

Rains End Scorching Heat In Kashmir

MeT Predicts More Till June 8

Agencies

Srinagar: The persistent dry spell for the last couple of weeks has come to an end as the light and intermittent rainfall has been recorded since last evening, bringing a relief from the scorching heat in Kashmir.

There is a forecast of more rains in the next three days as the weatherman has predicted that the light rains would continue to occur till June 08.

The maximum temperature in Srinagar and elsewhere has plummeted today as the weather conditions have witnessed a shift since last evening.

Although there was occasional sunshine in the afternoon, the intermittent rainfall continued to occur since morning, bringing down the mercury some degrees across all the Kashmir stations, thereby giving a relief to the people from scorching heat.

According to the details shared by MeT, Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K recorded a maximum temperature of 22.3 degree Celsius while in Qazigund, gateway of Kashmir, it settled at 22.5 degree Celsius.

As per the data, Pahalgam and Kokernag recorded a maximum temperature of 19.6 degree Celsius and 20.8 degree Celsius respectively while in Kupwara and Gulmarg, it settled at 15.6 degree Celsius and 11.2 degree Celsius respectively. | [More on P10](#)

17TH LOK SABHA DISSOLVED

PM Modi To Take Oath On Saturday, Submits Resignation To President



Modi will join Jawaharlal Nehru in becoming a three-term Prime Minister

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance - which won 293 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha election to

push past the majority mark of 272 - will form the new government Saturday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take oath for a third time, and in so doing, become the first

(and only) three-term leader of the country since Congress stalwart Jawaharlal Nehru. Modi met President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi | [More on P10](#)

NDA Elects Modi As Alliance Leader

Leaders of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance unanimously elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the ruling bloc's leader on Wednesday, passing a resolution to underscore the government's commitment to serving the poor, women, youths, farmers and deprived sections of society. They met at Modi's residence here a day after the NDA won a majority of seats in the Lok Sabha election, paving the | [More on P10](#)

INDIA Bloc To Sit In Opposition Benches

Congress Promises 'Right Step At Right Time'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: INDIA bloc partners will take appropriate steps at the appropriate time to realise the people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP government, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday following the opposition alliance's first meeting after the Lok Sabha poll results.

Addressing the media after the nearly two-hour meeting which was seen as the alliance keeping its options open and not staking claim at government formation for now, he said the opposition leaders resolved to continue their fight against the "fascist rule" of the BJP led by Narendra Modi

even as they thanked the people for their overwhelming support to the INDIA bloc.

"We will take appropriate steps at the appropriate time to realise people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP's government," Kharge said while reading out a statement adopted by all the alliance constituents after the deliberations at his residence.

He said the decision has been taken by all constituents of the INDIA bloc in one voice.

The Congress president had convened the meeting to discuss the political situation and the election results, explore any possibility of government formation and whether to reach out to their old partners Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu.

He also | [More on P10](#)

44°C Forecast In Makkah During Hajj

Agencies

Riyadh: The Saudi government said on Tuesday pilgrims can expect average high temperatures of 44 degrees Celsius during Hajj, which last year saw thousands of cases of heat stress.

"The expected climate for Hajj this year will witness an increase in average temperatures of one-and-a-half to two degrees above normal in Makkah and Madina," national meteorology centre chief Ayman Ghulam told a press conference.

The forecast indicates "relative humidity of 25 per cent, rain rates close to zero, average maximum temperature 44 degrees", he said.

There was "a need for sufficient quantities of water to cover daily consumption as temperatures rise", the meteorology chief said. He said food for pilgrims should be transported in refrigerators so that it does not spoil.

Last year more than 1.8 million pilgrims performed Hajj, official figures showed. More than 2,000 people suffered heat stress after temperatures soared to 48 degrees Celsius.

However, the real number of heat stress cases - which includes heatstroke, exhaustion, cramps and rashes - was probably far higher, as many sufferers were not admitted to hospitals or clinics.

At least 240 people, many from Indonesia, died during the pilgrimage, according to figures announced by various countries which did not | [More on P10](#)

2 Candidates Win Polls From Prison

What Rules Say On Jailed MPs

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Two candidates currently lodged in prison on terror charges emerged winners in the just-concluded parliamentary election, giving rise to an unusual situation for the 18th Lok Sabha to be formed in the coming days.

While the law will keep them from attending the proceedings of the new House, they do have the constitutional right to take oath as Members of Parliament.

The Election Commission declared the results of the Lok Sabha polls on Tuesday. While radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh won Punjab's Khadoor Sahib seat, terror financing accused Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, won from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla seat.

Engineer Rashid has been lodged in Tihar jail since August 9, 2019, on terror funding charges. Amritpal Singh was arrested in April 2023 under the National Security Act and sent to Assam's Dibrugarh prison.

The question now arises if these jailed newly-elected MPs



will be allowed to take the oath, and if yes, how.

Explaining the legalities involved, Constitution expert and former Lok Sabha secretary general PDT Achari stressed the importance of following the constitutional provisions in such cases.

Being sworn in as a Member of Parliament is a constitutional right, he said.

But because they are currently in prison, Engineer Rashid and Singh must seek permission from authorities to be escorted to Parliament for the oath ceremony.

Once they | [More on P10](#)

LS Poll Results In Kashmir: Assembly Segment Wise Report Card



Leads in 34 assembly seats



Leads in 5 assembly seats



Leads in 14 assembly seats



Leads in 1 assembly seat

Agencies

Srinagar: Following the results of the Parliament elections-2024 in Kashmir, the assembly segment-wise numbers are giving an advantage to the National Conference, which has secured a lead in 34 assembly seats out of the 54 constituencies in Kashmir.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has managed a lead in only five seats, while Independent jailed candidate Engineer Rashid has secured a lead in 14 assembly constituencies.

Kashmir News Observer has analyzed the data of all three parliamentary constituencies of Kashmir - Baramulla, Srinagar, and Anantnag-Rajouri, each consisting of 18 assembly segments, the numbers are not favorable for the new political outfits, including Altaf Bukhari-led Apni



Party and Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Progressive Azad Party-DPAP. Even Sajad Gani Lone, who claims North Kashmir as his bastion, has only secured a lead in a single seat, Handwara. Apart from that, even with the support of Bukhari-led Apni Party, he is losing in all other 17 assembly segments.

Assembly-wise leads

from Baramulla LS Seat: According to the details, from North Kashmir, the National Conference is winning in three assembly segments: Budgam, where it received 30,259 votes, defeating Engineer Rashid who received 24,604 votes. Also, in Gurez, where Omar Abdullah received 3,977 votes, while Engineer Rashid received 2,231 votes. | [More on P10](#)

God's Will?

BJP's Ram Temple Pitch Fails In Ayodhya

Press Trust Of India

Ayodhya: The construction of the Ram temple was a main plank of the BJP campaign across the country. Ironically, the poll pitch didn't work in Ayodhya itself.

The Faizabad Lok Sabha constituency, in which the temple city falls, rejected its two-time MP Lallu Singh in the Lok Sabha polls. Samajwadi Party's Awadhesh Prasad defeated him by 54,567 votes.

The Ayodhya defeat comes in the backdrop of setbacks to the ruling BJP across the state - it won just 33 seats this time compared to the 62 in 2019. One reason could have been the demolition of houses to make way for wider roads.

But some local people couldn't resist invoking the Ramayana for this BJP debacle.

"Who is Lallu Singh when Ravan couldn't save his Lanka due to his arrogance," Prajwal Singh, who runs a homestay, told PTI. He alleged that the BJP

candidate didn't care for the business community, and told them that if he didn't get their votes, "it won't be a problem".

Singh also claimed that the BJP MP didn't take his campaign seriously.

"The only time he was visible in Ayodhya city was during the roadshow held with Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the businessman said.

As a member of the RSS affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Lallu Singh had actively participated in the 1989 agitation for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, where the Babri mosque once stood.

Now 69, he has been elected to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly five times - apart from the two terms in the Lok Sabha.

Hanumangarhi temple's Mahant Raju Das too seemed to lay the blame for the BJP's defeat on the candidate and not the party.

"We had no problems with the BJP. However, | [More on P10](#)

Committed To Secure Future Of Agri Dependent Population: LG

Pushes Tech-Driven Agriculture At SKUAST Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday inaugurated key infrastructure projects and launched new academic programmes of SKUAST Kashmir.

The projects inaugurated by the LG included Shalimar Convention Centre, Kohimaran Hostel and Discovery Building.

In his address, the LG reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to secure the future of 70% of the population dependent on agriculture and allied sectors.

He said the new Discovery



Building will provide facilities of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to students and is crucial to achieve the vision of developing sustainable agriculture technologies to improve farmers' income.

The LG commended SKUAST Kashmir for adding "Innovation

and Entrepreneurship" in its academic programs and creating an ecosystem of Innovations. He said the new academic UG and masters programs launched today will build a skilled-trained human resource for agro-based industry and agri-tourism in the future. "SKUAST Kashmir is poised to

emerge as a 'Top Innovation Led Farm University' in the country to transform subsistence and low enumerative agriculture into a technology driven agri-economy," the LG said.

The University has earned 25 Patents in the past 4 years and established 26 | [More on P10](#)

Govt Has 'Exclusive Privilege' In Sale Of liquor: HC Says Judicial Review In Tender, Auction 'Extremely Limited'

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that judicial review in tender or auction process was "extremely limited" in view of the exclusive privilege of the Government in sale and manufacture of liquor, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday dismissed a bunch of petitions by H-1 Bidders, challenging cancellation of auction in February this year regarding liquor vends in various parts of Jammu division for 2024-25.

"...it is clear that the scope of judicial review in the tender/auction process is extremely limited. Admittedly, the Court cannot adjudge the soundness of a decision and

it must concern itself only with the manner in which the decision was made," a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said, underlining that the government and other public authorities have the freedom of contract.

"In the absence of manifest unreasonableness, patent arbitrariness or clear mala fides, the Court should show due deference to the decision of the public authority," the court said, adding, "Consequently, the scope of interference by the Court in matters like these is exceptionally minimal."

The court said it finds force in the argument made by the Advocate General that the special | [More on P10](#)

Gulmarg's Iconic Temple Guttled In Blaze



Observer News Service

Gulmarg: An iconic Shiv temple in J&K's Gulmarg ski resort, which was featured in several Bollywood films, was gutted in a pre-dawn fire on Wednesday, officials said.

The blaze erupted in the Shiv Temple, which is also known as Rani Temple, before dawn.

Police assisted by locals put out the fire but could not save the temple, they said.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

The temple was popular among | [More on P10](#)

'Collective Action Towards Ecological Restoration'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday addressed a conference "Our Land, Our Future" on World Environment Day, at Sazgaripora, Srinagar. The event was organized by Nigeen Lake Conservation Organisation (NLCO) In his address, the LG highlighted the need for land restoration to reverse the challenges of land degradation, drought and desertification. "Environment First" is our vision and we are committed to revive the damaged ecosystem. Our collective efforts to reverse the degradation of ecosystems will boost livelihoods, food security and prevent extreme weather situations, the LG said. He called upon NGOs, financial institutions, business organizations, volunteers, civil society members and individuals to act as 'Agents of | [More on P10](#)



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Office Of The Principal.

Government Medical College, Handwara.
Department Of Health And Medical Education UT Of J&K.
principalgmchandwara@gmail.com. www.gmchandwara.co.in

Sub: Advertisement for Engagement of Faculty Positions on Academic Arrangement Basis Under S.O. 364 of 2020 dated 27-11-2020 in Government Medical College Handwara

Advertisement Notice No. 02 of 2024
Dated: 05-06-2024

Sub: Advertisement for Engagement of Faculty Positions on Academic Arrangement Basis Under S.O. 364 of 2020 dated 27-11-2020 in Government Medical College Handwara

Advertisement Notice No. 02 of 2024
Dated: 05-06-2024

In terms of S.O. 364 of 2020 dated 27-11-2020, application on prescribed format are invited from non-PSC/retired persons for engagement as Professors/Associate Professors/Assistant Professors on Academic Arrangement basis, initially for a period of one year, extendable up to a maximum of six years (one year at a time and subject to performance and good conduct) or till the selection/promotion is made on regular basis in accordance with rules of recruitment governing the respective posts by the PSC/DPC whichever is earlier, in the below mentioned disciplines in Govt. Medical College Handwara. This is without any prejudice to any writ petition lying pending before any Hon'ble Court of law.

The eligibility conditions and age for submitting the applications shall be as under:

Posts	Minimum Qualification and Teaching Experience.	Maximum age at the time of submitting application form.
Professor	As per the eligibility conditions prescribed vide Govt. Order No. 672-JK (HME) of 2022 Dated 19-09-2022 (available on https://hme.jk.gov.in/)	(67) Years / (63) Years for Dentistry
Associate Professor	As per the eligibility conditions prescribed vide Govt. Order No. 672-JK (HME) of 2022 Dated 19-09-2022 (available on https://hme.jk.gov.in/)	(67) Years / (63) Years for Dentistry
Assistant Professor	As per the eligibility conditions prescribed vide Govt. Order No. 672-JK (HME) of 2022 Dated 19-09-2022 (available on https://hme.jk.gov.in/)	(67) Years / (63) Years for Dentistry

The details of the posts (subject to availability) are as under: -

S.NO	Name of the Department	Vacant Posts
1	Anatomy	Professor Associate Professor Assistant Professor
2	Physiology	Professor Associate Professor Assistant Professor
3	Biochemistry	Professor
4	Microbiology	Professor Associate Professor
5	Pathology	Professor Associate Professor
6	Pharmacology	Professor Associate Professor
7	Forensic Medicine	Professor
8	Community Medicine	Associate Professor Assistant Professor (I/C UTHC) Assistant Professor (I/C RTHC)
9	Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases	Professor Associate Professor Assistant Professor
10	General Medicine	Professor Associate Professor Assistant Professor
11	Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy	Professor Associate Professor
12	Pediatrics	Professor Associate Professor Assistant Professor
13	General Surgery	Associate Professor Assistant Professor
14	Orthopaedics	Associate Professor
15	Oto-Rhino-Laryngology (ENT)	Professor Associate Professor
16	Psychiatry	Professor Associate Professor
17	Ophthalmology	Professor Associate Professor
18	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Professor Associate Professor Assistant Professor Assistant Professor/Antenatal In charge Assistant Professor/Maternity & Child Welfare Officer
19	Radio-diagnosis	Professor Associate Professor
20	Radiotherapy	Professor Associate Professor
21	Anaesthesiology	Professor
22	Blood Bank	Associate Professor
23	Dentistry	Professor Associate Professor
24	Hospital Administration	Professor / Medical Superintendent Associate Professor / Dy Medical Superintendent
25	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Associate Professor

The selection of the candidates for the advertised posts shall be made as per the criteria laid down in G.O. 282-JK (HME) of 2023 Dated:04-04-2023 read with corrigendum dated: 06-04-2023 (available on <https://hme.jk.gov.in/>)

The appointments against the advertised posts shall always be on academic arrangement basis only without conferment of any preferential right on the engages for regular appointment against these posts, which shall be made strictly in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules. The appointment on Academic Arrangement basis shall by itself stand terminated on attainment of (70) years of age. The services of an appointee under these rules can be terminated before the expiry of the tenure of appointment with one month's notice from either side or on payment of one month's salary in lieu of notice by the appointing authority. Provided that the appointment of the appointee shall be terminable without notice by the appointing authority whenever the post is filled up under rules and the appointee shall have no claim against the Government or the appointing authority.

In case of any dispute, the decision of Chairperson of the Selection Committee shall be final.

The candidates shall submit the self-attested Photostat copies of the following documents with their applications:

- MBBS/BDS Degree and State/NMC/DCI Registration Certificate and Post-Graduation degree (MSc.) certificate in the concerned discipline from a university duly recognized by University Grants Commission in case of non-medical candidates.
- MD/MS/MDS/DNB/PhD with additional Qualification Registration Certificate (State/NMC/DCI and UGC in case of non-medical Candidates)
- Marks Certificate of the respective degree especially Marks sheets certificates of each year of MBBS/BDS/MSc.
- Higher Qualification Certificate (Super specialities) (DM/MCH/DNB).
- Any other additional qualifying certificate relevant for eligibility to any particular advertised post.
- Experience Certificate issued by the Competent Authority/ Head of the institution.
- Professional research publications, published in indexed/national journals.
- Proof of writing a book (Foreign Book/National Book) or a book chapter published with ISBN/ISSN, if any.
- Proof of oral paper presentation in any National/International seminar/Conference/Workshop relevant to the discipline if any with the abstract/full paper published in the proceedings/souvenir of the seminar /conference/workshop.
- Proof of poster presentation of paper(s) in a National / International seminar/ conference/ workshop relevant to the discipline if any with the abstract/full paper published in the proceedings/souvenir of the seminar /conference/workshop.
- Proof of Gold Medal for overall first position in prescribed qualification, if any.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Domicile certificate.
- Affidavit from 1st class magistrate that he/she is not on the rolls of any other medical college/ institution of the country as required by NMC/DCI/UGC.
- In case of candidates already working in other medical colleges of UT of Jammu and Kashmir on academic arrangement basis, No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the concerned Head of the Institute along with application form needs to be submitted.

The application forms can be downloaded from the official website of GMC Handwara (www.gmchandwara.co.in). Application forms complete in all respects, should be accompanied with a bank draft of Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only) in favour of Principal, Govt. Medical College, Handwara from J&K Bank only and should be submitted in the office of the Registrar Academics Govt. Medical College Handwara. Incomplete applications in any respect or not appended with required documents shall be rejected without any notice.

The last date for submission of completed application forms is 19-06-2024 till 3 pm. The selected candidates shall execute an agreement that he/she will not leave the department before the completion of at least one year contract. The selected candidates will submit an affidavit at the time of joining that he/she is not on the rolls of any other medical college/institution of the country as required by NMC/DCI regulations. In addition, the candidates are deemed to be relieved in case any permanent faculty member recommended by JKPS/DPC joins on the same post.

No application of the in-service candidate shall be entertained in terms of S.O 364 of 2020 Dated. 27-11-2020.

Prof (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad Wani

Principal

No: GMC/Hand/2024/ACAD/

DIPK-836/24

Dated: 05-06-2024

Govt. Medical College
Handwara

Groundwater to heat over 3 degrees C by century end, risking safety: Report

Press Trust Of India

Groundwater is projected to warm by 2-3.5 degrees Celsius before the turn of this century, potentially risking water quality and safety, apart from threatening ecosystems depending on the resource, a new research has found.

The "world's first global groundwater temperature model" predicted the highest warming rates in Central Russia, Northern China and parts of North America, and the Amazon rainforest in South America.

A team of researchers, led by those from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany, said while a lot of focus on climate change concerns weather events and water availability, we also need to think about how it impacts groundwater, critical to life on the planet.

Warming of groundwater can adversely impact ecosystems relying on them, they said.

"Rivers rely on groundwater to keep flowing during dry times. Warm waters hold less dissolved oxygen," explained study co-author



Gabriel Rau from the University of Newcastle, UK.

The model also estimated that by 2100, 60-600 million people globally could be living in areas where groundwater exceeds the highest threshold for drinking water temperature guidelines set by any country.

According to the World Health Organization, currently only 18 out of 125 countries have temperature guidelines for drinking water.

Warmer groundwater raises the

risk of disease-causing microbial growth, thereby, affecting drinking water quality and potentially the lives of people, said Rau.

"This is especially concerning in areas where access to clean drinking water is already limited, and in areas where groundwater is consumed without treatment," he added.

Based on how heat spreads in water, the researchers modelled current groundwater temperatures and also projected changes between 2000-2100 around the

world. Groundwater is present beneath the Earth's surface in pore spaces in rocks and soils.

"We show that groundwater at the depth of the water table (excluding permafrost regions) is conservatively projected to warm on average by 2.1 degrees Celsius between 2000 and 2100 under a medium emissions (scenario)," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Nature Geoscience. Under this scenario, emissions trends do not markedly change from historical patterns.

The model, however, showed that under a high-emissions scenario, or fossil fuel-driven development, the groundwater temperature could rise by 3.5 degrees Celsius.

The warming of groundwater can be a cause for concern, although it depends on whether the climate change issue can be mitigated by cutting down greenhouse gas emissions, the researchers said.

Warmer groundwater can also impact water quality by affecting its chemistry and microbiology, they said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Officer Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Khurshid Ahmad Baba
(DOB: 10-02-1973)
S/o Bashir Ahmad
Baba
R/o Gund i Hadoo
Shopian

fko_r

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER GOUSIA MODEL SCHOOL KULHAMA ZONE TANGMARG Fee Structure Of School For The Year 2024

S.No.	CLASS	TUTION FEE
1	8th	740
2	7th	740
3	6th	690
4	5th	670
5	4th	670
6	3rd	630
7	2nd	630
8	1st	500
9	UKG	450
10	LKG	450
11	NURSERY	380

bmg

Headmaster

Gousia Model School Kulhama

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Application of Aashiq Gani S/o Abdul Gani Hajam R/o Malikpora Tehsil pattan regarding obtaining OBC Certificate

Public Notice

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining OBC certificate. According to the field staff's report, the applicants are Permanent residents of village Malikpora Tehsil Pattan and is residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village . The annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 96000 /-.

Family details of the applicant are given below.

S.No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
01	Ab Gani Hajam	Gh Mohi Ud Din Hajam	59	Farmer
02	Asmata Begum	W/o Ab Gani Hajam	57	H/W
03	Bilal Ah Hajam	S/o Ab Gani Hajam	35	Labour
04	Insha Begum	W/o Bilal Ah Hajam	33	H/W
05	Aashiq Gani	S/o Ab Gani Hajam	18	Student
06	Mohd Anas	S/o Bilal Ah Hajam	01	CHILD

In this connection If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

fko

Naib Tehsildar

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Electric Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (In Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of Bid	Date & Time of Opening of E-Tender. Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Dry Type Isolation Transformer, Surge Protection PANELS AND ALLIED WORKS FOR THE Department of EMMRC at Main Campus.	15.20Lacs	600/-	30400/-	06-06-2024 to 20-06-2024 (6.00 PM)	21-06-2024 (11.30 AM)	"AAY"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net/ / www.jktenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer

NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/02/24

DATED: 04/06/2024.

DIPK-NB-286/24 dated: 05-06-2024

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class- 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No. 128008011 Session: Annual Regular Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the Govt Boys High School Guloora against my DOB as 12-12-2007 instead of 10-09-2007

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public The correction particulars be recorded as under

Name: Tabish Rashid
Father's Name : Abdul Rashid Wani
Mother's Name: Gulshana Begum
DOB : 10-09-2007
Residence: Guloora

fko

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class-10th/11th/12th) under Roll No. 128008029 Session: Annual Regular Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the Govt Boys High School Guloora against my Father's Name as Nazir Ahmad Malik instead of Nazir Ahmad Malik

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public

The correction particulars be recorded as under

Name: Ulfat Nazir
Father's Name : Nazir Ahmad Malik
Mother's Name: Shareefa Begum
DOB : 28-07-2008
Residence: Guloora

fko

Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name 6 Style "M/s. Ethereal Kashmir Retreats" Situated at House Number 9, Umerabad, Sector 8, New Airport Road, Peer Bagh, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mrs. Shemlaya Qayoom Khan, Daughter of Mr. Abdul Qayoom Khan, R/o House Number 9, Umerabad, Sector 8, New Airport Road, Peer Bagh, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the Name and style "M/s. Ethereal Kashmir Retreats" House Number 9, Umerabad, Sector 8, New Airport Road, Peer Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate, Character Certificate issued by concerned police station, Bank Statement, Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material, Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed check-list prior to Registration of my unit as a tour and travel /excursion Agency / Adventure tour operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public / financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director, Tourism Registration (e-mail id: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

inf

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Arwaa Irshad D/o Irshad Ahmad Ione R/o pandithpora Bala Tangmarg Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 29/06/2021 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

Police Attaches Property Of Drug Peddler In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Srinagar on Wednesday said to have attached property of Kamran Mushtaq Lone, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, resident of Maloora, acquired in the name of his relative, out of illegal income earned through drug trafficking.

The accused namely Kamran Lone, a narcotics dealer, was arrested in case FIR No. 10/24 under section 8/21/27A/29 of NDPS Act by Police Station Parimpora on 30-01-2024, a police spokesman said in a statement.

During the investigation of the instant case, police said that the illegal proceeds from his narcotics trade were identified and a

double storey duplex house in the name of Abdul Ahad Lone, son of Late Mohammed Akbar Lone, constructed in 2023, falling under survey no. 310 titled "Abadi Deh" situated at Shalla Mohalla, Maloora, has been attached with confirmation from the competent authority and administrator, SAFEMA and NDPSA, New Delhi.

In compliance with section 68 F(1) of NDPS Act, the inherited immovable property acquired by the accused through illegal means was seized and attached, and it shall not be transferred/sold/ purchased or otherwise dealt with without the prior permission of the competent authority, police said.

Minor Fire Breaks Out At CD Hospital Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A minor fire incident was reported on Wednesday at around 09:55 am in a building of Govt. Chest Disease Hospital, Dalgate, Srinagar, due to some short circuit.

Administrative staff, Security Personnel, other Hospital staff and staff of the Mechanical and Hospital Division of the hospital promptly and timely extinguished the fire with the help of available resources like fire extinguishers (ABC, CO2 and foam type), and the fire was controlled immediately and no mishap was reported.

In order to prevent the further damage, the Fire and Emergency Services Department was intimated and in the meantime they

visited the spot but by that time the fire was extinguished, however, they inspected the spot to check whether fire had been brought under control.

It is pertinent to mention here that this incident occurred in a building that is located far away from the main Chest Disease Hospital.

Further, it has been communicated with the concerned Department (Electricity Division Srinagar) to checkout any further risk of fire in the hospital as soon as possible in order to prevent any hazardous event in the future for the safety of hospital property as well as life of staff.

Besides, the Fire and Emergency Department will be informed to conduct the Fire Audit of the said hospital on an urgent basis.

MSME Hands-Over ESDP Certificates To Trained Participants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a fruitful conclusion to the review meeting on Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (ESDP) and MSME Innovative Schemes, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Field Office, Br MSME DFO Srinagar, handed over ESDP Certificates to participants trained during the fiscal year 2023-24.

The certificates were presented to the respective heads of the participating institutions, marking a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts towards fostering entrepreneurship and skill development in the region.

The meeting, which brought together key stakeholders including Principal/ Nodal officers of 04 Polytechnic Colleges, the Director of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), and Incharge Business Incubator (MSME Incubation and Design Centre) at NIT Srinagar, was characterized by constructive discussions and strategic planning for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25.

Highlighting the commitment to empowering the youth with the latest skills and technologies, the

meeting emphasized the importance of tailored skill development programs and advanced ESDP initiatives that cater to the evolving needs of the industry, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

During the meeting, completed projects that include Saffron Processing Machine and Seed Sowing machine under MSME innovative scheme were also looked into for further scope of commercialization as development of successful prototypes must reach the market.

Saheel Alaqband, Assistant Director MSME GoI, reiterated the dedication to providing comprehensive support to youth, enabling them to transition into successful entrepreneurs. He expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the previous fiscal year and underscored the determination to enhance efficiency and achieve even better results in the coming year.

The Ministry of MSME Field office, Br MSME DFO Srinagar, remains steadfast in its mission to drive economic growth and create opportunities for the youth in the region through collaborative efforts with educational institutions and industry stakeholders.

JKPCC Srinagar Organizes Commemorates 'World Environment Day'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) Srinagar on Wednesday under the guidance and directions of Regional Director JKPCC, Kashmir organized multiple events to commemorate 'World Environment Day'.

On the occasion, a mega rally of Eco Club students, teachers and the employees of JKPCC was taken out from the

premises of JKPCC Srinagar to raise awareness on the preservation of the environment.

As part of the celebration, a debate and painting competition was also conducted in Delhi Public School Srinagar. The students were later awarded with certificates.

During the event, the senior officials of JKPCC Srinagar threw light on the importance of Environmental conservation and the World Environment Day.



VISITORS AND RESIDENTS ALIKE were enjoying vibrant evenings at the newly renovated Ghanta Ghar amid mild rainfall on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Protests AT GMC Srinagar Over Blasphemous Post

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: Derogatory display of the Prophet Muhammad's (Pbuh) name on a social media messaging app allegedly by a non-local student sparked massive protests at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar on Wednesday.

Chanting pro-Islamic slogans, hundreds of students—male and female—this afternoon staged a protest on the GMC campus at Karan Nagar, demanding exemplary punishment for the non-local student who they alleged to have displayed the prophet's (Pbuh) name on his WhatsApp in an offensive manner.

Students on protest threatened to intensify their demonstrations in case the college management did not act against the accused.

Besides hurting religious sentiments, these deliberate sacrilegious acts have the potential to sow dissension among the communities. We demand that the accused be expelled from the college immediately since such actions are intolerable," protesting students told Kashmir Observer.

The accused, a 2023-batch student from Rajasthan, they claimed, was gently asked to erase the name of the Prophet (Pbuh) on his WhatsApp, but he refused, which led to protests from the local students.

"This is the outcome of the government's decision to pool 50% of the seats for PG medical courses and 15% of the MBBS seats under the All India Quota. We had anticipated in advance that the move would incite individuals with a communal mindset to sow seeds of discord," they added.

The agitated students said although the accused student's seniors were also made aware of his sacrilegious act and asked to have the name removed or corrected; they chose to assist him in his endeavor rather than taking any concrete action.

"The accused has been given a deadline of one day to remove the name of our Prophet (Pbuh). If this deadline is not met, we will intensify



Accused Suspended, Probe Ordered

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: A non-local medical student at the Government Medical College Srinagar here was suspended on Wednesday following protests by fellow students against his alleged blasphemous post on a caller app. The GMC management has urged the students to maintain peace in the campus.

"Apropos certain reports from GMC Srinagar, it is informed that immediate cognizance of the matter was taken by the GMC Srinagar administration. Pending inquiry the concerned individual has been suspended with immediate effect," GMC in a statement said. "An enquiry comprising 13 HODs and HOU has been initiated for necessary action under rules. All the concerned are requested to maintain calm and tranquility in the campus," it added.

Meanwhile the Resident Doctors

Association (GMC) Srinagar has condemned the act of blasphemy by an undergraduate medical student.

"The Resident Doctors Association hereby expresses its most fervent condemnation of the deplorable act of blasphemy perpetrated by an undergraduate medical student of our esteemed institution. Such an egregious transgression not only grievously wounds religious sensibilities of many but also imperils the very fabric of societal harmony and mutual respect, which we hold dear," the RDA statement reads.

The resident doctors demanded stern punishment to the accused so that such acts having potential of creating communal discord are not repeated in the future.

"We urge the authorities to adopt a resolute stance and to mete out the most stringent of measures against the transgressor," it added.

our protest," they threatened.

Nasir Khuehami, the convener of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), has strongly denounced the sacrilegious act by a medical student from Rajasthan and has urged the GMC administration to take stern action against him for hurting religious sentiments.

"These acts are repeatedly committed, and those who carry out such sacrilegious deeds always go unpunished. The college management, whether it is NIT or GMC Srinagar, closes the institutions and asks students to leave. These strategies won't work," Khuehami told Kashmir Observer.

Ph. 0194-4018646

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

email: dlckashmir123@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY LABOUR COMMISSIONER,
KASHMIR DIVISION, SRINAGAR
(ADDRESS: BATAMALOO NEAR GENERAL BUS STAND, PIN: 190009)

Subject: Apply for exgratia claim before the last date under e-Shram- regarding.

NOTICE

The Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, has announced the exgratia relief for the registered e-Shram workers who have either died or have become disabled due to any accident during the period between 1st of August, 2021 to 31st March, 2022. The only pre-requisite for availing this ex-gratia for e-Shram registered workers is that the victim should have been registered in between the given dates before facing an accident and he should have disability of more than 50%. In this backdrop, all the concerned victims, their family members and general masses are hereby informed through the medium of this notice that any eligible member who falls within the ambit of these guidelines be immediately informed to the nearest/ concerned Assistant Labour Commissioner office along with the requisite documents. For any query/guidance, the concerned may also contact the respective authorized officer/ nodal officers as given below:

S. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Authorizing Officer/ Nodal Officer	Contact No.
1	Srinagar	Amit Tickoo	9858678139
2	Ananathnag	Peer Zameer Ahmad	9797172356
3	Kulgam	Peer Zameer Ahmad	9797172356
4	Shopian	Peer Zameer Ahmad	9797172356
5	Pulwama	Hafsa Qayoom	9596090746
6	Baramulla	Arshad Qadir Bhat	9906518530
7	Kupwara	Arshad Qadir Bhat	9906518530
8	Budgam	Zameer Ali Ganie	8715048320
9	Ganderbal	Beenish Wani	7889752212
10	Bandipora	Rabia Iqbal Mir	7889678059

It is further impressed to all the concerned that the concerned must apply under this scheme before 30th June, 2024.

No: DLC/K/2024/137-148

Dated: 03 -06-2024


DIPK-847-24

DT: 05/06/2024

(Shahid Mahmood) JKAS

Deputy Labour Commissioner


Kashmir



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200


AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311




RAILWAYS


- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)





PRAYERS

FAJR	3:37
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5:26
Magrib	7:41
ISHA	9:20

This Day In History

- 640- Arab Muslim army sent by Caliph Omar (RA) begins siege of Heliopolis, city succumbs mid to late July, paving way for Muslim conquest of Byzantine Egypt
- 1744 France and Prussia sign peace treaty
- 1801- Peace of Badajoz: Spain-Portugal
- 1882- Cyclone in Arabian Sea (Bombay, India) drowns 100,000 (disputed event)
- 1882- Electric iron patented by New York inventor Henry W. Seely. It weighed almost 15 pounds and was very slow to heat up.
- 1912- The eruption of Novarupta in Alaska begins, the largest volcanic eruption of the 20th century
- 1916- The death of Yuan Shikai, ruler of much of China since 1912, causes central government to virtually collapse in the face of pressure from warlords, and from political reformers including Sun Yat-sen
- 1918- Battle of Belleau Wood, 1st US victory of WW I
- 1919- Finland declares war on bolsheviks
- 1919- The Republic of Prekmurje ends
- 1926- Egyptian government of Adly Pasha forms
- 1942- Japanese forces retreat, ending Battle of Midway
- 1944- Operation Overlord: D-Day begins as the 156,000-strong Allied Expeditionary Force lands in Normandy, France, during World War II
- 1944- World War II: All Major League Baseball games are cancelled in honor of the D-Day landings in northern France
- 1947- Treaty drawn up for establishment of International Patent Institute
- 1966- Gemini 9 completes 45 orbits after rendezvous with "angry alligator"
- 1966- NFL & AFL announce their merger
- 1967- Israeli troops occupy Gaza during second day of the Six-Day War
- 1971- Air West flight 706 collides with a US Marine Corps F-4B Phantom jet over Los Angeles killing all 49 aboard the DC-6 and the pilot of the F-4B
- 1972 - Explosion at world's largest coal mine kills 427 (Wankie, Rhodesia)
- 1972 - US bombs Haiphong, North-Vietnam; 1000s killed
- 1975 - Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam established
- 1977 - Washington Post reports US has developed neutron bomb
- 1981 - A passenger train travelling between Mansi and Sahara, India, jumps the tracks at a bridge crossing the Bagmatriver, killing 268 officially with another 300 or more missing.
- 1983 - Nicaragua expels 3 US diplomats
- 1985 - Soyuz T-13 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 7 space station
- 1988 - George H. W. Bush makes campaign promise to support reparations for WW II to Japanese-American internees (promise broken, May 1989)
- 1990- 2nd International Rock Awards
- 1993 - PunsalmaaglynOtsjirbat recognized as president of Mongolia
- 1993 - Ramiro de Leon Carpio elected President of Guatemala
- 1994 - Cricketer Brian Lara hits record 501 not out/390 runs in 1 day
- 1994 - Tupolev-154M crashes at Xian China, 160 killed
- 1999 - Largest jailbreak in Brazilian history at the Putim maximum security prison in Brazil, 345 prisoners run from the main gate. In the ensuing manhunt, two fugitives are killed and five innocent bystanders are accidentally jailed.
- 2002 - A near-Earth asteroid estimated at 10 metres diameter explodes over the Mediterranean Sea between Greece and Libya. Resulting explosion estimated to have a force of 26 kilotons, more powerful than the Nagasaki atomic bomb.
- 2004 -Tamil is established as a Classical language by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in a joint sitting of the two houses of the Indian Parliament.
- 2012 -Transit of Venus (between Earth & Sun) occurs - last transit of 21st century
- 2012 - The Solar Impulse completes the world's first intercontinental flight powered by the sun

Election Results 2024

All Seats Declared, Check Which Party Won How Many

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India has declared results for 542 of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies, with the BJP winning 240 seats and the Congress 99.

The result for the Beed constituency in Maharashtra - where the NCP (Sharad Pawar) candidate Bajrang Manohar Sonwane is leading the BJP's Pankaja Munde -- is still awaited.

While the Lok Sabha has 543 members, counting was held for 542 seats after the BJP's Surat candidate Mukesh Dalal was elected unopposed.

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

The BJP, whose candidates contested in the name of Modi, won in 240 seats, falling short of the 272 majority mark and needing the support of allies in the party-led NDA for government formation, a far cry from the 303 and 282 seats it had won in 2019 and 2014, respectively, to have a majority on its own.

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

The Congress, which is part of the opposition INDIA bloc, won 99 seats compared to 52 it won in 2019, eating into the BJP's share in Rajasthan and Haryana. As the Samajwadi Party kept the INDIA bloc's morale high in Uttar Pradesh with 37 seats, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), another key member of the opposition alliance, won 29 seats in West Bengal, higher than its 2019 tally of 22. The BJP, which had won 18 seats in the last Lok Sabha elections, won 12 seats.

The results did not throw up a landslide victory the BJP-led NDA had hoped for and what was projected by the exit polls. More than 640 million votes were to be counted in the world's largest democratic exercise, conducted from April 19 to June 1 in seven phases.

"Badhaai Ho" : Netanyahu Congratulates Modi For Winning Third Consecutive Term



Agencies

Tel Aviv: Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a post on X, has extended wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday on being re-elected for a third consecutive term in the Lok Sabha polls.

Wishing PM Modi, Netanyahu said, "I extend my warmest congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on being reelected for a third consecutive term."

"May the friendship between India and Israel continue to surge towards new heights. Badhaai Ho!" the Israeli PM wrote on X.

Netanyahu's wishes come at a time when Israel's war with Hamas has entered the 8th month.

The counting of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was held on Tuesday. According to the Election Commission of India, the BJP won 240 seats, and with its allies has 292 seats in the Parliament.

The Congress, on the other hand, registered a strong growth winning 99 seats.

With PM Modi registering his win for the third consecutive term, wishes from global leaders also came pouring in at the speed of light.

The Italian PM, in her congratulatory message to Prime Minister Modi, said that both nations will cooperate on various issues that bind the two nations and are for the well-being of the people.

"Congratulations to @narendramodi on the new electoral victory and my warmest wishes for good work. Certain that we will continue to work together to strengthen the friendship that unites Italy and India and consolidate cooperation on the various issues that bind us, for the well-being of our Nations and our peoples," Italian PM Meloni said in a post on X.

Other leaders also congratulated PM Modi and the BJP-led NDA government on their third consecutive victory in the Lok Sabha polls. Singapore Prime Minister, Lawrence Wong, also extended congratulations to PM Modi earlier today. "Congratulations, @narendramodi on the historic victory by the NDA for the third consecutive term," he wrote in a post on X.



In INDIA Bloc's Meeting, Kharge Sends Feelers To NDA Parties

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge Wednesday stated that all parties who share the INDIA bloc's core values would be welcomed in the opposition grouping, is what seemed to be a subtle hint for constituents of the BJP-led NDA to jump ship to the grand-old party-led alliance.

A day after the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 results were announced in favour of the BJP-led NDA, the opposition INDIA bloc leaders gathered at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence to strategize the prospects for the coalition.

During the meeting Kharge said, "The public opinion of the 18th Lok Sabha elections is directly against Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi." He added that the elections were fought on his name and face and the public has given a clear message to his leadership by not giving the BJP a majority.

"The INDIA alliance welcomes all parties which share its fundamental commitment to the values enshrined in the Preamble to our Constitution and to its many provisions for economic, social and political justice," the Congress president said in his opening remarks at the meeting.

Kharge's remarks come amidst rampant speculations claiming that the INDIA bloc was making attempts to woo former allies Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu-currently part of the ruling NDA-- to abandon the BJP-led alliance and join the opposition grouping so that the INDIA bloc could muster enough number to dislodge the BJP and form a coalition government at the Centre.

Addressing the opposition leaders who converged at his residence, Kharge said all INDIA alliance partners fought well, unitedly and resolutely. Thanking the INDIA bloc partners, he said, "I welcome all INDIA alliance partners. We fought well, fought unitedly, and resolutely."

Despite the BJP securing 240 seats and the Congress becoming the second largest party with 99 seats, the NDA commands a majority with 293 seats and is currently conducting a separate meeting to discuss forming the government. The opposition alliance, holding 234 seats, is expected to discuss the

Lok Sabha election outcomes and the potential inclusion of the Janata Dal (United) and Telugu Desam Party to gather the necessary support for government formation.

Key figures from the Congress party, such as Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were present at the meeting. Opposition leaders like Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, T R Baalu of the DMK, Jharkhand Chief Minister Soren of the JMM, Sharad Pawar, Supriya Sule of the NCP-SP, Akhilesh Yadav, Ram Gopal Yadav of the SP, Abhishek Banerjee of the TMC, Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD, Sanjay Raut, Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena-UBT, Omar Abdullah of the JKNC, Sitaram Yechury of the CPI-M, D Raja of the CPI, Sanjay Singh, Raghav Chadha of the AAP, and N K Premchandran of the RSP were also in attendance.

On Tuesday, the Lok Sabha elections results threw a major curveball with the BJP falling well short of the majority mark, bagging 240 seats, and unlike 2019, must now rely on its NDA allies to form the government.

What PM Modi's Third Term Means For The World: Foreign Media

Agencies

New Delhi: India has played an increasingly larger part on the global diplomatic stage under Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- but his third term will see him look to take a starring role.

PM Modi portrays his country as a leader of the Global South, with himself a chief spokesman for the loose grouping, and another five years in office gives him greater longevity and seniority among the world's most powerful, despite his reduced parliamentary majority.

The 73-year-old is pressing for the world's most populous nation and fastest-growing major economy to have a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

"Modi will be one of the most senior leaders on the global circuit and that too with three election victories under his belt," said Harsh V Pant, professor of international relations at King's College London.

"He has set out major ambitions for himself and India and it's unlikely that he would compromise on his legacy."

Analysts say that India has interests rather than allies and PM Modi has been courted by the United States and European nations as a counterweight to China.

He uses India's growing global footprint to bolster his own domestic standing, and at the same time used India's holding of the G20 presidency last year to burnish his image abroad.

Now he hopes to build on hosting the 2023 Cricket World Cup by bidding for the 2036 Summer Olympics.

Here is how a third term for Modi could build on a decade of his diplomatic ambitions.

United States and Europe

India is part of the Quad grouping with the United States, Japan and Australia that positions itself against China's growing assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region.

President Joe Biden hosted PM Modi for a state dinner last year and has called Washington's ties with New Delhi the "defining partnership of the 21st century".

In February, Washington approved a \$4 billion sale of state-of-the-art drones to India, the latest bolster to India's defence in a counterbal-

ance to its northern neighbour.

And the US Justice Department last year charged an Indian citizen with allegedly plotting an assassination attempt in New York approved by India's intelligence agency.

India also has growing ties with European countries, and hopes to expand multi-billion-dollar defence deals with France including the sale of Rafale fighter jets and Scorpene-class submarines.

China

Beijing and New Delhi are both members - alongside Moscow and others -- of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization forum.

But relations between the world's two most populous countries slumped in 2020 after their troops fought a deadly high-altitude skirmish along their 3,500-kilometre (2,200-mile) frontier.

Tens of thousands of troops from the nuclear-armed Asian giants continue to eyeball each other and territorial claims fester, but despite their rivalry China is India's second-largest trade partner.

Jayant Prasad, a senior former ambassador, said he expected "adversarial relations" to endure.

15 Out Of 78 Muslim Candidates, Including Trinamool's Yusuf Pathan, Win In LS Polls

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: At least 15 Muslim candidates have won Lok Sabha seats across the country, including the TMC nominee and former India cricketer Yusuf Pathan who secured a comfortable victory over Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in the Congress veteran's Baharampur bastion.

A total of 78 Muslims were in the fray in the Lok Sabha elections this year, a significant drop from the last polls when 115 Muslim candidates were fielded by various parties.

Congress candidate Imran Masood from Saharanpur won by a margin of 64,542 votes while Iqra Choudhary, a 29-year-old Samajwadi Party candidate from Kairana, secured victory over BJP Pradeep Kumar by 69,116 votes.

Afzal Ansari, the incumbent MP from Ghazipur, won the seat by bagging 5.3 lakh votes while AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi retained his Hyderabad seat by a margin of 3,38,087 votes over his nearest rival BJP's Madhavi Latha Kompella.

In Ladakh, Independent candidate Mohammad Haneefa secured a victory by a margin of 27,862 votes while another Independent candidate Abdul Rashid Sheikh won Jammu

A total of 78 Muslims were in the fray in the Lok Sabha elections this year, a significant drop from the last polls when 115 Muslim candidates were fielded by various parties.

and Kashmir's Baramulla seat by bagging 4.7 lakh votes.

In Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party's Mohibullah won the Rampur seat by securing 4,81,503 votes, while Zia Ur Rehman won in Sambhal by a margin of 1.2 lakh votes.

Mian Altaf Ahmad of the National Conference won in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag-Rajouri seat by 2,81,794 votes against former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti. In Srinagar NC candidate Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi secured 3,56,866 votes.

In West Bengal's Baharampur seat, first-time contender Yusuf Pathan beat Congress' leader in the Lok Sabha and six-time MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury by 85,022 votes.

"It's Clear There Wasn't Any Muslim Vote Bank": Owaisi

Agencies

Hyderabad: Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM chief and candidate from Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat, expressed his openness to supporting a prime ministerial candidate other than Narendra Modi.

Mr Owaisi said to ANI, "I cannot talk about ifs, buts, and possibilities. I had said during the elections that if there is a chance that someone else can become the PM instead of Modi, then we will support them."

Reflecting on the 2024 election results, Mr Owaisi said that the BJP should not even get this many seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha.

"The atmosphere that was there in the country, according to that the BJP should not have got even these number of seats. If we had done the right work they would have just got 150 seats. We could have stopped the BJP from forming the government and even the public wanted this, but were unsuccessful. But, at least we cannot be blamed," said Mr Owaisi.

"One thing is clear there wasn't any Muslim vote bank in the country and there never will be," he added.

Addressing the BJP's performance in Uttar Pradesh where, Mr Owaisi said, "They thought they were invisible in UP but no one is invincible. Will PM Modi run the government with the help of crutches?"

According to the ECI trend and result in Uttar Pradesh, SP won 37 Parliamentary Constituencies, the BJP has won 33 constituencies while the Congress has won 6 seats.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi won the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency by a margin of 3,38,087 votes.

Mr Owaisi got 6,61,981 votes, defeating BJP's Madhavi Latha who received 3,23,894 votes.

During a press conference, Mr Owaisi expressed gratitude to the people for granting a "historic success" to his party. "I would like to thank the people as they have given success to Majlis for the fifth time. I would like to thank the people of Hyderabad, especially the youth, women, and first-time voters who have given a historic success to the AIMIM party," Mr Owaisi said.

This was the first time that the BJP had fielded a female candidate from the Hyderabad constituency.

In Telangana's 17 Lok Sabha seats, the BJP has secured three seats and is leading in five. Congress has clinched two seats and is currently leading in six.

According to the latest trends from the Election Commission, NDA has won 295 seats and the INDIA bloc has won 230 seats.

The Congress, which secured only 52 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, has won 99 seats.



Akhilesh Yadav, 4 Of His Family Members Win In UP

New Delhi: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav along with four other members of his family won their respective constituencies in the Lok Sabha polls as the party established itself as the largest one in Uttar Pradesh by winning 37 seats.

Akhilesh Yadav defeated his rival Subrat Pathak of the BJP by a margin of 1,70,922 votes while his wife Dimple Yadav secured a comfortable victory over her nearest rival BJP's Jayveer Singh with a margin of 2,21,639 in Mainpuri.

BSP candidate in Mainpuri Shiv Prasad Yadav bagged 66,814 votes and stood third.

The SP chief's three cousins - Akshay Yadav, Dharmendra Yadav and Aditya Yadav -- won

in Firozabad, Aazamgarh and Badaun, respectively.

In Azamgarh, Dharmendra Yadav defeated his nearest rival Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua of the BJP by a margin of 1,61,035 votes. While Dharmendra Yadav polled 5,08,239 votes, Nirahua got 3,47,204 and BSP candidate Mohammad Sabeeha Ansari got 1,79,839 votes.

In Firozabad, Akshay Yadav polled 5,43,037 votes, while his opponent BJP's Vishwadeep Singh got 4,53,725 votes.

Akhilesh Yadav's uncle and SP leader Shivpal Yadav's son Aditya Yadav got 5,01,855 votes in Badaun, defeating BJP's Durvijay Singh Shakya by a margin of 34,991 votes.

The party had initially given ticket to Shivpal Yadav for this seat but later fielded his son Aditya.

Supriya Sule Defeats Sister-In-Law In Baramati Prestige Battle

Pune: Overcoming the challenge posed by her estranged cousin, NCP (SP) candidate Supriya Sule on Tuesday retained her Baramati Lok Sabha seat by more than 1.55 lakh votes.

Ms Sule triumphed over her sister-in-law Sunetra Pawar, wife of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and a political debutante, in the battle that had become the most high-profile contest in Maharashtra.

Ms Sule polled 7,32,312 votes while Sunetra Pawar garnered 5,73,979 votes.

Ajit Pawar, Ms Sule's cousin who rebelled against her father Sharad Pawar last



year and split the party, is known to enjoy a lot of support in the family bastion of Baramati, and hence, many political observers felt that Ms Sule would find it difficult to win the fourth consecutive term.

For Ajit Pawar, his wife's defeat would be a major setback.

His son Parth Pawar had lost as the candidate of the undivided NCP from the Maval constituency in the 2019 general elections.

The high-octane contest in Baramati this time saw members of the Pawar family trading barbs.

Both factions did not leave any stone unturned as Sharad Pawar himself reached out to voters, while Ajit Pawar held numerous public meetings.

Ms Sule led in almost all assembly segments, namely, Baramati, Indapur, Daund, Bhor and Purandar.

NCP (SP) workers started celebration much before the result was officially announced.

All Transgender Candidates Lose Security Deposits In LS Polls

New Delhi: All three transgender candidates who contested the Lok Sabha elections have lost their security deposits, highlighting the challenges faced by the community in gaining political representation in the country.

India is yet to see a transgender person elected to the Lok Sabha. All the three transgender candidates contested as independents.

Sunaina Kinnar, who contested from Dhanbad, received 3,462 votes. Rajan Singh, a candidate from South Delhi, garnered 325 votes. Durga Mausi, who stood for election from Damoh (Madhya Pradesh), secured 1,124 votes.

Despite their efforts, none of the candidates came even close to winning, and all failed to retain their security deposits.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Govt. lauds people for supporting environment friendly initiatives

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Forests, Ecology & Environment, Dheeraj Gupta, on Wednesday chaired the celebration of World Environment Day held here at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

Being jointly organized by the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing and Amar Singh College Srinagar, the event was aimed to raise awareness on importance of environment protection with the theme "Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience" which highlights the increasing impacts of water stress and land degradation across the world.

Dheeraj Gupta appreciated the Forest department and its sister wings for organising the event in coordination with other departments and educational institutes. He complimented



ed the Forest Department for achieving higher targets under various deliverables assigned by the government in addition to plantation of 180 lakh saplings in 2023-24 under Green JK Drive involving Panchayati Raj Institutions and other stakeholders. He applauded

the role of people of Jammu & Kashmir in supporting the Forest Department in the greening campaigns and other initiatives.

The Financial Commissioner inspected various paintings and participated in the ceremonial plantation program at the Amar

Sigh College Campus along with other senior officers.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Roshan Jaggi, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the challenges being faced in managing and conserving natural resources. He reiterated that World En-

vironment Day provides us an opportunity to seriously think about the environment we live in besides pondering over the fact that what we would be leaving for our future generations. He stressed on sustainable use of water resources and creation of water harvesting structures especially in areas facing water scarcity during the summer season. He called upon every stakeholder to take steps and partner on the efforts to protect and conserve our lakes, wetlands and streams.

He informed that plantation drives, green marches, cycle rallies, plastic cleanliness drives, interaction with tourists, cleaning of water bodies, sanitation actions, debates and painting competitions have been organized on the day to spread awareness about the need and importance of protecting our environment.

GDA Leads World Environment Day Celebrations



KO NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: The Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), in collaboration with various stakeholders including the Indian Army, Hotelier Club Gulmarg, IISM Gulmarg, Allied Departments, Service Providers, and local students marked 'World Environment Day' with a series of impactful activities aimed at preserving the natural beauty of Gulmarg.

The highlight of the celebration was a mega cleanliness drive that commenced at the Main Market of Gulmarg and extended to the Children's Park. Over 300 volunteers, comprising students, service providers, officers/officials of civil, police, Army, and local organizations, participated with enthusiasm, demonstrating their commitment to maintaining Gulmarg's ecological balance.

Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority, Waseem Raja

spearheaded the cleanliness drive and emphasized the importance of community involvement in environmental preservation. He urged tourists, hoteliers, and service providers to join hands in making Gulmarg completely polythene and plastic-free, emphasizing the collective responsibility we all share in safeguarding the environment.

Continuing the momentum, the celebrations will extend to June 6 with a Cyclothon and the Gulmarg Green Conclave at the Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM). These events aim to promote eco-friendly practices and raise awareness about environmental issues among participants.

The Gulmarg Green Conclave will feature discourse and presentations on topics such as sustainable tourism, waste management, and conservation strategies, offering valuable insights and solutions to address environmental challenges.

AIP Dismisses Coalition Rumours, Says Focus On Party Chief's Release

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jailed Er Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), which secured a huge win in the recently announced results of the Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, on Wednesday dismissed rumours about forming a coalition with other political entities, saying its priority is to secure the release of their leader.

Speaking with the news agency, Firdous Baba, the party chief spokesperson said any decision regarding alliances will be made solely by the party supremo, Er Rashid. He said they are going to seek legal assistance and are planning to take action by tomorrow (Thursday). "Our priority is to secure Er Rashid's release. Being party chief, it is going to be his own decision regarding any alliance," he said.

Notably, the clarification comes following coalition rumours on various social media platforms quoting Abrar Rashid, Er Rashid's son — the star campaigner.

"It's not in my domain to talk about this political question of any alliance," Abrar said, adding that he has no role to play in it and the party, especially its chief can better answer regarding any alliance.

Abrar, who recently spearheaded the election campaign for his incarcerated father has vowed to lead the party until his father's release from prison.

Earlier speaking to the media persons, Abrar expressed his commitment to the party and the people, saying he would be available for people till his father is released from jail.

He said he had not intended to enter active politics, but his father's imprisonment compelled him to step into the political arena.

"Since my father is in jail, I will continue to drive the party and be a part of politics for the time being," he added.

Abrar acknowledged the role of senior party members who have been associated with it for over a decade.

Notably, Baramulla, one of the most significant constituencies in the Kashmir Valley, witnessed a major political upheaval in the recently concluded



ed Lok Sabha elections, garnering widespread attention.

The election results, announced on Tuesday, brought a surprising outcome as jailed leader Er Rashid defeated former chief minister Omar Abdullah and Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone by a substantial margin of over two lakh votes.

Omar Abdullah, conceding the defeat, commented on X (formerly Twitter), "I think it's time to accept the inevitable. Congratulations to Engineer Rashid for his victory in North Kashmir. I don't believe his victory will hasten his release from prison nor will the people of North Kashmir get the representation they have a right to but the voters have spoken and in a democracy that's all that matters."

Engineer Rashid, who has previously won the Langate assembly segment in 2008 and 2014, and unsuccessfully contested the 2019 parliamentary elections, leads the Awami Ittehad Party but contested these elections as an Independent. He founded the AIP in 2013.

He remains the only political leader from Kashmir jailed for over five years following the revocation of the semi-autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir. Imprisoned in 2019 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act by the National Investigation Agency.

His sons, Abrar and Asrar Rashid, campaigned vigorously for him ahead of the fifth phase of polling on May 20, urging voters to avenge their father's arrest with their votes, encapsulating their appeal with the slogan, "jail ka badla vote se"—(KNO)

CS Takes Stock Of Arrangements For 'Kheer Bhawani' Mela

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday chaired a meeting of civil administration and police department to take stock of the preparations being made for smooth conduct of annual 'Kheer Bhawani' mela to be observed on 14th of this month at Tulumulla, Ganderbal.

Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, ACS, Jal Shakti; Principal Secretary, Power, ADGP Headquarters; ADGP L&O; ADGP, Commissioner Secretary, Housing; Commissioner Secretary Tourism; Director F&ES, Secretary RDD; IGP Kashmir; Director Tourism, Kashmir; Director Health, Kashmir; Director ULB, Kashmir and representatives from JKRTC, R&B and other departments attended the meeting in person while Deputy Commissioners and SSPs along with several outstation officers participated online.

The Chief Secretary emphasised upon both the Divisional Commissioners and Relief Commissioner to work in close coordination for pleasant experience of the pilgrims expected to throng this festival.



He asked them to ensure all the arrangements of transportation, accommodation, power, water, sanitation, medical aid and security are in place.

Dulloo asked for creating adequate amenities for comfortable stay of pilgrims at the shrine and enroute. He directed the district administration to make on spot assessment of the facilities created besides identifying requirement of any additional services.

The Chief Secretary also took note of arrangement of buses for the journey of devotees besides assessing the condition of road leading to the Shrine, accommodation for night stay and provision of essential supplies to be made for smooth conduct of Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela this year. He asked

about desilting of the canal flowing through the temple complex and other cleanliness measures to be taken there.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, gave an overview of the measures taken by his administration, so far. He detailed out the kind of facilities created for transportation of pilgrims and accommodation facilities made at Central University Campus and other nearby places. He also threw light on the traffic plan, medical aid, power, water, sanitation and disaster management provisions.

Besides other departments including Police, H&UDD, RDD, Tourism, Health and Transport informed the meeting about the arrangements being made by them for smooth conduct of this festival.

AMARNATH YATRA

14000 Service Providers Register Till Date: Govt.

KO NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: Labour Commissioner, J&K, Charandeep Singh Wednesday took stock of the registration process of service providers for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2024 viz Ponywalas, Palikwalas and Dandiwalas at the special mega camp set up by the Labour Department at Sonmarg. Assistant Labour Commissioner Ganderbal and other officials of the Labour Department were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Charandeep Singh said that all the service providers for Amarnathji Yatra will be registered before 15th June and for the purpose elaborate arrangements have been put in place for facilitating the service providers to register themselves.

"In this mega camp, we have

pony, palakhi and dhandi providers. The details of these service providers have also been fetched from the shrine board portal and now we are in the process of completing their registration process.

Till date around 14000 service providers have already registered for SANJY-2024 and the process is scheduled to be completed by 15th of June" he said and added that the pony providers have to register their ponies with the animal husbandry department after undertaking the mandatory health checks of their ponies. We will also provide RFID cards to the registered Service Providers for the Yatra.

Earlier, people used to come to Naranag or Ganderbal camps to collect their cards. But this year, for the convenience of the service providers

we are sending their cards to their respective districts from where they can easily collect them without delay. Special camps for issuance of RFID cards will also be organized so that service providers do not face any difficulty and are ready to provide their services to the pilgrims well before the commencement of the Yatra.

The Labour Commissioner praised the commitment of the service providers in helping lakhs of pilgrims in performing their religious obligations without difficulties. He instructed the Labour Department officials to facilitate the service providers in every way so that the Yatra is conducted in a smooth and successful manner and pilgrims are provided all the requisite facilities during their journey.

Thank You For Keeping Flame Of Democracy Alive: Omar Abdullah To Voters

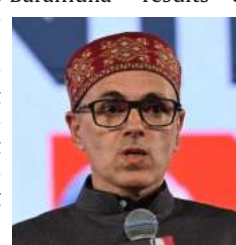
Agencies

SRINAGAR: A day after conceding defeat in the Baramulla

constituency for the Lok Sabha elections, National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah extended his heartfelt gratitude to the voters for sustaining democratic values.

Abdullah was defeated by Sheikh Abdul Rashid, a former MLA currently imprisoned in Delhi's Tihar jail under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), who won by a margin of 2,04,142 votes. Also contending was People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone.

"In all the noise & the deep



personal disappointment yesterday (and a bit of quiet satisfaction looking at the national results & @JKNC_victories

elsewhere) I overlooked thanking the voters of North Kashmir, especially the ones who voted for me, for coming out & using your vote to make your voices heard. Thank you for making the

effort to come to the polling booths & keeping the flame of democracy alive," Abdullah said in a social media post.

The National Conference succeeded in securing two seats in Kashmir, capturing Srinagar and Anantnag-Rajouri constituencies with significant margins.

Govt Must Respect People's Verdict, Release Engineer Rashid: Mehbooba

Agencies

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said Wednesday the Centre should respect the verdict of the people and release jailed politician Sheikh Abdul Rashid, alias Engineer Rashid, following his win in the Lok Sabha election in Jammu and Kashmir.

Engineer Rashid, who is in prison in a terror financing case, emerged a giant slayer in Jammu and Kashmir, defeating former J&K chief minister and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah in the Baramulla seat by a margin of over two lakh votes.

In a post on 'X', Mufti said, "Heartfelt congratulations to Mian Altaf, Aga Ruhullah, Engineer Rashid & Haneefa Jan for winning the parliament elections. Government of India must respect verdict of the people & release Engineer Rashid."

Ittija Mufti, the PDP chief's daughter, also demanded the release of Rashid, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail.

"Congratulations to Ruhullah



Mehdi, Mian Altaf sahib, Hanifa Jan & last but certainly not the least Engineer Rashid for their splendid victories. Hope they become powerful voices to articulate the pain & grievances of the people of J&K rendered

voiceless since 2019. GOI must also release Engineer Rashid immediately," she posted on X.

In another post, Ittija listed out the factors that the voters might have considered while exercising their franchise.

"Key takeaways about this election from Kashmir- 1) Jail is a powerful sentiment that resonates deeply with Kashmiris given that thousands of young Kashmiri men continue languishing in jails on trumped up charges. 2) Religious influence trumps & trounces good governance & a development agenda. 3) Kashmiris esp youngsters & women voted for & preferred individuals vis a vis parties," Ittija Mufti said.

"Safe to assume that youth here participated in the political process by exercising their right to vote. There is most certainly a yearning & churn for change," she added.

Fruit Growers Clash With Cold Storage Owners Over Exorbitant Service Charges

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Not all is well between fruit growers and Controlled Atmosphere (CA) and cold storage owners with former alleging the facility owners for charging them exorbitant rates for various services.

Fruit growers and dealers accused the owners of charging exorbitant rates for various services, including cardboard boxes, storage fees, tape charges,

and bin/crate charges.

"Exorbitant rates are charged by CA/cold store owners for cardboard boxes, which are quite inferior. In fact a good quality type of cardboard material is available in the open market, which is 30 percent cheaper than the ones sold by the CA/cold store owners," chairman Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers (KVFG) Union Bashir Ahmad Bashir told news agency.

"The CA/cold store owners do

not allow us to procure cardboard boxes and other packing material from the open market. They force us to buy from them at exorbitant rates, which is unfair and exploitative," he added.

The fruit growers and dealers also alleged that the Jammu and Kashmir Procedure and Instructions for Controlled At-



mosphere Stores (JKPICCA) owners are "engaging in arbitrary practices when it comes to storage charges for apple crops."

"The apple produce of a single party is kept in different chambers of the CA/cold store. We are compelled to store our consignments for a period of five

months at a time," Bashir said.

The KVFG claims to have held several meetings with the managing body of JKPICCA, headed by its president, seeking the execution of a fresh agreement to fix norms and uniform rates in the interest of the horticulture industry and fruit growers/dealers.

"However, despite commitments, JKPICCA has failed to respond or execute any such agreement."

The KVFG has appealed to

the government to intervene and address their grievances.

They demanded that the excessive rates of Rs. 30-40 per box collected by JKPICCA owners from valley-based fruit growers/dealers for the storage of apple crops during the 2023-24 fruit season be returned.

The union has sought the constitution of a regulatory committee comprising representatives from KVFG Union, JKPICCA, and independent ex-

perts nominated by the government to determine fair and uniform cold storage rates, ensuring transparency and preventing exploitation.

"We urge the government to ensure an open option for valley-based fruit growers/dealers to procure cardboard material and other packing charges from sources of their choice, without being forced to purchase from JKPICCA at inflated rates," Bashir said—(KNO)

KASHMIR OBSERVER™
Thursday | 06-06-2024

Rejection Of
Political Timidity

The defeat of former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, and the victory of the jailed Engineer Rashid in the parliament polls, came as contrary to expectations in Kashmir. It gave a certain hint of which way the political wind is blowing in the Valley.

Rashid's win in the Baramulla constituency is particularly telling. Despite being incarcerated under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, his victory against political stalwarts like Abdullah and the People's Conference leader Sajjad Lone speaks volumes about the electorate's discontent with their politics. Garnering nearly 470,000 votes, Rashid's victory wasn't just a political win; it was a call for genuine representation and a rejection of the political timidity that has often characterized the region's leadership.

It is true that sympathy wave played a role in Rashid's triumph but that alone doesn't explain it. Rashid, a two-time MLA from Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), has been in jail over the past five years. He was arrested by the NIA in the run up to the abrogation of Article 370 and charged under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The NIA has accused Rashid of receiving money from Pakistan to fund separatist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. He has denied the charges.

But as his victory highlights, his supporters believe he has been unjustly targeted. The abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories in August 2019 was a significant turning point. And Rashid's extended incarceration is being seen as a consequence of the rescinding of this constitutional provision. The verdict is a stark repudiation of how some politicians responded to these historic changes. Instead of robust advocacy for the people's rights and dignity, many local leaders appeared complacent, further alienating their constituencies. The people's choice shows a yearning for leaders who are unafraid to challenge the prevailing narrative and genuinely strive for their community's rights and dignity.

In Srinagar, the choice was tough, with the both leaders Ruhullah Mehdi, who won, and Waheed Parra, who was earlier jailed, equally fitting the bill. Similarly In the Anantnag constituency, while the NC candidate Mian Altaf eventually secured the win, Mufti made a notable impact throughout the race. The BJP's retention of seats in Udhampur and Jammu, despite perceived anti-incumbency, and the independent win in Ladakh by Haji Muhammad Haneefa, have more or less been along expected lines.

That said, the mandate in Kashmir is clear: people seek leaders who are not mere pawns in the larger political game but genuine advocates of their unique identity and rights.



Understanding Inflation
and Investment Strategies
for Indian Investors

Did You Know?

Irshad Mushtaq

Inflation, the gradual increase in the prices of goods and services over time, is an economic concept often misunderstood by the general public. Essentially, it means the purchasing power of currency decreases as prices rise, leading to a reduction in the value of money. In India, managing inflation is critical for preserving one's financial health.

Inflation in India: The Scenario

India experiences inflation due to various factors like supply chain issues, rising costs of raw materials, and economic policies. For Indian investors, inflation can erode the value of their savings and fixed income returns. For instance, if inflation averages 6% annually (a realistic figure considering India's past trends), the value of your 1,000 today may substantially reduce in a few years.

Why Investment is Essential to Combat Inflation

Savings accounts and fixed deposits (FDs), although secure, often offer returns below or just at par with inflation; this means your money might not grow sufficiently to maintain its purchasing power. Thus, investing becomes necessary to ensure that your wealth outpaces inflation over time.

Investment Avenues for Beating Inflation

1. **Equity Markets:** Investing in a diversified portfolio of stocks can yield higher returns. Historically, the Indian stock market has provided returns ranging from 12%-25% annually over the long term, well above the average inflation rate.

2. **Mutual Funds:** These are investment vehicles combining the benefits of diversification and professional management. Equity mutual funds, particularly, have the potential to offer inflation-beating returns.

3. **Real Estate:** Property investments in India tend to appreciate over time, often surpassing inflation rates. However, liquidity and large capital requirements are considerations.

4. **Gold:** Traditionally considered a hedge against inflation, gold can preserve value during inflationary pressures. Options include physical gold, Sovereign Gold Bonds, and Gold ETFs.

5. **Government Bonds and PPF:** These provide relatively lower returns compared to equities but offer safety and tax benefits. The Public Provident Fund (PPF), for instance, offers a moderate yet tax-efficient return.

Example Scenario:

Consider an individual with 1,00,000 in a savings account earning 3.5% interest annually when inflation is 6%. In a year, their real purchasing power diminishes. But if that money is invested in a diversified equity mutual fund earning an average of 12%, the investment grows to 1,12,000, effectively providing a solid real return after inflation.

Conclusion

Inflation is a natural part of the economic cycle, yet it demands strategic financial planning to mitigate its detrimental effects. Indian investors must carefully choose investment avenues that offer higher returns than the inflation rate. By doing so, they not only preserve but also enhance the purchasing power of their money over time. Investing wisely can indeed secure a financially strong future.

Learn from the insights of writer and investor, founder of MI Securities and Business Partner at Sharekhan! Reach out to him at Irshad@bp.sharekhan.com for valuable knowledge on financial matters



May the 4th Be
With You

KO Web Desk

The General Election 2024 which began on April 19 had concluded after seven phases on June 1. 4th of June, the D-day of election results, turned out to be a monumental moment as the BJP-led NDA was served a major dent, having lost its parliamentary majority. The BJP-led NDA bagged 294 seats in the 543-member Parliament. On the other hand, the INDIA Opposition bloc finished with 234 seats, 38 less than the majority mark.

4th of June is being seen as an unexpected turning point as it managed to wane the seamless reign of PM Modi. The result was especially surprising given the manufactured narrative of NDA's invincible might and the faith that the exit polls had shown in it. Now that tides have turned, major newspapers are trying to weigh-in on the winds of change. Here's what they're saying in their latest editorials.

Politics Returns to the Old Normal

Excerpted from
The Times of India

An election where the outcome was widely held to be a foregone conclusion, has given a result with many surprises, overturning many assumptions. None of the takeaways is brand new to Indian politics. But they were quite unexpected in 2024.

After a decade of single-party dominance, which led to successive majority verdicts in elections characterised by a pan-India theme, LS 2024 reverted to an earlier pattern. There wasn't a single overriding issue that animated the electorate. Neither did candidates fade into near-irrelevance in a presidential type of contest. In that sense, LS polls went back to being normal and should lead to the restoration of democracy's checks and balances.

For the first time since 2009, a new govt will be a coalition. Unlike the last two occasions, allies cannot be brushed aside. They will have a say in critical decisions. Managing inconsistent demands from allies will be a skill that will have to take centre stage again. Therefore, we are now unlikely to see hugely disruptive decisions introduced at short notice. But that doesn't preclude the likelihood of reforms, as coalition govts earlier have carried out significant changes.

This was a coalition that seemed to be falling apart in the months leading up to the election. Notwithstanding early setbacks, INDIA played its cards well. In UP it defied all odds. A state that was regarded as BJP's trump card turned out to be its weakness. That was the case in Maharashtra too, giving INDIA a huge boost in the two largest states. In both states, the alliance played a tactically smart game.

Voters have clearly indicated

that jobs and economic aspirations matter. India's macroeconomic parameters are sound, and its economy is growing fast. However, unless this translates into greater opportunity for a burgeoning youth population and a belief that upward mobility is within grasp, a party in govt will be in trouble. The economic message from the results is that jobs matter.

People at the centre: On the Election results 2024

Excerpted from
The Hindu

Respect for the people requires all parties to remain steadfast to their pre-poll alliances and positions. The Congress has managed to form and lead an alliance in spite of the many internal contradictions, and its leader, Rahul Gandhi, has elevated himself in the public eye as a challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Congress organisation, strategy and communication worked for it this time, while the BJP came up short on all three factors when measured against its claims. The party runs a serious key person risk, with its campaign, strategy and thinking all dependent on one person, Narendra Modi. The overwhelming charisma and style of Mr. Modi served the party well in 2014 and 2019, but the same factors were corroding the party's organisational strengths and withering

are critical to India's federalism and diversity — the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies after the publication of the first Census after 2026; and the ongoing work of the 16th Finance Commission which is scheduled to submit its report in 2025. Both these call for political wisdom, wide consultations and maturity. The verdict for a coalition government at the Centre underscores the diversity of India, and the role of States and regional political parties in its federalism. Coalitions are not a deficiency in a plural democracy, but quite the opposite. Rather than attempting inorganic and transactional coalitions, both the Congress and the BJP should nurture genuine, organic coalitions with regional parties and social groups. Enforcement of uniformity cannot be the aim of a federal polity, and the people have spoken on this issue loud and clear in 2024.

Verdict 2024 is for not just a Government but also an Opposition

Excerpted from
The Indian Express

The final numbers will not tell the full story of this election verdict. The BJP, most of all, must carefully read between its lines and beyond them, too. A decade after the Narendra Modi-led party brought back the single-party dominance system to national centre stage, having re-

“An election where the outcome was widely held to be a foregone conclusion, has given a result with many surprises, overturning many assumptions. None of the takeaways is brand new to Indian politics. But they were quite unexpected in 2024.”

its regional and local leadership. These factors, and the accumulated anti-incumbency of two terms, caught up with the BJP. Still, that it won a third term, though in alliance, is remarkable. Its ideological agenda has taken deep roots in its strongholds, enabling it to win what it has even amid clamour about inflation, unemployment and other livelihood issues. By winning a seat in Kerala, the BJP breached a fortress, and by defeating the BJD in Odisha, the party has captured the imagination of a new terrain. That said, the people did not take kindly to its strategy of portraying its return to power as an inevitable fate of Indian democracy.

The Congress strategy of making livelihood issues and equity questions the core of its campaign seemed to have worked well in its direct contests with the BJP in Karnataka and Rajasthan. Both parties that operate at the national level should learn the right lessons from this verdict. The lifeblood of Indian democracy is its diversity and the BJP has been less than respectful of that in the last 10 years. The new government will be required to deal with two particular questions that

placed Congress as its centrepiece, India is set to have coalitions on both sides of the government-Opposition divide. The people of this diverse country have spoken and they have said that they are not one but many. And that they will not be straitjacketed by the homogenising political project that imposes One Leader, One Party, One Religion.

In days to come, this verdict will be decoded and its many strands parsed by players — on all sides — in ways that are sometimes self-serving. But it seems already clear that Scoreboard 2024 punctures the concentration of power and the thinning of checks and balances that had become normalised and institutionalised in the Modi government for 10 years, with the consequent shrinking and stifling of breathing spaces for the political Opposition as well as civil society institutions. The BJP-led NDA is poised to form the government again, and a third consecutive term in power is an undoubted achievement. But it would do well to acknowledge that its mandate this time is both quantitatively and qualitatively different: It opens up room in the system for other players. And carries a warning the BJP can ill af-

ford to either ignore or downplay.

Coalition Dharma and the New BJP

Excerpted from
Hindustan Times

Narendra Modi appears set to begin his third consecutive term as Prime Minister (PM). But unlike in 2014 and 2019, the allies in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are in a position to demand their space, in fact, even force their agenda on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Thirty two seats short of a simple majority, the BJP will need to rewire its relations with allies and reformat the NDA, perhaps, along the lines it existed two decades ago. The post June 4 BJP, in office, may need to think about coalition dharma, a much-discussed phrase between 1996 and 2004, when the NDA came into being and Atal Bihari Vajpayee headed multiple coalition governments.

As it stands, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janata Dal (United) are central to the NDA's numbers with 16 and 12 MPs, respectively. Their leaders, N Chandrababu Naidu of the TDP and Nitish Kumar of the JD(U), are experienced, shrewd and demanding politicians who are masters at manoeuvring coalitions. Accommodating their interests will be a challenge that the BJP needs to negotiate before it begins the business of governance. Pet ideological projects may have to be shelved or negotiated for the sake of coalition dharma as the BJP did in the 1990s. Consensus building will have to be the bedrock of governance even though Modi, as PM and chief minister of Gujarat, never had to negotiate the minefield of coalition politics. The BJP may also have to recalibrate its expansion plans and tailor its tactics to be on the same page with allies to let the government run smoothly. The NDA may need a seasoned politician as convenor — George Fernandes did the job for Vajpayee — to iron out wrinkles, if any become visible.

All this is important since assembly elections are due in Haryana, Jharkhand and Maharashtra later this year, and in Bihar next year. The BJP has not done well in these states, and it has a mess in Maharashtra to sort out, where the Congress, given up for dead not too long ago, won more seats (13) than the BJP (11). The losses in Maharashtra, where the BJP is in office, have as much to do with drought and farm distress as with poor coalition management. Rising unemployment and food inflation are pan-Indian phenomena, which can singe the NDA in general, and the BJP in particular. Much depends on how the BJP leadership interprets the results and what change of course the party will take up to reconcile with the electoral losses.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

1G TO 5G The Evolution of Wireless Technology

Mohammad Hanief

Technology is at its greatest when it can connect not only humans but also machines and sensors. 5G is among the most advanced technologies that would transform communication between humans, machines, and sensors to realize a connected, smarter, and a safer world.

The rapid evolution of technology has transformed our lives by enabling instant communication and interaction, easy access to information, and enabling a better quality of life. The transition to 5G redefines services by implementing SBA (services-based architecture), AI/ML, and software-defined networks, which would enable economic growth through use cases like Virtual/Augmented reality, machine communications, telemedicine, smart manufacturing, smart utilities, and smart cities.

The impact of 4G vs 5G will be felt in all industries that use the internet, especially in healthcare, agriculture and logistics, which were underserved due to the low speeds of the previous generations of cellular connections and expand the range of use cases of 5G.

Over the past four years, telecommunications companies have gained a much stronger grasp on 5G technology and the logistical challenges it presents. Their 5G expertise has grown, and there is a better understanding of 5G's value proposition within the telecommunications market.

Now, the challenges shift from understanding and developing the technology to deploying it and communicating that value to customers. Emergent technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial intelligence (AI), Computer vision, drone/anti-drone technology, robotics, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality, parallel reality, and quantum computing are revolutionizing different industries.

The arrival of 5G unlocked the positive impact of these technologies, thereby facilitating remote surveillance in homeland security & defense, remote healthcare, precision agriculture, safer transportation, and digitized logistics.

In the past few decades, mobile com-



munication has witnessed remarkable advancements, transforming the way we connect, communicate, and access information. From the early days of brick-sized mobile phones with limited capabilities to today's sleek smartphones with lightning-fast data speeds, the journey of mobile networks has been nothing short of astonishing.

1G – first generation technology was introduced in the 1980s and was the standard used for analogue telecommunication. 2G – second generation was successor to the 1G technology, it introduced digital telecommunication in the 1990s over cellular networks. 3G – third generation was introduced in 2000, marked the advent of the internet on mobile devices as it offered improved data speeds.

4G – fourth generation saw the rise of even faster mobile data communication with 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE). The next decade saw the rise of even faster mobile data communication with 4G Long Term Evolu-

tion (LTE).

The arrival of a new technology, 5G – the latest in a line of cellular network technologies. Each generation shift has ushered in a significant change in the nature of service, technology, transfer speeds and usage. With the evolution to 5G, this trend continues by providing much more reliable and faster connectivity, offering customers and businesses a superior user experience.

Communication networks have come a long way since the introduction of first-generation mobile networks in the 1980s. Since then, additional services and higher throughputs have constantly been driving newer generations of mobile networks through GPRS/EDGE, HSPA/HSPA+, LTE/LTE-A Pro, and now the fifth generation network that is commonly referred to as 5G or New Radio (NR). It is essential to note that intelligent devices – smartphones, wearables, and sensors – complement this evolution in order to

realize the full potential of the given services.

5G, in particular, is seen to catalyze the shift from trivial voice and data services towards advanced time-sensitive and mission-critical services like V2X, IIoT, IoMT, robotics, gaming, and AR/VR. This sets an ideal platform for 6G technology and beyond to enable AI native and futuristic use-cases that will evolve in the current decade.

5G, i.e., fifth-generation mobility networking architecture has the potential to revolutionise how we live, what we do, how we communicate, and how society & the industry operates. In 5G, an ecosystem is being built that will connect virtually everyone and everything, including machines, objects, and devices.

5G bridges the digital barrier by providing not only high-speed connectivity but also higher reliability, higher network capacity, and low latency. Technology has always been a solution to the industry's problem and is hence

influential in the growth of the industries.

The foundations for today's modern mobile networks were laid as early as the 1940s with early car phone services, but it would take some time for the technology itself to develop for personal use. We can consider the 1980s as the first real milestone in the development of the mobile networks in use today.

These early mobile networks that we would now refer to as 1G, used analogue technology and examples included AMPS (Advanced Mobile Phone System) in the United States and the NMT (Nordic Mobile Telephone) System in Europe.

1990s witnessed the emergence of 2G mobile networks, which marked a significant leap forward from the limitations of their 1G predecessors. 2G networks adopted digital transmission methods, bringing about a host of improvements that revolutionised the mobile telecommunications industry. The use of digital signals made 2G networks much more efficient allowing for a greater number of concurrent calls and users on the network. This improved capacity as well as developments in reducing the physical size and cost of mobile phones were crucial in the explosion of demand for mobile services.

The evolution of wireless technology has made it possible to move beyond traditional voice-only calls to sending text and multimedia messages, streaming music and video, and accessing the internet at increasingly faster speeds. This evolution has made wireless technology a fundamental part of our lives. As we move forward, we can expect to see even more advances in wireless technology that will continue to change the way we communicate and interact online.

Rapid evolution of Technology is impacting the lives of people by enabling faster communication, interaction, easy access to information, thus improving the quality of life. Additional services and higher throughputs have constantly been driving newer generations of mobility networks.

The author can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com

X (Twitter): @haniefmha

Where's the American Democracy is Headed?

The last week brought some rather perplexing developments from the US. The developments related to the former president Donald Trump, who became the first president of the United States, sitting or former, to be convicted as a felon

Asad Mirza

The former American president Donald Trump was convicted on all 34 counts in the 'hush money case' for falsifying business records to cover a \$130,000 payment to adult actor Stormy Daniels to buy her silence regarding an alleged affair.

Immediately after the verdict was announced, several American billionaires, including those who had distanced from Donald Trump in recent years, pledged support to him or have indirectly backed him in recent days. From Bill Ackman to Stephen Schwarzman, the American billionaires including the tech czar Elon Musk supported Trump despite his conviction.

Some of the figures that have pledged support to Trump now, had publicly rejected him in the past over his role in the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol Hill, but things have now changed and they seem to have flocked to him again.

The conviction or the baggage that Trump carries, ranging from the January 6 attack on the US Capitol to three other cases against him, has not stopped many Wall Street billionaires from coming to his support. While some have said they are disillusioned with President Joe Biden, other have said they are concerned about rising anti-semitism in the country under his presidency.

Last week, billionaire Steve Schwarzman, the Co-founder and CEO of Blackstone, said he will support Trump and will donate to him. Blackstone is an investment and real estate giant with a market cap of 144.27 billion, according to Yahoo

Finance. It has assets under management of more than \$1 trillion.

Omeed Malik, President of 1789 Capital, has also supported Trump. He is one of the leaders of a fundraiser at New York for Trump where donations of up to \$25 million were sought, as per a report.

Robert Bigelow, the owner of Bigelow Aerospace and Budget Suites of America, has also supported Trump. He has even paid Trump \$1 million for his legal fees, as per Reuters.

Billionaire Bill Ackman, the CEO of hedge fund Pershing Square, has said he will not vote for Biden and has indicated he is backing Trump. He denounced Biden as a wave of anti-Israel protests swept across the United States, which many criticised as being anti-semitic.

Jamie Dimon, the Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, has also indicated his support for Trump in recent days. Trump has also been increasingly finding support among venture capitalists in the Silicon Valley, which has long been a bastion of Democrats, according to The New York Times.

Prominent among the Silicon Valley supporters was Tesla and SpaceX boss Elon Musk, who has said he will support a candidate in the 2024 US presidential election. The Wall Street Journal has reported that he has become close with Trump in recent months and is holding multiple private telephonic conversations with him in a month.

Musk, a known supporter of Trump, believes the conviction was driven by political agendas rather than a genuine pursuit of justice. This sentiment echoes the reactions



of many Trump supporters who view the charges related to hush money payments as a minor offence blown out of proportion.

Why this sudden support for Trump?

This apparent shift of loyalty also makes us wonder to the basic logic of the decision made by these billionaires. And as usual when you start removing layers then the ultimate answer found at the base or rationale for every so-what illogical move is: Money. Trump has promised to cut taxes for the wealthy and eliminate regulations. President Joe Biden

wants the opposite.

While some billionaires have cited disillusionment with Biden's policies and the rising anti-semitism in the country as reasons for ditching him to support Trump, commentators have said the major reason is Trump's proposed tax cuts.

Some of these business leaders have harshly criticised Trump in recent years. Following the January 6 attack on the US Capitol, JPMorgan Chase boss Dimon had said that he "strongly condemn the violence in our nation's capital" and "our elected leaders have a responsibility to call for an end to the violence" and accept

the election results. Blackstone boss Schwarzman called it "an affront to the democratic values we hold dear as Americans" and later said he would not back Trump.

Now, however, Schwarzman has said the US under Biden was heading in the 'wrong direction'. He further said that the 'dramatic rise of anti-semitism' made him to support Trump.

Writing in *The New Republic*, Timothy Noah highlighted that the issue of anti-semitism does not entirely address the support for Trump, as he has been associated with the movement for years. Whitney Tilson, who previously ran hedge fund Kase Capi-

tal Management, told Bloomberg that business leaders were supporting Trump out of self-interest.

Meanwhile, in a rather bizarre and related development as the Trump's hush-money trial inched towards conclusion, the former US president compared himself to saint Mother Teresa further calling the charges 'rigged'. "Mother Teresa could not beat these charges. The charges are rigged. The whole thing is rigged," he said. The comments came in as he was leaving the court after the trial ended.

This sentiment brings us back home where we have our own god man, claiming he thinks that he was not biologically born. In fact, it proves the old dictum that religion continues to be the last refuge of scoundrels in power because it provides some sort of legitimacy and a cover against criticism by their opponents and world powers. It further confirms the view that political elites co-opt religion for their political gain.

However, despite the conviction, Trump, currently campaigning for reelection in 2024, remains eligible to both run for and be elected President. Trump himself has dismissed the verdict, asserting that the American people in the upcoming presidential election will deliver the true judgement. Most surveys so far have shown that Trump may win the US presidential election.

The whole episode and the connected developments, makes us wonder whether the American democracy is headed?

Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator

Investors Become Richer By Rs 13.22 Lakh Cr As Markets Bounce Back After Rout



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A day after facing massive erosion from their wealth, equity investors became richer by Rs 13.22 lakh crore on Wednesday with markets making a strong comeback.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 2,303.19 points, or 3.20 per cent, to settle at 74,382.24. During the day, it rallied 2,455.77 points, or 3.40 per cent, to 74,534.82.

In line with optimism returning at the Dalal Street, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped Rs 13,22,847.05 crore to Rs 4,08,06,552.32 crore (USD 4.89 trillion) on Wednesday.

"Indian market exhibited a spirited recovery driven by broad based buying across various sectors, as political stability appears assured. However, attention will remain on the formation of the government and the forthcoming RBI policy meeting," said Vinod Nair,

Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

All the 30 Sensex companies ended in the green, with IndusInd Bank jumping nearly 8 per cent. Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Hindustan Unilever, and JSW Steel also emerged big gainers.

Tuesday's big laggards NTPC, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro and Power Grid also ended in the green.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 4.41 per cent and smallcap index rallied 2.93 per cent.

All the indices ended in the green, with telecommunication soaring 6.01 per cent, services jumping 5.74 per cent, metal (5.36 per cent), auto (4.50 per cent), commodities (4.48 per cent), and consumer discretionary (4.29 per cent).

As many as 2,597 stocks advanced while 1,221 declined and 100 remained unchanged.

Majority Of Adani Group Stocks Bounce Back Day After Rout; Adani Green Zooms 11%

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Shares of nine of the 10 listed Adani Group companies ended with gains on Wednesday, a day after suffering heavy beating, amid value-buying at lower levels and recovery in the equity market.

At the close of trade, shares of Adani Green Energy zoomed 11.01 per cent, Adani Ports rallied 8.59 per cent, Ambuja Cements climbed 7.47 per cent and group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises jumped 6.02 per cent on the BSE.

The stock of ACC surged 5.20 per cent, NDTV soared 3.26 per cent, Adani Total Gas climbed 2.67 per cent, Adani Wilmar advanced 0.77 per cent and Adani Power went up by 0.32 per cent.

In intra-day trade, shares of Adani Green jumped 12.24 per cent, Adani Ports zoomed 9.62 per cent, Ambuja Cements (7.95 per cent), Adani Power (7.54 per cent), Adani Enterprises (7.22 per cent), Adani Total (6.40 per cent), ACC (6.17 per cent), NDTV (5.82 per cent) and Adani Wilmar (2.23 per cent).

However, the stock of Adani Energy Solutions declined 2.58 per cent.

The combined market valuation of the nine Adani Group companies stood at Rs 15,57,765.43 crore at the close of trade on Wednesday.

Bouncing back from Tuesday's debacle, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 2,303.19 points or 3.20 per cent to settle at 74,382.24 on value buying. During the day, it zoomed 2,455.77 points or 3.40 per cent to 74,534.82.

Though the BJP could not



get a majority in the Lok Sabha polls, the party-led alliance secured 293 seats out of 543. The majority mark in the lower house is 272.

Shares of all Adani Group companies tumbled on Tuesday, with many firms hitting their lower circuit limits, on below-expectation poll results.

The combined market valuation of all the 10 listed firms eroded by Rs 3.64 lakh crore, tracking sharp declines in the group companies.

In intra-day trade on Tuesday, Adani Enterprises plunged 25 per cent to hit the lower circuit limit.

Adani Ports had dived 25 per cent to its lower circuit limit and Ambuja Cements crashed 22.5 per cent to hit the lowest trading permissible limit for the day.

The 30-share BSE benchmark cracked 4,389.73 points or 5.74 per cent to settle at 72,079.05 on Tuesday. During the day, the benchmark tanked 6,234.35 points or 8.15 per cent to hit a nearly five-month low of 70,234.43.

Shares of all Adani Group companies rallied sharply on Monday, with Adani Power surging nearly 16 per cent, in line with a massive surge in the equity market, taking the combined market valuation of the ten listed firms to Rs 19.42 lakh crore.

Modi 3.0 Moody's Expects Policy Continuity But Delays In Far-Reaching Reforms

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) slim majority in Lok Sabha may delay more far-reaching economic and fiscal reforms that could impede progress on fiscal consolidation, Moody's Ratings said on Wednesday.

NDA securing a majority in the general elections will give a historic third term for Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of India.

"We expect policy continuity, especially with regards to budgetary emphasis on infrastructure spending and boosting domestic manufacturing, to support robust economic growth."

"However, the NDA's relatively slim margin of victory, as well as the BJP's loss of its outright majority in parliament, may delay more far-reaching economic and fiscal reforms that could impede progress on fiscal consolidation," Moody's said in a note.

India's fiscal outcomes will remain weaker than Baarated peers, even as the final budget for the fiscal year ending March 2025 (fiscal 2024-25) to be released in the next few weeks provides some indications of India's fiscal policy over the course of the term of the incoming government through 2029, it said.

In fiscal 2023-24, India's real GDP accelerated to 8.2 per cent from 7.0 per cent in the previous year, driven by gains in gross fixed capital formation as the government's infrastructure programme gained further traction even as private consumption remained subdued.

"Our assessment of India's economic strength incorporates real GDP growth of around 7 per cent over the three-year period between



"WE EXPECT POLICY CONTINUITY, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARDS TO BUDGETARY EMPHASIS ON INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING AND BOOSTING DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING, TO SUPPORT ROBUST ECONOMIC GROWTH."

fiscal 2023-24 through 2025-26, while factoring potential upside over the medium-term resulting from improvements in productivity and potential growth on the back of traction on infrastructure development and digitalization," Moody's said.

The rating agency said although it projects India to grow faster than all other economies in the G20 through fiscal 2025-26, near-term economic momentum masks structural weaknesses that pose risks to long-term potential growth.

"High levels of youth unemployment across all sectors and weakness in productivity growth in the

sovereign's large agriculture sector continue to constrain its growth potential," it said. "While we expect the incoming government to carry over its focus on fiscal consolidation, material improvements in its debt ratios and interest servicing have yet to materialize." Since reaching a trough in fiscal 2020-21, the central government's deficit is likely to have narrowed for three consecutive years; if the planned deficit of around 5 per cent of GDP announced in the interim budget for fiscal 2024-25 is achieved, it would place the government's goal of achieving a 4.5 per cent of GDP deficit by fiscal 2025-26 within reach.

"However, the pace of India's fiscal consolidation post-pandemic has not outperformed other emerging markets in Asia-Pacific, and its fiscal and debt metrics remain weaker than Indonesia (Baa2 stable), the Philippines (Baa2 stable) and Thailand (Baa1 stable), as well as other Baa-rated peers globally."

"In addition, India's fiscal metrics, whether aggregated at a central government or general government level, would remain worse than before the pandemic, when India's rating was higher at Baa2," it added.

NSE Sets World Record; Handles 1,971 Crore Transaction In Single Day

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Wednesday created a world record with processing 1,971 crore transactions in a single day, its MD and CEO Ashish-kumar Chauhan said.

"@nseindia handled the highest ever – world record – number of transactions in a single day today on June 5, 2024, in a 6 hours and 15 minutes (915 am to 330 pm) single trading day – 1,971 crore (19.71 billion) orders per day. 28.55 crore (280.55 million) trades per day," Chauhan said on X platform (formerly Twitter).

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty made a strong comeback on Wednesday, surging over 3 per cent each after facing heavy drubbing in the previous trade on below-expectation Lok Sabha



poll results.

Bouncing back from Tuesday's debacle, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 2,303.19 points or 3.20 per cent to settle at 74,382.24 on value buying in banking, auto and oil shares.

The NSE Nifty climbed 735.85 points or 3.36 per cent to 22,620.35. While the NDA is comfortably above

the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha, the BJP has fallen short of the magic number for the first time since 2014 and is critically dependent on its allies for government formation. The Election Commission has declared results for all 543 Lok Sabha constituencies, with the BJP winning 240 seats and the Congress 99.



Domestic Air Traffic Likely To Touch 164 Mn In FY25

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's domestic air traffic is expected to rise 6 to 8 per cent to 161 to 164 million in the current financial year, according to a report.

Aviation advisory firm CAPA India in a report on Wednesday said international air traffic is projected to jump 9-11 per cent to 75 to 78 million in the fiscal ending March 2025.

The domestic carriers are projected to report consolidated losses in the range of USD 0.4 to 0.6 billion this financial year. The losses are estimated at USD 1.3 to 1.5 billion, excluding IndiGo, which is profitable.

One of the reasons for the losses would be on account of capacity shortage due to the grounding of aircraft.

At present, around 130 planes are grounded due to various reasons, and the number would be about 180, including the aircraft of Go First, it said. Go First stopped flying last year.

In terms of the total fleet, CAPA India said net inductions are expected to be 84, taking the total number of planes with domestic carriers to 812 at the end of March 2025.

Last fiscal, the fleet count stood at 728.

"Over 1,700 aircraft are on order as of February 2024. The current Indian order book is more than twice the size of the number of aircraft in service. This is by far the highest ratio in the world, reflecting the optimism about future growth," it said.

Air India In 'Good Position'; To Retrofit Over 100 Planes: CEO



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Air India will be retrofitting more than 100 planes, including 40 wide-body planes, and has ordered around 25,000 aircraft seats as part of revamping the fleet, its chief Campbell Wilson said on Wednesday.

Emphasising that "plenty of things" are going on as part of the transformation at Air India, Wilson said the focus is on integration, growth, optimisation and customer experience.

As part of Tata Group consolidating its aviation business AIX Connect, formerly AirAsia India, is getting merged with Air India Express and Vistara with Air India.

There is "immense flexibility" for the group whether it is full or low-cost services, and we are in a good position", the Air India CEO and MD said.

According to him, Air India will be retrofitting more than 100 aircraft and has also or-

dered around 25,000 seats as part of retrofitting the planes.

The retrofitted and new aircraft will be used mainly on busiest routes like San Francisco, New York, Frankfurt and Dubai.

About costs for the airline industry, Wilson said airfares have been underperforming overall inflation.

Air India has embarked on a five-year transformation plan, with Wilson saying there are "plenty of things" going on.

The new Air India is not the old Air India, and "we will be dancing when we are ready to dance", Wilson said while talking about changes and possible partnerships.

On bilateral rights, the Air India chief said there should be a pragmatic approach.

In the context of giving more bilateral flying rights, he said, "If the rug is pulled from under us, if we can't fill the aircraft, we will not take them".

He was referring to taking wide-body aircraft.

Three In Four Indian B2B Marketing Leaders using GenAI: Report

IANIS

NEW DELHI: Three in four Indian B2B (business-to-business) marketing leaders are already using generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) applications in their marketing activities, as it helped accelerate content creation (43 per cent), create cost efficiencies (39 per cent), improve productivity (38 per cent), a new report showed on Wednesday.

According to the professional networking platform LinkedIn, there has been a 142 times increase in LinkedIn members globally adding AI literacy skills to their profiles, with marketers topping this list.

AI is the fastest-growing digital skill for CMOs (Chief Marketing Officer) globally, based on the skills CMOs have added to their LinkedIn profiles in the past year.

"A competitive B2B landscape and growing buyer influence has made



it even more crucial for marketers to target bigger groups. That's why building collective confidence is essential and will help with brand recognition and sustained engagement," said Sachin Sharma, Director, LinkedIn Marketing Solutions, India.

The report surveyed over 2,000 B2B marketing leaders from across the globe.

In addition, the report found that while 76 per cent of B2B CMOs in India have struggled to reach buyers due to competing demands, the majority (94 per cent) agreed that relationship building is key to success.

Gold Slips Rs 80; Silver Plunges Rs 1,200 Amid Weak Global Cues

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices slipped Rs 80 to Rs 72,820 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday in line with weak trends globally, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 72,900 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices also plunged Rs 1,200 to Rs 91,900 per kg. In the previous session, it had settled at Rs 93,100 per kg.

In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,332 per ounce, down USD 3 from the previous close.

"Gold prices dropped due to a firm US dollar and technical selling pressure, even though there were indications of a weakening US labour market."

"This has further strengthened

the expectations that the US Federal Reserve will lower interest rates soon," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In addition, silver also dropped to USD 29.75 per ounce.

Moving forward, traders will focus on macroeconomic data, including ADP non-farm employment and ISM non-manufacturing PMI data, which will be released later on Wednesday, Gandhi added.

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, nonfarm payroll and unemployment data are also due later this week. "...the primary focus remains on the US Federal Reserve's policy decision on June 12th which will further provide more direction on the bullion prices," Trivedi said.

Sebi Mulls Raising Threshold For Basic Service Demat Account To Rs 10 Lakh

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday proposed to enhance the threshold for the basic service demat account (BSDA) to Rs 10 lakh from the current Rs 2 lakh in a bid to boost the participation of retail investors in the securities market.

A basic service demat account, or BSDA, is a more basic version of a regular demat account. The facility was introduced by Sebi in 2012 for reducing the burden of demat charges on investors with small portfolios.

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At present, an individual can hold debt securities worth up to Rs 2 lakh and



other than debt securities worth up to Rs 2 lakh in a single demat account to be eligible for BSDA.

In order to further boost participation in the securities market and to facilitate ease of doing investments, the facility of BSDA has been comprehensively reviewed, Sebi said in its consultation paper.

The regulator proposed that the value of securities held in the demat ac-

count should not exceed Rs 10 lakh for debt and other than debt securities combined at any point of time.

Listing out eligibility criteria, Sebi said an individual needs to have only one demat account where he/she is the sole or first holder and the individual needs to have only one BSDA in his/her name across all depositories. Additionally, the regulator has proposed to review the maximum annual maintenance charges (AMC) for BSDA.

For portfolio values up to Rs 4, Sebi has proposed that annual maintenance charge for a BSDA should be nil and for portfolio values of between over Rs 4 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh, the charges should be Rs 100.

Avoiding communication backfires: Strategies for effective messaging

Agenceis

The best graduation speeches dispense wisdom you find yourself returning to long after the graduation tassels are turned. Take the feel-good life advice in Baz Luhrmann's song to a class that graduated 25 years ago. Only on a recent relisten did I realize it also captures one of the research-based strategies I teach for avoiding communication that backfires.

The tip is hiding in plain sight in the song's title, Everybody's Free (to Wear Sunscreen). Communication aimed at promoting a certain behavior can have the opposite effect when the message is perceived as a threat to individual autonomy.

Health campaigns frequently use strongly worded messages that end up backfiring. For example, strongly worded messages promoting dental flossing made people angry and more likely to resist flossing their teeth. Coercive alcohol prevention messages, with language like any reasonable person must acknowledge these conclusions, instead increased alcohol consumption. In contrast, the wording of the title Everybody's Free (to Wear Sunscreen) is less likely to backfire by emphasizing liberty of choice.

Research reveals lots of reasons why well-meaning attempts to inform, persuade or correct misinformation go awry. Despite the ubiquity of backfires, formal instruction about why they happen and how to avoid them is rare. The omission inspired my new book,

Beyond the Sage on the Stage: Communicating Science and Contemporary Issues Effectively, which translates scholarship from across disciplines into practical strategies that anyone can use to improve communication.

When new info challenges your identity

Backfires are often a response to communication of unwelcome information.

In addition to threats to autonomy, information can be unwelcome because it appears to conflict with how you think about yourself. Consider a study that asked people to read a message about genetically modified foods. Participants for whom purity, health and conscientiousness of their diet was an important part of how they defined themselves had more negative attitudes after reading a message intended to refute their views about GM food. Those who did not have a strong dietary self-concept did not react negatively to the message.

The same resistance can rise up when you're confronted with something counter to the beliefs of a group you feel a strong affiliation with. Emotional and identity attachment to a group such as a political party can cause people to subjugate their own values to align with the group, a phenomenon called cultural cognition. Reactions to messages about climate change often exemplify this phenomenon.

Against the backdrop of protests and an impending election, communication breakdowns are

increasingly blamed on political polarization, with more than a hint of fatalism. But the current heavy focus on ideological differences serves only to fuel a vicious cycle that amplifies them. To halt the cycle, the focus needs to shift away from the differences. Divides are not always what they seem, and even when they are, there are often ways to bridge them.

Every person contains multitudes

Encouragingly, a study recently published by the Pew Research Center found that just 11% of Americans consider it very or extremely important that they get their news from journalists who share their political views. Less than 40% of Americans said that it was even somewhat important. The study is a reminder that we are all complex mixes of identities, and those distinct identities can offer fruitful starting points for a conversation.

As the various identities within people interact, the context can bring a particular identity to the fore. For example, a study that examined the importance of voters' identity as parents revealed that when thinking about their children, people were more willing to oppose the policies of their own political party. Animal lover is another example of an identity that researchers have time and again seen relegate party identity to the background.

Therefore, appealing to a shared

identity is a strategy for bridging the divide.

Another strategy is to make it safe to go against the group without damaging an individual's connection to it. For example, people may act anonymously, which is what happened during the pandemic when some people reportedly chose to wear disguises when getting their COVID-19 vaccine.

Accidentally conveying what you don't mean

As in the case of threats to autonomy, the language you choose can minimize backfires caused by threats to group affiliations. People may agree that a proposed action is sound and consistent with their party's beliefs but still reject it if it contains even small polarizing cues. Triggers, such as words associated with the opposing party such as tax for a conservative or deregulation for a liberal, lead people to judge that their party would reject a policy. The fix is to remove both real and perceived threats to group identity by using party-neutral language.

Surprisingly, communication need not be threatening or unwelcome to backfire. It can happen when communication contains hidden unintended messages or when it inadvertently makes an undesired behavior seem normal. For example, messages from a utility about reducing energy use caused low-energy users to consume more energy when their consumption was compared with

others, and anti-littering posters emphasizing the extent of the problem increased littering.

Another intuitive communication strategy that backfires is presenting information in a myth-versus-fact format. You've probably seen this format used in communications aimed at debunking myths about health, science, technology, culture and more. Yet, research demonstrates that the state-and-negate format makes it more likely people will remember myths as facts. A facts-only approach improves retention of the correct information.

Research finds where instincts lead you astray

Everybody's Free (to Wear Sunscreen), originally penned as a newspaper column by journalist Mary Schmich, doesn't tell graduates to trust their instincts, but that is commonly dispensed commencement advice.

The research demonstrates that when it comes to effective communication strategies, trusting your instincts can lead you astray. The same research provides insight into why you may instinctively react in certain ways to some messages.

So, if I were to offer this year's graduates just one tip for the future, I would encourage them to check their communication instincts against evidence-based recommendations. I would call my speech Everybody's Free (to Beat Backfire).

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Paras Health Srinagar Urges Proper Waste Management to Combat Vector-Borne Diseases

Srinagar: Paras Health, a leading multispecialty hospital in Srinagar, emphasizes the importance of proper waste management in preventing vector-borne diseases. In light of World Environment Day, the hospital released guidelines to educate the public on minimizing breeding grounds for disease vectors like mosquitoes, ticks, and rodents.

Improper waste disposal creates environments conducive to vector proliferation, leading to diseases such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya.

According to Dr. Masood Tanvir, Director internal medicine at Paras Health Srinagar, following preventive measures should be observed to minimize vector breeding:

Dos:
Proper Waste Segregation, Timely Waste Disposal, Maintain Clean Surroundings, Use of Covered Bins, Community Participation, Use mosquito repellents and nets; wear long-sleeved clothing, especially at night, to reduce mosquito bites.

Don'ts:
Avoid Littering, Do Not Burn Waste, Avoid Stagnant Water, Do Not Ignore Leaks, Avoid Unhygienic Practices, Proper waste management is crucial for controlling the spread of vector-borne diseases.

Dr. Masood Tanvir further said, "Effective waste management is crucial in controlling the spread of vector-borne diseases. By adopting these dos and don'ts, a healthier environment can be created where people are protected from the threats posed by these diseases. Paras Health is committed to supporting the community in these efforts and encourages everyone to take proactive steps to ensure proper waste management."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Rains End

Some of the areas in Jammu including Banihal, Bhaderwah also recorded a slight fall in the maximum temperature.

Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of rain and thundershower with moderate to intense showers at few places for brief period with thunder, lightning accompanied by gusty winds till tomorrow.

He further added that light rains and thunder at few places is possible on June 07 and 08, adding that partly cloudy with generally dry weather is expected from June 09-June 15.

In its advisory, the MeT said that the farmers are advised to suspend far operations tomorrow, adding that there is possibility of thunder, lightning and gusty winds at scattered places.

PM Modi To Take

to submit his resignation, and that of his cabinet. He was then requested to continue in his role till the swearing-in.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party - which claimed 282 seats in 2014 and 303 in the 2019 election won 240 seats this time - 32 short of the 272-majority mark. It now relies on the 53 seats won by members of the party-led National Democratic Alliance to seal a third term.

Earlier today NDA leaders met at Modi's residence to review the election result and discuss government formation, after which a delegation of senior figures from the BJP and its NDA partners was supposed to meet President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan to stake claim to power.

That delegation was to include Telugu Desam Party boss Chandrababu Naidu and Janata Dal leader Nitish Kumar, whose combined 28 seats are needed to ensure the BJP's coalition stays above water.

Naidu's TDP won 16 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh (and a simultaneous Assembly election to return as Chief Minister) and Nitish Kumar's JDU picked up 12 seats in Bihar.

There has been speculation Naidu and Nitish Kumar could be approached by the opposition INDIA bloc, which finished with 232 seats (40 shy of majority) and is exploring a government formation bid.

To offset that, the BJP has secured written letters of support from the TDP and JDU bosses. Modi and the BJP are well-aware of their importance to the NDA; he made special mention of the TDP and JDU bosses during his victory speech Tuesday night at the party HQ in Delhi.

As early as Tuesday evening, when it became clear the BJP would not be able to form the government on its own, sources had said Naidu and Nitish Kumar - veteran leaders well-versed in the art of coalition politics - could be courted by the Congress in a bid to stake claim itself.

Neither has revealed their hand so far, but sources have said a variety of 'demands', including special status for their states and a pick of ministerial berths are on the table.

On Tuesday the INDIA bloc defied exit pollsters to mount a real challenge to the BJP in a national election - a first since the 'Modi wave' swept it to power in 2014.

The opposition alliance finished with 232 seats - 40 short of the 272-majority mark.

INDIA leaders, including Congress boss Mallikarjun Kharge, have been coy about reaching out to either Naidu or Nitish Kumar, but the intent is there, sources have said.

The Congress produced its best performance since 2009 to win 99 seats. In 2019 the party won only 52 seats (and Rahul Gandhi quit as boss), while it managed just 44 in 2014.

Meanwhile, earlier Modi met President Murmu to resign ahead of the dissolution of this government on June 16. Modi was asked to continue till a new government is appointed.

This morning, he chaired the final cabinet meet of his second term, and downplayed any

raised eyebrows over his party's performance; "Winning and losing are part of politics..."

"We have done good work for the last 10 years. We will continue doing so."

Addressing an adoring crowd at the party's Delhi HQ late Tuesday, Modi said the people of India had "placed their faith" in the NDA for a third time. "I bow to the people for this affection and assure them we will continue the good work done in the last decade to keep fulfilling aspirations..."

NDA Elects Modi

way for him to take the oath for a third consecutive term, a first for any ruling alliance since 1962.

TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, IJP(R) leader Chirag Paswan and NCP leader Praful Patel were among those who attended the meeting.

The resolution said the NDA government will continue working to lift people's living standards for the country's all-round development while conserving its heritage.

"We are all proud that the NDA fought the 2024 Lok Sabha polls unitedly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and won. We all NDA leaders unanimously elect Narendra Modi as our leader," it added.

The resolution also said that people have seen the country being developed in every sector in the last 10 years due to the pro-people policies of the NDA government under Modi.

Modi is set for a record-equaling third term at the helm, though the new government is likely to be different in composition and character with a bigger share for the BJP's allies.

While the NDA is comfortably above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha, the BJP, which won 240 seats, has fallen short of the magic number for the first time since 2014 and is critically dependent on its allies.

INDIA Bloc To

said that the opposition would continue to work together and would definitely stand by the promises made to the people and keep them.

"The constituents of the INDIA bloc thank the people of India for their overwhelming support. The people's mandate has been a befitting reply to the BJP and their politics of hate, corruption and deprivation," Kharge said.

"This is a mandate in defence of the Constitution of India, and against price rise, unemployment and crony capitalism and also to save democracy," Kharge added while announcing the decision of the alliance partners.

While the BJP won 240 seats and the Congress emerged as the second largest party with 99 seats, the NDA has the majority number with 293 seats and is holding a parallel meeting on government formation. The opposition alliance has 234 seats.

While the BJP on its own fell short of a majority, it may, as things stand, form the government on the back of its allies. With support from Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which won 16 and 12 seats in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively, and other alliance partners, the NDA has crossed the halfway mark.

The TDP and JDU have already dismissed suggestions of defecting to the opposition alliance and have clearly stated that they will remain with the NDA. Sources, however, said the Congress and some other party leaders are already trying to woo them and have been in touch.

44°C Forecast

specify causes of death.

Saudi authorities take steps to mitigate the effects of heat, including providing air-conditioned tents and misting systems.

What Rules Say

have taken the oath, they will have to return to prison.

To further explain the legalities, Achari cited Article 101(4) of the Constitution which deals with the absence of members from both Houses of Parliament without prior sanction of the Chair.

He said that after they have taken the oath, they will write to the Speaker, informing about their inability to attend the House. The Speaker will then refer their requests to the House Committee on Absence of Members.

The committee will recommend whether the member should be allowed to remain absent from House proceedings. The recommendation is then put to vote in the House by the Speaker.

If Engineer Rashid or Singh are to be convicted and jailed for a minimum of two years, they would lose their seats in the Lok Sabha immediately as per the Supreme Court judgment of 2013, which holds that MPs and MLAs would be disqualified in such cases.

This decision struck down section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act, which earlier allowed convicted MPs and MLAs three months to appeal against their convictions.

LS Poll Results

From Pattan, which is considered a bastion of Sajad Lone's close confidant and Shia leader Imran Raza Ansari, Omar Abdullah managed to secure a lead with 21,533 votes. Sajad's PC received 17,124 votes, followed by Engineer Rashid who received 17,112 votes. As for Sajad Gani Lone, he has managed to secure a lead in a single seat of Handwara with 26,275 votes, followed by Engineer Rashid who managed to secure 19,336 votes from that assembly segment.

Assembly-wise leads from Srinagar LS Seat: From the Srinagar Parliamentary seat, NC is leading in 16 assembly constituencies, followed by PDP with leads in two assembly segments. PDP is winning from the Rajpora assembly constituency with 16,615 votes and also from Shopian with 21,040 votes. More shocking is to find Syed Altaf Bukhari's own constituency, Chanapora, where NC's Aga Ruhullah Mehdi has received 11,951 votes, while Bukhari's own party has a mere 3,101 votes.

Assembly-wise leads from Anantnag-Rajouri LS Seat: From the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat, the National Conference has a lead in 15 out of 18 assembly segments, while the PDP, which considers South Kashmir as its bastion, has managed only three seats in Anantnag, Anantnag West and Bijbehara assembly segments.

Overall, based on the numbers from the parliamentary poll results, if assembly elections were held today in Kashmir, NC would emerge as the single largest party with 35 seats, followed by Engineer Rashid's Awami Ittehad party with 14 seats. PDP and PC would lag behind with five and one seat, respectively.

BJP's Ram Temple

the candidate was completely cut off from society, and arrogance had crept into him," he said.

Asked whether the BJP failed to cash in on the temple in Ayodhya, the priest said, "The Ram temple has always been a matter of faith, and not something to capitalise upon. I am thankful to the people who voted for the BJP, and did not allow anyone to put a lock on the Ram temple."

Ram temple head priest Satyendra Das called the Ayodhya poll result "shocking", but attributed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third-time victory to the blessing of the deity. "If he has again become the PM, it is due to the benevolence of Ram Lalla."

Ironically, the development and "beautification" of the temple city could have been a significant factor in the BJP's defeat.

SP district chief Parasnath Yadav complained

that houses were demolished to widen roads."People in the land of Lord Ram said that injustice is being done to them, and they were being uprooted from their places," he said.

Ayodhya's BJP mayor Girishpati Tripathi said, "No doubt, these Lok Sabha poll results came as a shock to us." He claimed that this happened because the rivals played the caste card, and "somehow, we underestimated those things."

Iqbal Ansari, a litigant in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, said before the polls the people of Ayodhya didn't let it be known how they would vote.

He also invoked the divine. "In Ayodhya, there are a lot of saints and seers. You may consider this the will of God ('Bhagwan ke marzi)," he said.

Seemingly ruling out any Muslim "consolidation" against the BJP candidate, he said, "The population of Muslims in Ayodhya is negligible and whether it is a victory or a defeat that takes place, it is due to Hindu votes."

Meera Manjhi, the 10th-crore beneficiary of Ujjwala gas connection scheme, whose house has been visited by the prime minister, said that the result was not surprising at all, again blaming the "wrong" candidate who did "nothing worthwhile" for Ayodhya's voters.

Committed To Secure

startups, out of which 17 are registered as Pvt. Ltd. Companies. In collaboration with IIT Mandi, SKUAST-K is also starting a B.Tech Artificial Intelligence course from this year, he observed.

The LG highlighted the significant contribution of the farming community and all the stakeholders associated with agriculture and allied sector in nation building.

Today, all the facilities and technologies like drones, artificial intelligence, machine learning, Internet of Things, blockchain, are being made available to empower our youth to realise the potential of agriculture and food processing sector in Jammu Kashmir, he said.

The LG also applauded the Vice Chancellor, faculty members and students of SKUAST-K in implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He sought their cooperation in further strengthening the ecosystem of agro-based industries and increasing the income of farmers.

The LG also unveiled the SKUAST-K's working model of National Education Policy-2020, and planted a tree sapling in the University premises.

Prof. Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir; HoDs, senior officials, faculty members and students were present on the occasion.

'Collective Action

Change' and dedicate themselves towards ecological preservation and restoration. Pollution prevention, increasing green cover and conservation of natural resources should be our common goals, he said.

On the occasion, the LG reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration towards environment conservation and promotion of sustainable-living. He also talked about the initiatives and programs of the government aimed at protecting and preserving J&K's rich biodiversity.

The LG set two important goals for the citizens- to stop the use of single-use plastic and to strengthen the Waste Management System. He also appealed to the people living in rural areas to identify such works in their villages which can help restore the ecosystem and prevent land degradation.

Appreciating the contribution of Nigeen Lake Conservation Organization in transforming the Gilsar-Khushalsar waterbody, the LG assured all possible support from the administration to the organization in its endeavours.

Environment protection pledge was also administered to the people on the occasion. This

year, the theme for World Environment Day focuses on Land Degradation, Desertification and Drought resilience.

Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bashir Ahmad Bhat, VC LCMA; Manzoor Wangnoo, Chairman Nigeen Lake Conservation Organisation; senior officials, social activists, Volunteers and youth in large numbers were present.

Govt Has 'Exclusive

character of the liquor trade vests the UT Administration with the power to grant the exclusive privilege to carry on trade in the manufacture and sale of liquor.

"In view of the exclusive privilege of the Government in sale/manufacture of liquor, the scope of judicial review in administrative decisions concerning the same is extremely limited," the court said while summarizing its conclusions and findings.

"No vested right is accrued to a bidder simply by virtue of the fact that he/she has been declared as the highest bidder provisionally and subject to fulfillment of certain conditions in a given auction."

Bearing in mind the nature of the liquor trade, the Court said that it being a constitutional court, should be slow in interfering with the executive decisions taken by the State as they are essentially a matter of economic policy in which the "Government must be afforded a greater latitude and fair play in the joints."

"The mere existence of a provision for Minimum Guaranteed Revenue or Minimum Reserve Bid Price in the Excise policy 2024- 25, vide SO 85, does not disentitle the Government from cancelling the auction/re-auctioning on germane considerations having a logical nexus with the policy objectives," the court further said, adding, "The decision to cancel the auction and the subsequent order for re-auctioning cannot be termed as arbitrary, discriminatory, or mala fide so as to warrant judicial interference."

In any event, the Bench said that the Court cannot interfere with an administrative decision, merely on the premise that any other decision would have been fairer, wiser, or more logical especially, when it relates to the Excise policy.

"The cause projected by the petitioners does not subserve an overwhelming public interest, which must be borne in mind to decide whether judicial intervention is called for or not," the court adding, "The petitioners, being fully aware of the said auction conditions participated in the same without any demur and after having participated in the auction, cannot turn around and challenge or impugn an auction condition unless there is a foundation of manifest arbitrariness or mala fide, which is conspicuously absent in the instant case."

After examining the original record, the court said the reasoning provided by the Government for cancelling the auction cannot be termed as unreasonable or arbitrary.

"...in so far as the reasoning behind cancellation of the auction based on poor response and less competition of the auction, the same does not seem implausible or mala fide, as suggested by the counsels for the petitioners, more so, when it is a fact on record that the some of the vends under auction did in fact receive a single bid, the court said, adding, "In these circumstances, this Court discerns no arbitrariness or irrationality in the decision of the Government. Therefore, this Court holds that the decision of the respondent Government cannot be faulted with."

Gulmarg's Iconic

tourists as it has featured in several Bollywood movies, including in the hit song 'Jai Jai Shiv Shankar' from "Aap Ki Kasam".

New York prepares for India-Pakistan T20: 'Super Bowl on steroids'

Agencies

EAST MEADOW: New York officials are preparing for the "Super Bowl on steroids" as thousands descend upon Nassau County for the clash of arch-rivals India and Pakistan in the group stage of the T20 World Cup on Sunday.

The two sides form one of the most intense rivalries in sport and the temporary, 34,000-seat stadium in East Meadow, New York, will be bursting at the seams, with millions more watching on TV.

"India vs. Pakistan is like the Super Bowl on steroids. We had no idea how huge it was," Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman said. "We want to put our best foot forward."

That has meant an extraordinary safety effort, with security personnel from every level in the region working in conjunction in the county, which sits adjacent to New York City.

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul said last week that there will be increased security for the World Cup, after reported threats including



those specifically related to the India-Pakistan fixture.

"I found her remarks refreshing," said Blakeman. "I'm very

confident that this is a safe environment — if it wasn't, then I

wouldn't hold it." The two sides have not played

a Test since the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the least expensive

ticket available for Sunday's match was \$790 on ticket resale website StubHub, as of Monday afternoon.

Operations appeared to go smoothly on Monday and security blanketed the stadium in New York as it hosted the first of eight matches, as South Africa beat Sri Lanka by six wickets.

The United States are co-hosting the tournament with the West Indies, with matches staged also in Texas and Florida, as cricket hopes to woo American fans before returning to the Olympic programme in 2028.

The 12,562 fans in attendance in New York on Monday kept a party atmosphere going and immigrants who never thought they would see their national team play cricket on US soil got a taste of home.

"Literally a dream come true. One would never expect cricket to be here (but) like you see so many fans out here," said Shehan Perera, 27, who moved to the US from Sri Lanka when he was 14-years-old. "There's a demand for cricket anywhere. If there's an event, we're going to show up."

T20 WORLD CUP 2024

Openers, Fazalhaq Farooqi Help Afghanistan Decimate First-Timers Uganda

Press Trust of India

Pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi produced a fiery spell after Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran struck half-centuries in a solid opening partnership as Afghanistan began their T20 World Cup campaign with a comprehensive 125-run victory over debutants Uganda at the Providence Stadium early morning on Tuesday (Indian time).

Kolkata Knight Riders' Gurbaz (76 off 45 balls) and his opening partner Zadran (70 off 46 balls) registered the second highest opening partnership (154) in the men's T20 Cup as Afghanistan posted a challenging 183/5 after being put into bat.

Left-arm pacer Farooqi (5/9) then knocked the wind out of the Ugandan batting line-up with his maiden five-wicket haul. The debutants were shot out for just 58 in 16 overs.

"It's just the kind of start we wanted as a team... Does not matter who we play, it is about the mindset," Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan said later. "The hard work we have put in over the last few weeks, the way the openers started and the way our bowlers bowled were all part of a great team effort."

Seamer Farooqi was twice



on the brink of claiming a hat-trick. After being hit for a four off his first delivery, he bowled a brilliant in-swing which clipped Ronak Patel's bat before crashing onto the stumps. He then trapped Roger Mukasa lbw with a similar kind of delivery.

Fellow pacer Naveen-ul-Haq also picked up two wickets in his first over, leaving Uganda in dire straits at 18/5. Farooqi then returned in the 13th over to snare three more wickets to register his career-best figures in T20Is.

He first deceived Riazat Ali Shah with a slower delivery to bowl him out before forcing

skipper Brian Masaba to nick the ball with an eager Gurbaz collecting it easily. He missed out on a hat-trick again, but claimed his fifth scalp in the last ball of the over.

Brief scores: Afghanistan 183/5 in 20 ovs (R. Gurbaz 76, I. Zadran 70). Uganda 58 in 16 ovs (F. Farooqi 5/9). Afghanistan won by 125 runs.

'Unfair' roster

The Sri Lankans have lambasted the scheduling of their team's matches in the ongoing World Cup, calling the roster "unfair" as that has already forced them to cancel one practice session due to the long travel time.

Sri Lanka lost their opener to South Africa after which, spinner Maheesh Theekshana spoke out on the scheduling which he believes has affected the team. "So unfair for us... We have to leave every day (after the game) because we are playing at four different venues," Theekshana said.

"As for the flight we took from Florida, from Miami, we had to wait like eight hours at the airport to get the flight. We were supposed to leave at 8pm, but we got the flight at 5am (local time). It's really unfair for us, but it doesn't matter when you play."

Additional Tickets Released By ICC

Agencies

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has worked in collaboration with partners to make the additional release of the T20 World Cup tickets and ensure as many fans as possible can be part of the ongoing event being hosted by West Indies and the United States.

According to the ICC, this release includes general admission tickets to the highly anticipated India v Pakistan fixture in New York on Sunday which were previously exhausted.

Other matches of the global event now have more categories available, including for fixtures at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Texas and Broward County Stadium in Florida where there are now limited general admission tickets for sale.

Fans wanting the ultimate World Cup experience in either the West Indies or the US can secure tickets to the Premium Club and the exclusive Diamond Club, where fans can rub shoulders with the legends of the game in the best seats in the house. Fans can visit tickets.t20worldcup.com to secure their seats.

For the matches hosted at West Indies venues, tickets are also available to purchase at box offices in each of the six host countries.

T20 WC Playing XI: No Sanju Samson As India Opt Rishabh Pant To Kept Wickets Against Ireland



Agencies

Team India opted for Rishabh Pant as wicketkeeper over Sanju Samson for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 opener against Ireland on Wednesday. Captain Rohit Sharma will open the innings alongside star batter Virat Kohli, the match lineup showed.

Suryakumar Yadav and Shivam Dube are the other batters playing India's opening Group A game alongside all-rounders Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja. In the bowling department, star seamer Jasprit Bumrah will be supported by Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj.

Sanju Samson had failed to fire Bangladesh in the warmup game against Bangladesh while left-handed Pant came out all guns blazing.

India and Ireland have met seven times so far and the Men In Blue maintain and 100% success record over the Irish, who are often referred as the "official giantkillers" in ICC World Cups.

India vs Ireland: T20 World Cup game toss update
After winning the toss at New

York's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, Rohit Sharma opted to bowl first against the European side.

"We have prepared alright. Have been managing ourselves in these new conditions. Has been challenging but we are all professionals and experienced players. Playing on a similar pitch and don't know what to expect a little bit. I know it's going to be slightly different from what we're used to. But that's what the sport is. Unsure about the conditions so having a target in front of us would be good. Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Chahal miss out," Rohit Sharma said during the toss.

India Playing XI: Rohit Sharma (c), Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant (wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Mohd Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh.

Ireland Playing XI: A. Balbirnie, Paul Stirling (c), L. Tucker (wk), Harry Tector, C. Campher, George Dockrell, G. Delany, Mark Adair, B. McCarthy, B. White, Josh Little.

Italy Held To Goalless Draw In Euro 2024 Warm-Up With Turkey

Agencies

Italy were held to a goalless draw by Turkey on Tuesday as the Azzurri gear up for their European Championship title defence later this month. Luciano Spalletti's side were frustrated by Turkey in a low-key friendly in Bologna which featured little in the way of goalmouth action. Italy play one more friendly against Bosnia and Herzegovina in Empoli on Sunday before travelling to Germany for Euro 2024. They begin their campaign on June 15 against Albania in Group B, where they have also been drawn with Spain and Croatia.

"We weren't amazing but the team pushed forward and tried to attack. However it was the classic match you need to play in order to put things right," Spalletti told broadcaster RAI.

"We'll take all the time we need to make the necessary decisions (for the Euros)."

There was little on display on Tuesday to suggest a repeat of Italy's thrilling triumph at



the last Euros three years ago could be in the offing.

The most noteworthy moment of a drab opening period was Ozan Kabak having to be stretchered off shortly before half-time with a knee injury which may be serious enough to have ended his hopes of playing at the finals with Turkey.

Hoffenheim midfielder Kabak fell awkwardly in an innocuous looking chal-

lenge with Mateo Retegui and writhed in agony on the sidelines until he was carried away to warm applause from the home crowd.

"It's sad when something like this happens at this stage of the season when there are dreams at stake," Turkey boss Vincenzo Montella told reporters.

"We hope it's nothing serious even if it doesn't look very good."

Euro 2024: Underdogs Albania Ready To Take On Top Guns Italy, Spain, Croatia

Agencies

Outsiders Albania could hardly have asked for a tougher group at Euro 2024, but they plan to rely on "soul" and "sacrifice" when they go head to head with Italy, Spain and Croatia at the tournament in Germany.

"They are very strong teams, used to being favourites, prepared to go to the final and win" said Albania's coach Sylvinho, the Brazilian former Arsenal and Barcelona full-back.

Sylvinho, who previously had spells at Lyon and Corinthians, takes huge credit for leading the Balkan country into their second appearance at the European Championship after being appointed as coach at the beginning of last year.

His squad lacks superstars but there are players who ply their trade in major European leagues, led by Berat Djimsiti, the defender who has just helped Atalanta win the Europa League.

There is also the striker Ar-



mando Broja, who has just been on loan at Fulham from Chelsea, the Lazio full-back Elseid Hysaj and Inter Milan midfielder Kristjan Asllani.

"Our strength is not one footballer or two. Our strength is the team," Sylvinho, now aged 50, told AFP.

"Albania is a young country which is participating for the second time in such an important tournament," he added, saying the team possessed a lot of "heart, soul, and a sense of

sacrifice".

"We have worked hard to achieve this state of mind on the pitch," added Sylvinho as he leads the country back to a competition they first graced in 2016.

"We have done a good job together but a big challenge awaits us," said the coach, who obtained Albanian nationality after helping secure the country's place at Euro 2024.

Sylvinho's dedication to the squad has led him and his staff

-- including ex-Argentina defender Pablo Zabaleta -- to relocate full-time to the Albanian capital Tirana.

"We are the first technical team to do so, and it makes a big difference," he explained.

"The players look at you and say 'you have a family, a wife, a child, but you don't live with them, you live in Tirana'. People call me and ask me 'where are you?', I answer: 'in Tirana'," added the man who replaced the Italian Edoardo Reja as coach.

"When we do a job, we do it well, that's the message that gets across. That's how I see it, I have to be here, work from here. Someone says 'he's a foreigner but he lives here, he's already Albanian'. I am an Albanian citizen."

Time spent in the country has allowed him greater insights into its values, which he says are "loyalty, respect for people... going on the field and representing the country without saving your strength".

White Collar Hiring Improves As Demand Rises In Banking, FMCG Sectors: Report

Agenceis

Mumbai: White collar hiring has begun improving steadily on the back of major sectors like Oil and Gas, Banking and FMCG, a report said on Wednesday.

Hiring activity grew by 6 per cent in May compared to April driven by sectors like Healthcare and the Travel and Hospitality, according to the report.

White collar hiring, however, was down by two per cent compared to the same month last year.

Most sectors reported mid-single-digit growths, however, decline in hiring in IT (0 per

cent YoY), BPO (3 per cent) and Education (5 per cent) dragged down the overall Naukri Job-Speak Index, it stated.

Major sectors such as Oil and Gas (14 per cent), Banking (12 per cent) and FMCG (17 per cent) notched up healthy growth, while healthcare and travel and hospitality, each showcased a robust 8 per cent growth, said the report.

Smaller cities continued to outperform major metropolitan areas, and there was notable demand for senior professionals, contributing to a healthy year-on-year growth in opportunities for



experienced candidates, it added. "The consistent job growth in the AI-ML domain stands out as a major positive and signals that

the Indian economy and its talent pool is well aligned with the global tailwind on AI. Moreover, despite the May index staying within 2 per cent of 2023 base, we saw healthy growth in most Non-IT sectors, cementing our job market's diversified footprint further," Naukri.com Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal said.

The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly Index representing the state of the Indian job market and hiring activity based on new job listings and job-related searches by recruiters on the resume database of Naukri.com platform.

The report further revealed

that the hiring in mini-metros continued to outpace major metropolitan areas.

This trend highlights the growing economic vibrancy and employment opportunities in smaller urban centres, driven by factors such as urbanisation, infrastructure development, and decentralisation of economic activities, it stated.

Non-metro cities like Surat (23 per cent) and Raipur (22 per cent) emerged as hiring hotspots, while metro cities like Delhi-NCR, Chennai, and Hyderabad witnessed stable hiring trends with a slight improvement in the

hiring trend in Pune, it added.

Meanwhile, the report stated that the demand for experienced professionals remained high, with roles for candidates with over 16 years of experience clocking a remarkable 23 per cent surge in hiring activity.

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In contrast, the job market for freshers remains relatively flat, highlighting the challenges faced by early-career professionals in securing entry-level positions amidst stiff competition and evolving skill requirements, added the report.

From Kangana Ranaut To Arun Govil: Many Celebrities In New Parliament

Agenceis

New Delhi: With voters favouring many celebrity faces -- trusted and new -- this election season, eyes will be on the performance of first-time MPs like Kangana Ranaut and Arun Govil as they take their place in the 18th Lok Sabha along with returning star politicians Hema Malini and Manoj Tiwari.

The country went to the polls from April 19 to June 1 in seven phases to elect the 543 members in the lower house of the Parliament and many from the showbiz were in the fray.

Ms Ranaut, a popular face from Bollywood and a long-time supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi won her first-ever election as she was elected from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, her home state. She defeated Vikramaditya Singh, the son of six-time chief minister Virbhadra Singh and state Congress chief Pratibha Singh.

The actor, who has often found herself at the centre of controversies and always vocal about her opinions, had spoken about devoting her life to public service post her win. There is a lot of curiosity about Ranaut's tenure as an MP.

Not just Ms Ranaut, "Ramayan" star Arun Govil was another celebrity face fielded by the BJP. He emerged victorious from the Meerut seat in Uttar Pradesh in a close battle with Samajwadi Party's Sunita Yadav. The winning margin was just 10,585 votes and for a time it looked like Mr Govil would lose but his image of lord Ram from the classic TV serial seems to have worked in his favour.

Hema Malini, another popular face from Hindi cinema, was elected for a straight third term in Lok Sabha from Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) against her nearest rival, Mukesh Dhangar of the Congress.

Ms Malini's third win shows the sway the actor-politician and a self-confessed Krishna devotee has on the electoral public in the temple town of Mathura, regarded as the birthplace of the Hindu god.

Mr Tiwari, a former Bhojpuri cinema star-singer and the BJP's candidate from North East Delhi, bested Congress rival Kanhaiya Kumar, a popular youth leader.

This is also Mr Tiwari's third win in a row from the seat. He was the only sitting MP from Delhi retained by the BJP for the 18th Lok Sabha polls.

Ravi Kishan, another popular Bhojpuri cinema star and the BJP contender from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, was elected for a second consecutive term. He defeated Kajal Nishad from the Samajwadi Party to retain his constituency.

Actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi, another BJP candidate, finally made inroads for the party in Kerala's Thrissur constituency. Gopi defeated VS Sunilkumar of the Communist Party of India to claim the Lok Sabha seat in the state.

Veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha, who was fielded as the Trinamool Congress candidate from West Bengal's Asansol, defeated his nearest rival, BJP's S S Ahluwalia. Sinha, who has had political stints under the BJP and Congress, joined the TMC in 2022 to contest in the by-election for the Asansol Lok Sabha constituency.

UN agency predicts that 1.5-degree Celsius target limit likely to be surpassed by 2028



Agenceis

The UN weather agency is predicting an 80 per cent chance that average global temperatures will surpass the 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) target laid out in the landmark Paris climate accord within the next five years.

The World Meteorological Organisation said Wednesday that the global mean near-surface temperature for each year from 2024 to 2028 is expected to range between 1.1 and 1.9 degrees Celsius hotter than at the

start of the industrial era.

It also estimated that there's nearly a one-in-two chance -- 47 per cent -- that the average global temperatures over that entire five-year span could top 1.5 C, an increase from just under a one-in-three chance projected for the 2023-2027 span.

The report was cited in a sweeping speech about the threat of climate change by UN Secretary-General António Guterres to mark World Environment Day.

Meanwhile, the European Union's climate service says

last month marked the hottest May ever, capping 12 straight months of average monthly temperature records amid high and rising concerns about global warming. The EU's Copernicus climate change service, a global reference for tracking world temperatures, cited an average surface air temperature of 15.9 C (60.6 F) last month -- or 1.5 C higher than the estimated May average before industrial times.

The burning of fossil fuels -- oil, gas and coal -- is the main contributor to global warming caused by human activity.

Now, Devotees Visiting Vaishno Devi Shrine To Get Plant As "Prasad"

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Jammu: Devotees visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine will now get a plant as a "prasad", the shrine board said on Wednesday.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) launched a new initiative under which they will offer plants to pilgrims from a newly established nursery 'Vaishnavi Vatika'.

The nursery was launched by Board's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Anshul Garg in Katra, the base camp of the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, on the occasion of the World Environment Day.

Situated in the Trikuta hills of Reasi district, the Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine is one of the most revered sites in Jammu and Kashmir, attracting nearly one crore devotees annually.

Mr Garg highlighted the board's ongoing commitment to ecological preservation, including water conservation, afforestation, and water treatment efforts.

"On this World Environment

Day, I congratulate everyone. The board has consistently worked to protect the environment, and this new initiative is another step in that direction. We are providing plants to devotees as prasad from our nursery," Garg told reporters.

The newly launched nursery, featuring 40 species of plants, aims to promote environmental awareness among pilgrims.

He added that these plants would be available to pilgrims at nominal prices, with plans to expand the project based on its reception.

Garg also pointed towards the intention to extend this initiative to the Amarnath pilgrimage as well.

"We are working to make these prasad plants available at Vaishnavi Dham and through counters in Jammu for Amarnath yatra pilgrims," he stated.

Nandan Kumar, a devotee from Pune, shared his joy, saying, "I am very happy to receive a plant as prasad. It is a wonderful initiative and a special prasad from Mata."



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