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Centre spends whopping Rs 16000 Cr on J&K's Security Expenditure; Relief, Rehab of KPs since 1989: MHA Report

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 9

An official report of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Monday revealed that a whopping amount of RS 16000 Crore has been released by the Centre to Jammu and Kashmir under Security Related Expenditure of (police) and Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Relief and Rehabilitation.

The annual report of the MHA for year 2022-23, a copy of which is with the news agency, reads that to support



the Government of UT of J&K in its initiatives, the Central Government has been making available Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) as and when necessary, has been helping to strength-

en the J&K Police. "The Ministry of Home Affairs reimburses the expenditure incurred by the UT of J&K on a variety of security related measures. These include expenditure on carriage

of Constabulary, material supplies, rent of accommodation, honorarium to Special Police Officers (SPOs), Civic Action Programmes, air-lift charges, raising cost of India Reserve Battalions, transport, boarding and lodging, alternate accommodation for security forces etc," the report states. "The total amount reimbursed from 1989 till December 31, 2022 to the UT of J&K under Security Related Expenditure (Police) is Rs 10528.72 crore and Security Related Expenditure

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Ongoing militancy in UT linked with infiltration of terrorists from LoC, IB: MHA

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 9

Stating that the ongoing militancy in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory was linked with the infiltration of terrorists from across Line of Control (LoC) and International border, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Monday said a multi-pronged approach has been adopted to contain infiltration.

As per the official report of MHA for year 2022-23, UT of Jammu & Kashmir has been affected by terrorist and secessionist violence, sponsored and supported from across the border, for about three decades. "The ongoing militancy in the UT of



Jammu & Kashmir is linked with infiltration of terrorists from across the border both from the International Border as well as the Line of Control in the UT of J&K," the report read, as per news agency. As per the MHA report, the year 2017 saw 419 infiltration attempts while 328 were recorded in 2018. "In 2019, 216 attempts of

infiltration were recorded and in 2020, 99 infiltration bids were registered. In 2021, 77 infiltration attempts were recorded and in 2022, 53 infiltration bids were registered," the report reads, adding that the net estimated infiltration in 2017 was 136, and 143 in 2018.

"In 2019, the net infiltration was 141 and in 2020,

it was 51. In 2021, the net estimated infiltration was 34 and in 2022, it was 14," the report added.

The report said that in the year 2022, 187 terrorists were killed while 125 terrorist initiated incidents were recorded. "The year 2022 saw 117 encounters and the killing of 32 security forces personnel while 31 civilians were also killed," the report said.

The report said that Government of India in tandem with the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, has adopted a "multi-pronged approach" to contain cross border infiltration, which includes strengthening of the border infrastructure, multi-tiered deployment along the

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Satisfied over construction, other works for establishing 50 new degree colleges in J&K: MHA

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 9

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Monday expressed satisfaction over the construction and other works going on for the establishment of 50 new degree colleges in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency, MHA in its annual report 2022-2023 has said, "Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) are functional in Jammu and the work on physical infrastructure is in full swing."

"Besides, 50 new degree colleges have been opened and construction work is going on at a satisfactory pace," MHA said. In the previous annual report, the government had said that it has identified land for the newly sanctioned 50 colleges in JK which are functioning out of makeshift accommodations.

In the report, MHA had said that in order to achieve the objective of access and equity, 50 new Government Degree Colleges in the uncovered areas of Jammu and

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Mercury plummets as J&K parts receive fresh snowfall, rains lash plains

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 9

The higher reaches of Jammu & Kashmir received a fresh snowfall while rains lashed plains on Monday, bringing down the mercury in the Union Territory.

According to the news agency, Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, Kupwara in northern district, Banihal area and other places of J&K received fresh snowfall.

However, after cloudy weather conditions throughout the day, the rains lashed plains of Kashmir, bringing down



the temperature.

Pertinently, the weatherman has predicted two-day wet spell from today while the main activity will be in the intervening night of Monday-Tuesday.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Sonum Lotus told KNO that there is a possibility of more intermittent rains in J&K parts and snowfall at

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Decision on Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections at right time: ECI

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 9

The Election Commission of India on Monday said that a decision on J&K elections will be taken at the "right time" after taking into account the security situation and other elections which are also due in the Union Territory.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi, as per news agency, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said that decision on J&K elections would be taken at the "right time" after taking into consideration security situation and other



elections which are also due in the UT.

Last month, the Government of India had informed the Supreme Court that Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir will be held after Municipal and Panchayat polls.

Jammu & Kashmir has been without an elected

government since June 19, 2018 after Bharatiya Janta Party withdrew support to Mehbooba Muft-led government, citing "deteriorating security situation" in the erstwhile state. After a year of Central rule, the Parliament enacted The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, dividing the state into two Union Territories administered by Lieutenant Governors.

After reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir, the Government of India constituted a three-member panel in March 2020 to undertake delimitation

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Work on several J&K highways in progress with accelerated pace: MHA

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 9

Work on several national highways besides Zojila and Z-Morh tunnels is in progress with accelerated pace, besides that construction of Qazigund-Banihal tunnel on National Highway has reduced the travel time, MHA report has stated.

The MHA's Annual Report for the year 2022-23, a copy of which lies with the news agency stated that under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), J&K achieved 3rd rank at the national level in terms of road length constructed,



and the same rank was retained by the UT during 2020-21 also.

"Connectivity is a priority sector and critical for all round development of the UT of J&K. Qazigund-Banihal tunnel on Jammu-Srinagar Road has been completed, which has

reduced the travel time with traffic plying from both sides every day," it reads.

"Work on upgradation of Jammu-Akhnoor-Poonch road (National Highway (NH)-144A), Chenani-Sudhmahadev-

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Intake capacity of MBBS courses increased from 500 to 1100 in J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 9

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced an increase in the intake capacity of MBBS courses in Jammu & Kashmir from 500 to 1100. It also informed that Rs 881 crore has been spent on upgrading of health institutions in the Union Territory.

According to the MHA's Annual Report for the year 2022-23, accessed by the news agency, the intake capacity of MBBS courses in the region has significantly increased from 500 to 1100 and a total of Rs 881 crore has been invested in

upgrading and rebuilding 140 health institutions.

The report highlights the swift progress in the construction of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Jammu and Awantipora, underlining the government's dedication to providing advanced healthcare services.

Additionally, the establishment of seven new government medical colleges and 15 nursing colleges is underway, the report says.

As per the report, Jammu & Kashmir has achieved remarkable milestones in the vaccination drive, with 100% coverage for both doses of COVID-19

vaccines in the age group of 15-17 years and 18 and above. Vaccination for the 12-14 years category was initiated on March 16, 2022, with 93% of this population receiving the first dose and 85% completing their second dose by October 31, 2022.

Moreover, J&K has launched Universal Health Coverage, notably the AB-PMJAY-SEHAT Scheme, a comprehensive health insurance initiative providing coverage up to Rs 5 lakh per family on a floater basis to all families of the UT. The scheme has extended health insurance to 25.72 lakh

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Lt Governor reviews arrangements ahead of President's visit to J&K



JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 9

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements ahead of the visit of Hon'ble President of India, Smt Draupadi Murmu to the UT of Jammu Kashmir. The Lt Governor appraised the

preparations for the convocation of the University of Kashmir to be graced by the Hon'ble President.

He also reviewed the security arrangements and directed for implementation of a meticulous traffic plan in view of the Hon'ble President's visit. The meeting was

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

DGP chairs security review meeting ahead of Prez Murmu's visit to Kashmir

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 9

Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh Monday chaired a joint meeting of senior officers of Police, CRPF, Army and Intelligence agencies at the Conference Hall, Police Control Room Kashmir to review the security arrangements regarding the upcoming visit of President of India's to Srinagar.

During the meeting, security arrangements put in place for the President's visit including detailed



deployment enroute and in & around the venues were deliberated upon, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

"Deployment of manpower from different forces and intelligence agencies and coordina-

tion aspects were also discussed in the said meeting. DGP J&K also took a review of the overall security scenario of the Kashmir Zone."

ADG CRPF J&K Nalin Prabhat, ADGP Hqrs/Coord PHQ M K Sinha, ADGP Kashmir Zone

Vijay Kumar, IGP CID Nitish Kumar, IGP Hqrs./CIV PHQ B S Tuti, DIG CKR Sujit Kumar, SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal, AIG CIV PHQ Dr G V Sundep Chakravarthy, Col.15 Core Prashant Daiya, SSP Security Kashmir Sheikh Faisal Qayoom, SSP PCR Kashmir Showkat Ahmad Shah, SSP SB CID Kashmir Aftab Ahmad, SSP Traffic Srinagar Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir R. P. Singh, Joint Director Hqrs SSF Mush-taq Ahmad & SP

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Mission Indradhanush: Third round of immunisation begins in J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 9

The third round of immunisation under the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 commenced in Jammu & Kashmir on Monday and is expected to continue till the 14th of the month, officials said.

Director Family Welfare, MCH and Immunization, J&K Dr Tabasum Jabeen told the news

agency that the Mission Indradhanush 5.0 is a vaccination program that is aimed to cover the left out children as many children remain unvaccinated and partially vaccinated.

She said that under this programme, all children and pregnant women will be covered and we will make sure they are vaccinated.

"IMI 5.0 will focus on reaching zero-dose

children aged between 0-5 years, ensuring that every child receives life-saving vaccines," she said, adding, "The initiative is also intended to be the big leap for achieving Measles & Rubella elimination in the country by ensuring that every child under 5 years of age has completed the two-dose schedule of Measles and Rubella Containing Vaccine (MRCV)."

Once we cover all the children, only then we will be able to achieve the target of MR elimination by 2030, Dr Tabasum said.

The officials said the immunisation campaign will be supported by the U-Win platform, which ensures effective tracking of beneficiaries which includes children aged 0-5 and pregnant women. They said that comprehensive

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ITI Udhampur hosts PM National Apprenticeship Mela

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 9

As per the directions of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Government of India as well as Skill Development Department J&K, Prime Minister National Apprenticeship mela (PMNAM) was today organized here in the Government ITI Udhampur.

Valluru Babu, Joint Director RDSDE J&K, inaugurated the mela as the Chief Guest. Around 200 pass outs of ITIs/ other Institutes and about 15 Prominent Industrial establishments of Udhampur participated in the Apprenticeship Mela.

The programme started with lighting of the Lamp by the Chief Guest & other guests followed by Saraswati Vandana by the Students of ITI.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest appreciated Superintendent ITI Udhampur for



putting in extra efforts to promote this youth friendly scheme in Udhampur District. He called upon the industry representatives to come forward and enroll maximum trained candidates as per their requirement to make this scheme successful in the

district. He also called upon the ITI trainee youth to take maximum benefit of this "Earn while you learn Scheme".

Earlier, Superintendent ITI Ravinder Singh Bhatti welcomed the Chief Guest V Babu, Joint Director RDSDE J&K, Chair-

man IMC ITI Udhampur Arun P. Gupta, Gurmeet Singh, Assistant Director, RDSDE Jammu, Nisha Rani, Functional Manager DIC Udhampur and other officials of DIC, Representatives from Directorate of Skill Development J&K Nazir Ahmed Moulvi, Karan Singh, Industry/ Establishment representatives & other dignitaries present in the programme.

The Superintendent ITI gave a detailed account of the Apprenticeship Training Scheme. Superintendent ITI as Assistant Apprenticeship Advisor District Udhampur also assured to extend every type of help to Industries/Establishments and students in the registration, contract generation. Joint Director RDSDE J&K, Assistant Director, RDSDE Jammu, Nisha Rani, Functional Manager DIC Udhampur, Karan Singh representatives from Directorate of Skill Development J&K also spoke on

the occasion and assured every possible help in the implementation of the scheme. Representatives from the Office of General Manager DIC Udhampur also sought the cooperation of the Industry people in making the scheme a success by involving the youth of the area in their establishments and impart them training as per their need or requirement to set an example for others to follow. They also exhorted the students to come forward and take the benefit of the Scheme.

Fareed Ahmed Sheikh (Mela In-charge) spoke at length about the Apprenticeship Scheme and stressed upon the youth to stay away from the menace of drug abuse and contribute towards development of the Nation by getting the best skill training as per their interest.

At the end, Man Mohan Raj, Senior faculty ITI Udhampur presented vote of thanks.

JKAACL hosts 2-Day Seminar on Role of Kashmiri Pandits towards Kashmiri Language and Literature



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 9

The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) has organised a 2-Day Seminar on Role of Kashmiri Pandits towards Kashmiri Language and Literature at JKAACL premises in Jammu. This is an initiative taken by JKAACL for the first time to have a discussion on the literature of Kashmiri pandits at different times.

The Seminar was inaugurated in traditional way with Kashmiri Pandit Wanjun and Lighting of lamp by Dr Ashok Bhan, retired Indian Police Service officer (J&K-1976) in the presence of Prof Ratan Lal Shant, renowned scholar, B.L. Saraf, Retired District & Session Judge and Bharat Singh, Secretary JKAACL.

At the outset, the Secretary JKAACL gave a heartfelt cordial welcome to everyone. While addressing the audience, he expressed that poets are the face of society, they represent the inner thoughts of the social fabric through their ink and it is indeed a special skill.

Dr. Ratan Lal Shant presented the keynote

address on the Role of Kashmiri Pandits towards Kashmiri Language and Literature.

After this Guest of honour B.L. Saraf in his address praised the efforts of JKAACL for promoting literature and culture of J&K.

In his presidential address, Dr Ashok Bhan stressed upon the need to encourage the new generation of writers to write on different aspects of social themes.

Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor Cum Cultural Officer, JKAACL presented Vote of thanks. He said that such initiatives will be taken in future also. The inaugural session was conducted by Anil Tickoo, Asstt. Cultural Officer, JKAACL.

The inaugural session was followed by a paper reading session in which Dr. Sohan Lal, Prof. Veena Pandita, B.N. Betab, Dolly Tickoo Arwal and Mohan Krishan Koul presented their papers on Patriotic Poetry of Dina Nath Nadim, Lal Ded as Beacon of Knowledge and Pain of Migration in Literature. The session was presided over by Prof. Veena Pandita.

The session was conducted by Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor Cum cultural Offi-

cer, JKAACL.

In the Second Session, the writers Prof. B. L. Zutshi, R. L. Jowhar, R. L. Talash, A.K. Naaz and Wali Mohd Aseer presented their Papers on the topics Origin and Cultural Roots of Kashmiri Pandit in Kashmir, Problems of Kashmiri Script after 1990, Problems of Young Kashmiri Pandit Writers and Contribution of Cultural Organisations. This session was presided over by Prof. B.L. Zutshi.

It was followed by a Short story session in which Riko Koul and Engineer Vinod presented their stories.

At the conclusion of the event Light music programme was presented by the renowned artists of Jammu and Kashmir Ravi Bhan, Rajesh Khar, Deepali Wattal and Naina Sapru. The audience were left spellbound by their melodious presentations. The Singers were equally supported by Vijay Anand on Tabla, Rakesh Jasotra on Flute, Sanjay Pashi on Guitar and Vicky Gill on Synth. The attraction of the program was the veegVachun by Dazy Bazaz and her group which was appreciated by the audience.

Sankalp Saptah culminates in Block Budhal New; Amrit Kalash Yatra also hosted

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 9

In a transformative and commendable initiative, the Budhal New Block in Rajouri district today concluded its week-long Sankalp Saptah program, closely aligned with the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). This initiative, which commenced with an official inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, ITPO, New Delhi, stands as a testament to the Indian government's unwavering commitment to enhance governance at the grassroots level, thereby directly benefiting its citizens.

Under the astute guidance and supervision of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, the Sankalp Saptah event in Budhal New Block witnessed an array of impactful activities organized by different government departments. This comprehensive event aimed to touch upon various facets of development and well-being, providing a holistic approach to uplift the lives of the residents.

The event's first day, aptly named "Sampoorn e-Swasthaya," was orchestrated by the health department. It offered crucial healthcare services, including ANC clinics, immunization drives, screenings for non-communicable



diseases (NCDs), anaemia tests, and tuberculosis awareness campaigns. The community also engaged in health-focused rallies to raise awareness about these vital issues.

On the second day, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Department hosted the "Suposhit Pariwar Poshan Mela," an event dedicated to nutrition-related activities. It included the growth monitoring of children and weight assessment of pregnant women. Additionally, cultural ceremonies such as "Godh Bharai" and "Annaprasan" were celebrated at anganwadi centers, emphasizing the importance of healthy nutrition from a young age.

The third day of Sankalp Saptah was devoted to "Swatchta Ek Sankalp," focusing on cleanliness activities at the gram panchayat level. This included cleanliness drives and initiatives to improve sanitation and hygiene practices within the community.

The following day,

"Krishi Mahotsav" took center stage, promoting advancements in agriculture. Given the significance of agriculture in many rural areas, this event aimed to empower farmers with knowledge and resources to improve their agricultural practices.

"Shiksha Ek Sankalp" on the fifth day concentrated on the vital aspect of education. The government sought to enhance the quality of education in primary and middle schools across the block Khawas, recognizing that education is a cornerstone of progress and development.

The sixth day, "Smridhi Diwas," celebrated the progress and development achieved at Panchayat Ghars. This highlighted the tangible results of community engagement and government initiatives working in harmony to bring about positive change at the grassroots level.

Finally, the event reached its culmination on the seventh day with the "Sankalp Saptah

Samavesh Samaroh." This closing ceremony marked the successful completion of the week-long program, showcasing the collective efforts and achievements of the community and government.

The Sankalp Saptah is a vital initiative that draws inspiration from the aspirations and inputs gathered during chintan shivirs at the village and block levels across the nation. It embodies the relentless commitment of the government to grassroots development and governance enhancement. The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), initiated by the Prime Minister, serves as the guiding force behind these efforts, with a visionary goal to directly impact the lives of citizens in aspirational blocks.

Furthermore, in a remarkable display of community spirit and commitment to rural development, the Budhal New Block recently hosted the Amrit Kalash Yatra, a significant event under the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" initiative. This event symbolized unity and collective effort in driving positive change in the region.

The Block Budhal New became the focal point for this inspiring event, bringing together representatives from various departments, PRI members, and the local community. One of the most symbolic and touching aspects of the

Amrit Kalash Yatra was the gathering of soil and rice from different panchayats within the Budhal New Block. Soil collected from these diverse panchayats was brought to the Block HQ, signifying the convergence of communities and their shared commitment to rural development.

This event highlighted the profound importance of community participation and collaboration in the pursuit of rural development goals. The Amrit Kalash Yatra not only brought people together but also served as a powerful reminder that progress and prosperity can be achieved when communities work hand in hand towards a common vision. Budhal New Block's unwavering commitment to "Meri Maati Mera Desh" was vividly demonstrated during this inspiring event.

In essence, these initiatives underscore the power of community engagement and government efforts working hand-in-hand to bring progress, development, and a better quality of life to every corner of the nation. The successful culmination of Sankalp Saptah and the Amrit Kalash Yatra exemplify the dedication of the government and its resolute commitment to creating a brighter future for all citizens, particularly in aspirational blocks like Budhal New in Rajouri district.

Sankalp Saptah culminates in Block Khawas Aligning with Aspirational Blocks Programme

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 9

The week-long Sankalp Saptah, a transformative program closely aligned with the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), concluded today in the aspirational block of Khawas, Rajouri district.

This remarkable initiative, officially inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, at Bharat Mandapam, ITPO, New Delhi, has been a testament to the commitment of the government to enhance governance at the block level, thereby directly benefiting the local citizens.

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, the Sankalp Saptah event in



Khawas witnessed an array of impactful activities organized by different departments. It commenced with "Sampoorn e Swasthaya" by the health department on the first day, offering vital services like ANC clinics, immunization drives, NCD screenings, anaemia tests, TB awareness campaigns, and rallies.

On the second day, the ICDS Department hosted the "Suposhit Pariwar Poshan Mela," which featured nutrition-related activities such as growth monitoring of children and weight assessment of pregnant women, along with cultural ceremonies like "Godh Brai" and "Annaprasan" at anganwadi centers.

The third day was dedicated to "Swatchta Ek Sankalp," focusing on cleanliness activities at the gram panchayat level. This was followed by "Krishi Mahotsav" on the fourth day, promoting agricultural advancements. "Shiksha Ek Sankalp" on the fifth day concentrated on improving education in primary and middle schools across the block Khawas.

The sixth day observed as "Smridhi Diwas," celebrated progress and development at Panchayat Ghars. The event reached its culmination today with the "Sankalp Saptah Samavesh Samaroh."

The Sankalp Saptah is a crucial initiative that stems from the aspirations and inputs gathered during chintan shivirs at the village and block levels across the nation. It embodies the

relentless commitment of the Government to grassroots development and governance enhancement. The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), initiated by the Prime Minister on January 7, 2023, is the guiding force behind these efforts, with a vision to directly impact the lives of citizens in aspirational blocks.

This successful culmination of Sankalp Saptah in Khawas, Rajouri district, exemplifies the power of community engagement and government initiatives working hand-in-hand to create positive change at the grassroots level. It is a testament to the dedication of the government and its unwavering resolve to bring progress and development to every corner of the nation.

Government Polytechnic Jammu organises Chess Tournament



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 9

The Sports Wing of Government Polytechnic Jammu organised an Inter Department "Chess Tournament" in the Conference Hall of the Institute today.

Forty students from eight departments of Automobile Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Engg, Architecture Assistantship, Travel & Tourism, Instrumentation & Control, Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering Department participated in the Inter-Department Tournament competition in the first stage and the final stage tournament was held today. The Principal, Er. Arun Bangotra was Chief Guest at the felicitation function of Inter Department Chess Tournament.

In the Semi finals, Harshit Sachdev of Electrical Engineering beat Suparth Sharma of Automobile Engineering department and Chinmay Sharma outplayed Kashish Jasrota of Travel & Tourism Department.

In the finals, Chinmay of the Architecture Department remained victorious beating Harshit Sachder of the Electrical Engineering Department.

The Principal applauded all the participants for taking part in the chess tournament. He said student player present in the occasion that "Chess is about making strong moves & sticking to them. In life too, if we plan or do something, we need to make sure to stand on our ground and fight for what we think is better for us". He appreciated the efforts

of all the HOD's, Sports Secretary for the coordinated effort to organize such events.

The Tournament was organized by Amit Kumar Sharma Sports Secretary, Chamel Singh PEM and Toshi Devi PET. The Committee for the tournament included Er. Manjeet Singh HOD Electrical, Er. Rishabh Gupta Lecturer Mechanical Engg and Rakesh Khullar Instructor. Er. Raj Kumar, HOD Mechanical Engg, Er. Raj Shekhar HoD Automobile Engg, Er. Sukhdeep Singh HOD Civil Engineering, Er. Jasdeep Kaur HOD Instrumentation & Control, Er. Sanjay Koul HOD Computer Engineering, Er. Rani Devi HOD IT, Er. Vicky Sharma Demonstrator Electrical Engg, Er. Akash Dusgotra Workshop Instructors were present on the occasion.

State Taxes Department mourns death of colleague

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 9

The staff of State Taxes Department has expressed heartfelt condolence on the sad and untimely demise of their colleague Vijay Kumar, Senior Assistant State Taxes Department. The staff prayed for grant of everlasting peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.



ITI Udhampur hosts PM National Apprenticeship Mela

JINNEWSERVICE UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 9

As per the directions of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Government of India...



The programme started with lighting of the Lamp by the Chief Guest & other guests followed by Saraswati Vandana...

putting in extra efforts to promote this youth friendly scheme in Udhampur District.

Earlier, Superintendent ITI Ravinder Singh Bhatti welcomed the Chief Guest V Babu...

man IMC ITI Udhampur Arun P. Gupta, Gurmeet Singh, Assistant Director, RDSDE Jammu...

The Superintendent ITI gave a detailed account of the Apprenticeship Training Scheme.

the occasion and assured every possible help in the implementation of the scheme.

Fareed Ahmed Sheikh (Mela In-charge) spoke at length about the Apprenticeship Scheme...

At the end, Man Mohan Raj, Senior faculty ITI Udhampur presented vote of thanks.

District Panel approves 16 Rent cases at Doda

JINNEWSERVICE DODA, OCTOBER 9

The District Rent Assessment Committee (RAC), which met here today...

A total of 21 cases were submitted before the committee. Five cases were deferred due to some deficiencies of required documents...

and ISM (AYUSH). The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of various structures...

The chairman asked intending departments to submit the case with the rent agreement duly issued by Judicial/ Executive Magistrates only.

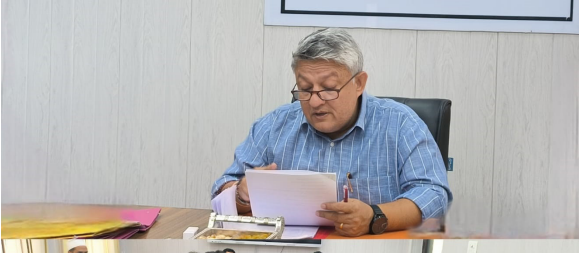
The meeting was attended by CPO Doda Suresh Kumar, ACR Doda Sanjeev Kumar, SP Headquarter Shakeel Batt, SE PWD R.P Gupta...



DC reviews saturation of Self-Employment schemes in Doda district

JINNEWSERVICE DODA, OCTOBER 9

To provide gainful employment to the desiring unemployed youth of the district, the Central and UT government has launched a variety of self-employment schemes.



in the district to improve rural economic activities with special focus to provide livelihood opportunity to women folk in their vicinity.

The Deputy Director Employment and LDM were asked to coordinate and make sure that all the desiring applicants...

get their chosen financial assistance at the earliest. The stakeholder departments were further asked to run an extensive advertisement in the media...

invite applications from the eligible unemployed youth for greater awareness and saturation of the schemes.

After the review meeting, the interview of the candidates who had applied for financial assistance under JKREGP was conducted to assess the applicants' calibre...

attended by CPO Doda Suresh Kumar, GM DIC/DD Employment Idrees Lone, LDM, District Coordinator JK Bank, DIO Doda, Dy Registrar Cooperatives Doda...

GDC Bholderwah celebrates Wildlife Week 2023

JINNEWSERVICE BHADERWAH, OCTOBER 9

Department of Zoology Government PG College Bholderwah, in collaboration with Department of Botany, today organised symposium competition and expert lecture as part of Wildlife week celebration.

har Head Dept. of Economics highlighted the importance of sustainable goals. Dr.Mushtaq Ahmed Head Dept. of Persian stressed upon the students to create awareness at their native places regarding the conservation of wildlife.

The event was judged by Prof. Yaseen Sarwal HOD Chemistry, Prof. Pinky Kotwal Sr. Asstt. Prof. Physics and Isha Slathia Dept.of Zoology.

The programme began with welcome address by Dr. Sandeep Kotwal. Dr Wani signified the importance of celebration of this week and stressed upon the student community to act as ambassadors to disseminate the message...

Five students participated in symposium competition. Amjad Latief of 5th sem, Zubair Ahmed of 5th sem and Aisha of 3rd sem were adjudged 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

CANCELLATION / DIVERSION AND REGULATION OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK

This is notified for the information of all concerned that Northern Railway will undertake the Non-Interlocking work of Jaunpur - Jaunpur City Chord Line.

Table with columns: Train No. & Train Name, Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station). Lists various train services affected between Oct 16 and 28, 2023.

Table with columns: Train No. & Train Name, Diverted (Via), Date(s) (from originating station). Lists various train services diverted to other routes.

DIVERSION OF TRAINS

Table with columns: Train No. & Train Name, Diverted (Via), Date(s) (from originating station). Lists various train services diverted to other routes.

REGULATION OF TRAINS

Train No. 13414 Delhi Jn. - Malda Town Farkka Express will be regulated by 30 minutes on 16.10.2023, 18.10.2023, 23.10.2023, 25.10.2023 & 28.10.2023 Enroute.

For any other information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrailways.gov.in or NTES App.

Advertisement for Northern Railway with logo and text: SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE. Includes website and app information.

DC Kupwara inaugurates new Tehsil Office Building at Kralpora

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 9

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan on Monday inaugurated the new Tehsil Office Building at Kralpora in presence of DDC Member Kralpora, Adv. Masrat; DDC Reddi Chowkibal, Habibullah Beigh and Local BDC Chairman, Mohammad Akbar Rather.

Tehsildar Kralpora, BDO Kralpora, SHO Kralpora besides other officers, PRIs, and local public were also present on the occasion. The Deputy Commissioner on the occasion said that it was a long pending demand of the people of Kralpora which was taken into consideration and fulfilled by the Administration. She said the creation of public infrastructure and providing facilities to the people at their door steps was the first priority of the district



administration Kupwara. She also took a round of the newly constructed building and expressed satisfaction over the quality of work.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agency to complete the remaining work of the building at the earliest.

After inauguration, the DC congratulated the PRIs and people and said that a durable asset has been created with the Support of PRIs.

Pertinently, Tehsil Office Building has been

constructed with an allotted cost of Rs. 24.00 Lakhs by Rural Development Department Block Kralpora under ADF (PR). The Deputy Commissioner checked the staff strength of the Tehsil Kralpora and interacted with staff and sought their feedback on dispute resolution, public service delivery and other issues.

She directed BDO Kralpora to get the Alooosa Nallah cleared of garbage and other plastic wastes. To take stock of the facilities being provided

to the patients, the Deputy Commissioner later conducted a surprise inspection of the Sub District Hospital, Kralpora.

She inspected various sections and wards of the Hospital and held interaction with patients and enquired about the facilities being provided to them from Hospital Administration. She inspected the Drug counter, assessed the inventory of crucial supplies and medicines available in the hospital, and examined Ophtho-Section, NCD Physiotherapy, OT, Wards besides other units of the Hospital.

She also interacted with the PRIs, patients and attendants.

The Deputy Commissioner checked the duty roster of Doctors and paramedical staff and stressed for proper utilization of human resources and to serve the patients with utmost dedication and sincerity.

DC Bandipora chairs review meeting of R&B Department



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 9

In order to ensure the efficient execution of infrastructure development projects in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad Monday convened a review meeting with the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department.

The meeting was held to assess ongoing projects, evaluate progress, and strategize for future initiatives.

The meeting threadbare discussed and reviewed the status of ongoing infrastructure projects, including road construction, bridge development, and maintenance work. The officers of R&B presented a detailed progress report and achievements so far.

The challenges faced by the department in the execution of different works were also discussed during the meeting.

The DC stressed upon

the importance of timely project completion and quality workmanship. The meeting also assessed performance metrics, and strategies were also discussed to address any bottlenecks affecting project timelines.

The meeting discussed the allocation of resources, including manpower and machinery, to expedite pending projects and maintain the existing infrastructure.

Dr. Owais urged the department to engage with concerned DDC and PRIs for effective future project planning.

Regarding the pending works, the DC called upon the concerned officers to fix responsibility of the contractor and serve show cause notice for unnecessary delays.

The DC further called upon the officers to execute all works under different schemes in a transparent and time bound manner.

Meri Maati Mera Desh Amrit Kalash collected at block Headquarters across Bandipora



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 9

'Amrit Kalash Yatra' as part of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign was on Monday held in different villages of Block Headquarters of district Bandipora, celebrating India's 75th year of Independence.

The Amrit Kalash Yatra involved the collection of soil from various Panchayats within the blocks of district Bandipora, symbolising unity and dedication to the country. DDC Arin, led the 'Amrit Kalash

Yatra' with the participation of councilors besides residents of the block. The Yatra culminated at the council's headquarters.

Similarly, the Amrit Kalash was collected from across the other blocks of the district, including Block Bonakoot and different blocks of Gurez Sub division.

Pertinently, the Amrit Kalash Yatra Block Level functions are being conducted, and Campaign shall culminate at a Grand Function to be held at Kartavya Path on October 30, 2023.

DC Kupwara reviews LaQshya, NQAs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 9

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Monday convened a meeting of the Officers of Health Department Kupwara to review the progress of LaQshya (Labor room Quality assurance Services) and NQAS (National Quality Health standards) Parameters at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the CMO Kupwara gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation and highlighted the targets/achievements under LaQshya and NQAS parameters.

Dr. Jitendra Mehta, State Nodal officer (Lakhshya, NQas & Asha Functionality) also apprised the DC about facilities of NQAS in different Sub centers, PHCs and CHC of the district. He suggested how shortcomings can be overcome through concerted



efforts of all the stakeholders.

The DC took a detailed review of all parameters including labour room and maternity OT facilities under LaQshya. She directed concerned BMOs to work out the gaps under NQAS and LaQshya and complete them so that parameters are improved.

Ayushi stressed on BMOs to take keen interest in LaQshya and NQAS as the main aim of these programmes is to reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity, stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in the labour Room and maternity operation theatre. She impressed upon BMOs to

ensure respectful maternity care and improve the quality of healthcare in public Health facilities.

The DC directed BMOs to relook into duty rosters of their jurisdiction and ensure the mismanagement of human resources is avoided. She impressed upon BMOs to strictly implement Biometric attendance and directed CMO Kupwara to nominate a nodal officer to monitor biometric attendance of the entire district.

Meeting was attended by Dr. Jitendra Mehta, State Nodal officer (Lakhshya, NQas & Asha Functionality), CMO Kupwara, Medical Superintendents, all BMOs and other concerned officers.

ADDC Kulgam reviews physical & financial progress recorded under PMAAY, PMKKKY schemes

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, OCTOBER 8

The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather today chaired a meeting of officers to review physical and financial progress recorded under PMAAY and PMKKKY.

During the meeting, project wise review was taken by the ADDC.

He stressed upon the officers to ensure timely completion of works and 100 percent utilization of funds. During the meeting he also reviewed the district indicator framework. The meeting was attended by JDP Zahid Sajjad; ACD Mohammad Imran; ACP, Sharjeel Ali; CEO, DMO, DS&EO and other concerned officers.

Inter-Zone District level Athletic meet kick-starts at Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 9

The department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal kick-started a captivating inter Zone District level Athletic meet for boys and Girls at Qamaria Stadium

Ganderbal in which all four Zones of the district participated.

The young athletes are not only competing for glory but also embodying the spirit of unity and sportsmanship.

DYSSO Ganderbal,

Sheikh Shafqat Iqbal visited the venue and personally monitored all the events and also interacted with the student athletes. The officer also showed his personal interest in various track and field events of this meet and keenly observed the techniques of student athletes.

He also encouraged the athletes as well as rectified their minute mistakes. The meritorious athletes of this mega meet were felicitated with their well-deserved medals by the senior officials of the department.

Vice Chairman, DDC Kupwara takes review of implementation & progress of different projects

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 9

The Vice Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir today took a review of the implementation and progress of different projects under different sectors in territorial constituency Wavoor (Lolab) at Meeting Hall of DC office Complex Kupwara. The Vice Chairman took a detailed review of tendering, work allotments, execution and timely completion of different projects under different Sectors including RDD, Education, Tourism, JJM, Health, Youth Service & Sports, PDD, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry, CAPD, NRLM and R&B.

The Vice Chairman received feedback from the concerned officers regarding measures taken



for timely completion of different projects.

Haji Farooq stressed on gearing up all resources to speed up the progress on execution of all the works and their timely completion.

SE Hydraulics Kupwara Circle, CEO LBDDA, ACD

Kupwara, ACP Kupwara, CEO Kupwara, CMO, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, AD Fisheries, AD Food, BDO Wavoor, DYSSO, AEE (STD), AEE PDD, AEE R&B and other concerned were present in the meeting.

B'la achieves remarkable Victory in Under 14, 17 & 19 Boy's IDPL Kho-Kho Competitions

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 9

In a remarkable display of talent and determination, Baramulla district has clinched the coveted titles in the Under 14, 17 & 19 Boys' Inter-District Provincial Level Kho-Kho Competitions.

This impressive achievement comes on the heels of Baramulla's recent hat-trick win in the Under 14, 17 & 19 Girls' category in Shopian just last week. These victories underscore Baramulla's dominance in the field of Kho-Kho at the provincial level.

The Inter-District Provincial Level Kho-Kho Competitions were organized by the Youth Services & Sports Department of Jammu & Kashmir, and the event took place at Pulwama. Baramulla's teams exhibited exceptional sportsmanship, skill, and team work throughout the competition.



Jatinder Singh, the District Youth Services & Sports Officer of Baramulla, extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the winning teams from Baramulla district. He commended their outstanding performance in the Inter-District Provincial Level Kho-Kho Competitions, which

has brought immense pride to the district.

Singh also expressed his appreciation for the unwavering dedication and hard work of the department's field staff, whose tireless efforts contributed significantly to this triumphant achievement.

DC Kupwara reviews Developmental Plan for Heritage Sites



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 9

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review Developmental Plan for Heritage sites under 'Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture & Heritage scheme of J&K'.

On the occasion, the DC directed Executive Engineer R&B to frame DPRs with due consideration to the historical importance and heritage architecture of all the proposed sites in consultation with the experts of the Archeology Department. She impressed upon the R&B to frame holistic development

plans of all these sites which shall include restoration, revival and also creation of public amenities at these sites.

Ayushi emphasized that development of these heritage sites will boost heritage tourism in the district and will create employment opportunities for the local youth. She also suggested various other sites of historical importance for inclusion in the scheme.

The DC directed Ex. Engineer R&B to submit DPRs of these sites finalized in the meeting in a time bound manner.

JD Planning, ACR Kupwara, Dy. Director Archeology, CEO, DIO, Ex. Engineer R&B Kupwara and other concerned attended the meeting.

Sankalp Saptah Departments organise awareness programmes at Tulail under ABP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 9

Various departments including Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture and its allied sectors Monday held awareness programmes at Tulail block of Gurez Subdivision under Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). The programmes were organised to educate common people, especially farmer community of the block regarding different farmer welfare schemes kept available by the government for their overall well being. On the occasion officials from the Sheep Husbandry department

threw detailed light on the various ongoing activities of the Department including artificial insemination in goats, livestock registration on INAPH portal and subsidized livestock insurance under National Livestock Mission (NLM). The farmers were made aware about feeding management during winter period and were apprised about the profitable scientific management of livestock. The farmers were further informed regarding the Holistic Agricultural Development Programme (HADP) of the Government of UT of J&K for upgrading the agriculture and allied sectors.

EDITORIAL

Don't jump to conclusions

Kargil election results have infused a new lease of life in the National Conference which is, at present, out to cash in its victory. Apart from normal celebrations, the National Conference, under a well-chalked out strategy, has left no stone unturned to impose upon the people that the results of the Council elections, which were given much hype, are a referendum on Article 370. There is no denying that various groups in Ladakh have been seeking constitutional safeguards to protect their land, jobs and culture from 'outsiders' but it would be wrong to draw a conclusion that the people were against the creation of Union Territory and abrogation of Article 370. Unfortunately, some politicians with vested interests remain busy in provoking and inciting people who need to be cautious while paying any heed to them. Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has described the Kargil Council victory as that it was the people's verdict against the 'illegal' decision of August 5, 2019. He is of the opinion that residents of Ladakh have outrightly rejected the decision of the Union Government to bifurcate the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories and abrogate article 370 and 35-A. He might have forgotten the response of Ladakh people during the last Leh Council elections which were held immediately after the abrogation of Article 370. At that time, the BJP mustered an absolute majority. Omar himself admitted that when article 370 was abrogated on August 5, 2019, residents of Kargil also joined other people of Ladakh to celebrate this decision. People even distributed sweets but now people are holding protests because they are unhappy with the decision that was taken unilaterally by the Centre. Kargil Council elections were not for development or other related issues. It was a referendum against the August 5, 2019 decision and the people of Ladakh overwhelmingly voted against the Union Government's decision, Omar's reaction to NC's victory as his party emerged as the single largest political party. During the campaign, Omar sought votes against the August 5, 2019 decision. Notably while campaigning for the National Conference candidates Omar Abdullah had sought the support of the people against the August 5, 2019 decision and announced that these elections would be a referendum on Article 370. The verdict of Kargil Council elections WAS on expected lines with the National Conference-Congress alliance winning the polls with a thumping majority. The NC leadership should not jump to conclusions and it should not write off the BJP which is still a force to reckon with. It would be wrong on the part of the former chief minister to believe that Kargil Council election results are a referendum on Article 370 and if so, the victory of BJP in Leh Council was also a referendum. In Kargil, the BJP had never been in a winning position but it has put up a great fight this time.

Can Netanyahu take his own advice battling Hamas?

MARC CHAMPION

Amid a shock this past weekend that was as monumental for Israel as was Sept. 11, 2001, for the US a generation ago, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu set out a good framework to respond. Whether he can stick to that strategy and execute it, rather than repeat the mistakes the US made in the years after al-Qaeda's equally unexpected attack on New York, will decide his place in Israel's history.

Netanyahu said his country was now at "war" with Hamas, which is considered a terrorist organization by Israel and US. Though understandable, or even inevitable, given the moment, this wasn't a good sign. Wars demand clear battlefield victories that don't necessarily bring strategic ones, and Israel's strategic priority right now should be containment. This conflict could grow a lot worse if allowed.

The more substantive part of Netanyahu's statement on Saturday was hard to fault. He divided his prescription for the days and weeks ahead into three parts: First, clear Hamas fighters from Israeli terri-

tory and restore security to the border; second, exact a price from Hamas, including in Gaza, while securing other borders to ensure nobody else attacks; and finally, unite and remain level-headed. It's the second and third parts that will be hard to stick to, so let's take them one at a time.

Netanyahu's second point is critical. It balances the need for retribution, and to weaken Hamas's capacity for any repeat, with the need to make sure that this brutal raid on Israeli territory doesn't become a real war, fought by Israel on one side against a range of state and non-state actors on the other. We know from Ukraine what that fight might look like.

Despite all the 1973 parallels, this isn't the Yom Kippur war – yet. Israel has been attacked by just one of its regional adversaries, and one of the weakest at that. Some of the country's battlefield opponents from the 1970s have even reconciled with it since. Still, all this can change quickly if the conflict escalates with the fury of the moment.

As for the US with Afghanistan after Sept. 11, Netanyahu has little choice

but to send his armed forces into Gaza, not least to retrieve hostages. But the nature and extent of that assault isn't predetermined. Gaza is a densely populated urban territory of about 2 million people, and achieving full control will likely require the most vicious, difficult form of warfare. The Israel Defense Forces are equipped to do that, but it isn't clear what an achievable endgame would be, and that needs to be determined in advance. Failure to do so cost the US and ordinary Afghans dearly. Iraq was a still-worse example.

A full-blown invasion aimed at wiping Hamas and its supporters from the map would increase the risk that other regional players become involved, seeing an opportunity as Israeli forces become bogged down in Gaza. Public support for action in Arab states also would likely grow, in tandem with online images of civilian Palestinian casualties.

Some, including Republican US senators, have concluded already that Iran organized Saturday's attack, enabled by \$6 billion in fresh funding approved by the Biden administra-

tion as part of a prisoner exchange deal. It's an understandable question. Iran does finance and support Hamas and was quick to welcome its attack on the state of Israel. But so far there is no hard evidence of Tehran's substantive involvement.

Take the \$6 billion. That money – which consists of previously frozen Iranian cash – is, as far as anyone can be sure, still tied up in Qatari banks. Given that the funds arrived in Qatar only after a Sept. 27 agreement, they couldn't have paid for the months-long preparations needed for Hamas's multi-pronged attack.

It's also reasonable to expect that if this plan had originated with Iran, it would have involved a second front opened by Hezbollah from Lebanon. So far, Hezbollah has only fired a few warning shots into the tiny, disputed Shebaa farms strip, which were met with a similarly symbolic response from the Israelis.

Others have accused Russia, which could well benefit from the distraction from its war in Ukraine. But again, there is no evidence to support this. Perhaps it will come, but Hamas had

plenty of reasons of its own to act when it did. Confirmation of an Iranian role in particular needs to be rock solid, because that could trigger a much wider regional war with unpredictable consequences.

Which brings us to Netanyahu's third agenda items: unity and level headedness. There is no justifying what Hamas has done, yet there will also be no repairing the puncture its attack has inflicted on Israeli confidence in the invincibility of its defenses. That needs to feed into a reassessment of whether the Netanyahu government's uncompromising approach on every Palestinian red line – from access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, to the status of Jerusalem or settlement policies in the West Bank – is sustainable. Saturday's mayhem suggests strongly that it is not.

One reason Hamas had so much success in achieving operational surprise against Israel's storied intelligence service, as well as in storming the border, appears to have been that so many security services resources had been diverted north to the West Bank, to deal with Palestinian protests over the actions of Netanyahu's government

and its supporters. Israeli protests over his attempts to weaken the independence of nation's judiciary created further distraction.

That record isn't encouraging when it comes to achieving either unity or a level head. The political pressure on Netanyahu to exact maximum possible revenge rather than act strategically, especially from the right wing of his coalition government, will be overwhelming. So, it's a good sign he said he'd consider forming a new cross-party government to deal with the emergency. As opposition leader Yair Lapid put it, the coming fight "won't be easy and it won't be short. It has strategic consequences, which we haven't seen for many years. There is a serious risk that it will become a multi-front war." Less promising was Netanyahu's address on Sunday, in which he pledged victory in a war that would turn every hiding place in the "evil city" of Gaza to rubble. He needs to stay the course and follow his own advice on how to respond to Hamas's attack, for the sake of Israelis, the vast majority of Palestinians who aren't combatants and his own legacy.

Globalisation of Indian financial markets

GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

The Government of India Bond (G-Sec) is a marker for the economy. The yield of the 10-year G-sec is often reckoned as a benchmark for the interest rate in the economy – the RBI therefore tries hard to prevent any wild fluctuation in its yield. Yield is inversely related to price, and when the price soars due to high demand, the yield naturally falls. This is precisely what happened on 21st September, when the yield of the 10-year G-Sec dropped by 7 basis points (0.07 per cent) to a two-month low of 7.08 per cent, before rising to 7.12 per cent eventually. Simultaneously, the rupee appreciated by 0.3 per cent to Rs 82.25 a dollar.

The trigger was an announcement, through a note dated 21st September, by the American bank JP Morgan Chase that the G-Secs would be included in its globally tracked "Government Bond Index for Emerging Markets Global Diversified (GBI-EMGD)" Index suite. Twenty emerging market economies are presently part of the GBI-EM Global index suite: Brazil, Czech Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Serbia, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and Uruguay; now India will be included

from June 2024. The decision marks a key positive development for India to boost its standing in international financial markets.

The inclusion followed intense negotiations of the government of India with investors and banks since 2019 and preparing the ground for inclusion. First, the RBI introduced a Fully Accessible Route (FAR) for investments in G-Secs giving non-resident investors complete access to specified G-Secs in 2020. 23 G-Secs with a combined nominal value of \$330 billion are presently index-eligible under the FAR – the criteria being a minimum of 2.5 years of remaining maturity (i.e., maturity falling after December 31, 2026) and a notional \$1Bn outstanding against the eligible G-Secs.

Other requirements include adequate trading frequency, easy availability and the absence of capital controls in local markets. India is already present in JP Morgan's GBI-EM Broad and GBI-EM Broad Diversified Indices. But the GBI-EMGD index is closely followed by most global funds and has a huge \$236 billion in assets benchmarked against it. Global managers use the index as a benchmark for investment and inclusion automatically opens the door to foreign capital – this applies to all such indices, major among these are Bloomberg, FTSE Russell and JP Morgan.

Their influence in the

financial money market is so overwhelming that no country can ignore them. JP Morgan's index was launched in the 1990s; it dominates the market for dedicated emerging-market-debt investors, with some \$780 billion of potential investments tracking its benchmarks. Foreign investors make allocations of their assets depending on the portfolio weights. India's inclusion in the Index will be spread over 10 months from June 28, 2024, till March 31, 2025, with an addition of 1 per cent weightage every month up to the maximum threshold of 10 per cent, which is a significant presence in the index. This is expected to attract about \$25 billion in investments into India at the rate of 1 per cent of assets every month over 10 months, as investors who track the index rebalance their portfolios. A Goldman Sachs report estimates that "India's fixed income markets could see inflows upwards of \$40 billion" over the inclusion horizon till March 2025. The Indian Rupee will appreciate as a result of the increased inflow, mirroring what happened between 2003 and 2008 due to the surge of capital inflows into India. Apart from giving the index provider – JP Morgan Chase – a scope to diversify their index, especially after Russia's ejection in the wake of its invasion of Ukraine and also given the slow-

ing economy in China, the inclusion will also give exposure to the world's fifth largest and the fastest growing major economy to all foreign investors. However it means that the globalised investment rules will now apply to the Indian bond market, and Indian tax policies and macroeconomic stability will need to be carefully managed, as any slip may affect the capital inflow. As the Chief Economic Adviser has said, our fiscal and monetary policies must take cognisance of global expectations. As of now, external borrowing is only a small part of our overall loan portfolio, this may increase over time.

Apart from attracting funds, it would also lower the country's interest rate, or borrowing cost of capital, making it even more attractive for investments. This is because the investments in G-Secs will ease borrowing pressures on the money market by freeing up capital for borrowing by the private borrowers – government borrowing will no longer crowd out private borrowing. This will bring down the cost of capital. Financial institutions today are the biggest buyers of the G-Secs, once foreign investors start buying GSecs, they can lend to the private sector for capital creation to boost income generation and growth. Demand for G-Secs by foreign investors will hike up their prices causing the

yield to fall. This will help the government reduce its interest costs, bringing down fiscal deficits and helping the government control inflation as well, as interest, fiscal deficit, inflation and exchange price of the rupee are all interrelated.

JPMorgan is the first major emerging market benchmark provider to include India in its indices for emerging markets. The inclusion of India in the GBI-EMGI will open the door for India's inclusion in the other two major indices as well – Bloomberg and FTSE Russell – shortly. No major index can ignore India's rising economic power, as demonstrated by the fact that 73 per cent of the benchmarked investors were in favour of India's inclusion in JP Morgan's GBI-EM GD index. India fulfils the criteria for inclusion in the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index of an investment grade (Baaa3/BBB) and is already on the watchlist for inclusion in the UK-based FTSE Russell's Index for Emerging Markets. Inclusion in Bloomberg's Aggregate index is expected to generate forex inflow of \$15-20 billion, with India's weight ranging from 0.6 per cent to 0.8 per cent. Hopefully, inclusion in JPMorgan's index will ultimately nudge the credit rating agencies – S&P, Fitch and Moody's – also to upgrade their assessment of India; currently, they all give

India their lowest investment-grade rating. In any case, the Indian economy has outperformed most emerging market economies – the Sensex also has outperformed the stock markets of all its peer countries. A rating upgrade is now overdue.

India is also expected to enter other JPMorgan bond indices – the JADE Global Diversified Index, the JESG GBI-EM Index, and other aggregate suites of local currency indices. Its weightage in the GBI-EMGD index is expected to rise to 8.7 per cent. Experts estimate that FPI holdings of outstanding G-secs could double by May 2025 to 3.4 per cent compared to September 2023. India's inclusion will trigger outflows elsewhere, leading to shrinkage of weights for government bonds issued by other countries – JP Morgan estimates that Thailand will be the biggest loser with a 1.65 percentage points loss, followed by South Africa, Poland, Czech Republic and Brazil. The Indian financial market, about to be truly globalised, is at last coming of age, in sync with India's rising heft in global economy and geopolitics.

(The author, a former Director General at the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, is currently a Professor at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management; views are personal)

Disposable cups: a health hazard

SAKSHI SETHI

Are you planning to flaunt your favourite iced latte or frappe or your hot tea or coffee in the fancy cup... then it's time to get a little serious. In our fast-paced world, every one of us wants our drinks on the go, wherever and whenever we go. But do we all even realise that these beverages when poured into the so-called fancy paper cups and covered lids are increasing the risk of cancer?

It is often believed that these plastic cups or bottles were never been a choice at large as they contain BPA (a chemical

linked to cancer and other diseases) and keeping that in mind many paper cups replaced plastic cups (once referred to as nature's gift) on the market and started selling their produce in the market as "eco-friendly". There is no denying the fact that paper cups may be healthier for the planet Earth than plastic but the big question that puts everyone in trouble is whether they are safe for the INDIVIDUAL at large.

As per various types of research conducted in and out, it has been found that over thirty billion sub-micron-sized plastic particles present in the top layer of these

so-called eco-friendly paper cups showed the presence of heavy metals such as lead, chromium and cadmium in the liners, which can be the major cause for the increase of risk of cancer. The plastic coating, when exposed to hot liquids starts to break down and releases trillions of nanoparticles of microplastics per litre and when they are ingested regularly over time, the health implications could be serious. Studies have even shown that the chemicals present in them can have adverse effects on human health, particularly in the context of reproductive health. These chemicals have also

been linked to interference in sperm production, genital malformation and even hormonal disturbances.

So next time when you hit a coffee shop or a kiosk for your favourite iced frappe or hot tea/coffee remember, that these cups and the covering lid are a harm to living organisms when they end up in nature. One of many solutions is to make and enjoy your tea/coffee at home or to bring your reusable travel mug when you get to your favourite coffee shop. Today, many start-ups are offering edible, biodegradable, plastic-free alternatives to the standard polyethylene-lined paper

cups that are used for tea or coffee which largely end up in landfills.

These takeaway cups come with an inner lining that helps the cup stay waterproof and the lining also makes it difficult to recycle these cups. The concept of edible cups is a lot in which these cups are made with oats and grains and last for almost eight to ten hours without even affecting the taste of the drink. Alternatively, the use of earthen cups, often referred to as kulhad is a hygienic and environmentally friendly alternative to plastic and paper cups. The simple yet earthy texture and the aroma allow

one to truly appreciate the drink in a completely different and rustic way. Also, such cups are non-reusable and when disposed of or broken can get merged with the soil and be used again.

So, if you love your tea or coffee, think twice or thrice about how to grab yours in a healthy and eco-friendly way and say a big NO to the disposables as aptly said "You can't control everything in your life but you can control what you put in your body."

(The writer is educator; views are personal)

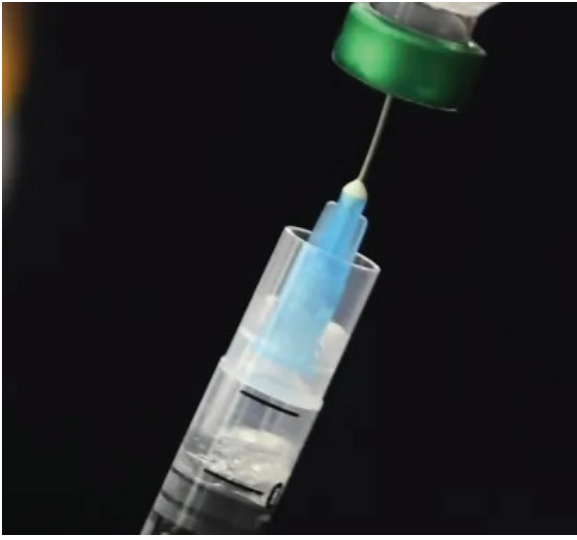
Vaccination, early detection needed to check hepatitis: Experts

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, OCT 9

Vaccination and early detection are key to the elimination of hepatitis, B and C and India is moving fast on track to eliminate the disease.

Experts at the annual two-day conference 'UPISGCON-2023', of Uttar Pradesh Society of Gastroenterology Congress that concluded here on Sunday, said that the World Health Organization targets to reduce new hepatitis infection by 90 per cent by 2030 for this, focus should be on 100 per cent Hepatitis B vaccine coverage for all children at birth, which is between 70 and 80 per cent in India at present.

"For Hepatitis C, there is no vaccine, hence complete treatment facility is not yet within reach of all patients," said Manoj Kumar Sharma of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi.



need to adapt to highest quality screening methods such as nucleic acid test (NAT) to stop transfusion of infected blood."

The national strategy for viral Hepatitis B and C focuses on strengthening existing preventive services and further expanding the coverage of diagnostics and treatment services to the communities, said doctors.

Experts also said that street food or fast food should be a big no for all.

"At first, I would say don't eat outside food. But if someone has to do it out of compulsion, first check hygiene at food stall, watch out if they are using leftover food to prepare dishes and also observe personal hygiene of the cook. Also watch out if they use rotten vegetables," said Devesh Prakash Yadav, HoD gastroenterology at Institute of Medical Science at Banaras Hindu University.

"Vaccination helped curb cases of smallpox, polio in our country. We need to do the same for Hepatitis. Bring Hepatitis cases down to such a level that it is practically no threat to people in our country," said Sumit Rungta, HoD medical gastroenterology at King George's Medical University (KGMU).

Rungta, the organising secretary of the conference said: "The route to bring down Hepatitis to a harmless level goes through early and universal identification of new cases and their complete treatment."

Punit Mehrotra, the organising chairperson of the conference, said: "Blood banks are also a sensitive point when it comes to hepatitis. They

More side effects post Covid vax may signal antibody production: Study

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 9

People who experience more side effects like chills, tiredness, feeling unwell, and headache post Covid-19 vaccination may be having an enhanced antibody production in their bodies, according to a preprint study, that is not yet peer-reviewed.

Protection against SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, wanes over time, and booster uptake has been low.

The new study, by researchers from University of California - San Francisco, US, showed that people who had those side effects after the second dose of a Covid vaccine had more antibodies against the coronavirus at one month and six months after the shot, compared with those who did not have symptoms.

Increases in skin temperature and heart rate also signalled higher anti-



symptoms don't muster a strong immune response, experts have said, noting that the relative increase in antibody levels among those who experienced side effects was small.

"Lack of side effects should not be taken as a sign that the vaccine's not working," Alessandro Sette, co-director of the La Jolla Institute of Immunology's Center for Vaccine Innovation, who was not involved in the work, was quoted as saying to the New York Times.

An earlier study found that 98 per cent of people who felt no ill effects still produced copious amounts of antibodies, compared with 99 percent of those who had localised symptoms or worse, Sette said.

But, the researchers said, the new findings "suggest that public health messaging could seek to reframe systemic symptoms after vaccination as desirable".

body levels, the study showed. The study explored the link between post-vaccination symptoms, biometric changes, and neutralising antibodies (nAb) after mRNA vaccination.

The team collected data from 363 adults who received two doses of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna Covid.

"We found that certain symptoms (chills, tiredness, feeling unwell, and headache) after the second dose were associated with increases in nAb at one and six months post-vaccination, to roughly 140-

160 per cent the level of individuals without each symptom," said Ethan G. Dutcher, from the UCSF's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, in the paper.

"Each additional symptom predicted a 1.1-fold nAb increase. Greater changes in skin temperature and heart rate after the second dose predicted higher nAb levels. Skin temperature had a stronger predictive relationship for six-month than one-month nAb levels," Dutcher added.

However, this doesn't mean that people without

Cardiac concerns prompt EMRI-108's ambulances at garba hotspots

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, OCT 9

Amid surge in cardiac incidents among youth, especially during the garba festivities, EMRI-108 will now place its ambulances around prominent garba venues in the city and other key areas of the state.

The district, home to 115 of these life-saving vehicles, has a primary focus of 100 ambulances dedicated to urban parts of Ahmedabad, while 15 cater to more rural areas, including Bavla and Godhavi in Ahmedabad.

This year's approach by EMRI-108 sees a marked shift in strategy.

Instead of the traditional stationary placements, the organisation is now intent on situating their ambulances within a 200-500 meter radius of the dancing events. This repositioning is in response to the disturbing uptick in heart-related incidents, shared an official today.

Study finds breast cancer drug with a serious side effect

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 9

Researchers have found elevated rates of high blood sugar, or hyperglycemia, among patients with breast cancer who are treated with the oral medication alpelisib.

Alpelisib targets the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) protein that is involved in cell growth and when mutated can contribute to cancer.

In 2019, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of this drug in combination with fulvestrant, an oestrogen receptor blocker, for certain cases of metastatic breast cancer that have mutations in the gene that codes for a PI3K subunit.

Unfortunately, targeting PI3K can lead to hyperglycemia as a side effect which, if severe, can result in dehydration or kidney damage and can require hospitalisation, revealed the study published online in the journal CANCER.

"If a patient is identified



to have a PI3KCA mutation and thus eligible for treatment with alpelisib, we should be checking haemoglobin A1c level and partnering with the patient's primary care physician and/or endocrinologist to optimise their blood sugar levels," said Dr Sherry Shen from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the US.

"This needs to be done months before initiating alpelisib, because once alpelisib is started, hyperglycemia usually develops within the first two weeks of treatment. Being pre-emptive about improving glycemic status and treating prediabetes/diabetes will hopefully lower the patient's risk of developing hyperglycemia and thus, lower their risk of needing to discontinue a

drug that could be effective for their cancer," Shen said.

In the study, the team set out to describe the incidence, risk factors, and treatment patterns of alpelisib-associated hyperglycemia in patients with metastatic breast cancer treated in a clinical trial or as standard care at their institution. Among 147 patients treated with alpelisib as standard care, the rate of hyperglycemia was 80.3 per cent, and the rate of serious hyperglycemia was 40.2 per cent.

Among 100 patients who were treated during a clinical trial, rates were lower (34.0 per cent any grade and 13.0 per cent serious hyperglycemia). The median time to onset of hyperglycemia after initiating alpelisib was 16

Patient's comfort in AI-driven healthcare linked to familiarity: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 9

Patients' familiarity with artificial intelligence (AI) significantly influences their comfort level when considering healthcare facilities utilising this technology, according to a report on Monday.

New Delhi, Oct 9 (ANS) Patients' familiarity with artificial intelligence (AI) significantly influences their comfort level when considering healthcare facilities utilising this technology, according to a report on Monday.

As the healthcare landscape undergoes transformation due to factors like ageing populations, rising chronic diseases, and shifts in lifestyle choices, technology, particularly AI, is playing an increasingly vital role.

The report by GlobalData, a data and analytics company, showed that out of patients who were familiar with AI, 60 per cent were either very or quite comfortable with using a healthcare facility that uses AI, while of

the ones who were not familiar with AI, only 7 per cent were.

"AI is already successfully used to detect image-based diseases such as cancer and the technology is continuously evolving to enable much wider use cases within healthcare. Successful use cases can encourage further adoption and investment in this technology," said Urte Jakimaviciute, Senior Director of Market Research at GlobalData, in a statement.

"Together with the development of a robust regulatory framework, it is imperative to prioritise patient education regarding the technology. This education should aim to enhance comprehension of AI's utilisation, its potential advantages, and associated adoption risks, ultimately fostering increased trust in AI.

While AI adoption is inevitable, it must be inclusive. Even though younger generations may drive the use and adoption of AI, building a fair and ethical AI system will need intergenerational collaboration. AI use will need to address generation-wide issues, and therefore it is essential to ensure that all generations can benefit from the adoption of AI," Jakimaviciute said. The report is based on

Pregnancy hormones 'rewire' women's brain to prepare for motherhood: Study

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 7

During pregnancy, it's not women's bodies alone that undergo change. Turns out the brain also gets 'rewired' to prepare for motherhood, finds a study in mice.

The findings, published in the journal Science, show that both oestrogen and progesterone act on a small population of neurons in the brain to switch on parental behaviour even before offspring arrive. These adaptations resulted in stronger and more selective responses to pups.

It is well known that while virgin female rodents do not show much interaction with pups, mothers spend most of their time looking after young. It was thought that hormones released when giving birth are most crucial for this onset of maternal behaviour.

But earlier research

also showed that rats who have given birth by Caesarean section, and virgin mice exposed to pregnancy hormones, still display this maternal behaviour, suggesting that hormone changes already during pregnancy may be more important.

In the current study, the researchers from the Francis Crick Institute found that female mice indeed showed increased parental behaviour during late pregnancy, and that exposure to pups wasn't necessary for this change in behaviour.

They found that a population of nerve cells (galanin-expressing neurons) in an area of the brain called the medial preoptic area (MPOA) in the hypothalamus, associated with parenting, was impacted by oestrogen and progesterone.

"We know that the female body changes during pregnancy to prepare for bringing up

young. One example is the production of milk, which starts long before giving birth. Our research shows that such preparations are taking place in the brain, too," said Jonny Kohl, from the Crick.

"We think that these changes, often referred to as 'baby brain', cause a change in priority - virgin mice focus on mating, so don't need to respond to other females' pups, whereas mothers need to perform robust parental behaviour to ensure pup survival. What's fascinating is that this switch doesn't happen at birth - the brain is preparing much earlier for this big life change," Kohl added.

In the study, brain recordings showed that oestrogen simultaneously reduced the baseline activity of these neurons and made them more excitable, whereas progesterone rewired their inputs, by recruiting more synapses (sites of

communication between neurons).

Making these neurons insensitive to hormones completely removed the onset of parental behaviour during pregnancy. Mice failed to show parental behaviour even after giving birth, suggesting there is a critical period during pregnancy when these hormones take effect.

While some of these changes lasted for at least a month after giving birth, others seem to be permanent, suggesting pregnancy can lead to long-term rewiring of the female brain.

The researchers believe the brain may also be rewired in a similar way during pregnancy in humans, as the same hormonal changes are expected to impact the same areas of the brain. This could influence parental behaviour alongside environmental and social cues.

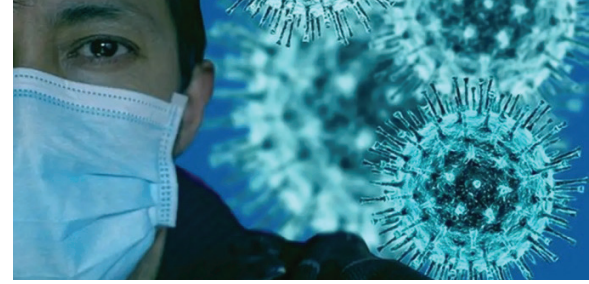
Covid raises risk of new-onset of alopecia, vitiligo, arthritis: Study

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 7

South Korean researchers have identified a significantly higher risk of multiple new-onset autoimmune and autoinflammatory connective-tissue disorders after Covid-19 infection.

The study, published in the JAMA Network Open, showed that the risks of alopecia totalis (total hair loss), psoriasis (skin disease), vitiligo (white skin patches), vasculitis (inflammation of blood vessels), Crohn disease and ulcerative colitis (types of inflammatory bowel disease), rheumatoid arthritis, adult-onset Still disease (a rare type of arthritis), Sjogren syndrome, ankylosing spondylitis, and sarcoidosis (growth of tiny collections of inflammatory cells in body) were associated with increasing Covid-19 severity.

However, vaccination



was found to lower the risk, said the team from the Yonsei University Wonju College of Medicine, at Wonju, South Korea.

"The findings suggest that autoimmune and autoinflammatory connective tissue disorders may manifest as post-Covid-19 sequelae, highlighting the potential long-term health ramifications associated with Covid-19," the researchers in the paper.

"Long-term management should include evaluating the development of such disorders in patients who had Covid-19," they added.

The cohort study

included 3,54,527 individuals with Covid and 6,134,940 controls identifying a significant elevation in the risk of multiple incident autoimmune and autoinflammatory disorders subsequent to Covid.

The risks of alopecia areata (adjusted hazard ratio [aHR] was 1.12), alopecia totalis (aHR of 1.74, antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated vasculitis (aHR, 2.76), Crohn disease (aHR, 1.68), and sarcoidosis (aHR, 1.59) were higher in the Covid-19 group.

The diseases' link with Covid suggests the existence of a common pathway, which may involve

excessive cytokine storms leading to prolonged autoimmune responses that trigger specific underlying pathophysiology of each disease.

The researchers said that due to the potential involvement of SARS-CoV-2 infection in cardiopulmonary failure, extensive evaluation of cardiovascular and respiratory outcomes following Covid-19 infection has been conducted.

Although similarities between Covid-19 and several autoimmune diseases have been suggested, a comprehensive evaluation of autoimmune or inflammatory diseases as postacute Covid-19 sequelae has not yet been established.

"Taken together, surveillance for the new development of autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases for the myriad of Covid-19 survivors globally is suggested," the researchers said.

DC Kathua reviews progress on PMGSY road projects in Billawar division

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCTOBER 9

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting of concerned officers here in the DC office complex to review the progress of works being executed in PMGSY Division Billawar.

Taking the appraisal of the progress achieved by the Billawar PMGSY division, the DC was informed about the status of seven projects undertaken by PMGSY Division Billawar.

The DC took in depth review of each work being executed by concerned contractors and asked them to submit a daily progress report to the concerned office, which is to be reviewed at the DC office on a weekly basis. The DC directed the



Executive Engineers to pace up the speed to complete all works in a time bound manner besides calling for removing bottlenecks to achieve maximum target works within stipulated time.

Regarding the pending works, the DC called upon the executing agencies to avoid unnecessary delays on their part. He also laid thrust on adhering to the

quality standards of all works taken up by these executive agencies to get durable assets. On the issue of delay in completion of some works, the DC called upon the executing agencies to penalise and blacklist the defaulters.

The meeting was attended by CPO, concerned officers of PMGSY Billawar divisions and contractors.

DC Doda reviews arrangements for forthcoming festivals



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 9

The District Administration of Doda, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, convened a meeting to discuss preparations for the upcoming Navratri, Maha Navami and Dussehra festivals falling on October 15th, 23rd, and 24th, respectively. The meeting, held in the DC office complex, covered various aspects of festival arrangements, including sanitation, security, electricity supply, traffic management, and other provisions.

In a virtual discussion, DC Doda engaged with key officials, including ADC Bhaderwah, ASP Bhaderwah, SDMs of Gandoh, Assar, Thathri, and others.

They deliberated on security measures, venues for effigy burning during Dussehra, uninterrupted power supply during Navratri, traffic coordination, and ration distribution. Emphasis was placed on maintaining cleanliness around temples and promoting sanitation messages. All magistrates and police officers were directed to be present during processions, with a strict prohibition on anti-social slogans.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of interdepartmental coordination to ensure the successful celebration of the festivals. The Health Department was tasked with providing medical facilities around temple premises, while the Police

were urged to enhance security at the temples. PHE and PDD Departments were instructed to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply, and the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs authorities were directed to guarantee sufficient ration and LPG cylinder supplies. Traffic management and signage for devotees' convenience were also highlighted.

The meeting was attended by the Superintendent engineer, hydraulic circle Doda, Superintendent engineer JKPDC DODA, ACR Doda, CMO Doda, Tehsildar Doda, Assistant Director FCS and CA Doda, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti department Doda, Executive Engineer JKPDC Doda, AD fire and emergency services Doda, and Executive Officer MC Doda. The meeting was also attended in virtual mode by ADC Bhaderwah, ASP Doda, SDMs of Gandoh, Assar, Thathri, all tehsildars, SDPOs and Executive Officers MC Thathri/Bhadrwah, and other concerned officials.

GDC Kathua organises students' Field Trip to Jasrota Wild-Life Sanctuary



JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCTOBER 9

To promote wildlife conservation and raise awareness about the value of protecting India's natural heritage, Science Club and Ravi Eco Club of Government Degree College Kathua organised a field trip sponsored by J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council for students at Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary.

More than 50 enthusiastic students participated in the field trip to Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary. The trip was formally flagged off by the College Principal Prof. Seema Mir in presence of Prof. Rakesh

Singh, Convener, Prof. Raj Kiran, Dr. Deepshikha, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Prof. Shub Kumar, Dr. Surya Partap Singh, Prof. Surbhi Gupta, Dr. Suresh, Dr. Kamaldeep, Dr. Amrik and Prof. Neeru Sharma.

The field trip was organised under the mentorship of the Principal and with coordinated efforts of Sunita Razdan, Joint Director J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council, Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener, Science Club, Dr. Deepshikha, Convener Ravi Eco Club and Dr. Pankaj Gupta Organizing Secretary and Nodal Officer.

The students showed great enthusiasm during

the trip during which they visited different locations and observed a variety of Fauna and Flora inside the sanctuary.

Convener Science Club Prof. Rakesh Singh, threw light on the importance of biodiversity and role of the individuals in its conservation. Dr. Pankaj Gupta, encouraged the students to reap maximum benefit out of this field trip. Convener, Ravi Club Dr. Deepshikha elaborated about the various species of plants and animals present in the sanctuary. Faculty members accompanying the field trip included Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Prof. Surbhi and Dr. Suresh.

Samriddhi Diwas observed in Block Mankote under Sankalp Saptaah



JJ NEWS SERVICE
MANKOTE, OCTOBER 9

As part of the Sankalp Saptaah launched by the Prime Minister at New Delhi, the Aspirational block Mankote has been organising a slew of activities since 3rd of October, 2023.

On Day 6, with a view to ensure benefits of Centrally sponsored schemes percolate down to the beneficiaries, a series of activities were held under Thematic Area of Samriddhi Diwas (Livelihood) at Village Dabraj in Aspirational Block Mankote.

The programmes were held on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary to sensitize the people about benefits of different schemes.

During the programmes, an Awareness Rally on PM Vishwakarma Scheme was held by the Handloom Department to raise awareness about this Central Sector Scheme recently launched by the Prime Minister.

The concerned department imparted the awareness about PM Vishwakarma scheme envisaging provisioning of the ben-

efits to the Artisans and Craftspersons by Recognition, Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentives, Credit Support, Incentives for Digital Transaction and Market Support.

In addition, potential beneficiaries were made aware of other Govt run schemes to ensure effective targeting and scheme saturation in line with GoI objectives.

Similarly, Schemes of NRLM as well as Handicrafts Department like Karkhandar and Artisan support schemes were also stressed upon. During the programmes, various Handicrafts items were showcased in the fair.

Likewise, Training module on digital and financial literacy for upcoming budding entrepreneurs was also imparted. The need for business plan development was stressed through business competition. Marketing and linkage needs were focused. The programmes were held under the supervision of ADDC Poonch, General Manager DIC, Assistant Director Handloom, BDO Mankote, District Coordinator NRLM, SDM Mendhar and other concerned.

Opposition parties dharna on Oct 10 will send peoples' message for early restoration of democracy: Vikar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 8

PCC President Shri Vikar Rasool Wani has asked all senior leaders and functionaries of PCC including former Ministers, ex-legislators, DCC Presidents, functionaries of frontal organizations and blocks to attend the proposed peaceful Joint Dharna of main opposition parties and like minded social organizations on 10th Oct. for the restoration of democracy and other burning issues confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a meeting of senior party functionaries, DCC Presidents, Corporators and frontal organizations at the PCC HQ here today, along with Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Shri Vikar Rasool Wani asked the party leaders and workers to join the proposed Dharna on Oct. 10 in order to send a message of united opposition seeking immediate restoration of democracy and the democratic and constitutional rights to the people of J&K apart from highlighting the burning issues of people of different sections of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that people are suffering under the bureaucratic regime for last more than five years and the Governor's administration claimed the more than 80% people in Jammu and Kashmir don't want elections and are happy with the present dispensation. In order to counter this kind of narrative, the united opposi-



tion through this peaceful dharna want to send a clear and loud message that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want early restoration of democracy and to have their elected government apart from other democratic and constitutional rights and want to get rid of the present bureaucratic system, sooner the better.

Although the dharna is symbolic and not a show of strength but good number of leaders and workers will attend the joint people protest on Oct. 10 and thereafter some time the leadership of the INDIA alliance would also be invited here.

Addressing the meeting Working President Raman Bhalla said that people want immediate holding of Assembly elections apart from other elections like ULB and Panchayats etc. on time without any delay.

Kavinder asks PDD to ensure end of load shedding soon

Highlights people's sufferings due to frequent power cuts



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 9

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta asked the Power Development Department (PDD) to do away with frequent power cuts as the same have been irking the people of the Union Territory.

The BJP stalwart leader was addressing a gathering here at Lower Beli Charana in Cantonment Ward No. 6 after inaugurating the lane and drain work, fulfilling long pending demand of the people living in the vicinity.

The senior BJP functionary said that the Modi Government has established a set-up in J&K that all nooks and corners have been provided focused attention and that is the reason behind unprecedented development in the UT. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a transformation like never before. The Union Territory has undergone substantial growth across various sec-

tors, leading to improved living standards and prosperity for its residents," he added.

He said working persistently, the government led by PM Modi has ensured that all people in J&K get the basic civic amenities and also the services meant for public welfare.

Speaking on the power outage, Kavinder Gupta anticipated that LG Manoj Sinha's administration must be working on it and sooner than later things will be sorted out and power cuts will come down to bare minimum as people especially students and old ones suffer a lot due to load shedding.

He asked the government to go after this problem and remove the things which have gone haywire as frequent power cuts do irk the people, which often invite public criticism which should not be the case at all.

Others present during the inauguration of the development work included Bharat Bhusan Vice Chairman Cantonment Board, Vinay Gupta, Amrik Singh, Narinder ji, Ravinder ji and others.

One missing person reunited with his family by PS Miran Sahib Jammu.

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 9

A written complaint was lodged at PS Miran Sahib by the legal heirs of a person namely Sahil Kumar S/o Sewa Ram R/o Village Marallian Miran Sahib Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu stating that he went missing from his home.

In this regard missing report vide GD No 31 Dated 27/09/2023 got registered at PS Miran Sahib and investigation started.

After this special police teams of PS Miran Sahib led by SDPO R.S Pura Nikhil Gogna assisted by SHO PS Miran Sahib Inspr Bopinder Singh did strenuous efforts and finally traced the missing person. Subsequently family of the missing person was informed and traced person was handed over to his family members after completing all the legal formalities.

Arvind Gupta listens to public grievances

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 9

J&K BJP Secretary Arvind Gupta, during his weekly sitting at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, listened to the grievances of a large number of people, who had reached there to raise their problems for getting them solved.

The people who visited party office were from Gandhi Nagar, Talab Tillo, Gadigarh, Roop Nagar, Ban Talab, Kachi Chawni, R.S. Pura, Bari Brahmana and other areas. They narrated their problems related to irregular supply of electricity, replacement of fused street lights, upgradation of transformers, provision of transport facility, repair of damaged road etc.

Arvind Gupta, while interacting with these people, said that the BJP leaders are always at their service and everyone who visits the public darbar, is properly heard and every possible effort is made to help them in getting relief. He said that the party activists at different levels are also reaching the doorsteps of the people to educate them about the welfare schemes launched by Narendra Modi government for their socio-economic upliftment and also extend them help in applying for schemes which suits them and get benefited.

Arvind Gupta further said that the people have themselves realised that BJP and Narendra Modi, are committed for the development of every region and welfare of every section of the society and the opposition parties are finding it difficult to face the public as none of them has anything to claim as their achievement.

Shiv Sena extends congrats to NC, Congress on impressive victory in LAHDC polls



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 9

Following the historic bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories and the first-ever elections in the newly created Ladakh-Kargil region, Shiv Sena's Jammu and Kashmir Unit today extended hearty congratulations to the I.N.D.I Alliance comprising the National Conference and Congress for

their resounding victory. A delegation of party leaders, led by State President Manish Sahni, conveyed their felicitations to Raman Bhalla, Executive President of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress. Sahni emphasized that the people of Kargil have made a resounding statement by choosing the I.N.D.I Alliance over the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He also noted that the people of Jammu and

certain that the BJP will face a clear rejection. The people are united to respond decisively to the division of Jammu and Kashmir, the erosion of statehood, apathy towards public issues, and divisive politics." Shiv Sena commended the spirited participation of the people of Kargil in the democratic process and anticipates further democratic expressions in the future.

First Super Over cricket tournament organized at Balle Da Bagh



J I NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, OCTOBER 9

To keep the youth of Akhnoor area away from drug addiction, the first Super Over cricket tournament of one over each was organised by Arun Chib, Parveen Sharma, Mohit Sharma, Shubham Chib, Bunty Chib, Rahul Sharma and Jishu. A total of 32 teams participated in this tournament, each team consisting of two players, who got one over each. In this knockout game, the team of Patoli, Jammu emerged victorious by defeating all the teams.

In the tournament KD Bhagat DySP (DAR Jammu) was the Chief Guest of the program, Sham Singh

Langeh, President of Jammu and Kashmir Divyang Cricket Board was the guest of honor. Yash Pal Sharma President Dargal Committee Balle Da Bagh and Master Kuljeet Singh were present as special guests in the tournament. Chief Guest DySP KD Bhagat congratulated the organising committee for organising the tournament based on theme of the anti-drugs. Giving a message to the youth, he appeal everyone in Jammu and Kashmir to join hands to defeat narco terrorism. He instructed youth about the effects of experimental drugs and counseled them about participating in sports. He also advised the youth to spread the message against drug abuse in

the society.

All the players who participated in the tournament were given trophies and cash awards by the guests. Sham Singh appreciated the excellent performance of the youth. He made appeal to the organizing committee to organize the similar events in future to keep involving youth in sports. He encouraged the children to work hard in studies as well as in sports.

On this occasion, Panch Raman Sharma, Sumit Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Shunna Chib, Dilwar Singh, Bunty, Sahil Sharma, Rohit Singh, Baldev Singh, Mohan, Shobnam, Shubham, Vikas, Rahul etc were present.

Congress celebrated victory of party in LAHDC Polls This is victory of INDIA alliance: Bhalla



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 9

Congress today celebrated the victory of INDIA alliance on Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil elections, winning 22 out of 26 seats and credited it to the Bharat Jodo Yatra of Shri Rahul Gandhi.

JKPCC Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Former Minister and Incharge DCC Jammu Urban Yogesh Sawhney, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Vinod Sharma, Ved Mahajan, Kanta Bhan, Narinder Gupta, Kapil Singh, Praveen Sarwar Khan, Dwarka Choudhary, Bano Mahajan, Amrit Bali, Vijay Malhotra, Sandeep Dogra, Rajesh Sharma, Ram Magotra, Rakesh Sharma, Com. Gurmeet Singh, Sat Pal Spolia, Asha Chandan and number of senior congress leaders and workers celebrated the victory at the PCC HQ Shaheedi Chowk Jammu by distributing sweets, burning of crackers and raising slogans in favour of the Congress party and its leadership.

Speaking on the occasion Raman Bhalla said that the victory of the party and INDIA alliance in LAHDC as a trend setter for the future elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The people have voted in favour of the secular parties (NC-Congress) alliance. The people have rejected the policies of BJP and the BJs countdown has already been started from Karnataka Assembly elections. The false propaganda of the BJP has been totally exposed before the countrymen and the congress party would ensure out victorious in the next elections also, he said.

He said that the election to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil was the first poll held after Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the people of Ladakh rejected the divisive politics of BJP and its policies which are against the people of J&K and Ladakh.

JKPCC has congratulated the Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Former Congress President and courageous leader Shri Rahul Gandhi over the victory of the party in LHDC.

Celebrating a 160-Yr Legacy: Ram Leela will be staged at Dewan Mandir from Oct 15: Yudhvir



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 9

Continuing a rich cultural legacy that spans over 160 years, Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of J&K BJP and Chairman of Shree Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj Dewan Mandir Club, is thrilled to announce the upcoming Ram Leela scheduled to begin on the auspicious first day of Navratra, October 15, 2023.

In a press conference held today, Yudhvir Sethi,

flanked by Anil Masoom, Club President, and General Secretary, along with the distinguished Director Sat Paul Sharma, shared their excitement for the upcoming Ram Leela. He emphasized that Ram Leela is an age-old tradition that showcases our culture in a dramatized form, and it is essential to preserve it in all its authenticity.

He said the Ram Leela has been a cherished tradition, captivating audiences for more than

160 years from the same stage. He asserted that the Ram Leela Club had witnessed the performances of renowned Bollywood actors like Om Parkash, Om Puri, and PrithviRaj Chouhan. This year, the Ram Leela promises to introduce new artists and scenes, refreshing the experience for attendees.

The talented cast set to perform in Ram Leela includes Laxman Puri, Vijay Sharma, Sahil Gupta, Sanjana, Sanjeev

Kerni, Kannav Chopra, Subash Jamwal, Rakun, Rakesh Dogra, Amit Khajuria, Pawan Sharma, Raj Kumar, Ram Paul, Litchee Sharma, Sachin Sharma, Ajay Kumar, Sanjeev Anand, Rishu, Ramesh Kumar, Jitender Sharma, Abhi Sharma, Rajesh Kumar, and many more. The music for the event will be composed and scored by Vishal Gupta and Chanchal Sharma, with Kuldeep Verma. The lighting design will be overseen by Ashok Gupta, while the sets will be created by Sardar Harbhajan Singh, Ajay, Rahul, and Kala.

Yudhvir Sethi extended a warm invitation to the residents of Jammu City to attend the Ram Leela and show their support for the talented artists of the Ram Leela Club. Their presence will undoubtedly boost the morale of the performers, ensuring the continuation of this cherished cultural tradition, he added.

Sidhani of DPS Jammu wins Gold Medal in Soft Tennis competition



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 9

Sidhani Singh (XII-G), a student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and her parents by winning gold medal U-19 girls single category in district level Soft

Tennis Competition for boys & girls organized by Department of Youth Services & Sports, J&K held from 20-21 September, 2023 at M.A Stadium, Jammu. Additionally, Madhvendra

Singh (IX-A) and Vihan Manhas (VIII-K) also won bronze medals in U-17 & U-14 boys singles

category, respectively in the same competition.

The esteemed management DPS Jammu-Hon'ble President-RCT, Sh. M.K Ajatshatru Singh Ji, distinguished PVC-Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh Ji, Hon'ble Director-Sh. S.S Sodhi Ji along with

Principal-DPS Jammu, Ms. Ruchi Chabra congratulated all the winners, their parents and coach, Mr. Amar Jyoti Sharma for their brilliant performances in the event. They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

Headmistress, Ms. Meenu Gupta too lauded them.

Congress Working Committee passes resolution in its meeting held at New Delhi

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 9

The CWC expresses its deepest condolences to the people of Sikkim and of the Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong hills on the unprecedented floods and the tragic loss of many lives, including personnel of the Indian armed forces. The CWC emphasizes the importance of cumulative and credible environmental impact assessments in ecologically vulnerable Himalayan regions to avoid the repeat of such disasters in the face of climate change. The CWC calls on the Union government to provide all necessary assistance to Sikkim and the hill regions in the north of West Bengal. The CWC also reiterates its appeal to set aside partisan politics and declare last month's tragedy in Himachal Pradesh as a national disaster.

The CWC welcomes the release of the caste survey/headcount conducted by the state government of Bihar. The disparity between representation

and share in population revealed by the final figures of the survey highlights the urgent need to take effective steps to ensure social justice. The CWC also welcomes the objective of the Justice Rohini Commission of sub-categorization within OBCs, but underlines that it will remain incomplete without detailed data on the socio-economic position of various communities, which can be obtained either from the still unreleased data from the 2011 Socio Economic and Caste Census or a fresh Caste Census. These developments show the critical importance of a nationwide Caste Census which will reveal an accurate picture of the socio-economic position of communities across the country and provide a sound, data-driven basis for policies to strengthen the foundations of social justice and ensure inclusive development. The Modi government has cheated the OBC communities and other deprived sections of the country by not releasing the data of

the 2011 Socio Economic and Caste Census and not carrying out a fresh Caste Census; it has also failed in its Constitutional duty by inordinately postponing the decadal Census that ought to have been conducted in 2021 or soon thereafter. It is a matter of shame that India remains the only country in the G20 that has failed to carry out the Census. Moreover, the demand for the Caste Census was repeatedly expressed state after state by multiple delegations during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, and finds voice in the Raipur declaration at the 85th Congress Plenary Session.

Therefore, the Indian National Congress promises that a government led by it will:

I. Conduct a nationwide Caste Census as part of the normal decadal Census which was due in 2021.

II. Implement the 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies at the earliest, ensuring adequate representation for women belonging to Scheduled Castes, Sched-

uled Tribes and including OBCs as well. The unnecessary obstacles of Census and delimitation imposed by the Modi government will be removed.

III. Remove the cap of 50% through legislation for the reservation of OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in line with the commensurate share of population.

3. The CWC condemns the Modi government's raids on dozens of journalists and writers, and the invocation of anti-terror laws. The conspiracy theories floated by the government only exposes its own monumental hypocrisy in accepting donations from Chinese companies to PM CARES Fund and investments from China's government-owned companies, its inability to control the zooming imports from China, and worst of all the Prime Minister's clean chit to China on 19th June, 2020, when he denied all Chinese transgressions at our border.

The Modi government has escalated the misuse of the law and the unleashing of central agencies against

those who ask questions and oppose the government's actions, including the leaders of the Opposition parties across the country. Such coercive and illegal action cripples the free press, hinders the fundamental rights of citizens, journalists and politicians to hold the government accountable, and lowers India's standing in the world as a democracy. The Prime Minister and the BJP have degraded the political discourse to such a level that official posters are being made to incite and provoke violence against former Congress President, Shri. Rahul Gandhi, similar to the one commissioned by Nathuram Godse against Mahatma Gandhi and senior Congress leaders of the freedom movement. The CWC observes that the frequency of these attacks by the Modi government will only increase in the run-up to the five state elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, but the Indian people will no longer be intimidated by these tactics.

The CWC expresses its

deep anguish on the collapse of constitutional government and the continuing humanitarian tragedy in Manipur. Even after more than five months, the Prime Minister has totally abandoned the people of Manipur and abdicated his constitutional responsibilities. Violent incidents have increased with numerous instances of vigilantism and threats by armed mobs. The Union government has completely failed in its duty to maintain public order and bridge the divisions between the communities. The constitutional machinery in Manipur has broken down. The CWC reiterates its previous demand for the immediate removal of the Chief Minister and imposition of President's Rule as the first step in resolving the unprecedented crisis in Manipur.

The CWC notes with concern the recent RBI data which shows that net financial assets of Indian households in 2022-23 had fallen to 5.1 per cent which is a nearly five-decade low. Similarly, real income growth is at its lowest in

four decades. Hit by stagnant wages, high inflation and widespread unemployment, millions of Indian families are forced into borrowing money for their consumption needs. The CWC believes that the dismal situation is the result of the Modi government's anti-people, pro-crony economic policies which have resulted in the concentration of wealth and power in a few hands in every sector of the economy. The CWC reiterates the resolution of the Indian National Congress at the Raipur AICC session that the need of the hour is a comprehensive reset of economic policy which directly tackles the twin problems of growing unemployment and widening inequalities which will be the legacy of the Modi government.

The state governments led by the Indian National Congress and its allied parties have been taking a number of measures to provide relief to the people. However, the threat to our democracy and the social, political and economic crises

which are mounting every passing day require a durable solution. The only solution that is within the power of the people is to remove the anti-people BJP governments from power, both at the state and the Centre. To achieve this objective, the CWC resolves to call upon all its members and supporters to fight the upcoming elections to state legislative assemblies and to the Lok Sabha with a unity of purpose, dedication and determination.

Finally, the CWC expresses its dismay and anguish on the war that has broken out in the Middle East where over a thousand people have been killed in the last two days. The CWC reiterates its long-standing support for the rights of the Palestinian people to land, self-government and to live with dignity and respect. The CWC calls for an immediate cease-fire and for negotiations to begin on all outstanding issues including the imperative issues that have given rise to the present conflict.

