling party and the opposition on June 1. Today, when my father got up early in the morning and went to the market to buy vegetables, the miscreants ambushed him and stabbed him until he died," said Neetu Kumari, the daughter of the deceased. The district police have identified some of the accused. The raids are currently underway to nab them, said officials here.

## Cricket fervor: Shield XI triumphs in GBPL-8 Final

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** In a thrilling finale, Shield XI clinched the Big Bash Gurudwara Basti Premier League (GBPL) title by defeating Navyuvak by a decisive 63 runs. The final match of the eighth edition of the GBPL was held at Sakchi Gurdwara Maindan, where all the matches of the series took place.

The star of the tournament, Shield XI's Neeraj, showcased explosive batting skills, earning the title of sixer king with a remarkable 28 sixes throughout the series. Amit Kumar from Navyuvak was named the best



bowler, taking 11 wickets, while the young Dhruvupal was awarded for his miraculous catch. The third place in the competition went to Punjab Kings.

The final match on Sunday saw Navyuvak winning the toss and opting to bowl first. Shield XI posted a formidable total of 151 runs for the loss of four wickets in their allotted 10

overs. Bunty delivered a stellar performance, scoring 62 runs with eight towering sixes. Vijay added 29 runs, and Neeraj contributed 22 runs. From the Navyuvak's side, Amit claimed two wickets, while Manoj and Sahil took one wicket each.

In response, the Navyuvak could only muster 88 runs for the loss of seven wickets in their 10 overs, falling short by 63 runs. Sahil Singh was the top scorer for Navyuvak with 25 runs, followed by captain Sonu with 15 runs, Manoj with 14, Navneet with 5, and Lakhani with 4. Shield XI's Kunal was the standout bowler, taking three wickets, while Abhishek and Vijay took

two and one wicket respectively.

Shield XI's all-round performance earned them the Man of the Match title. The prize distribution ceremony was graced by Sardar Nishan Singh, head of Sakchi Gurdwara, as the chief guest. Special guests included Arjun Singh Walia and Paramjit Singh Kale, general secretary of Sakchi Gurdwara. Other notable attendees who boosted the morale of the players were Jagminder Singh, Surjit Singh Chite, Sunny Singh, Satbir Singh Goldu, Balbir Singh Dhanjal, Sukhwinder Singh Nikku, Daljit Singh, and Trilochan Singh Tochi.

## Lessons from the 18th Lok Sabha Elections

The seven-phase election process for the 18th Lok Sabha concluded with the final phase of voting on 57 seats. While exit polls have been released, the nation eagerly awaits the actual results on June 4. Despite the varied predictions, both ruling and opposition parties remain confident, indicating a belief in the fairness of the electoral process. This confidence is commendable and reflects positively on the integrity of the elections. However, it is crucial for the losing party to introspect rather than blame external factors such as the Election Commission, electronic voting machines (EVMs), the media, or the electorate. Unfortunately, this level of maturity is often lacking, with defeated parties quick to cast aspersions rather than reflect on their shortcomings.

The election campaign, spanning nearly two months, was marred by negativity. Political discourse frequently deviated from issues of public interest, focusing instead on irrelevant topics. This diversion not only disserves the electorate but also harms the political parties themselves. When genuine public concerns are sidelined, the democratic process is weakened. A glaring issue in this election was the emphasis on attacking opponents' manifestos rather than robustly promoting one's own. This approach likely contributed to a lower than expected voter turnout.

The reduced voter turnout should be a significant concern for political parties and the Election Commission alike. Political parties must bear responsibility for failing to mobilize voters effectively. The Election Commission, on its part, should scrutinize the reasons behind the low turnout and consider measures to address them. One pressing issue is the timing of the elections. Conducting elections during the scorching heat of May-June poses significant challenges. Adverse weather conditions likely deterred many voters, and the extreme heat caused severe difficulties for voters, security personnel, and election staff alike, with some even succumbing to heatstroke.

Moreover, election violence, particularly in Bengal, is a troubling issue that needs urgent attention. The persistence of such violence undermines the democratic process and highlights the need for stringent measures to ensure electoral peace and security.

In conclusion, while the electoral process has been largely commendable, there is a pressing need for political maturity and a focus on public interest. Political parties should strive to inspire voter turnout and engage in meaningful discourse, while the Election Commission must address logistical challenges and ensure the safety and convenience of all participants. Addressing these issues will strengthen democracy and enhance public trust in the electoral process.

From the Editorial Desk

## Hyderabad ceases to be joint capital of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana

Hyderabad ceased to be the joint capital of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on Sunday (June 2), which marked the 10th formation day of the Telangana state.

Hyderabad has become the exclusive capital of Telangana as the 10-year period as a joint capital, laid down under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014, came to an end.

At the main official ceremony to mark the Telangana formation day, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy declared the period of Hyderabad as joint capital expired on Sunday.

Last month, the Telangana government had decided to take over buildings allotted to Andhra Pradesh in Hyderabad after June 2. Revanth Reddy directed the officials to take over the buildings like the Lake View Guest House which were allotted to Andhra Pradesh for 10 years.

The Chief Minister also announced that the problems relating to the sharing of assets with Andhra Pradesh will be resolved at the earliest.

He said he has decided to place special focus on



solving pending issues with Andhra Pradesh under the AP Reorganisation Act. He had asked the officials concerned to prepare a report on all the pending issues related to the division of assets and payment of the debts between the two states after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. In his speech at state formation day celebrations, Revanth Reddy said that Telangana faces a few challenges. He said the state's share in the waters of the Krishna and Godavari rivers should be decided, as this had not been done for 10 years.

He said the state government would put pressure on the Centre to decide on the legitimate

share of Telangana in the waters of the two rivers and implement plans for various irrigation projects accordingly. Stating that Hyderabad is Telangana's brand, he wished it rises to become the number one in the world. The Chief Minister said his government has the resolve to make Telangana an ideal destination for the world. "To realise this goal, we need the cooperation of political, administrative, media, judicial and social institutions besides the blessings of four crore people," he said.

He underlined the need for economic revival to increase the state's assets and distribute it among the poor. He said when Congress came to power,



the state's economy was in total shambles with total outstanding debts of Rs 7 lakh crore. Revanth Reddy said his government was giving priority to financial discipline without compromising on development. The government is paying salaries to employees and pensions to pensioners on the first of every month, he claimed. He also shared his plans to see Telangana as a role model for sustainable development in the country. He said the government has decided to divide the state into three zones - Urban Telangana, Sub-Urban Telangana, and Rural Telangana. The government will unveil the Green Telangana-2050

Master Plan, giving details of the nature of development activities to be taken up and infrastructure to be provided in each zone.

Slamming the Bharat RashtraSamithi (BRS) for its "autocratic rule" during the last 10 years, Revanth Reddy said the rulers wanted people to lose their freedom in exchange for welfare activity.

Stating that freedom has been part of the Telangana way of life, he said Telangana society would never tolerate bondage. Telangana will endure hunger but not lose freedom, he remarked.

He alleged that during the 10 years, Telangana suffered 100 years of destruction.

## Operation K: How China-based accounts disguised as Sikhs manipulated social media

From criticising the Indian government to supporting the Khalistan independence movement, China-based 'bad actors' that were busy manipulating the social media by using synthetic content, including the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI), have now been exposed.

The network originated in China and targeted the global Sikh community, including in Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, the UK and Nigeria.

According to Meta (formerly Facebook), these social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Telegram and X (formerly Twitter) posted primarily in English and Hindi about news and current events, including images likely manipulated by photo-editing tools or generated by AI. These accounts frequently posted about floods in the Punjab



region, the Sikh community worldwide, "the Khalistan independence movement, the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a pro-Khalistan independence activist in Canada and criticism of the Indian government". Meta swung into action

and removed 37 Facebook accounts, 13 Pages, five Groups, and nine accounts on Instagram for violating its policy against coordinated inauthentic behaviour (CIB).

This activity included several clusters of fake accounts, including one with links to an

"unattributed CIB network from China targeting India and the Tibet region that we disrupted in early 2023".

Some of these clusters amplified one another with most of their engagement coming from their own fake accounts. Meta said that this

operation used compromised and fake accounts to pose as Sikhs, post content and manage Pages and Groups.

They created a fictitious activist movement called "Operation K" which called for pro-Sikh protests, including in New Zealand and Australia.

The company said it removed this activity before it was able to build an audience among authentic communities on its platforms.

Not just Meta, a Microsoft Threat Analysis team warned last month that China will create and amplify AI-generated content to benefit its interests amid major global elections, particularly in India and the US.

According to Microsoft, China is using fake social media accounts to poll voters on what divides them most to sow division and possibly influence the outcome of the elections.

## India to gain as global oil prices decline despite geopolitical tensions

Oil prices declined for a third day in a row in the international market on Wednesday, despite geopolitical tensions, as the US Federal Reserve is not expected to reduce interest rates any time because of the high inflation rate.

Prices of the benchmark Brent crude have now come down to \$82.28 a barrel from close to \$84 a barrel at the end of last week. The US West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) futures were trading at \$78.02 on Wednesday indicating the further softening of prices.

Since India imports close to 85 per cent of its crude requirement, the decline in oil prices reduces the country's import bill and strengthens the rupee. The Government has also helped to cut the country's oil import bill by allowing the oil companies to buy Russian crude at discounted prices despite the pressures from Western countries to stop these purchases in the wake of the Ukraine war.

Russia has now emerged as the largest supplier of crude oil to India replacing Iraq and Saudi Arabia which occupied the top slot earlier. India has in fact become the largest purchaser of Russia's seaborne oil which accounted for close to 38 per cent of India's total oil imports in April.

In fact, India's strategy of continuing to buy cheap oil from Russia has resulted in the saving of around \$7.9 billion in the country's oil import bill during the first 11 months of the fiscal year 2022-23 and also helped the country to lower its current account deficit.

The NarendraModi government has stood firm in maintaining its ties with Russia despite the Western sanctions against Moscow. Since India is the third largest importer of crude in the world, these large purchases of Russian oil have also helped to keep prices in the world market at more reasonable levels which has benefited other countries as well.

Data compiled by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that in volume terms, the share of crude petroleum imported from Russia jumped to 36 per cent in 11 months of FY2024 from 2 per cent in FY2022, while that from West Asian countries (Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait) fell to 23 per cent from 34 per cent. The discounts on Russian oil generated huge savings in the oil import bill. According to an ICRA report, the imputed unit value of imports from Russia was 16.4 per cent and 15.6 per cent lower than the corresponding levels from West Asia in FY2023 and 11 months of FY2024, respectively.

## The Third Eye: Sanity is a prerequisite for peace

By DC Pathak

All conflicts -- interpersonal, social and political -- are traceable to lesser thoughts afflicting the human mind at the cost of sanity. Sanity is broadly the gain accruing from a combination of 'awareness' with 'acceptance' of the larger realities of life and a certain capacity to relentlessly follow the path of duty without the fear of failure. Life is not a journey entirely free of turbulence and these two precepts by and large provide a level of peace of mind that was the prime requisite for successfully negotiating that journey.

Indian spiritual thought upheld the primacy of mental peace over any other form of advantage in life and even prepared the individual to face the journey's end with calm and a healthy sense of 'surrender' to the higher order. This is what imbues the Indian mind with a sense of wisdom -- this was particularly true of the women of India -- and sees an individual preferring peace over want. It goes without saying that India surely is one country where this kind of intrinsic wisdom should come into play to make governance people-

oriented going beyond what was done in a so-called 'welfare' state. The state has to nurse the spiritual gift of Indians that got them to opt for peace. We have changed our penal codes to free them of the colonial hangover. Of equal importance is the need for giving a suitable orientation to our national civil services to enable them to serve the larger objective of giving all citizens fair treatment within the firmness of the administrative ethos and contributing to policy-framing for the larger good of the nation.

India upholds sanity in international relations as well which is why it has in a short period of time risen to become a major power in the world espousing the cause of global peace and human advancement. India's foreign policy of opting for bilateral and even multilateral friendships based on mutual security and economic benefits that did not prejudice global peace has in a way helped the country to reinforce its position as an independent-looking power in the comity of nations. Projection of the strategy of making India self-dependent in economy and defence has



added to this image.

On the Ukraine-Russia military confrontation and more recently in the Israel-Hamas conflict India took a stand that seemed to indicate an approach of sanity befitting a world leader who could see things in the wider perspective of the good of humanity. In both these developments of geopolitical importance, India was upfront in suggesting negotiations for peace -- the initial condemnation of the 'terrorist' attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7 was in line with India's declared policy of zero tolerance towards 'terrorism' of all kinds.

Even in the Ukraine-Russia armed

confrontation, India had reached out to the two countries at the highest levels to call for the cessation of hostilities and return to talks on the basis of the willingness of the mediators to understand the 'security concerns' of both sides. All this enabled India to continue with its bilateral friendship with both Russia and Israel without running into any problems with the rest of the international community. In handling geopolitical developments, India has apparently made the point that what was right from the point of view of the interests of humanity, was the correct policy for the simple reason that the voice of sanity would

ultimately find the widest global support.

In the governance of a large country like India, it becomes equally important that democratic dispensation prevails in all areas of domestic life like the execution of welfare schemes, the development of all regardless of caste, creed or region and access to the same justice for the high and the low. This is again because this was the approach of sanity and people never failed to see the merit of such a pathway. The areas where the government at the Centre had still to work were to ensure that a uniform level of law & order maintenance was available to the citizens through the length and breadth of the country regardless of the federal polity prescribed by our Constitution, to provide for a satisfactory medical care facility all across the country and to organise free education up to the school level mandated by the Constitution.

The country should move towards declaring health and education as strategic sectors where the writ of the Centre would be equally important. The framing of the National Education Policy should have come earlier and its

implementation was insisted upon because the responsibilities of the state in respect of education were supposed to stand above party politics. In fact in education and health, the Centre should have primary accountability just as was the case with the maintenance of internal security. Strategic affairs did not admit any political divergences in interpretation. Indian voters are a shrewd judge of the performance of the government at the Centre or in the states and they have exercised their electoral power effectively over the decades. They accept what makes sense to them and make an un-tinted evaluation of the rulers of the day. India is lucky to have people who value sanity on the issues of governance.

India is a land of multiple faiths and modes of worship but its governance does not carry any stamp of religion. This makes it so much superior to the fundamentalist regimes in its neighbourhood with a declared system of treatment of minorities that allowed the latter less than equal rights compared to Muslims. India houses more

Muslims than what their number was in Pakistan but has secularism built into its governance by way of the grant of an equal voting right under the Constitutional mandate of 'one man one vote', development policies of the state being open to all regardless of community and the same protection of law being provided to all citizens. Any flaws in this regard noticed locally can be fiercely opposed in the exercise of the freedom of lawful protest.

Political parties may be tempted to rely on communal appeals but beyond a point, this would attract adverse notice of law enforcement. Notions of supremacism of faith that led to an attitude of 'rejectionism' towards other religions have often caused political separatism but that too was largely because of the manipulation by leaders. Indian democracy has passed the test of the validity of its electoral process -- what has made it possible is the vigilance of the electorate that was always very clear about the merits and inadequacies of the government of the day. The average Indian has enough sanity to retain his or her political judgment

by even rising above the individual's personal concerns and recording his or her preference for stability and security of the country.

Indians have the civilisational legacy of living in harmony with others respecting their faiths and social practices -- this is the reason why the narrative of 'majoritarianism' built by interested lobbies had not brought many converts and the faith in the Constitution had held on. However, the legacy of politics of 'minorityism' keeps on getting revived from time to time though without making too much headway. All communities in India have the uncanny realisation that this was a practising democracy where a party would succeed only on genuine performance. This is a great tribute to the sanity of Indian voters.

The maxim of sanity for peace applies to the personal life more than it does to the social and political spheres of the individual's existence. It would be of great help if three civilisational earnings were put to good use while traversing through the journey of life -- a conscious effort to see that there was not too much serious.

### Mother Dairy hikes milk prices by Rs 2 per litre across all variants

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Mother Dairy, on Monday, increased milk prices across all variants due to rise in input cost. The price hike is effective from Monday in Delhi-NCR and other markets. Mother Dairy said: "A price hike of Rs 2 per litre applies to all milk variants." The price of token milk has increased to Rs 54 per litre from Rs 52 per litre. The price of toned milk has increased to Rs 56 per litre from Rs 54 per litre. The rate of cow milk has increased to Rs 58 per litre from Rs 56 per litre. The price of buffalo milk has increased from Rs 70 per litre to Rs 72 per litre. The rate of double-toned milk has increased to Rs 50 per litre from Rs 48 per litre. The company further said that despite the high prices of procuring milk in the last few months, the prices for customers were kept stable. Heatwave has also affected milk production. In such a situation, keeping the interest of milk producers and customers on priority, the company has decided to increase the price by 3 to 4 per cent. Earlier on Monday, Amul had increased the price of milk by Rs 2 per litre.

### Battery Smart to offer Zepto delivery partners access to over 1K battery swapping stations

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Battery-swapping services provider Battery Smart on Monday announced its partnership with e-grocery and quick commerce service provider Zepto. This partnership will provide Zepto's Electric Vehicle (EV) delivery partners access to Battery Smart's nationwide network of more than 1,000 battery-swapping stations, allowing two-minute battery swaps across over 30 cities. It will also empower Zepto to add 10,000 new EVs to its fleet in FY 2024-25, the company said. "Zepto's growth over the past year has been remarkable, and now, with access to our growing network of swap stations, we look forward to seeing it scale even further by deploying more EVs to its fleet," Yogiraj Gogia, Senior Director of Partnerships and Fleet Business, Battery Smart, said in a statement.

Through this partnership, both companies will facilitate a seamless transition to EVs for both existing and new delivery partners. Partners can take advantage of the reduced capital expenditure involved in purchasing an EV without a battery and instead utilise Battery Smart's Battery-as-a-service (BaaS) model, which will significantly enhance affordability and accessibility to electric mobility, the company said.

### Rajesh Chandiramani appointed as Comviva CEO

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Customer experience and data monetisation solutions provider Comviva on Monday announced the appointment of Rajesh Chandiramani as its CEO and whole-time director. Chandiramani replaces Manoranjan 'Mao' Mohapatra, who concluded his tenure with the company at the end of May. Following his retirement, Mohapatra will continue to serve on the Comviva Board as a non-executive director, the company said in a statement. "With his extensive experience and visionary leadership, we are confident in his ability to steer Comviva towards new heights," said Atul Soneja, Chairman of the Board at Comviva. Before joining Comviva, Chandiramani held senior leadership roles at Tech Mahindra, where he served as the Business Unit Head for strategic markets spanning the UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, Japan and India within the Communications, Media & Entertainment (CME) Vertical. He oversaw initiatives in cloud, data and analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and blockchain technologies for TechM.

### US-based Baron Capital again increases Swiggy's valuation to \$15.1 bn

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) US-based asset manager Baron Capital has again increased IPO-bound online food delivery platform Swiggy's valuation to \$15.1 billion. The latest valuation as of March 31 shows a 24 per cent increase from Baron's previous mark-up of Swiggy's valuation to \$12.2 billion, according to regulatory filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). This development comes at a time when Swiggy is preparing for its IPO. The company has obtained shareholders' approval to launch its \$1.25 billion IPO and has reportedly submitted papers to SEBI via a confidential route in May. As per regulatory filing, the online food delivery platform aims to raise up to Rs 3,750 crore through a fresh issue and around Rs 6,664 crore as an offer-for-sale (OFS) component. Swiggy reported a revenue of Rs 5,476 crore from operations and a loss of Rs 1,600 crore during the first three quarters of the financial year FY24. In FY23, its revenue was Rs 8,265 crore, while its losses soared to Rs 4,179 crore. Earlier this year, US-based investment firm Invesco raised Swiggy's valuation to about \$8.3 billion.

### I'm an investor in space startup Agnikul Cosmos: Anand Mahindra

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra, on Monday, disclosed that he is an investor in space startup Agnikul Cosmos, which last week launched the world's first rocket with a fully 3D-printed engine. On Thursday, the rocket Agniabaan SORTeD (SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator) became India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket launch that was completely designed and manufactured indigenously. It was launched from India's first privately developed launchpad called 'Dhanush' established by Agnikul at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh at 7:15 a.m. on Thursday. The launch pad is located inside ISRO's rocket port in Sriharikota. "You'll see a rocket lifting off. You'll also see the talent of young Indians lifting off..." Anand Mahindra posted on X.com. "They're my #MondayMotivation (Disclosure: I'm an investor in @AgnikulCosmos)," he added. Agniabaan is a two-stage rocket with a capacity to carry up to 300 kg to a height of 700 km. The rocket engines are powered by liquid oxygen/kerosene. In a post on X, Agnikul Cosmos, a startup incubated at the IIT Madras, revealed that the Agniabaan SORTeD vehicle "works on data acquisition systems and flight computers that were 100 per cent designed in-house." The flight was a "controlled ascent with full 3-axis control" with a "fully developed and designed in-house" autopilot, said the company, noting that the burn time took 65 seconds as expected. Further, Agniabaan was also the "first launch from India driven by computers working on Linux; by an ethernet-based architecture for connecting flight computers within the vehicle." The rocket was also the first to fly "with aviation-grade jet fuel and industrial-grade liquid oxygen," the company said.

# Markets shatter all records, mad rush begins for stock programmers after PM Modi's 'June 4' call

Mumbai, June 3 (IANS) Shattering previous records, the Indian stock markets on Monday positively responded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's prediction that "stock market programmers will get tired dealing with the rush" post-election results, albeit a day early. In an interaction with NDTV last month, PM Modi said the Indian indices are set to witness record highs after the poll results (to be announced on Tuesday).

"Within a week after election results, the Indian stock market will touch record highs and stock

market programmers will get tired dealing with the rush," he said.

On Monday, both the Sensex and Nifty touched new highs, as Exit Polls predicted a massive victory for the NDA government amid India's GDP exceeding estimates at 8.2 per cent for FY24.

Online brokerage platforms Zerodha and Groww witnessed disruptions in peak trading hours as the bull rally gained momentum.

All 13 sectoral indices were in the green as financial services, oil and gas, and power sectors led the rally in Nifty.

The Nifty hit an all-time



high of 23,338, while Sensex reached 76,738 in intra-day trading.

At close, Nifty surged 733 points or 3.25 per cent to close at 23,263 points, while the Sensex closed at

76,468, up 2,507 points or 3.39 per cent.

The Bank Nifty surged to 50,979 or a record 4 per cent.

The Adani Group stocks performed well for

## Stock markets gain over Rs 12 lakh crore in single day in 'rare' phenomenon

Mumbai, June 3 (IANS) The Indian stock markets gained over Rs 12 lakh crore, or 3.25 per cent, on Monday as fundamentals, technicals and sentiments turned favourable at the same time, which is a rare phenomenon, experts said. According to analysts, Exit Polls predicting the NDA government's return to power with a thumping majority pushed Sensex and Nifty to new highs, as another trading session witnessed buying across the Adani counter, with Adani Ports and Adani Power as the biggest gainers. "The next big events to watch in the coming week are the RBI policy, 100-day measures list and final budget as the key points," said Vikram Kasat, Head-Advisory,



Prabhudas Lilladher.

The Bank Nifty index hit a new all-time high of 51,133, closing at 50,979. Bank Nifty gains were led by the Bank of Baroda, closing up 12.10 per cent, followed by the State Bank of India (SBI) at 9.07 per cent.

The SBI became the seventh Indian-listed company to surpass Rs 8 lakh crore in market

capitalisation. Sectoral indices ended in green with Nifty PSU Bank closing at 8.40 per cent, and Nifty Energy at 6.77 per cent. The volatility Index (VIX) nose-dived to 15 per cent. The GDP numbers which came on Friday were better than expected with 8.2 per cent growth, which will "provide fundamental support to the market."

## Nokia, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to research on transportation, logistics

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Nokia on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), a Central University under the Ministry of Railways, to pursue research and development opportunities in the areas of transportation and logistics in India. Nokia and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya will team up on research opportunities in 5G/6G communications targeting air, land and sea transportation use cases, standards development, smart factory/automation, and AI/GenAI labs.

"This MoU further reinforces the industry-driven approach of the university to proactively co-work with the industry stakeholders for a Viksit Bharat," Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister for Railways, Communications and IT,



said in a statement.

The collaboration has a research focus specifically on leveraging Nokia's Network as Code platform with a developer portal and digital twins for transportation and logistics sectors, fibre sensing and AI, and optical network planning.

The Network as Code platform with developer portal reflects Nokia's strategic focus to drive new business models and unlock the potential that networks can deliver in terms of innovation, sustainability, and productivity.

"The collaboration with Nokia will further accelerate the technology-enabled progress in the transportation and logistics sector as well as advance the telecommunications sector," said Prof Manoj Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

The collaboration with GSV is the most recent in a series of recent partnerships between Nokia and the Indian research community. In October 2023, Nokia established a 6G Lab at its Global R&D centre in Bengaluru.

## AMD introduces 'Zen 5' Ryzen chips to power next-gen AI PCs

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Chip-maker AMD on Monday announced next-generation 'Zen 5' processors for AI-powered experiences on upcoming desktops and laptops from various manufacturers.

AMD Chair and CEO, Dr Lisa Su, introduced new AMD Ryzen AI 300 series chips with the world's most powerful neural processing unit (NPU) for next-gen AI

PCs. At 'Computex 2024,' the company also introduced AMD Ryzen 9000 series processors for desktops to empower gamers and content creators.

Built on the latest 'Zen 5' architecture, AMD Ryzen 9000 series desktop processors deliver 16 per cent better IPC (instructions per cycle) performance compared to the prior generation, with Ryzen 9 9950X delivering the

fastest consumer desktop performance in the world, the company said in a statement.

"We are so excited to introduce the Ryzen 9000 series, the world's most powerful desktop processors for gamers and creators, and the 3rd generation AMD Ryzen AI processors, which provide leadership AI and compute performance for ultrathin and premium Copilot+ PCs," said Jack Huynh, SVP and general

manager, Computing and Graphics Group at AMD.

The AMD Ryzen AI 300 series processors push the limits on what's possible featuring the fastest APU performance, the world's most powerful NPU with 50 TOPs, and the world's first block floating point NPU doubling the performance of 16-bit applications without sacrificing accuracy. Huynh informed. The Ryzen AI 300 Series features up to

12 high-performance 'Zen 5' cores and 24 threads, providing lightning-fast performance in top ultrathin laptops.

With a dedicated AI engine built on new AMD XDNA 2 architecture, the Ryzen AI series enhances productivity and creativity by efficiently handling local AI workloads, generating content, and automating workflows.

"We are excited to partner with AMD to deliver these new Ryzen

AI powered Copilot+ PCs. We are very committed to our collaboration with AMD and we'll continue to push AI progress forward together across the cloud and edge," said Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO of Microsoft.

Enrique Lores, President and CEO at HP, said that later this year, "through our partnership with AMD, we will introduce our next OmniBook AI PC".

## Titan launches four new brand outlets in Ranchi

Ranchi, June 3: Aligned with the vision to expand its footprint in East India, Titan Company Limited, a leading retail conglomerate, has announced their ambitious expansion plans for the state of Jharkhand. Titan, with its commitment to cater to the growing consumer demand in the region has today launched

four new brand outlets across their diverse product portfolio in Ranchi. The company launched its first Taneira outlet of the city along with its largest Mia by Tanishq outlet in all of East India, a Helios store, and a new premium Fastrack store in the City of Waterfalls - Ranchi. The new stores are located at Western Mall, Lalpur.

The new launches have added to Titan's existing portfolio, taking the overall exclusive brand retail touchpoints in the state to 73 across 15 cities. In the coming years, Titan is also planning to strengthen their presence across Jharkhand, aiming to increase their presence across 20 cities and have a total footprint of 100 stores across categories.

## ONDC clocks all-time high of 8.9 million transactions in May

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) The government-run Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) on Monday said it recorded an all-time high of 8.9 million transactions across retail and ride-hailing segments in May. This represented a robust 23 per cent month-on-month increase in total transaction volume, the ONDC said in a statement. In the retail segment, the ONDC hit a new peak of 5 million orders in May, up from 3.59 million in April. The network also saw a single-day record of

200,000 retail transactions during the month. "The grocery and food delivery categories each crossed the 1 million order mark for the first time, while home and kitchen had 630,000 orders, fashion had 330,000 orders, and other retail sub-categories added up to 2 million orders," said the network. The ride-hailing segment witnessed slower growth, increasing from 3.6 million trips in April to 3.8 million in May, still lower than its March peak of 4 million trips.

## 71 pc Indian workers from MNCs saw age-related bias in job ads for their roles: Report

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) About 71 per cent of Indian employees from MNCs (multinational corporations) headquartered in the country noticed age-related bias in job advertisements for their roles, compared to 57 per cent from other organisation types, a new report showed on Monday. According to recruitment agency Randstad India, about 40 per cent of the surveyed workforce have either experienced or witnessed ageism at work.

"Ageism is one of the

most overlooked unconscious biases made at the workplace across levels. Overcoming ageism requires a conscious effort to recognise and challenge stereotypes to create an environment where experience and fresh perspectives are equally valued," said Viswanath PS, MD & CEO, Randstad India.

The report surveyed about 1,000 Indian workers.

As per the report, younger age groups experienced more age discrimination than older



age groups. About 42 per cent of women reported experiencing or witnessing ageism, compared to 37 per cent of men.

Employees from MNCs headquartered in India reported higher instances of ageism, with 41 per cent saying they faced age-related biases, while for MNCs headquartered outside of India, 29 per cent agreed there was age-related bias in their workplace.

"Today, a lot of skilling and training programs tend to focus on younger employees. However, it is

equally important to develop such programmes for the older generation to expose them to new ways of working and changes in technology and business," said Meena Ganesh, Chairperson and Co-founder of Portea Medical.

In addition, the report highlighted the unique challenges faced by different demographic groups, such as those with caring responsibilities, physical or mental impairments, and diverse sexual orientations, who report higher incidences of ageism.

# Agra's environmental crisis worsens despite decades of efforts to protect Taj Mahal

By Brij Khandelwal

Agra, June 3 (IANS) Ahead of World Environment Day on June 5, the stark reality of Agra's environmental crisis has come into sharp focus. Despite the Supreme Court's 1993 intervention on the petition by MC Mehta, to protect the TajMahal and other heritage sites in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), the ecological situation has deteriorated dramatically. The diminishing green cover and severely polluted water bodies present a grim picture of the collective failure to tackle the alarming ecological issues in this eco-sensitive region, which spans over 10,480 square kilometers. Local environmentalists warn, "Air and water pollution continue to threaten the TajMahal. The battle against pollution has been lost due to a lack of commitment and willpower at the highest

levels of governance." The effects of air pollution are now evident in the consistently rising temperatures, says Eco Club president Pradip. In 1993, the Supreme Court mandated a series of measures based on the high-powered S. Vardarajan committee's recommendations to combat pollution threatening the TajMahal. Despite spending thousands of crores of rupees, the environmental situation in the TTZ remains dire. Agra's air quality has deteriorated significantly, with the city performing poorly on the air quality index year after year. Dust levels (SPM and RSPM) and noxious gases in the ambient air pose serious threats to both human health and historical monuments. Despite the city's participation in the Smart City initiative, the results fail to inspire confidence in achieving eco-equilibrium. Agra's green cover has



plummeted to less than six per cent, far below the national target of 33 per cent. The SPM level exceeds 350 micrograms per cubic meter, soaring above 600 in the summer, against a standard of 100

micrograms. The rise in noxious gases is exacerbated by a boom in automobile numbers - from 40,000 in the early 1980s to over a million today in the Agra district alone.

The severely polluted Yamuna River, now virtually dry, is a major pollution source. Social activist Rajiv Gupta of LokSwar laments, "The Yamuna's dry bed and polluted

waters pose serious threats to historical monuments along its banks. Despite decades of judicial activism and significant investments, Agra remains littered with garbage, and pollution

levels threaten both people and monuments." Illegal stone mining in the Aravali ranges and malfunctioning sewage treatment plants (STPs) compound the problem. Most of Agra's sewage is discharged untreated into the Yamuna, further degrading the river's health. The city's four treatment plants cannot process all the waste and sewer produced daily. Though the Supreme Court in 1996 ordered the planting of trees on Agra's western periphery to combat dust-laden winds from Rajasthan, greenery has vanished, replaced by tall buildings where community ponds once existed. The unchecked urban sprawl, encroachment on parks, and illegal structures overshadowing historical sites reflect the chaos of unplanned urbanisation. Environmentalists warn that the battle against pollution in the TTZ has been lost even before it truly began.

Local environmentalists are now demanding a comprehensive review of past actions and a detailed white paper on the expenditures and outcomes. Despite continuous monitoring by the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the environmental situation in the Taj Trapezium Zone remains critical. Activists describe Yamuna River in Agra as virtually dead due to its dry riverbed and heavily polluted waters, which pose serious threats to historical monuments. "The Supreme Court's directive to plant rows of trees along the city's western periphery to filter dust-laden winds from Rajasthan has not been implemented. Instead, tall buildings have replaced green spaces and community ponds, with illegal structures overshadowing historical monuments," complained green activist Devashish Bhattacharya.

## Your socioeconomic status may determine risk of diabetes, depression, cancer

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Your risk of diabetes, depression and cancer may depend on socioeconomic status, finds a study on Sunday. Those with lower socioeconomic status, determined by educational achievement and occupation, are more likely to develop complex diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. They also had a greater genetic susceptibility to developing many other complex diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, lung cancer, depression, and alcohol use disorder. In contrast, people with a higher status are at increased risk of developing certain types



of breast and prostate cancer, revealed the study by a team from the University of Helsinki, Finland. Their findings based

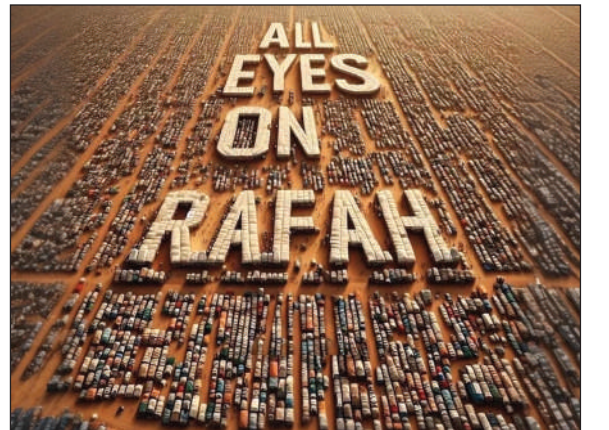
on genomics, socioeconomic status and health data of approximately 2,80,000 Finnish individuals were presented at the ongoing

annual conference of the European Society of Human Genetics in Germany. The study recommended that

adding polygenic risk scores, which measure an individual's risk of a particular disease based on genetic information, to the screening protocols can help detect multiple diseases. "Understanding that the impact of polygenic scores on disease risk is context-dependent may lead to further stratified screening protocols," said Fiona Hagenbeek, a postdoctoral researcher at the varsity's Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM). The researchers noted that "to really move to personalised health, it will be essential to gauge both genetic and environmental risks."

## Millions share 'All Eyes On Rafah' on Instagram: What the image means

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) The latest Israeli strikes that killed at least 45 Palestinians, including many children, in tents full of displaced people in Gaza's Rafah have drawn widespread condemnation from several countries and human rights groups. The Tal as-Sultan area, a designated "safe zone" in northwest of Rafah city, was hit by at least eight Israeli missiles, Al Jazeera reported quoting witnesses.



Currently home to hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians from all over the Gaza Strip, Rafah came under Israeli ground and air offensive on Sunday, despite widespread international concern over civilian casualties. The attack also left several tents on fire, which then swept through the area, killing more people. A fuel tank explosion, triggered by an Israeli airstrike, was responsible for the fire, NBC reported.

**"All Eyes OnRafah": What the image depicts**

As visuals of charred bodies and those with severe injuries emerged on social media, an image with text, "All Eyes on Rafah", started trending. The campaign, spearheaded by activists and humanitarian groups, aims to draw attention to the southern city of the Gaza Strip, where people have been forced to live in cramped refugee camps with no humanitarian aid.

The image shows tents at a camp arranged to form the words "All Eyes on Rafah", urging people not to turn a blind eye to the situation in Gaza's southernmost city, where approximately 1.5 million people have sought shelter after fleeing Israeli bombings.

**Is the image real?** The image might be one of the first artificial intelligence-generated viral activism pictures. According to Marc Owen Jones, who studies misinformation, the image "looks" like it was created by AI. Not looking very real, having odd shadows, and the tent camp being unnaturally symmetrical are some of the signs that it's an AI-generated image, NBC reported.

**Where does the phrase come from?** The slogan is said to have originated from a statement by Rick Peeporkom, director of the World Health Organization's Office of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. He made the comment in February, shortly after Benjamin Netanyahu ordered an evacuation plan for Rafah ahead of attacks aimed at what the Israeli Prime Minister then claimed were the last remaining strongholds of the militant group Hamas.

**How the image spread** Support groups like Save the Children, Oxfam, Americans for Justice in Palestine Action, Jewish Voice for Peace and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign have also adopted the slogan. On social media, the hashtag #AllEyesOnRafah has garnered over 1,95,000 posts with millions of views. It was also trending on Instagram on Tuesday, with nearly 1,00,000 additional posts on the platform. The image has been shared over 29 million times on Instagram in less than 24 hours.

Support for the campaign surged globally, with Indian celebrities, including VarunDhawan, Madhuri Dixit, AlyGoni, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, TriptiDimrietc sharing the identical "All Eyes on Rafah" image on their Instagram stories. Internationally, figures like Australian cricket player Travis Head, British singer Leigh-Anne Pinnock, model Bella Hadid and actresses Saoirse-Monica Jackson and Susan Sarandon have voiced solidarity with Rafah.

## Indian man shares how he "snuck" into lecture at Stanford for free

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) An Indian man recently shared how he and his business partner snuck into a lecture at Stanford University for free. Taking to Instagram, Mukul Rustagi, the co-founder of Classplus, shared a video in which he revealed how he and his partner Bhaswat Agarwal managed to sneak into the prestigious college. "My co-founder and I snuck into a class at Stanford! Stanford was our dream, but we didn't have the grades or the money to go. We were curious about what made Stanford special. So, we went to the campus and sneaked into a class," Mr Rustagi wrote in the caption.



"We politely asked the professor if we could sit in, and luckily, he said yes! It was a finance class, and we ended up learning about the valuation of

acquisitions and mergers. Before leaving, we asked the professor if we could keep a marker as a souvenir, and he agreed. We still have that marker in our bag to this day!" he added.

Mr Rustagi shared the video just a few days back. Since then, it has accumulated more than 298,000 views and over 15,000 likes. In the comments section, people shared various reactions.

"Lol, you can attend classes without enrolling in them. That's normal at unis in the US," commented a third. "In Germany, I also took different classes to get the idea of the courses

from other departments. No one says anything here. You can visit any university and take classes," shared another. "Such a cool story," expressed one Instagram user.

# Children most vulnerable to thirdhand smoke: Experts

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Children are most vulnerable to thirdhand smoke pollutants that settle indoors when tobacco is smoked, said health experts on Thursday, ahead of World No Tobacco Day. World No Tobacco Day is observed every year on May 31 to raise awareness about the health risks of using tobacco. Thirdhand smoke contains more than 250 residual chemicals including nicotine and cancer-causing substances such as formaldehyde, and naphthalene. It builds up on surfaces over time and

can get embedded in clothing, furniture, drapes, bedding, and carpets. "Children are most vulnerable to thirdhand smoke because they tend to touch surfaces, and often their mouths, resulting in skin exposure and ingestion of these residues," Lancelot Mark Pinto, from P. D. Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mumbai, told IANS. "The only way to prevent such exposure is by completely banning indoor smoking, and insisting on keeping a radius outside buildings and homes smoke-free," added Lancelot,

Consultant Pulmonologist and Epidemiologist at Hinduja. Thirdhand smoke is a hidden danger, lingering in furniture, walls, and clothing long after a cigarette is extinguished. The residue can remain for weeks, months, or even years. "Vulnerable groups include infants, children, and those with respiratory conditions, as they are more likely to come into contact with these contaminated surfaces and inhale harmful residues," IshanCapoor, pulmonologist and respiratory medicine, Narayana Health City,



Bengaluru, told IANS.

"This exposure can lead to respiratory issues,

developmental problems, and an increased risk of cancer," he added. To prevent third-hand smoke exposure, ensure that smoking is strictly prohibited indoors and in vehicles. Regularly clean surfaces and fabrics, and encourage smokers to quit or at least to smoke outside and away from others. Awareness and proactive measures are essential to protect the health of those most at risk." In addition to children, Srinath Bharadwaj, Medical Oncologist at Apollo Cancer Centre, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, told IANS that it may also

harm pets in the house. "Our furry friends usually groom by licking their fur. If that fur is coated with smoke residue, they ingest carcinogens and toxins on top of the ones their lungs take in," he said. The experts called on businesses, communities, and individuals to take action to help prevent thirdhand smoke exposure by not allowing smoking indoors. Smoking in front of an open window does not prevent thirdhand smoke exposure. "The best way is to quit smoking and stay safe and keep your family safe," they noted.

# 'PM Modi's 'sankalps' from Kanyakumari Bharat's next giant leap to greatness'

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for dedicating the next 25 years to create a strong foundation for the coming generations and achieve a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) by 2047 has received a tremendous response from various corners of the country with several ministers hailing the insights as "inspirational" and also a "beacon of wisdom for all ages".

PM Modi penned a blog while on his way back from Kanyakumari to Delhi on June 1 and shared "new sankalps from the Sadhana in Kanyakumari" on Monday.

"The world of the 21st century is looking towards Bharat with many hopes. And we will need to make several changes to move forward in the global scenario. We also need to change our traditional thinking regarding reform. Bharat cannot limit reform to just economic reforms. We must move forward in every aspect of life towards the direction of reform. Our reforms should also align with the aspirations of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047," wrote the Prime Minister. He mentioned that work to

achieve the desired goals has to be done quickly in all four directions, including speed, scale, scope, and standards.

Home Minister Amit Shah urged everyone to read the PM's blog to learn more about Bharat's next giant leap to greatness.

"Our efforts will create a strong foundation for the coming generations, taking Bharat to new heights. Read PM Narendra Modi Ji's blog to learn more about Bharat's next giant leap to greatness. New sankalp for Bharat," he posted on X. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that PM Modi has not only laid out a vision for the journey to Viksit Bharat but also underlined its larger global significance.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reflections after the elections inspire us all to strive for the nation's growth and development. As he lays out a vision for the journey to Viksit Bharat, he also underlines its larger global significance," he said on X.

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri asserted that PM Modi's vision will take Bharat to new heights.



"As India's Modi Decade resonates across the world and we prepare to usher a new era under the landmark leadership of PM Narendra Modi Ji, this letter written by PM Modi Ji on his way from

Kanyakumari to Delhi calls for dedicating the next 25 years solely for the nation to create a strong foundation for the coming generations and the coming centuries, taking Bharat to new heights," he said.

Puri stated that India's governance model has now become an example for many countries around the world.

"PM Modi Ji writes how our efforts, from empowering the poor to last-mile delivery, have inspired the world by prioritising individuals standing at the last rung of society, with the success of Bharat's Digital India campaign how whole world is witnessing and studying the democratisation of technology, and major global institutions are advising many countries to adopt elements from our model and how Bharat's progress and rise are not just a significant opportunity for Bharat alone, but also a historic opportunity for all our partner countries around the world," he added.

The minister stated that everyone must step forward towards greater duties and larger goals "without

wasting a single moment".

Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari hailed PM Modi's thoughts saying that they are a beacon of wisdom for all ages.

"Since the time of Swami Vivekananda Ji, Kanyakumari continuously reminds everyone of the unity and oneness embedded in the depths of the universe. Emerging from his spiritual retreat in Kanyakumari, the feet of Maa Bharti, PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's insights are a beacon of wisdom for all ages," he wrote on X.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal revealed that he felt "motivated and inspired" after reading the letter written by PM Modi.

"His words and vision are a new sankalp for Bharat that will awaken our youthful nation to march towards a prosperous future that we will build together," said Goyal.

He added that while Swami Vivekananda awakened the culture with his vision of Bharat that culminated in India's freedom, PM Modi is now awakening the nation's untapped energy to realise the mission of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

## Just like K'taka, Telangana Assembly elections, LS results will be opposite of Exit Polls: Goa Cong

Panaji, June 3 (IANS) Citing an example of the Exit Polls after the Karnataka and Telangana Assembly elections, the Congress on Monday expressed confidence that the Lok Sabha election results would also be opposite to what has been predicted. GPCC President, Amit Patkar, on Monday addressed a press conference and questioned how the media or agencies releasing Exit Polls could take them out within a minute of the seventh phase of voting being concluded. "On what basis were the Exit Polls done? They want us to be demoralised. Is it possible to do a survey and release an Exit Poll a minute after the voting for the seventh phase had ended? How can this happen?" In Karnataka and Telangana the Exit Polls predicted the victory of the BJP, but exactly the opposite happened," Patkar said.

"The BJP has realised that they will lose and the INDIA bloc is winning. So, they have tried to misguide the people to demoralise the candidates, election agents and supporters. We will not allow the BJP to manipulate the counting process," Patkar said. He appealed to officials not to work under pressure and fear of the BJP government.

## Ahead of counting day, MP Cong chief accuses bureaucrats of acting as 'BJP's agents'

Bhopal, June 3 (IANS) On the eve counting of votes for the Lok Sabha elections, Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari on Monday accused the state's bureaucrats of "acting as BJP's agents". Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Patwari claimed there were several instances where the district collectors, who were also the returning officers for the LS polls, acted in a biased manner. Patwari also said that the Congress has prepared a list of such bureaucrats (returning officers), as he threatened to expose them after the counting is over on Tuesday. "Several district collectors acted like BJP's agents and did not follow the Election Commission's guidelines. They did so because they were forced to act in a particular manner. Some of them also did so deliberately to please the BJP leaders. We have prepared a list of such officers and will expose them after the election process is completed," Patwari claimed. Meanwhile, Patwari also said the Congress fought the general elections on public issues across the country, as he claimed that the Congress' election manifesto was discussed more than the BJP's by the electorate. On Exit Polls, Patwari reiterated the stand of the Congress top brass, calling them "fantasy polls of the BJP led by PM Narendra Modi".

## Pumped by Exit Poll findings, 'Bada Mangal' celebrations scaled up in Lucknow

Lucknow, June 3 (IANS) Pumped up by the findings of the Exit Polls carried out by different agencies, BJP leaders and supporters in Lucknow are now planning to scale up celebrations for the second 'Bada Mangal' festival on Tuesday, the day counting of votes for the Lok Sabha elections will be taken up. "Now that the Exit Polls have confirmed the expected outcome of the Lok Sabha polls, we are preparing for celebrations. The 'bhandara' (community feast) being organised by us will now have more items. Apart from the traditional puri-sabzi, we are adding ice-cream and sherbet to beat the heat. Moreover, the bhandara will continue till late in the evening, instead of winding up at around 4-p.m.," said Pankaj Rastogi, a BJP leader from the Chowk area of the city. Ritwik Lal, another BJP supporter, said that initially he was planning to distribute sweets if the BJP returned to power, but now he has decided to hold a bhandara where people will get a full meal, apart from 'lassi and kulfi'. Rajiv Sharma plans to distribute stationery and pencil boxes to children by setting up a stall near the famous Aliganj Hanuman temple.

## Three-tier security in place at strong rooms, counting centers in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, June 3 (IANS) The results for the simultaneous polls held in Odisha for 21 Lok Sabha seats and 147-member state Assembly are set to be declared on Tuesday. The simultaneous elections were held in four phases between May 13 and June 1. Re-polling was also held at two booths under the Kantamala Assembly segment in Boudh district on May 23. Following the guidelines of the Election Commission of India, adequate security arrangements have been made across the state for smooth counting on Tuesday. Police sources said the EVMs have been safely stored in the strong rooms at 69 locations (78 buildings) across the state, which are under CCTV surveillance and being guarded by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel. The counting will be held at 168 centers, one each for 147 Assembly segments and the 21 Parliamentary constituencies in the state.

## SC dismisses plea filed against ECI relaxing postal ballot norms

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a petition filed by the YSR Congress Party challenging the Election Commission of India's circular relaxing the norms for deciding on the validity of postal ballots.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Sandeep Mehta said that in the facts and circumstances of the case, it does not find any merit in the matter and declined to interfere with the Andhra Pradesh High Court dismissing the writ petition filed by YSRCP on the grounds of existence of an alternate remedy and refused to consider the matter on merits. The Election Commission of India



(ECI), in its May 30 circular, asked the election officials to consider the postal ballot as valid even if the postal ballot declaration form has no name, designation, or seal but has the signature of the attesting officer.

The special leave petition filed before the apex court, through advocate Mahfooz A.

Nazki, stated that the results of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, as well as Parliament constituencies, are scheduled to be declared on Tuesday and in the event invalid votes are taken into account, the same is bound to cause grave prejudice to the YSR Congress Party.

It said, "The judgment of the Hon'ble High Court

is ex-facie unsustainable since the bar under Article 329(b) of the Constitution of India would apply only if the petitioner was seeking to impede the process of election or question the election itself. On the contrary, the petitioner is only challenging a Circular issued by the ECI and is not challenging any specific election. The challenge is made to ensure that a free and fair election process takes place without any semblance of mala fide/bias."

In the recently-held polls for the 175-member Assembly and the state's 25 Lok Sabha seats, more than five lakh postal ballots were polled, setting a new record in the state's history.

## ECI following a different rule for Andhra Pradesh: YSRCP

Amaravati, June 3 (IANS) The Election Commission of India is following one rule in Andhra Pradesh and another rule in the rest of the country about the validity of the postal ballots, said YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Monday.

YSRCP General Secretary and Andhra Pradesh government advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said that the poll panel violated its own rule by relaxing the postal ballot norms only in the case of Andhra Pradesh.

On the Supreme Court refusing to interfere in the matter, he said this does

not make a wrong right.

A vacation bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Sandeep Mehta said on Monday that in the facts and circumstances of the cases, the court was not inclined to interfere with the June 1 order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

The YSR Congress Party had challenged the EC's May 30 circular which relaxed the norms of the attestation of postal ballots for Andhra Pradesh on the grounds that it was discriminatory to the State.

The EC through its circular asked the election officials to consider the

postal ballot as valid even if the postal ballot declaration form has no name, designation, or seal but has the signature of the attesting officer.

The YSRCP leader alleged that Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N. Chandrababu Naidu tried to manipulate the system and used his alliance with the BJP to influence institutions like the Election Commission.

"Chandrababu trying to manage systems is not new. Ever since he entered into an alliance with the BJP, he has been trying to put pressure on systems and get a hold of the official machinery," he said.

## Delhi: 7,000 police personnel to be deployed at seven counting centres

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) With a stage set for counting of votes on June 4, overall 7,000 police personnel will be deployed at seven designated centres across the national capital to maintain law and order during the process, an official said on Monday.

The counting of votes will begin on June 4 (Tuesday) at Atal Adarsh Balika Vidyalaya, Gole Market in New Delhi, DTU, Shahbad Daultapur in Northwest Delhi, Jijabai ITI for Women, Siri Fort in South Delhi, Sports Complex, CWG Village in East Delhi, SKV, Bharat Nagar in Chandni Chowk and ITI,

## J&K records highest voter turnout in last four decades, says ECI



New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) The Election Commission of India on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir witnessed the highest voter turnout in the last four decades with an overall 58.58 per cent polling.

Addressing a press conference here, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the poll body abolished cumbersome Form M for Kashmiri migrants and introduced self-attestation in place of gazetted officer attestation.

He further said that nowhere in the world 642 million voters cast their vote in any electoral exercise and a record 312 million women voters exercised their franchise in the general polls.

He added that this time only 39 repolls were conducted in the entire country as against 540 repolls in 2019. Further, the CEC said that 75 international election visitors from 23 countries observed booth polling in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

## 'Sinister attempt' made by foreign media to impact Indian elections: Report

New Delhi, June 3 (IANS) A startling report on "massive foreign interference" in India's just-concluded Lok Sabha elections has revealed that "millions of dollars" were spent to impact the voter mindset and set a dangerous narrative around it through an "orchestrated and well-funded plan".

The report, titled 'Invisible hands - foreign interference in Indian elections 2024' and released by Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) organisation DisInfo Lab, stated that as millions of Indians were deciding their future, a section of the global media and academia was planning a sinister plot to influence their decisions with "tireless attack" on

everything linked to elections. "In the past few months, democratic processes and institutions in India including political establishments have come under hostile attacks from the foreign press, academia, and activists. A deliberate effort has been made to push an agenda that undermines the largest democratic process in the world," the report mentioned.

"The extent of this influence campaign was not restricted to the Western media itself; many Indian conduits were at the forefront and acted like the anvil that was ready to be moulded to any shape," it added saying that "insane number of pages" in the form of articles/op-Eds/research papers were



dedicated to the Indian elections that peaked in the last six months.

"Some of these media outlets had tacit funding, and some were explicit, while few were funded by organisations with dark backgrounds of publishing slant narratives -- e.g. -- from stories

based on 'random WhatsApp groups' to creating heroes out of Pak-sponsored stooges," the DisInfo report mentioned.

Asserting that South Asians are not alien to Western media's "colonial hangover" that is reflected in their "editorial bias and

supremacist literature", the report details that the commentary on Indian elections had a distinct tone this time with usual suspects and "propaganda powerhouses" making a more coordinated effort with new players on board.

These entities, the

report stated, introduced terms like 'Declining Democracy in India', 'Hindu Majoritarianism' and 'Fascism' pushing them into the mainstream discourse whenever a mention about India was made until that became an "accepted pattern for the mainstream media".

The report mentions that besides certain individuals and common agenda, common funding was also something that binded events and activities from outside India in the run-up to and during the Lok Sabha elections.

"Amongst all the noise, a sinister attempt to interfere right at the micro level to impact voter mindset and a dangerous narrative building was being peddled," it said.

Health

**New blood test 'can predict' breast cancer return much before scans**



**London, June 2 (IANS)** In a step that can ensure earlier detection and treatment of breast cancer and help improve survival rates, British researchers have developed an "ultra-sensitive" new blood test which can predict if the cancer will return years before it shows up on scans.

The test works by detecting traces of the DNA of the tumour before the full relapse and was found to be 100 per cent accurate at predicting which patients would see their cancer return, the BBC reported.

While experts have termed the development "incredibly exciting", it is still in its early stages.

Breast cancer is the most common form of the disease worldwide, with 2.26 million women diagnosed in 2020 and 685,000 deaths in the same year, according to Breast Cancer UK.

A team of researchers from the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) London conducted the trial on 78 patients with different types of early breast cancer, with the test searching for 1,800 mutations in the patient's blood which are released by cancer cells.

These circulating tumour DNA were found in 11 women, who all saw their cancer relapse. No other women saw their cancer return.

On average, the blood test detected cancer 15 months before symptoms appeared or the illness showed up on scans, according to results presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Chicago on Sunday.

The earliest detection was 41 months.

Lead researcher Dr Isaac Garcia-Murillas, from the ICR, said: "Breast cancer cells can remain in the body after surgery and other treatments but there can be so few of these cells that they are undetectable on follow-up scans." However, they can cause patients to relapse many years after their initial treatment.

The study, which tested blood samples at the point of diagnosis, then again following surgery and chemotherapy, and repeated the process every three months for the next year and every six months for the next five years, lays the groundwork for better post-treatment monitoring and potentially life-extending treatment, he added.

Researchers Dr Simon Vincent, director of research, support and influencing at Breast Cancer Now - which part-funded the study - said: "Early detection is one of our greatest weapons against breast cancer and these initial findings, which suggests new tests could be able to detect signs of breast cancer recurrence over a year before symptoms emerge, are incredibly exciting."

Though acknowledging that the research was still in its early stages, he said catching breast cancer recurrence earlier means treatment is much more likely to destroy the cancer and stop it spreading to other parts of the body and becoming incurable.

**Monika Panwar: My character brings much-needed positivity to 'Gaanth'**



**Mumbai, June 3 (IANS)** Actress Monika Panwar has talked about her character in the gritty thriller series 'Gaanth' and said that her character brings much-needed positivity to the project.

Monika said: "It's always exciting to be part of stories that are different and also give you a chance to think and experiment. 'Gaanth' is special as I play a caring psychologist in a dark thriller. I feel my character brings much-needed positivity to the show."

"Life has been slightly unfair to her, and she willingly gets involved in a murder investigation while discovering sides of herself that were long hidden."

The show, which also stars Manav Vij and Saloni Batra, centres on a mysterious mass suicide in East Delhi. Disgraced Inspector Gadar Singh and psychiatric intern Sakshi Murmu join forces to unravel the case of seven bodies hanging in a house.

The actress from Uttarakhand was featured in films such as 'Super 30', 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka', and 'Class of '83'. She was last seen in 'Dukaan' by Siddharth Singh and Garima Wahal.

**'Mindful luxury': Dia Mirza pens note for designer Rahul Mishra & his 3Es**

**Mumbai, June 3 (IANS)** Dia Mirza, who recently wore a saree by fashion designer Rahul Mishra, expressed that everything he stands for deeply resonates with her and shared how his fashion label operates on the philosophy of the 3 E's -- environment, employment, and empowerment. Dia, who actively participates in social and environmental issues, took to Instagram and shared a series of photos. The actress donned a black sheer saree adorned with silver floral work, paired with a sleeveless silver blouse featuring a deep neckline. For her makeup, the former Miss India opted for red glossy lips, brown eyeshadow, and



highlighted cheeks. She kept her hair open with a side parting and accessorised with small diamond earrings.

Alongside the pictures, Dia penned a long note for designer Rahul Mishra,

who won the International Woolmark Prize in 2014 at Milan Fashion Week.

The actress wrote: "I have been a long ardent admirer of @rahulmishra\_7 and everything he stands for

finds deep resonance with me. Such a privilege to wear and spotlight his brand ethos. Rahul Mishra's fashion label operates on the philosophy of the 3 E's: Environment,

Employment, and Empowerment. It aims to redefine luxury through the lens of participation rather than mere consumption. Mishra's purpose defines his process, which centres around the achingly slowed-down techniques of hand-weaving and hand embroidery." "This deliberate approach not only fosters sustainable livelihoods for over 1000 artisans but also embodies the principles of sustainability, presenting fashion as a means to engage and uplift India's local craft community," shared Dia. The 'Tumsa Nahin Dekha: A Love Story' actress shared how Rahul, the first Indian designer invited to showcase at Haute

Couture Week in Paris, champions the idea that 'luxury is not consumption, luxury is participation.' "His label prioritises mindful luxury, utilising slow processes to encourage involvement from craft communities across rural India. With the philosophy of "ASAP" (As Slow As Possible), Mishra emphasises the importance of a deliberate, slow approach to craftsmanship. He is also recognised for pioneering 'reverse migration', urging artisans living in urban slums to return to their villages, where they receive urban-level wages to bolster rural economies," said Dia.

**Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Heeramandi' set to return for second season**

**Mumbai, June 3 (IANS)** The multi-starrer period drama streaming series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar' is set to return with a second season. The series marked the OTT debut of Indian auteur Sanjay Leela Bhansali and told the story of Indian courtesans amid the freedom struggle. It starred Aditi Rao Hydari, Manisha Koirala, Richa Chadha, Sharmin Segal, Sanjeeda Shaikh, and Sonakshi Sinha. The first season of the series received an immense positive response for its visuals, storytelling, and music.

Bhansali expressed his gratitude for the success of 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', saying, "I'm blessed by the love and appreciation for 'Heeramandi: The



Diamond Bazaar'. It's been a joy to see the show resonate with audiences worldwide, and I couldn't have asked for a better partner than Netflix. I'm happy to announce that we'll be back with season 2." As per 'Variety', this time around, the women of Heeramandi will head to India after the partition and look to settle in the Hindi or

Bengali film industry. At Carter Road in Mumbai, a flash mob of 100 dancers adorned in anarkalis (a traditional Indian gown) and anklets danced to a medley of songs from the series. As the audience joined in singing along, the dancers delivered the news about season 2. Monika Shergill, Vice-President Content, Netflix India, said:

"Sanjay Leela Bhansali has intricately woven magic to bring

'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar' to life. Watching audiences everywhere fall in love with this series -- making it truly their own as a cultural phenomenon -- has been hugely energising, and it thrills me to share that we will be back with season 2."

**Princy Prajapati shares how dogs on 'Anupamaa' set eagerly await Rupali**

**Mumbai, June 3 (IANS)** Child artiste Princy Prajapati, who essays Pari Shah in the popular television show 'Anupamaa', shared her experience working with television superstar Rupali Ganguly.



Princy's character, Pari, is the daughter of Kinjal (Nidhi Shah) and Paritosh (Gaurav Sharma) and the granddaughter of Rupali Ganguly's character in the show. Sharing her experience, Princy said: "It's always fun to be on set. Spending time with Rupali is filled with joy and happiness. She's so kind and playful. I get to learn so much while with her. She is very humble to everyone on set. It's amazing to see how even the dogs around our set wait for her and welcome her with so much love when she arrives."

Princy also shared that at home, she enjoys watching Rupali's episodes from the popular sitcom 'Sarabhai vs Sarabhai'. Talking about her role, she added: "I play Pari, who is young and brought up in the US, but she is still very much in touch with her Indian culture and values. She speaks Hindi and learns Indian dances and songs. She enjoys eating Indian food. She's the dearest kid in the family, but she's still very responsible and respectful towards everyone."

**Sunny Leone looks intense as an assassin in first look of Tamil film 'Quotation Gang'**



**Mumbai, June 3 (IANS)** Actress Sunny Leone unveiled the first look of her upcoming Tamil film 'Quotation Gang' on Monday, sharing two posters that feature her in a never-seen-before avatar.

Taking to social media, Sunny shared a poster in which she is donning a chequered shirt over a skirt, sporting a rural look alongside Priya Mani's character, exuding intensity.

Another poster showcases her caught in an intense moment,

gripping her co-star Jackie Shroff's neck. Sunny has ditched the glamorous avatar and effortlessly imbibed the role of a bold rural mafia member in the movie. The actress captioned the post: "In Theatres from July! A Hyper-link movie. Let's unveil the mysterious minds, a deceptive couple, two soul-stirring identities, a swaggering teenager, and bonds that don't stand the test of time."

The film features Sunny as an assassin who is a key member of a ruthless gang, which

specialises in contract killings. Her character is calculating and ruthless, which is a true-blue departure from her usual glamorous image.

Directed by Vivek Kumar Kannan, the movie also stars Sara Arjun. It is produced by Gayathri Suresh and Vivek Kumar Kannan.

Meanwhile, Sunny last featured in the Tamil film 'Thee Ivan'. She next has the Malayalam films 'Rangeela', 'Shero', the Tamil movie 'Veeramadevi', and the Hindi film 'The Battle of Bhima Koregaon'.

**Kartik Aaryan flaunts his washboard abs**

**Mumbai, June 3 (IANS)** Actor Kartik Aaryan flaunted his well-chiselled physique as he did 'weight-lifted pull ups' during his gym workout.

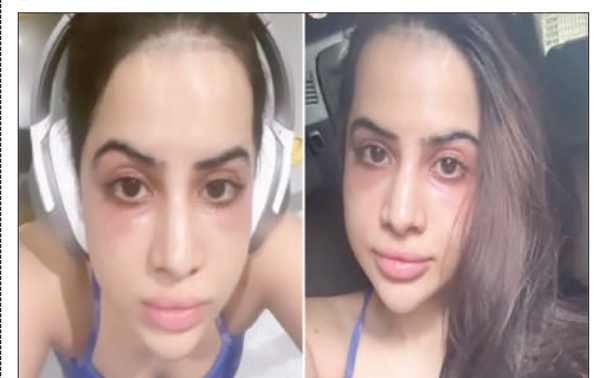
Kartik took to Instagram and shared a video of his workout.

In the clip, he is seen doing pull-ups with 15 kg of weight tied around his waist. The actor captioned it: "Weight-lifted push ups ke baad weight-lifted pull ups."

Talking about his work, Kartik, who is fondly called the chocolate boy of Bollywood by his fans, is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film 'Chandu Champion', directed by Kabir Khan.

In the film, Kartik plays Murlikant Petkar, India's first Paralympic gold medalist. The biographical sports drama is set to release on June 14. Kartik began his career with 'Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA' in 2011 and gained the spotlight with the blockbuster 'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti'.

**Uorfi Javed clarifies she has 'major allergies' and hasn't gone 'overboard with fillers'**



**Mumbai, June 3 (IANS)** Social media sensation Uorfi Javed has clarified that she has not gone overboard with her fillers and that she has major allergies, leaving her face swollen most of the time.

Uorfi took to Instagram and shared a closeup of her "swollen" face. For the caption, she wrote: "I've been getting so many remarks with my face that I've gone overboard with my fillers! I have major major allergies, my face is swollen most of the time. I wake up like this every second day, and my face is always swollen."

She said that she is "always in extreme discomfort" and added that her immunotherapy is ongoing.

"Fillers nahi hai guys, allergies hai. Immunotherapy chalu hai but if you next see me with swollen face," she said. Uorfi said that she has not done anything apart from her "usual fillers and Botox". "Just know I'm going through one of those bad allergy days, I've not gotten anything done except of course my usual fillers and Botox which I've been getting since I was 18. If you see my face swollen don't advise me not to get more fillers just sympathise and move on," she said. In other news, Uorfi is seen as the mischief maker in the youth-based reality show 'MTV Splitsvilla X5', which is hosted by Sunny Leone and Tanuj Virwani.

**Digital awards evening sees Manisha Rani, Shiv Thakare, Tejasswi Prakash win big**

**Mumbai, June 3 (IANS)** Former 'Bigg Boss' and 'Bigg Boss OTT' contestants Manisha Rani, Shiv Thakare, and Tejasswi Prakash registered huge wins at the IWBuzz Digital Awards hosted at Taj Lands End in the Bandra area of Mumbai.

Manisha bagged the title for the Most Popular Digital Media Star in the female category, while Shiv received the Most Popular Social Media Star in the male category. The Youth Sensation of the

Year title went to Priyanka Chahar Choudhary.

The awards saw a good celebrity turnout from Kajol, Sushmita Sen, Avinash Tiwary, Khanzaadi, Karan Singh Grover, Ankita Lokhande, Vicky Jain, Taha Shah Badussha, Naila Grewal, Nikki Tamboli, Priyanka Chahar Choudhary, Hina Khan, Karan Kundrra, Kritika Kamra, Mahima Makwana, Shantanu Maheshwari, and others.

Tejasswi took home the trophy for Most Stylish Personality of the Year,



while her beau Karan Kundrra received the trophy for Outstanding Host of the Year for 'Temptation Island'. Khanzaadi took home the Most Popular Social Media Star trophy. Kajol and Sushmita hugged each other at the event, with Kajol remarking to Sushmita, "After a very long time". The two also posed for the shutterbugs at the event. While Kajol wore a shimmering black and golden outfit, Sushmita donned a high-slit, flowy red dress.

## I would love to coach Indian team: Gambhir

**Dubai, June 2 (IANS)** Amidst rumors suggesting he is a leading candidate for the chief coach post, former Indian opener Gautam Gambhir on Sunday expressed his interest in taking over the reins of the national side from Rahul Dravid.

Speaking at an event in Abu Dhabi, Gambhir emphasised that, "there is no bigger honour than coaching the national team".

"I would love to coach the Indian team. There is no bigger honour than coaching your national team. You are representing 140 crore Indians and those across the globe as well," said



the 42-year-old Indian. Gambhir, who has garnered renewed attention after a triumphant return to the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) as a mentor in IPL 2024, is now a hot favourite to succeed

Dravid as the head coach of Team India following the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup. His leadership at KKR has been widely praised, contributing to his rising profile as a top coaching candidate.

## Kedar Jadhav announces retirement from all forms of cricket

**New Delhi, June 3 (IANS)** India all-rounder Kedar Jadhav on Monday announced retirement from all forms of cricket.

The 39-year-old took to social media to announce his decision, sharing a slideshow of photos from his career with a Kishore Kumar song "Zindagi Ke Safar Mein" playing in the background.

"Thank you all for your love and support throughout my career from 1500 hrs. Consider me as retired from all forms of cricket," the caption to the video read.

Jadhav made his ODI debut for India on November 16, 2014 against Sri Lanka and played his first T20I against Zimbabwe on July 17, 2015. The batting all-



rounder, who was a part of 2019 World Cup, scored 1389 runs and picked 27 in 73 ODIs. He played 9 T20Is, scoring 122 runs with the highest score of 58.

Interestingly, Jadhav's social media post was quite similar to MS

Dhoni's retirement note on Instagram.

The former India skipper shared a slideshow of photos from his career with the famous Bollywood song "Main pal do pal ka shayarhoon" playing in the background, accompanied

by a caption "Thanks a lot for ur love and support throughout from 1929 hrs consider me as Retired."

T20 World Cup: Police snipers deployed in New York stadium ahead of SL v SA match

**New York, June 3 (IANS)** The security has been beefed up at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York for the T20 World Cup 2024. The police have positioned snipers at covert locations around the venue that will host Sri Lanka and South Africa in its first international game on Monday.

Nassau County Police Department will oversee a massive operation to ensure the games held at the Long Island ground

between 3-12 June pass off without incident, the BBC reported.

The Eisenhower Park will play host to eight matches of the T20 showcase including the tournament's blockbuster between India and Pakistan on June 9.

Amid the threats from pro-ISIS group, the security measures will include SWAT teams with specialist snipers. Plain clothes police officers will also be operating inside the ground, the report added.

Additionally, the four drop-in pitches are being continuously monitored on a rolling 24-hour basis by officers from the force's narcotics division, who have been relieved of their regular duties to

## Real Madrid block Mbappe from joining France's Paris Olympics squad, confirms coach Thierry Henry



**New Delhi, June 3 (IANS)** Real Madrid have blocked Kylian Mbappe from joining Thierry Henry's France team for the 2024 Olympic Games despite repeated requests from French President Emmanuel Macron to Los Blancos chief Florentino Perez. Former Arsenal legend and current U21 coach for France Henry has announced the 25-man provisional squad for the Olympics and the French star forward was not included in the list. The team is headed by Warren Zaire-Emery, Alexandre Lacazette, Jean-Philippe Mateta, Michael Olise and Mathys Tel. "Real Madrid were really straightforward about the Olympics. The last time I received so many rejections was at the University. There have not even been negotiations. You go, you ask, they say no and you leave," said Thierry Henry to reporters. Mbappe is expected to be announced as a Real Madrid player later on Monday and will be joining the club following the end of the 2024 European Championship. According to reports, along with Mbappe Arsenal defender William Saliba was also not allowed to represent the team at the Olympics. France provisional 25-man squad for Olympics: Goalkeepers: Lucas Chevalier, Obed Nkambadio, Guillaume Restes, Robin Rissler. Defenders: Bafode Diakite, Mazime Esteve, Bradley Locko, Castello Lukeba, Kiliann Sildillia, Adrien Truffert, Leny Yoro. Midfielders: Maghnes Akliouche, Joris Chotard, Desire Doue, Manu Kone, Enzo Millot, Khephran Thuram, Lesley Ugochukwu, Warren Zaire-Emery.

## World Athletics Ultimate Championship, a top event for elite athletes to start in 2026

**Monaco, June 3 (IANS)** World Athletics, the global governing body for track and field competitions, on Monday, announced the launch of a top-level, compact biennial competition for elite athletes offering the largest-ever total prize pot of US\$10 million and deciding the ultimate champion.

The inaugural event, designed as the season finale, will be held in September 2026 and the athletes will represent their national teams.

The World Athletics Ultimate Championship is a groundbreaking new global championship event set to transform the athletics calendar and define which athlete is the best of the best by pitting world champions, Olympic champions, the Wanda Diamond League winners, and the year's best-performing athletes against each other to crown the



ultimate champion, the World Athletics announced on Monday.

Highlighting this revolutionary competition is a record-setting prize pot of US\$10 million, the largest ever offered in the history of track and field athletics. The gold medalists in this event are set to receive US\$150,000. This innovative event, debuting September 11-13, 2026, and set to be

held every two years, will first be hosted in Hungary's capital city of Budapest, promising a spectacular conclusion to the summer athletics season. Designed as the ultimate season finale with an aim to captivate millions of television viewers worldwide, the global championship event will feature a thrilling and fast-moving new format for athletics, the World

Athletics informed in a release on Monday.

Taking place over three evening sessions, each under three hours in duration, the Ultimate Championship will showcase the best of athletics, including sprints, middle and long-distance races, relays, jumps, and throws. Athletes will represent their national teams to ensure that individual success.

## ICC T20 World Cup winner to receive \$2.45 million



**New York: June 4 (IANS)** The International Cricket Council (ICC) have revealed the record-breaking prize money for the ongoing T20 World Cup in the United States and the West Indies.

In a statement on Monday, the world cricket governing body shared that the total prize fund for the marquee tournament is \$11.25 million (93.5 Cr INR), out of which the winning side will receive \$2.45 million (20.3 Cr INR).

This is a jump of close to \$850,000 from the last T20 World Cup, in 2022 in Australia, where the winners, England, pocketed \$1.6 million. The total prize money for the tournament has more than doubled: from \$5.6 million in 2022 to \$11.25 million dollars in this year's 20-team tournament.

The runners-up will earn at least \$1.28 million, while the losing semi-finalists will take home \$787,500 each, the ICC noted in its release.

Additionally the teams that don't make it past the second round will be rewarded \$382,500 each whereas those finishing between ninth and 12th place will get \$247,500 each, and lastly, teams ranking from 13th to 20th place will each earn \$225,000.

"This event is historic in so many ways, so it is fitting that the prize money for players reflects that. Hundreds of millions of fans around the world will be entertained by the players in what we're hoping to be an Out of This World event," ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice stated.

## Chennaiyin FC announces signing of midfielder Jitendra Singh

**Chennai, June 3 (IANS)** Chennaiyin FC have announced the signing of defensive midfielder Jitendra Singh as part of the club's roster for the 2024-25 season. The 22-year-old hailing from Kolkata has signed a two-year contract with the Marina Machans following his stint with Jamshedpur FC. Renowned for his strong defensive capabilities and midfield versatility, Singh adds



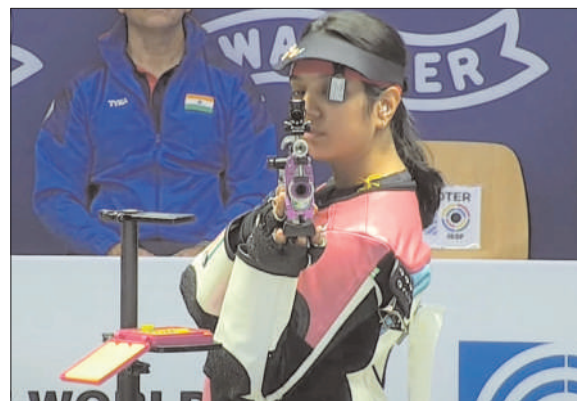
depth to the Chennaiyin squad. This signing highlights Chennaiyin FC's dedication to strengthening their squad with promising talent. Singh, who played

under coach Owen Coyle at Jamshedpur FC, brings valuable experience and familiarity with Coyle's tactics. "We were looking to add some physicality in the midfield area and having worked with Jitendra, we believed he was perfect to play that role for us. He's a hardworking and intelligent boy who will be admired by the team and fans alike," Owen said.

## ISSF World Cup: Esha Singh in final, Ramita finishes sixth in Munich

**New Delhi, June 3 (IANS)** Esha Singh reached the final of the Women's 25M Pistol, even as Ramita Jindal finished sixth in the Women's 10M Air Rifle on competition Day Two of the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Munich on Monday.

The day, however, belonged to China as it won the first two gold medals on offer, with



Sheng Lihao setting a new world record in the Men's

Air Rifle final. Sheng's effort of 254.5 erased

Indian Divyansh Singh Panwar's mark of 253.7, set in Cairo earlier this year. Esha's two-day qualification total of 584, gave her the sixth qualifying spot for Tuesday's final. She shot 291 in the second rapid-fire round on Monday.

Meanwhile, Ramita shot 166.3 to bow out sixth in the Women's Air Rifle final. In a battle of teenagers, 17-year-old World Championship silver medallist Huang

Yuting (252.7) of China won the title over 16-year-old Korean Ban Hoyjin (252.7) off the last shot by the slimmest of margins.

India is being represented by a 23-member Rifle and Pistol squad for the ISSF World Cup in Munich. The top three shooters recently seen in action during the first-ever Olympic Selection Trials, mostly make up the squad. India are participating in all 10 Olympic events.

# T20 World Cup: Namibia win super-over thriller against Oman

**Barbados, June 3 (IANS)** David Wiese's all-round heroics in the Super-Over gave Namibia a victory in their opening ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 match here at Kensington Oval.

Oman posted a total of 109/10 against Namibia's disciplined bowling. However, Mehran Khan's stunning spell helped Oman tie the game, taking the match into the super-over.

Namibia come out with flying colours in the Super Over and posted 21/0, which Wiese successfully defended by conceding just 10 runs and picking up a wicket to seal the victory in their opening Group B match.

Namibia won the toss and chose to bowl first. Ruben Trimpelmann made an immediate impact, taking two wickets in his first over. He trapped opener Kashyap Prajapati lbw for a duck with a pinpoint yorker on the first ball, then bowled another yorker to dismiss skipper Aqib Ilyas for a duck.

In his second over, the left-arm pacer struck again when Naseem Khushi's attempt to go big ended in Erasmus's hands at mid-off. Zeeshan Maqsood, the experienced batter, steadied Oman's innings during the Powerplay, maintaining a run-a-ball rate, but Bernard Scholtz



trapped him lbw in the seventh over, adding to Oman's woes. Disciplined bowling from

Namibia ensured that Oman's lower-order didn't take off with the change of pace.

Scholtz and Erasmus kept taking wickets for Namibia, limiting Oman batters to the inner circle.

Oman attempted to increase their scoring rate in the death overs, but Wiese and Trimpelmann dismantled the tail, bowling Oman out for just 109. Defending 109, disciplined spin bowling from Aqib and Zeeshan Maqsood slowed Namibia's scoring rate in the middle overs. Skipper Gerhard Erasmus and Frylinck aimed to maintain a run-a-ball rate. Despite Oman dropping crucial catches, Maqsood eventually caught Erasmus (13) off Ayaan Khan in the 15th over. Set batter Frylinck hit a series of boundaries, bringing the required rate level with three overs remaining. Mehran

Khan's superb 18th over conceded just four byes and took JJ Smit's wicket. A six from David Wiese in the 19th over brought the equation to five runs off the final over. Mehran, who had given just four runs off two overs thus far, brought up his wickets tally up from one to three in the first three balls of the final over, removing Frylinck and trapping Zane Green (0) lbw. The equation came down to two runs needed off the final ball with Wiese facing Mehran. Wiese missed, but the wicketkeeper fumbled, allowing the batters to steal a bye, pushing the game into a Super Over. In the super-

over, Wiese and Gerhard Erasmus made the most of Bilal Khan's pace and hit four boundaries to take 21 runs off Namibia's allotted Super Over. After smashing 13 off 4 in the Super Over with the bat, Wiese starred with the ball, giving merely 10 runs while picking the wicket of big-hitting Naseem Khushi and wrapped up the thrilling win in an opener.

Brief scores: Oman 109 all out in 19.4 overs (Khalid Kail 34; Ruben Trimpelmann 4-21, David Wiese 3-28) lost to Namibia 109/6 in 20 overs (Jan Frylinck 45; Mehran Khan 3-7) in Super over

# MB Jewellers loot case cracked, four held from Palamu, 431.73 gm gold seized



Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, June 3 :** Police have successfully solved the daring robbery that took place at MB Jewellers near Airport Bazar in the Sonari police station area. The crime, which occurred on June 24th, was executed amid tight security just a day before the elections, creating a significant stir in the community.

The operation led to the arrest of four suspects involved in the robbery. Authorities successfully recovered looted gold, weighing approximately 431.73 grams in its melted form, along with Rs 50,000 in cash. The police also seized a carbine with two magazines, three pistols,

and 17 cartridges from the criminals.

Under the directive of SSP Kishore Kaushal, an SIT (Special Investigation Team) led by City SP Mukesh Lunayat was formed to crack the case. The diligent efforts of the SIT bore fruit, leading to the arrest of four criminals from Palamu district.

The arrested individuals, identified as Rishiraj alias Mitthu Soni, Govinda Paswan, Rahul Sharma, and Abhishek Gupta, are all residents of the Chainpur police station area in Palamu. The police have recovered crucial evidence from the suspects, including the motorcycle used in the robbery and INR 50,000

in cash. Additionally, the SIT recovered the melted looted jewelry, which had been concealed in Baksha Gali, Tirul Road, Ranchi. Further investigation led to the discovery of a carbine and two pistols hidden in Tharpakhna, Ranchi.

The police have revealed that two more individuals are involved in the robbery, and efforts are underway to apprehend them.

According to the police, the criminals chose MB Jewellers for the robbery due to its strategic location on the main road, facilitating a quick escape route via Marine Drive. After committing the robbery, they reportedly fled to Ranchi, where they

## Business community thanks police for solving robbery case



**Jamshedpur, June 3 :** Representatives from the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Jamshedpur Jewellers Association met with Senior Superintendent of Police, East Singhbhum, Kishore Kaushal (IPS) today. The delegation expressed their thanks for the swift action taken by the district police in solving the robbery at MB Jewellers near Aerodrome Market under the Sonari Police Station.

The robbery, which occurred amid the tense atmosphere of the election period, had posed a significant challenge to the police force. However, prompt and effective action by the district police, led by SSP, resulted in the arrest of the culprits and the recovery of the stolen goods. Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Vijay Anand Moonka and Honorary General

Secretary Manav Kedia praised the police for their quick response and efficiency.

"Thanks to the entire team, including the District Police Captain, traders' trust in the police remains intact," Moonka stated. He acknowledged the difficulties faced by the police in tackling such a brazen crime during a busy election period and commended their success in apprehending the criminals. SSP Kishore Kaushal reassured the traders that the district police are committed to solving the case completely. He confirmed that the arrested individuals, who have previous records of robbery and dacoity, were captured from Chainpur in Palamu. The police have also recovered the looted jewelry based on information provided by the arrested suspects.

"The district police will soon resolve the entire case," Kaushal

assured.

He expressed his appreciation for the vigilance and cooperation of the traders, which played a crucial role in the success of the police operation.

Kaushal also promised that a meeting would soon be held between the Chamber and traders to discuss various important issues, including market law and order. The delegation included several notable figures from the business community, such as Honorary General Secretary Manav Kedia, Vice President Anil Modi Abhishek Agarwal Goldie, and members of the Jewellers Association including Bipin Adesara, Kamal Singhanian, Bharat Makhani, Lippu Sharma, Treasurer Anil Ringsia, Suresh Jain, Krit Adesara, Sanjay Jain, Piyush Goyal, Kaushal Jain, Mukesh Jain, Sunny Sanghi, Pritam Jain, and Krishna Soni.

melted the stolen jewelry and stored their weapons before dispersing. A significant breakthrough came when the police

recovered a bag in Ranchi containing the weapons and melted jewelry. The criminals also admitted to another major robbery in

Garhwa district, further highlighting their extensive criminal activities. As investigations continue, the police are confident of soon apprehending the remaining suspects, bringing full closure to this high-profile case.

## Jamshedpur at 39.5 Degrees, heatwave alert

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** Following a stormy Sunday, relentless heat swept across Jharkhand on Monday, causing discomfort among residents. Garhwa district recorded the highest temperature at a scorching 41.7 degrees Celsius. Additionally, temperatures in four districts soared above 40 degrees Celsius. In Jamshedpur, the mercury peaked at 39.5 degrees Celsius, with a minimum temperature of 27 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, intermittent rain was reported in Ranchi, Khunti, and Lohardaga until 5:50 pm.

With the escalating temperatures, several districts have been put on high alert for heat waves. Garhwa, Palamu, and Chatra have been issued a heat wave alert for June 4. Furthermore, the Meteorological Department has forecasted heat wave alerts for various regions on June 5, 6, and 7.

On June 5 and 6, heat wave alerts have been issued for North Western regions including Palamu, Garhwa, Chatra, Koderma, Latehar, and Lohardaga, as well as Central regions comprising Ranchi, Bokaro, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Khunti, and Ramgarh.

# Theft incident mars reputation of Vijaya Garden Society

## SSP promises Saryu Roy swift resolution to theft cases

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** In response to the recent spate of theft incidents in Vijaya Garden, Birsanagar, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of East Singhbhum, along with the City Superintendent of Police and Managing Director of Vijaya Garden Society, Phani Mahato, have pledged to swiftly address the situation. This assurance was conveyed to MLA Saryu Roy during a telephone conversation with Mahato, who is currently in Singapore. MLA Saryu Roy issued a press release detailing the conversation, emphasizing that the primary focus of the Jamshedpur Police is to resolve the theft cases,



apprehend the culprits, and recover the stolen property. Once these objectives are achieved, a comprehensive plan will be devised to enhance security measures within the expansive premises of Vijaya Garden. Describing Vijaya Garden as a prestigious residential society in Jamshedpur, MLA Saryu Roy highlighted the concern among

regarding the recent theft incidents, which have tarnished the society's reputation.

He stressed the importance of a robust security system, both from the perspective of law enforcement and society management, to ensure the safety and well-being of residents. During his visit to the victim's family in Vijaya Garden, MLA Saryu Roy

observed first-hand the impact of the theft and suggested measures to enhance security, including the use of sniffer dog squads. He also noted deficiencies in the management staff's responsiveness and urged for active collaboration between the society management and Jamshedpur Police to address security concerns effectively. MLA Saryu Roy expressed satisfaction with the proactive stance taken by district police officials and the managing director of Vijaya Garden Society, signalling hope for improved security management not only in Vijaya Garden but also in other residential complexes and societies across the city. (w/nkm)

## Two youths arrested for theft from engineer's residence

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** Vijaya Garden, June 3, 2024: Baridih, June 3, 2024: Two youths have been apprehended in connection with the theft of jewellery worth lakhs of rupees from the residence of a marine engineer residing in duplex number 509 of Baridih Vijaya Garden. The suspects, hailing from Bengal, are currently undergoing interrogation as efforts continue to recover the stolen items. The incident came to light when the engineer, Shyam Sundar Pandey, returned from a family trip to Ayodhya to find his house burglarized. The thieves had reportedly broken into the residence, exploiting the absence of the occupants, and made away with jewellery valued at approximately 60 lakhs. Despite ongoing investigations, the stolen jewellery is yet to be recovered. Pandey's written complaint to the Birsanagar police station detailed the loss of cash and jewellery, prompting swift action from law enforcement authorities. The complaint underscored the gravity of the theft, citing the theft of approximately 75 to 80 thousand in cash along with an assortment of jewellery items, including diamonds, gold, and silver. Upon discovery of the burglary, Pandey notified the police, expressing concerns about the security arrangements in Vijaya Garden, particularly the role of the security guards from the HDMC agency.

## Police arrest two suspects in Bholu murder case in Kadma



**Jamshedpur, June 3:** Two suspects, Rahul Pandit from RIT Vidyutnagar in Adityapur and Prashant Kumar Kapri alias Bittu Kapri from Shastrinagar, Kadma, have been apprehended by the police in the investigation of Bholu Kumhar's murder in Kadma market, Jamshedpur.

Rahul Pandit and Prashant Kumar Kapri are the prime suspects in the shooting incident that resulted in the death of Bholu Kumhar alias Tarani Kumhar. Notably, Prashant Kumar Kapri, alias Bittu, has a notorious criminal record with six prior cases registered against him, including violations of the Arms Act.

During the operation, a country-made pistol, along with three live bullets, was seized by the police from Bittu Kapri's washing center hut. The recovery of the weapon is a crucial breakthrough in the ongoing investigation. The police are intensifying efforts to unravel the entire network involved in the crime. Further leads and additional suspects are under scrutiny as the investigation progresses. (w/nkm)

# Political rivals on edge: Jamshedpur LS seat results to be decided today

## Preparations underway for victory celebrations at BJP and Congress offices

**Ranchi, June 3:** With the Lok Sabha election results 2024 scheduled to be announced on June 4, the political arena is abuzz with anticipation. Just half an hour after the conclusion of the seventh phase of voting, the exit poll results have stirred up excitement in political circles. While the BJP appears poised for a significant majority, the India Alliance is nowhere near the mark. All eyes are now set on June 4. However, a day ahead of June 4, today, preparations for celebrations have commenced at the state offices of Jharkhand's BJP and Congress. Disregarding the exit polls' accuracy, the I.N.D.I.A. alliance is gearing up for victory celebrations. Simultaneously, there's an air of festivity among the NDA alliance workers. Both the BJP and Congress parties are actively involved in readying themselves for the vote counting process and anticipating victory at the Jharkhand state offices.

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur:** With just a few hours left for the election counting to commence, the atmosphere in Jamshedpur is charged with anticipation and excitement. Contestants and their supporters are deeply engrossed in speculation about their political fortunes, which remain sealed in the

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) inside the secure strong rooms of Jamshedpur Co-operative College.

Both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), the arch rivals vying for the prestigious Jamshedpur Lok Sabha seat, are poised for a grand celebration following the poll verdict expected tomorrow. Each party has



made elaborate preparations, including ordering garlands, colors, crackers, and laddoos, confident of their impending victory.

Sudhanshu Ojha, BJP district president, expressed his optimism, attributing the party's confidence to the Modi wave sweeping the nation. He cited exit polls predicting a sweeping victory for the BJP across the country, and Jamshedpur is expected to follow this trend. "Based on reports from the constituency, we are confident that BJP candidate Bidyut Baran Mahto will emerge victorious," Ojha stated.

In anticipation of the results, the BJP has



installed an LED screen near the counting venue to monitor the incoming poll results. The party has meticulously planned a victory procession, set to move from Jubilee Park and conclude at the BJP office near Basant Talkies in Sakchi. Meanwhile, JMM activists are equally enthusiastic. A senior JMM leader highlighted the tough competition given by their candidate, Samir Mohanty, and the trust people have shown in Hemant Soren's leadership. "We are confident that our candidate will rise in tomorrow's counting exercise," he said. The JMM has arranged for a victory procession featuring an open jeep

## Historical perspective of Jamshedpur LS members

| Member of Parliament     | Year       |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Shailendra Mahato (JMM)  | 1989, 1991 |
| Nitish Bharadwaj (BJP)   | 1996       |
| Abha Mahato (BJP)        | 1998, 1999 |
| Sunil Mahato (JMM)       | 2004       |
| Suman Mahato (JMM)       | 2007       |
| Arjun Munda (BJP)        | 2009       |
| Dr. Ajoy Kumar (JVM)     | 2011       |
| Bidyut Baran Mahto (BJP) | 2014, 2019 |

adorned with flowers, where their candidate will ride to thank voters. Various units of the party are also prepared to celebrate in their respective areas. Jamshedpur's district administration is fully prepared for the vote counting of the Lok Sabha elections, set to begin tomorrow. The Jamshedpur Co-operative College has been designated as the counting center, with stringent security measures in place. Given the sensitivity of the strong room and counting center, the administration has entrusted security to the

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Over 1,000 polling personnel, including counting supervisors, counting assistants, micro-observers, and six assistant returning officers, will be involved in the counting process, expected to last over five hours. The counting will begin at 8 AM and continue through 23 rounds. East Singhbhum Deputy Commissioner-cum-Election Officer for Jamshedpur parliamentary constituency, Ananya Mittal, informed the media that the entire administration building of Jamshedpur Cooperative

## Sanatan Utsav Samiti prepares grand celebration for Modi Government 3.0

**Jamshedpur, June 3:** Anticipating a resounding victory for the Modi government 3.0, BJP supporters in Jamshedpur are gearing up for a jubilant celebration. The Sanatan Utsav Samiti has announced plans for a grand event on June 4th, marking the occasion with fervor and enthusiasm. Under the banner of the Sanatan Utsav Samiti, supporters will gather in front of the Hanuman temple located at Sakchi Shriram Path. A large LED screen will be set up for live telecast of the vote counting process, allowing attendees to witness the unfolding results first-hand. As the trends favoring BJP seats emerge, the atmosphere will be filled with joyous drumbeats and trumpet calls, as workers distribute laddus, a traditional Indian sweet, among the gathered crowd. The committee has made arrangements for one quintal of laddus from a renowned confectioner to ensure an ample supply for the celebration. Beginning in the afternoon, members of the Sanatan Utsav Samiti and BJP supporters will convene at the Sakchi Hanuman temple office. Festivities will include the playful splattering of 51 kg of saffron-colored abir, symbolizing the spirit of the occasion. The evening will culminate in a spectacular display of fireworks following the Maha Aarti ceremony. Founder Chintu Singh, in a press release issued by the Sanatan Utsav Samiti, shared details of the planned celebrations, reflecting the anticipation and excitement surrounding the anticipated victory of Modi Government 3.0. (w/nkm)

College, housing the EVMs, has been declared a 'no-communication zone' and is under the electronic surveillance of 44 CCTVs.