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Election Commission of India

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J&K Assembly Elections-2024

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October

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Assembly Elections-2024

Ahead of Counting: DEO Srinagar chairs meeting to finalise arrangements

JINNEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 30

Ahead of Counting of votes of Eight 8 Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar District for General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting here at DC Office Complex to review the preparedness regarding arrangements put in place for Counting of Votes at designated Counting Centres at SKICC-Centaur.

At the outset, the District Election Officer (DEO) took a comprehensive review of arrangements being made at designated Counting Halls in SKICC-Centaur for smooth and hassle free counting process viz. Entry of RO staff, ARO staff, Micro Observers, Counting



Agents and Media persons, besides transporting and handling of EVMs, establishment of Media Centre, Control Room, Media Gallery, installation of Public Address System, issuance of ID cards.

Similarly, the Security Plan and parking of vehicles in and around the SKICC-Centaur were also meticulously deliberated in detail. In addition, barricading and parking

management, with special emphasis on security access through proper security passes were also discussed.

On the occasion, the District Election Officer directed all concerned Officers to ensure error free and seamless arrangements for the smooth counting process in the District. He also asked the Nodal Officer Media Centre to take all requisite measures for

timely announcement of round wise results on the counting day, besides for Media management at the venue.

The DEO informed that the Counting of votes will begin with postal ballots, followed by the counting of votes in EVMs as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

Pertinent to mention that Counting of votes for General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024 is scheduled on (Tuesday) October 08, 2024 at designated Counting Halls at SKICC-Centaur

Among others the meeting was attended by Returning Officers of all Eight Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar District, Nodal Officers, Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar and other concerned.

DC Kulgam chairs monthly NCORD meeting

JINNEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 30

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar-Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss various measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district.

A thorough discussion was held on several issues related to drug addiction, areas of concern, hotspots of drug use, and the actions taken by the concerned departments to combat the menace of drugs.

The meeting also focused on the efforts of enforcement agencies in addressing drug abuse and narcotic trafficking within the district.

The DC directed the officers to put in efforts to make more Panchayats

drug free, and it was informed that 38 Panchayats comprising 62 villages in the district have been declared drug-free till date. It was also shared that 18 drug peddlers were arrested, and 13 FIRs were registered in the months of August and September.

The DC instructed the concerned officials to convene regular meetings of Tehsil and Gram Panchayat level committees and involve local youth and other stakeholders in meeting for better outcome. It was also shared that the district has achieved 100% target in the installation of CCTV cameras, and were directed to achieve 100% target in CBS.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Vihar Ahmad Giri; ACR, ACP, SDM, CMO, DSWO, Tehsildars, Dy.SP and other NCORD Committee members.

DC Shopian oversees ongoing repair, restoration works on damaged Bailey Bridge at Shiekhpora-Trenz



JINNEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 30

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today visited Shiekhpora-Trenz to oversee the ongoing repair and restoration works on damaged bailey bridge.

The bridge was damaged in April this year and is being maintained by Project Construction Division (PC Division-I) Srinagar.

The DC had taken up the matter with Chief Engineer, R&B Division, Kashmir for immediate restoration of the bridge.

Subsequent to the first visit of the DC to site, the Project Construction Division Srinagar started the

repair and restoration works yesterday.

During the visit, the DC was apprised by the team deployed for restoration and repair of the bridge that adequate manpower and machinery has been put into service to repair the damaged bridge. The team assured the DC that they are committed for its immediate restoration and usage of commuters within a period of ten days.

While interacting with the team, the DC praised R&B Department Kashmir, for rendering full support for restoration of Heerpora-Dachnoo bailey bridge within a record period of six days and now for starting repairs of Shiekhpora-Trenz bailey bridge.

Uplifting Gujjar, Bakarwal Communities through Sports: Indian Army organizes Cricket Tournament at Banna, Reasi

JINNEWS SERVICE

REASI: 30 SEP 24

The Indian Army took a significant step toward fostering community engagement by organizing friendly cricket tournament in Reasi, specifically aimed at uplifting the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities through sports. This initiative was designed to promote physical fitness, camaraderie, and sportsmanship among the local youth. The tournament featured four enthusiastic teams that showcased their cricketing skills. The recognition of all participants highlighted the Army's commitment to unity and collaboration within the community. This cricket tournament is part of a broader strategy which seeks to enhance civil-military relations and address the various concerns of local communities. By promoting sports, the Army encour-



ages youth involvement in constructive activities, fostering teamwork and mutual respect among participants. The Army emphasized that such events contribute significantly to social cohesion, allowing young people to engage positively with their peers. Moreover, the initiative acknowledges the critical role the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities have historically played in maintaining peace in the region. The Army's engagement with these communities through sports reflects its dedication to building long-

term relationships and addressing local grievances. The successful turnout and positive feedback from community members demonstrates an appreciation for the Army's outreach efforts. Local leaders expressed their gratitude for the opportunities provided by the tournament, showcasing how sports can serve as a medium for constructive engagement. This event stands as a testament to the potential of sports in bridging gaps between military personnel and civilians, fostering collaboration and support.

Assembly Elections-2024

DEO Udhampur suspends 2 Govt employees for dereliction of election related duty

JINNEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 30

The District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai, has taken swift disciplinary action by suspending two government employees for neglecting their assigned election duties for the upcoming Assembly Elections-2024.

Kulbushan Koul, Head Assistant at the Zonal Education Office Dudu, who was appointed as a Presiding Officer for the General Elections, has been suspended for failing to attend mandatory election training sessions.

Despite multiple telephonic communications and formal intimation through his department head, Kulbushan Koul neglected to report for duty, obstructing critical

election procedures. His absence has been deemed a serious breach of service conduct rules, amounting to deliberate non-compliance.

The suspension order, issued by the DEO, underscores the importance of attending election training, which is a crucial responsibility for Presiding Officers. During his suspension, Koul will remain attached to the office of the Chief Education Officer, Udhampur.

In another case, Jaswant Singh, a teacher at Government Primary School, Kothi, Zone Chenani, and appointed Booth Level Officer for Polling Station 61-40 (Narsoo), was suspended for failing to perform his election-related duties. As a BLO, Jaswant Singh was responsible for

managing a section of the Electoral Roll, ensuring its accuracy through door-to-door verification, and assisting voters on election day. However, Jaswant Singh not only failed to fulfill these responsibilities but also went on unauthorized medical leave without obtaining proper approval. His leave expired on September 29, 2024, yet he did not report back for duty.

A show-cause notice was issued to Jaswant Singh, but his response was unsatisfactory. The DEO's suspension order states that such neglect constitutes a serious violation of service conduct rules. Jaswant Singh will remain attached to the office of the Chief Education Officer, Udhampur, during his suspension.

DEO Kupwara, Election Observers meticulously supervise dispatch of Poll parties, election material



JINNEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 30

In a significant progress towards ensuring the smooth conduct of the Assembly Elections in all six assembly constituencies (ACs) of Kupwara, all the poll parties along with election material have reached the respective polling stations successfully on Monday afternoon.

Earlier, under the meticulous supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan and Election Observers, the process of dispatching Poll Parties along with material from Dispatch cum Receipt Centers (DCRCs) were con-

ducted successfully. Comprehensive arrangements were made for departure of polling parties, encompassing vehicles, seating arrangements, and security measures.

Election Observers accompanied by DEO interacted with polling parties, urging them to adhere to Election Commission's guidelines diligently and execute their assigned tasks with dedication and integrity.

Pertinently, the poll parties carrying EVMs traversed through the thick forests and toughest terrains and reached the polling stations located close to LoC, which included Seemari, Keran, Kumkadi,

Hardring Bala (Machil), Hangnikoot, Mankal, Amrohee, Sudhpura and Jabdi. As the poll parties including security personnel reached their respective polling stations, they were warmly welcomed by officials at polling stations. The deployment of polling parties marks a crucial step in the electoral process, ensuring that democratic exercise proceeds smoothly and efficiently.

All the Six assembly constituencies of Kupwara district are going to polls on Oct 1, tomorrow. All necessary arrangements have been made to ensure free, fair, and smooth polling in the district.

DC Kishtwar chairs District NCORD review meeting



JINNEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 30

In a concerted effort to combat drug abuse and trafficking, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired a monthly review meeting of the National Committee on Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation (NCORD) in Kishtwar.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the need for a zero-tolerance policy towards drug-related activities and called for a collaborative approach involving all sectors of the community. He impressed to adopt multipronged strategies to effectively combat this issue.

SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom provided updates on various legal interventions undertaken in the district, while the Deputy

Commissioner instructed the identification of minimum 10-15 volunteers, including women, from each panchayat to assist in monitoring and surveillance on drug trafficking at ground level.

To strengthen the district's response, SDMs and Tehsildars were directed to conduct monthly reviews of the NCORD committees in their respective jurisdictions. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for adequate testing kits for drug detection, particularly in shadow zones, and called for their accessibility to health officials, police, and community workers.

Additional measures discussed included the installation of CCTV cameras in medical stores to enhance surveillance of psychotropic drug sales and the strict enforcement

of regulations prohibiting the sale of tobacco products within 100 meters of educational institutions. The excise officer was tasked with intensifying efforts against illegal distillation and cultivation of weed crops.

The meeting also reviewed the progress made since the 10th NCORD meeting, reinforcing the district's commitment to eradicating drug abuse. The DC also reviewed the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility in the District Hospital Kishtwar and stressed for the need of Psychiatrist in the ATF.

Those who attended the meeting included SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom, ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, ACR Kishtwar Idrees Ahmed Lone, SDM's and Nodal Officers, NCORD Zubair Ahmed Lone, Nodal Officer ATF.

CS visits Assembly Complex; reviews development works



JINNEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 30

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited the Legislative Assembly Complex Srinagar to assess its final readiness for holding sessions after culmination of the ongoing assembly elections in the Union Territory.

During his visit to the complex, the Chief Secretary took round of the Assembly Hall, Meeting Halls, as well as the chambers designated for the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and others. He also reviewed functionality of the sound system, internet connectivity and other amenities necessary for the complex.

The Chief Secretary issued directions regarding upgradations to be

made in communication network in meeting halls to ensure holding of video conferencing along with making other improvements.

While inspecting the ongoing works, he emphasised upon maintaining the quality simultaneously while completing the same within the given deadline. He also enquired about the upgradation works in MLA hostels in the twin cities saying that they should be equipped with improved facilities. He said that both of them should be made fully functional before the culmination of current election process.

Director Estates Department, Tariq Ahmad Ganai, apprised the Chief Secretary of the works completed besides those being executed.

General Observer conducts late evening visit to Polling Stations of Gurez AC

JINNEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 30

The General Observer for 16-Gurez AC, Ramiyas Yadav conducted a late evening visit to the polling stations in Achoora and Chorwan of Gurez Assembly Constituency.

The visit was aimed to ensure the preparedness and smooth functioning of the polling process ahead of the elections scheduled to be conducted on 01 Oct.

During the visit, the Observer interacted with

polling staff and micro-observers, assessing the availability of assured minimum facilities and other essential measures in place.

The feedback gathered will be instrumental in reinforcing the commitment to a fair and efficient electoral process.

The General Observer emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of electoral integrity and urged all involved to ensure that voters experience a seamless voting process.

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Double vision
- Steady but pain or weakness in one or both eyes or legs

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Last Day, Last Show Today

Over 39.18 lakh voters eligible in 40 seats, 415 candidates in fray

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 30

Stage is set for the final phase of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir with 40 Assembly seats having over 39 lakh eligible electorates going for the polls tomorrow. There are 415 candidates in the fray for the final phase.

This phase, as per the news agency, is the biggest phase with 40 constituencies of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts ready to choose their representatives.

According to the latest electoral rolls, 39,18,220 voters are eligible to cast their ballots in this phase, comprising 20,09,033 male voters, 19,09,130 female voters and 57 third-gender voters. Over 1.94 lakh youth voters aged between 18 to 19 are eligible to vote in the 3rd phase of Assembly Election.

This phase will also see participation from 35,860 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and 32,953 voters above the age of 85. Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 5,060

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Exit polls of J&K be published after 6:00 PM on Oct 05: ECI

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 30

As per the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) through Press Note No. ECI/PN/132/2024, dated 31st August 2024, and under the provisions of Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, all media outlets (print, electronic, or digital), polling agencies, and individuals are hereby informed that publication

or broadcast of exit poll results related to the ongoing elections in Jammu and Kashmir may be published after 6:00 PM onwards on 5th October 2024.

This restriction is mandated under Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Violation of this provision may lead to legal action, including fines and imprisonment as prescribed by law.

The restriction applies to all forms of media

including newspapers, television channels, radio, online news portals, social media platforms, and messaging services like WhatsApp, Telegram, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram etc. It also applies to political parties, candidates, polling agencies, and any individuals engaged in election-related activities.

The Chief Electoral Office, Jammu and Kashmir, along with the District Election Officers, Returning Officers and law

enforcement agencies, will monitor compliance. Any violations will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law.

This measure aims to maintain the integrity of the electoral process and ensure free and fair election environment, and to ensure that voters make their decisions uninfluenced by premature predictions or analysis of electoral outcomes. All concerned parties,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

28 women candidates in fray for final phase of assembly polls

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 30

A total of 28 female candidates are competing in the third and final phase of the assembly polls in Jammu & Kashmir, scheduled for October 01, 2024 (tomorrow).

According to details obtained by the news agency, 14 candidates are from the Kashmir division and 14 from the Jammu division.

In the Kashmir division, candidates include Saleema

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

ECI put in abeyance posting of an Army officer as SSP in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 30 (UND)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has put in abeyance an order for the appointment of Colonel Vikrant Prasher from Indian Army's elite Para unit as Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) in J&K Police.

In a first, Colonel Vikrant Prasher, who is currently serving at the Army's High Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg, was a few days ago appointed as the Senior Superintendent

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

North Kashmir set for high political battle, robust security arrangements in place

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 30

North Kashmir is prepared for a highly competitive political showdown tomorrow, with officials saying that robust security arrangements are in place to ensure the smooth conduct of the last phase of assembly elections.

According to details obtained by the news agency, Baramulla district, which encompasses seven assembly constituencies—Sopore, Rafiabad, Uri, Baramulla, Wagoora-Kreeri, Gulmarg and Pattan—has a total of 722,923 registered voters, including 364,517 males, 358,394 females, and 12 third-gender voters. A total of 107 candidates, including 51

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JKP is truly the toughest, yet the most people friendly Police force in the country: DGP Swain



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPT 30

Jammu and Kashmir Police gave a warm send off to its outgoing DGP, J&K, Shri R.R Swain in a specially organized function at Police Headquarters here today.

On the onset of the function, DGP J&K along with DGP designate and other senior officers unveiled a Coffee Table Book of J&K Police prepared by the Crime Headquarters J&K. Crime Hqrs also presented DGP J&K a pictorial

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Search operations in Kathua, Rajouri extended to fresh areas

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 30

Security forces on Monday extended the ongoing search operations to new areas in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua and Rajouri districts to hunt down terrorists following recent encounters in the region, officials said.

While a policeman and a terrorist were killed and two police officers

injured in a fierce gunbattle in remote Kog-Mandli forest village in Billawar tehsil of Kathua district on Saturday evening, a brief exchange of fire took place between terrorists and security forces in Manial Gali in Thanamandi area of Rajouri district on Sunday evening.

A massive search operation is going on for the third day in Kathua

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Hope voters will take right decision, says Dr Farooq

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 30

National Conference (NC) President and former parliamentarian, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will have to face the defeat and hopefully the people will take right decision this time by casting their ballots.

"We are expecting people to take right decision for the restoration of special status and other things," Dr Farooq said as per the news agency said.

He added that he is happy that BJP has been targeting NC as it is the party that is fighting against them and BJP has to face a defeat.

About the statement of BJP leaders with regard



to Article 370 has been buried, Abdullah said the party has been burying everything.

About Waqf Bill, the former chief minister of erstwhile J&K state, said that Joint Parliamentary Committee has been reviewing the bill, let it be brought in the Parliament and NC part of INDI Alliance will take steps accordingly. KNO

Kharge's comments on PM Modi absolutely distasteful, disgraceful: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 30

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday described Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public meeting in Jammu and Kashmir as "absolutely distasteful and disgraceful".

Shah said "in a bitter display of spite", Kharge unnecessarily dragged the prime minister into his personal health matters by saying that he would die only after removing Modi from power.

At an election rally in Jasrota in Jammu on Sunday, Kharge felt dizzy and uneasy but resumed his speech after a brief



pause, saying he won't die before PM Modi is removed from power.

Shah hit out at Kharge over his remarks.

"Yesterday, the Congress President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge Ji has outperformed himself, his leaders and his party in being absolutely distasteful and disgraceful in his speech.

"In a bitter display of spite, he unnecessarily dragged PM Modi into his personal health matters by saying that he would die only after removing PM Modi from power," Shah wrote on X.

He said Kharge's

remarks showed how much hate and fear the Congress people have for PM Modi and that they are constantly thinking of him.

"As for the health of Mr. Kharge Ji, Modi Ji prays, I pray and we all pray that he lives a long, healthy life. May he continue to live for many years and may he live to see the creation of a Viksit Bharat by 2047," the minister said.

Addressing the rally on Sunday, Kharge had said, "I am 83 years old. I am not going to die so early. I will stay alive till PM Modi is removed from power".

"I wanted to talk. But due to dizziness, I have sat down. Please pardon me," the Congress leader said.

PM Modi speaks with Israeli PM Netanyahu, says India committed to supporting peace efforts



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEP 30 (UND)

Amid the rapidly escalating conflict in the Middle East, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday evening spoke with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu and said that India is committed to supporting efforts for an early restoration of peace

and stability. PM Modi said in a post on X:

"Spoke to Prime Minister @netanyahu about recent developments in West Asia. Terrorism has no place in our world. It is crucial to prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages. India is committed

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Monsoon fails to bring adequate rains in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 30

Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 35 per cent deficient rainfall during the last four months with Shopian topping the list at 81 per cent deficit precipitation since June 01, 2024 to September 25, 2024.

In Shopian, a rainfall of just 54.0 mm was recorded against the normal precipitation of 279.3 mm.

According to the details available with the news agency, four stations of Jammu and Kashmir including Shopian, Kulgam, Kishtwar and Poonch have recorded large deficient rainfall since June 01, 2024 to September 25, 2024.

As per the details, Shopian has recorded a deficit



rainfall of 81 per cent, followed by 76 per cent in Poonch and 64 & 62 per cent in Kishtwar and Kulgam respectively.

With 35 per cent deficient rainfall in J&K, at least 12 stations of the Union Territory have recorded a deficient rainfall including Anantnag, Budgam, Bandipora, Doda, Ganderbal, Kathua, Kupwara, Rajouri,

Ramban, Reasi, Srinagar and Udhampur.

According to the data prepared by the local Meteorological department, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded a deficit rainfall of 37 per cent.

However, the details show that only a few

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Congress to establish Refugees welfare board, resolve other issues: Ravinder Sharma

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 30

JKPCC Senior Vice President & Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma has said that the establishment of Refugees welfare board as promised by Congress will go a long way in resolving pending issues if refugees and appealed them to vote for Congress.

Interacting with refugees of 1947, 1965 and 1971 in a series of meetings in Jammu and Kathua districts, Mr Ravinder Sharma said that congress has accepted their long pending demand for the establishment of a



separate Refugees welfare board to resolve their long pending issues and frame policies for their youths. Besides the financial package recommended by Congress NC government on the initiative of Congress & instructions of

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Rahul flays BJP's 'pro-industrialist' policies at Haryana rally, says Cong will bring about change

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, SEPT 30

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused the Modi Government of working for industrialists, and claimed that money keeps flowing into the account of Gautam Adani "like a tsunami" while the common man struggles.

He also asserted that the Congress will form a Government in Haryana and bring about a change.

Addressing a rally in Naraingarh in Ambala district, he said the fight is between the Congress and BJP and their ideologies.

"On one hand justice and on the other hand injustice," he said.



Rahul Gandhi was joined by his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and senior Congress leaders from Haryana Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Kumari Selja at the rally.

Hitting out the BJP Government, he said it belongs to big industrialists.

"In Haryana we don't

need such a Government, but the one of farmers, labourers and poor, he said.

Referring to his recent visit to the US, the former Congress president said he met some immigrants from Haryana who went there in search of a better future as they were

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Last Day, Last...

polling stations with 100% webcasting across 40 Assembly Constituencies. These include 974 Urban Polling Stations and 4,086 Rural Polling Stations.

To enhance voter participation, 240 special polling stations have been established across 7 districts in this phase, including 50 polling stations managed by women, known as Pink polling stations, 43 polling stations manned by specially abled persons and 40 polling stations manned by youth. Also, there will be 45 green polling stations in order to spread messages about environmental concern, 29 polling stations are established near the LOC/ IB for residents residing there and 33 Unique Polling stations.

A total of 24 special Polling Stations have been established for Migrant Voters of Kashmir Division, which includes 19 Special Polling Stations in Jammu, 4 in Delhi and 1 in Udhampur District. Special Polling Station-wise extract voter list will be with BLOs.

A team of four officials, including Presiding Officer will be stationed in every polling station. In total, more than 20,000 Polling staff will be deployed on duty for the 3rd phase of the assembly election.

In this phase, 109 candidates are in fray in Jammu district, followed by 101 in Baramulla district, 59 in Kupwara district, 42 in Bandipora district, 37 in Udhampur district, 35 in Kathua district, while 32 candidates are contesting in Samba district.

Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), which is ruling at the centre, is having high hopes of winning the maximum seats from four districts of Jammu region for the polls in the phase so that they can be in a position to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir.

They have put all the might during campaigning and most of the star campaigners of the party including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J P Nadda, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, union ministers, party leaders from outside and all the party functionaries of J&K were involved in the campaigning.

These 24 seats are crucial for the BJP to win and sources in the party told KNO that the high command is in no mood to allow any laxity to give away any of the seats which could hurt their prospects of government formation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Before the campaigning BJP leaders from different states of the country were assigned the task of different constituencies and also observers were also put in place to help these leaders. Though during the first two phases, focus remained all over but after September 25, everybody was focused on 24 seats of Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Udhampur districts and all out efforts have been put to win maximum seats," the source said.

The Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance partners, on the other hand, are confident of winning more seats as compared to the 2014 results. They raised issues concerning the general public including unemployment, price rise, Agniveer, poor condition of traders and much more to get votes and played down and regional or communal divide. KNO

Exit polls of J&K be...

including media houses, social media platforms, and polling agencies, are urged to adhere to these instructions and refrain from publishing or sharing any exit poll results before the stipulated time. KNO

28 women candidates...

from the Nationalist Congress Party in Kupwara, Fatima Javid from the Sampoorana Bharat Kranti Party in Rafiababad, and Santosh Labroo from the J&K All Alliance Democratic Party in Baramulla. Other contenders are Rehana Begum (Janta Dal United, Wagoora-Kreeri), Sahiba Begum (Samajwadi Party, Kupwara), Shafeeqa Begum (Trehgam), Arti Nehru (Sopore), Khursheeda Begum (Langate), Safina Beigh (Wagoora-Kreeri), Balkees Akhter (Sopore), Raqia Akhter (Baramulla), Tanver Fatima and Mursaleen Aajir (both from Sopore), and Nighat Parveen (Baramulla).

In the Jammu division, candidates include Ashri Devi from the National Panthers Party in Ramnagar (SC), Kajal from Congress in Bani, and independent candidate Khushboo Bhagat from Kathua (SC). Other candidates are Sunita Turki (National Democratic Party, Jammu North), Usha Devi (Independent, Suchetgarh, SC), Pavneet Kour (Apni Party, RS Pora-Jammu South), Pinki Devi (National Awami United Party, Samba), Geeta Manhas (Samajwadi Party, Chenani), Dr. Preeti Kumari (Independent, Suchetgarh, SC), Shikha Babdral (National Awami United Party, Jammu West), Sulakshna Khajuria (Independent, Udhampur West), Reena Choudhary (Independent, Samba), and Priyanka Sharma (Independent, Jammu North).

Speaking to KNO, Khushboo Bhagat said that, if elected, she will focus on generating employment opportunities in rural areas and enhancing women's safety.

"I will work for the installation of CCTVs at main points for the safety of women," she said, adding that special attention will be given to prevent women from domestic violence.

Special attention will also be paid towards creating employment opportunities which are crucial in eliminating the menace of drug abuse, Bhagat added.

Raqia Akhter said there is a need for skill development programmes for women to foster financial independence and improve educational facilities to match those of private schools. "Women in remote areas face challenges. I will ensure better health facilities to alleviate the suffering of women in rural communities," she said.

Other candidates said that women still lag behind in various sectors and pledged to fight for women's empowerment. They raised concerns about inflated electricity bills, water issues and unemployment in Jammu & Kashmir and called for immediate action on these critical matters.

In the previous phases of the assembly elections, 19 women candidates participated. KNO

ECI put in abeyance...

of Police (SSP) for training and special operations in the J&K Police. The appointment was on a deputation basis for two years.

Former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti had questioned the legality and appropriateness of appointing

a military officer to such a high-ranking police position. "We are told J&K has the same rights and rules as applied elsewhere in the country. Wonder why & under what special status is the local admin ordering the most unusual appointment of a Colonel as SSP in J&K police?" former CM Mehbooba Mufti had said.

The ECI on Monday put in an abeyance of the order and said a Model Code of Conduct was in place during which such transfers are banned.

"Without going at this stage into the rationale, process, and urgency of posting an army officer as SSP on the civil side during the period of operation of MCC, the Commission hereby directs that the order shall be kept in abeyance with immediate effect. If an order has been issued and executed, the position before the issue of the order shall be restored with immediate effect," reads the order issued by R. C. Patra, Secretary at the ECI secretariat.

The commission has also asked the J&K Chief Secretary to send a compliance report by 11 AM on October 1, the date for the last phase of elections, along with an explanation as to why such an order was issued without prior permission of the commission.

North Kashmir set...

independents, are set to contest across these constituencies. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 908 polling stations in Baramulla.

In Bandipora district, comprising three assembly constituencies—Sonawari, Bandipora and Gurez—there are 259,893 voters, with 132,679 males, 127,208 females, and 6 third-gender voters. The ECI has set up 312 polling stations, including 46 urban and 266 rural stations, to facilitate a smooth voting process.

Kupwara district, which consists of six assembly constituencies—Karnah, Trehgam, Kupwara, Lolab, Handwara and Langate—has 540,483 registered voters, including 270,776 males and 269,697 females. The district will have 622 polling stations, with 599 located in rural areas and 23 in urban regions.

Specialised polling stations, including Pink Polling Stations, Youth Polling Stations, and PwD-manned Polling Stations, have also been established to assist voters.

Maqsood-Ul Zaman, DIG of North Kashmir Range, said that 400 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), along with armed police and other security personnel have been deployed throughout north Kashmir to ensure a secure polling process. "We have strong coordination among the forces to ensure free and fair elections and a safe environment for voters," he said.

Zaman added that contingency plans are in place to address any potential law-and-order situations. "We are fully prepared for various scenarios, whether it's related to contingency plans, law and order issues, or any other requirements for smooth polling," he said.

The third phase of the assembly elections is set to take place tomorrow, involving 40 seats.

In Jammu, 24 seats are expected to see a close contest between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress, while 16 seats in the Kashmir region will witness competition among candidates from the INDIA bloc, including the National Conference-Congress alliance and candidates from the People's Conference (PC) and Awami Ittehad Party (AIP). KNO

JKP is truly the toughest...

album of his tenure in J&K Police. DGP, Designate, Shri Nalin Prabhat, Prof. Rashmita Das Swain, Chairperson PWWA, ADGSP Shri M.K Sinha, Shri Vijay Kumar, Shri Nitish Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce J&K Shri Vikramjit Singh, IGSF Shri V.K Birdi, Shri B.S.Tuti, Dr Sunil Gupta, Shri Vivek Gupta, Shri M.Suleiman Choudhary, Shri Sujit Kumar, Assistant Director (additional charge Director) ACB, Shri Shakti Pathak, DisG Armed Kashmir, CKR, SKR, Traffic Kashmir, IRP Kashmir, Railway J&K, Hqrs. PHQ, Crime J&K and Personnel PHQ, SSP Srinagar, AlsG of PHQ, officers from other wings attended the function in person, while ADGP Jammu Zone Shri Anand Jain, Range DisG of Jammu Zone, District SSSP of UT, all Commandants of armed/ IR attended virtually.

Speaking on the occasion the outgoing DGP J&K while thanking all the officers who attended the function at PHQ and all those present via digitally said that each one of them was truly dear to him and resides in the core of his heart and soul. Expressing gratitude to the God, for the opportunity of being the part of the vast police family of Jammu and Kashmir, for the love and affection and regard the Police force has extended to him by personnel across all ranks.

Sharing his thoughts about Jammu and Kashmir Police, Shri Swain said J&K Police unlike any other Police force in the country or for that matter anywhere else stands out for two reasons. It is truly the toughest and yet the most people friendly that fights against the terrorism and separatism in Jammu and Kashmir. Besides fighting eyeball to eyeball with gun wielding terrorists no security agency other than J&K Police fights and controls stone pelting mobs to prevent spread of losses and lawlessness and it does this job with minimum loss of life and property.

The other reason which keeps J&K Police unparalleled is that it has personnel drawn from all regions of Jammu and Kashmir, from all communities. The diversity within the force is seen to be privileged and so are the challenges we face, no other Police force anywhere in the country is pitted against an adversary that has such open and brazen support from hostile elements and it is sitting across the border. J&K police has this unique challenge of fighting the enemy within and from outside. The stamina and the endurance of J&K Police is equally indomitable.

History is in making as a new sun of peace and tranquility is rising and peace, free from fear and intimidation is beginning to shape the future of Jammu and Kashmir. "I am sure and I am fully confident that the change of guard will not deter the JK Police force from losing focus of a bigger fight we have on our hands," the outgoing DGP said.

He thanked each one from higher ranks to lower subordinates for their support day in and day out.

The DGP Designate, Shri Nalin Prabhat while speaking on the occasion said that Shri R.R Swain was like an elder brother and a course mate. He described him as an extremely articulated personality. He assured that the ideas and work which Shri R.R Swain has started will continue including non-kinetic action. "I am deeply

humbled and profoundly grateful for the warmth the outgoing DGP has shown and it is a privilege to continue the task he has initiated", he added. The DGP designate further added that Shri Swain's strength of character is something which will inspire him to rise up to the expected demanding standards.

ADGP (Headquarters) PHQ Shri M.K Sinha while speaking on the occasion said that "we are not only bidding farewell to DGP J&K Shri R.R. Swain but celebrating the extraordinary journey of an extraordinary officer adding that Shri Swain has been a man whose presence has been an embodiment of duty, integrity and vision. The moment Shri R.R Swain took over as the DGP J&K, deep involvement in the ever changing security landscape of J&K has been nothing short of master-fort. He also highlighted his various postings and role in J&K during the challenging times. He also underlined his role and guidance in dismantling the structure of terrorism in J&K.

ADGP Law and Order, Shri Vijay Kumar, praised the outgoing DGP, highlighting several situations wherein Shri Swain with his guidance exhibited his exceptional leadership and vision. He said that the outgoing DGP has inculcated a new work culture among the force. He will be always remembered as the founder of the State Investigating Agency of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Vijay Kumar said.

ADGP Jammu Shri Anand Jain sharing his views said that Shri Swain has taught how to go in great depth and analyze the entire situation. He said that outgoing DGP has always been like a beacon of light guiding in challenging situations and showing the right path.

ADGP CID Shri Nitish Kumar while speaking on the occasion said that Shri R.R. Swain has been a pillar of strength in the trying times and under his leadership J&K Police has navigated through complex times. The region has seen its share of challenges and yet thanks to the bravery, discipline and instill by the chief, the force has emerged as a reliable protector of peace order and justice.

IGP Kashmir Shri V.K. Birdi speaking on the occasion said that the service and support of Shri R.R.Swain is an incredible source of guidance and support to J&K Police. His leadership has truly made a difference in the success of J&K Police and his ability to lead with integrity, empathy and vision has created an environment way beyond motivated to do our best.

IGP Security Shri Sujit Kumar, Assistant Director (additional charge, Director) ACB, Shri Shakti Pathak SSP Srinagar, Shri Imtiyaz Hussain, DySP, Crime & Complaints, Shri Burhan-un-din Kanth, PSI Ms. Madhu Fakwaria of PHQ also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the qualities of head and heart of the outgoing chief and also expressed their gratitude to him for his guidance and support.

DIG (Pers) PHQ Shri Mubassir Latifi conducted the proceedings of the function and on behalf of J&K Police pariwar wished best of good luck for new innings & future endeavours.

Search operations...

with cordon extending to over a dozen other villages near the scene of Saturday's encounter, the officials said.

They said at least three more foreign terrorists of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) are believed to be hiding in the forest belt.

In Rajouri, the officials said the terrorists fled after a brief encounter with security forces at Manial Gali in Thanamandi area Sunday evening.

The operation was called off late Sunday and resumed and extended to new areas early this morning, the officials said.

They said there was no fresh contact with the terrorists so far.

Meanwhile, slain head constable Bashir Ahmed was laid to rest with full honours at a graveyard near his Jammu residence after a wreath laying ceremony late Sunday evening.

J-K Director General of Police, Operations and Security, Nalin Prabhat, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, and all personnel paid homage to the fallen cop.

Family members of the policeman – his wife, two sons and a daughter – were present at the wreath laying ceremony at the police headquarters and were seen being consoled personally by the DGP.

Officers of central paramilitary forces also paid rich tributes and laid floral wreaths on the mortal remains of the deceased.

PM Modi speaks with...

to supporting efforts for an early restoration of peace and stability."

PM Modi's phone call comes as Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu told the Iranian people that "Israel stands with you" in a televised speech on Monday, directly addressing them "without filters, without middlemen."

PM Netanyahu reiterated that "there is nowhere in the Middle East that Israel cannot reach."

PM Netanyahu also urged the Iranian people to reject their "tyrant" regime.

Meanwhile, on Monday US officials confirmed that Israeli ground forces conducted special operations raids in Lebanese territory near the Israel-Lebanon border.

The latest escalation started after Israel is suspected to have exploded thousands of papers and walkie-talkies owned by Iran-backed Hezbollah members across Lebanon in mid-September.

Hezbollah retaliated, with a missile intercepted near Tel Aviv – the first to reach deep into Israel.

On Friday, Israel fired missiles into Lebanese territory killing at least 20 top Hezbollah militants, including the group's leader Hassan Nasrallah and his two close associates.

Monsoon fails...

stations including Baramulla, Jammu, Pulwama and Samba have received normal precipitation during the period.

In J&K, against the normal precipitation of 542.7 mm, only 352.7 mm have been recorded.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng has stated that Jammu and Kashmir has received a deficit rainfall of

Tashi Rabstan begins tenure as 37th Chief Justice of J&K, Ladakh HC



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 30

Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice and Officers and Officials of the Registry.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, today began his tenure as the 37th Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, who took Oath of Office on 27th September, 2024.

The Chief Justice was formally received by Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh accompanied by M.K. Sharma,

The Chief Justice was presented with the Guard of Honor in Jammu Wing of the High Court, a time-honored tradition that symbolizes respect and allegiance. This ceremony underscores the significance of the Chief Justice's role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice is served.

26 per cent in this Monsoon season, which ends today, saying that the 26 per cent deficient rainfall is a huge figure.

Between June 01 & September 30, Jammu and Kashmir has received just 408.5 mm of rainfall against the normal 549.1 mm, he said, adding that Srinagar has recorded a rainfall deficit of 30 per cent during the period.

Except Pulwama district, which recorded a rainfall deficit of 13%, the other districts in south Kashmir received below normal rainfall in the range of minus 50 to minus 80 percent. Similar was the case in other districts of Kashmir Valley.

Baramulla was the only district in Kashmir to receive normal rainfall in the positive category while Samba received above normal rainfall of 13 per cent and was the best performing district. Jammu received exact normal rainfall as it should have, he said.

Rest all districts in Jammu region received below normal rainfall in the range of minus 15 percent to minus 76 percent, he added. KNO

Congress to establish...

Dr Manmohan Singh will be fully implemented. The Bjp government betrayed the POJK refugees by sanctioning only meagre packagruog 5.5 lakhs against thirty lakhs and snatched rights to sell their land. The recommendations for reservation of refugees wards has been ignored and against promise of eight assembly seats, only one seat has been kept for, 14 lakh population.

He said that Congress has considered all genuine demands of refugees and promised in its manifesto for assembly elections. There is also a scope for seeking political representation in the proposed upper house in the quota of inadequately represented sections.

Sharma was himself co-author of congress manifesto and has assured to strive for justice to the community, if congress is elected to power and appealed to the voters to give full mandate to congress NC in this election. He appealed to them to vote for congress NC candidates contesting in R S Pura, Bishnah, Suchetgarh, Jammu West, Jammu East, Jasrota, Hiranagar, Basohli, Billawar, Hiranagar and elsewhere.

Rahul flays BJP's...

unable to get employment opportunities in their home state.

The Congress leader said it is important to see how much money is going into the pockets of poor and common people and how much is going out.

"You have to ask this whether more money is going out of your pockets or more is coming into your pockets," he said.

"Think about Adani ji. He wakes up in the morning, he does not work in farm, he does not use a plough, does not work in small business, eats good food, lives in palatial house and every morning, for 24 hours, in his bank account, money keeps coming in, non-stop. Like tsunami comes, in same manner money is coming into his bank account," he claimed.

However, money is going out from the bank accounts of people "like a storm," he said.

While the Congress protects the interests of farmers, poor and labourers, the BJP gives benefits to big industrialists, he claimed.

Gandhi said the BJP Government says that laws have been framed for farmers.

"If laws were framed for them, then why farmers in the country are on roads. Because farmer knows that money will be taken out from their pockets in one more way," he claimed.

In the name of development, land of farmers, poor is taken but have you heard that land of industrialists being taken, he said.

Referring to the problems of farmers, he said right price is not given for their produce and then when they think of joining the Army, there they face the Agnipath scheme.

"It is not Agniveer scheme, it is a way to steal pension of the jawans, it is just that. Normal jawan gets pension for life. An Agniveer will not get pension. This means, money has been snatched from their pocket," he said.

Without naming parties like INLD and JJP, who are also in contest for the October 5 polls, Gandhi claimed that remote control of small parties is in the hands of BJP.

Former Chief Minister Hooda and his bete noire and Sirsa MP were also present at the rally as Congress sought to present a united face, with its Haryana unit often coming under sharp attack from rival parties, including the BJP, over infighting.

Samsung India Launches Galaxy Tab S10+ and Tab S10 Ultra-World's First AI-Powered Tablets

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 30

Samsung, India's leading consumer electronics brand, today launched Galaxy Tab S10+ and Tab S10 Ultra—a flagship lineup that redefines the tablet experience with cutting-edge AI features. The world's first AI-powered tablets, Galaxy Tab S10+ and S10 Ultra bring groundbreaking innovations, including flagship performance, enhanced creative tools, and advanced Galaxy AI features designed to elevate productivity and creativity. Whether you're a professional looking to maximize productivity or a creator seeking tools to elevate your work, the Galaxy Tab S10 Ultra and S10+ are crafted to exceed expectations.

Both Galaxy Tab S10+ and S10 Ultra come equipped with stunning Dynamic AMOLED 2X displays with an anti-reflec-

tive coating for breathtaking visuals and an immersive entertainment experience. Galaxy Tab S10 Ultra stands out with a 14.6-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X display, featuring an anti-reflective coating for stunning visuals and an immersive viewing experience, even in bright conditions. Its dual 12-megapixel selfie cameras and dual rear cameras (13MP main and 8MP ultrawide) make it the perfect tool for professional photography and video calls.

The Galaxy Tab S10 Ultra and Galaxy Tab S10+ leverage major advancements in AI processing to offer a powerful, seamless performance. The Galaxy Tab S10 Ultra boasts an over 18% boost in CPU, 28% increase in GPU, and 14% improvement in NPU compared to its predecessor, the Galaxy Tab S9 Ultra. With extended battery life and Super-Fast Charging, the Galaxy Tab S10 series ensures

longer usage with minimal downtime for recharging. The dedicated AI key on the keyboard also allows users to access powerful tools like Transcript Assist for easy text management and Note Assist, which can solve complex math problems in seconds. Other cutting-edge features include Sketch to Image and Gemini, which allow for effortless multitasking and creativity. Both tablets also come with an IP68-rated S Pen, offering precision and unmatched productivity for creators and professionals alike.

The Galaxy Tab S10 series also acts as a home AI device, with a 3D Map View that gives a visual overview of the home and all connected devices to streamline device management across the SmartThings ecosystem. Robust Samsung Knox security ensures data privacy and control, while innovative materials underscore Samsung's commitment to a

more sustainable future. Coupled with a massive 11,200mAh battery, 16GB of RAM, and 1TB of storage, Galaxy Tab S10 Ultra is the ultimate companion for work and play, perfectly mirroring the high-end specifications of its predecessor.

Galaxy Tab S10+ offers a more compact 12.3-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X display, a 12MP front camera, and the same advanced rear camera setup. With up to 12GB of RAM and 512GB of storage, this tablet is designed for users who demand peak performance in a portable form factor, backed by a 10,090mAh battery for all-day productivity. With advanced anti-reflective technology, every detail stays sharp from any angle and in all environments by minimizing glare and lowering reflection. The series also features a quad-speaker system enhanced by AI-powered Dialogue Boost, which amplifies voices

over background noise for exceptionally clear audio.

The Galaxy Tab S10 series delivers a seamless and productive experience, making it the perfect platform for unleashing your creativity. With Note Assist and the intuitive S Pen, taking notes is effortless on the large display. Tasks like schoolwork, note-taking, and journaling become more efficient with AI-powered automatic transcription and summaries. The Galaxy Tab S10 series also supports PDF Overlay Translation, enabling easy translation of PDFs through an on-screen overlay, while Handwriting Help improves the appearance of messy notes. Additionally, Galaxy AI's Sketch to Image turns the Galaxy Tab S10 Ultra into an ideal tool for transforming ideas into reality, acting as a creative assistant to help you overcome mental blocks.

The Circle to Search feature with Google allows

you to quickly search anything without switching between apps. You can instantly translate images, videos, or text with just two taps. Circle to Search even helps with outlining steps for solving math and physics problems.

The Galaxy S Pen's Air Command powered by AI gives immediate access to Galaxy AI Assistant features without the need to switch menus. AI Assistant apps are also easily accessible via the Galaxy AI Key on the Book Cover Keyboard, letting users effortlessly switch between Samsung's Bixby and Google's Gemini for a personalized AI experience.

Galaxy Tab S10 Series is designed to seamlessly integrate into Samsung's expanded Galaxy Ecosystem, allowing users to switch effortlessly between Galaxy devices, whether it's taking a call, answering messages, or continuing tasks from one device to another.

ICICI Prudential Life tops Claim Settlement Ratio at 99.35% in Q1-FY2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 30

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has declared a claim settlement ratio of 99.35% for Q1-FY2025, the highest amongst all life insurance companies in the country. Notably, the average claim settlement turnaround time was just 1.2 days. Also, during this period the total value of death claims settled by the Company was at Rs. 381.24 crore.

Mr. Amish Banker, Chief Operations Officer, Customer Service, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "Life insurance is a product which ensures the financial security of the family in case of loss of the earning member. Therefore, we process every claim with utmost sensitivity and quickly. For Q1-FY2025 we had an individual death claim settlement ratio of 99.35% and the average time taken to settlement a non-investigative death claim was just 1.2 days. We believe our claim settlement ratio is the best in

the best in the industry. For this same period, we settled claims totalling Rs. 381.24 crore.

We have a history of consistently having an industry leading claim settlement ratio. For instance, in Q1-FY2024 it was 97.94%, for Q2-FY2024 it stood at 98.14%, in Q3-FY2024 it was 98.52% and for FY2024 it was 99.17%. Our 'Claim For Sure' service initiative promises to settle all eligible death claims in one day after submission of all required documents. Specifically, under this initiative we settled claims amounting to Rs. 68.74 crore in Q1-FY2025.

Technology solutions implemented have enabled us to significantly reduce claim processing time besides offering convenient touchpoints such as WhatsApp, Mobile app, Website to lodge and track claims. Life insurance is a promise we make to our policyholders to ensure their families have financial security in their absence."

Assembly Elections-2024

DEO Rajouri refutes rumours regarding security of strong room

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 30

A rumour circulating on social media last night, suggesting the removal of district police from the strong room premises, has been refuted by the District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri. The DEO Rajouri promptly visited the site to personally verify the situation and ensure the security of the strong room.

Upon inspection, it was confirmed that a robust three-tier security system is in place, strictly adhering to the guidelines set by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The innermost perimeter (third tier) is being guarded by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), the second tier by Armed Police, and the outermost layer by District Police.

DEO Rajouri also interacted with the candidates and their representatives to clarify any concerns



they had. Written communication, with proper acknowledgement, were sent to all candidates, informing them to depute their representatives for keeping a close watch on security arrangements of the strong rooms. Their representatives are closely monitoring the strong room's security. Several facilities have been provided for the convenience of the candidates' representatives, including rain-proof tents, drinking water, and toilets. Additionally, CCTV cameras have been installed, allowing the representatives to monitor the entry points

of the strong room. Control room contact numbers for both the DEO/Returning Officer (RO) and DEO/SSP have been shared with the candidates, ensuring they can reach out for assistance whenever necessary.

A detailed logbook is maintained by the CAPF, documenting all entries, exits, and the security personnel's duty roster.

DEO Rajouri reassured the public and candidates that all necessary arrangements have been made in strict accordance with the ECI guidelines and urged everyone not to believe in unverified rumors.

88 Micro Observers trained for vote counting in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 30

District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, Vikas Kundal presided over a crucial training session today for the 88 Micro Observers assigned to monitor the vote counting process for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Elections.

The training session, held at the New Auditorium Hall, Government Degree College, Poonch, aimed to equip the observers with the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure a smooth and transparent counting process.

The counting of votes for the three assembly constituencies—Surankote, Haveli, and Mendhar—will take place on October 8th at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Poonch, under tight security to safeguard the integrity of the process.

During the session, DEO Vikas Kundal emphasized the pivotal role Micro Observers play in maintaining transparency and fairness, as outlined by the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI). "Your responsibility is to ensure that the entire process is impartial, accu-

rate, and adheres to the highest standards of integrity," he stated, stressing the importance of professionalism and neutrality.

The training, conducted by District Level Master Trainers (DLMTs), covered essential aspects of the counting process, including the handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and the resolution of any issues that may arise during the process.

The DEO was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, along with ROs and other senior officers of the Poonch district.

Assembly Elections-2024

Baramulla ready for Poll Day: Over 7.24 Lakh Electors set to cast their Votes

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 30

As Baramulla district prepares for polls under phase 3rd of the Assembly Elections 2024 on 1st October 2024, the District Election Officer (DEO), Minga Sherpa said that 7,24,335 electors are eligible in the district to participate in this democratic process.

With a robust electoral framework in place, the administration is committed to facilitating a smooth and transparent voting experience for all citizens. A total of 908 polling stations have been established, including 35 special polling stations designed to enhance voter experience and accessibility. Notably, 40 polling stations have been strategically set up in border areas to ensure that every eligible voter gets the opportunity to cast their vote.

In preparation for this significant day, 4,479 election personnel in addition election Observers, micro-observers and magistrates accompanied by Security personnel have been deployed across the district. These dedicated



teams will ensure the integrity and transparency of the electoral process, reinforcing the administration's commitment to free and fair elections.

Ahead of poll day, the DEO conducted a thorough review of logistics and security arrangements. His visit to various dispatch centres affirmed that all necessary measures are in place for the effective deployment of polling parties to their designated stations.

"We are dedicated to ensuring a transparent, orderly, and efficient election in Baramulla. Our comprehensive preparations reflect our commit-

ment to upholding the democratic process," the DEO stated.

Meanwhile, DEO conducted an inspection of the webcasting control room, where teams are actively monitoring live webcasting from every polling station across all seven Assembly Constituencies. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and accountability during the election process by allowing real-time observation of polling activities.

The DEO urges all eligible voters in Baramulla to participate actively in the elections, as every vote counts in shaping the future of the community.

Assembly Elections-2024

Polling Parties dispatched for all six assembly segments in Kathua



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 30

The polling parties for all six assembly segments were dispatched from designated points today.

As many as 94 polling parties dispatched from Govt Degree College, Bani for 63-Bani AC.

Similarly, 130 polling parties were dispatched from GDC Billawar for 64-Billawar AC.

Likewise, a total of 107 polling parties were dispatched from GHSS

Basohli for 65-Basohli.

Similarly, 132 Polling parties for 66-Jasrota AC and 131 Polling parties for 67-Kathua (SC) Assembly Constituency were dispatched from GDC Kathua.

Likewise, 110 Polling Parties were dispatched from GLDM College Hiranagar for Hiranagar AC. The elections for the six Assembly Constituencies of Kathua are scheduled for 01 October.

The process of the dispatching Polling par-

ties were held under the supervision of respective Returning Officers and overseen by District Election Officer Kathua Dr Rakesh Minhas.

The DEO appealed people to come in large numbers to the polling stations and cast their vote without any fear as elaborate logistical and security arrangements are put in place for fair and free elections in every part of the district.

24th NCORD meeting held in Doda to strengthen anti-drug measures



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, SEPTEMBER 30

The 24th meeting under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism was held today in the meeting hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office Doda, under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Harvinder Singh.

SSP Doda, Mohd Aslam, served as the convener of the meeting. The agenda focused on critical issues such as illicit crop cultivation, identification of drug abuse hotspots, and

the declaration of 'Nasha Mukht Panchayats' across the district.

Strict vigilance was emphasized on all identified drug abuse hotspots, with instructions to intensify efforts to curb drug-related activities in these areas.

Furthermore, the District Magistrate directed the officers to enforce stringent measures to prevent the cultivation of illicit crops within the district's jurisdiction, whether on wild or agricultural land.

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN-2024

In continuation to already announced Festival Special Train-2024, Railways have planned to run following additional Festival Special train as per detail given below:-

03309/03310 Dhanbad Jn. - Jammu Tawi - Dhanbad Jn. - 18 Trips		Express Special Train (Weekly)	
Train No.: 03309	Train No.: 03310	STATIONS	STATIONS
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
----	10:10	Dhanbad Jn.	14:00
10:35	10:37	Nsc Bose J Gomoh	12:30
10:50	10:52	Parasnath	12:05
11:12	11:14	Hazaribagh Road	11:10
11:42	11:44	Koderma Jn.	10:35
13:30	13:35	Gaya Jn.	08:55
14:24	14:26	Anugraha Narayan Road	07:32
14:40	14:42	Dehri-On-Sone	07:10
14:54	14:56	Sasaram Jn.	06:48
15:35	15:37	Bhabua Road	06:25
17:00	17:10	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn.	05:00
18:05	18:15	Varanasi Jn.	03:25
21:00	21:10	Prayagraj Jn.	23:15
00:10	00:20	Govindpur Jn.	20:05
05:20	05:25	Tundla Jn.	15:00
09:00	09:10	Delhi Jn.	11:35
10:08	10:10	Sonapat Jn.	09:45
10:48	10:50	Panipat Jn.	09:08
13:05	13:15	Ambala Cantt. Jn.	07:20
13:56	13:58	Sirhind Jn.	05:45
15:00	15:10	Ludhiana Jn.	04:45
15:50	15:55	Jalandhar Cantt.	03:40
19:00	19:05	Pathankot Cantt.	01:30
22:40	----	Jammu Tawi	----

DATE OF RUN: 03309 from Dhanbad Jn. on every Tuesday from 01.10.2024 to 26.11.2024 and 03310 from Jammu Tawi on every Wednesday from 02.10.2024 to 27.11.2024.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-3 Tier.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or N.T.E.S App.

Visit RailMadad Website - www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app.

Please join us on **NORTHERN RAILWAY** Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in 30/27/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

Final Phase of Elections:
Over 39 Lakh Electors
Set to Decide Fate of 415
Candidates

As the curtains draw on the multi-phase electoral process, all eyes are now on October 1, when over 39 lakh electors will head to the polling booths to determine the fate of 415 candidates. This final phase is not just the conclusion of weeks of high-octane campaigning, promises, and political drama, but it is also a defining moment that could chart the future course of governance in the state.

The significance of this phase cannot be overstated. In many ways, it serves as a litmus test for both incumbents and challengers. For the ruling parties, it is a moment of reckoning, where the policies implemented over their tenure will either be validated or rejected by the electorate. For opposition parties, this is their last chance to capitalize on the disenchantment of the public, if any, and to position themselves as viable alternatives. The stakes are high, and the strategies have been relentless, ranging from addressing local issues to making broad, emotive appeals.

One notable aspect of this final phase is the sheer diversity of the candidates and constituencies in play. With 415 candidates contesting, voters have a wide array of choices, underscoring the vibrant and competitive nature of the democratic process. However, the sheer volume of candidates can also overwhelm the electorate, raising concerns about voter education and awareness. In many areas, the presence of multiple candidates from smaller parties or as independents could lead to vote fragmentation, potentially altering expected outcomes.

Electorate turnout will be a key factor to watch. In previous phases, voter turnout has fluctuated, and the challenge remains to ensure that the majority of the 39 lakh registered voters exercise their franchise. A higher voter turnout is often seen as a sign of robust democratic engagement, while a lower turnout could reflect apathy or dissatisfaction. Efforts by the Election Commission and civil society groups to promote voting have been commendable, but the actual numbers on polling day will reveal whether these efforts have resonated with the public.

Beyond the numbers, this election has brought critical issues to the forefront. Economic concerns, unemployment, development, healthcare, and governance have dominated the discourse, but local issues specific to each constituency cannot be ignored. Voters in rural areas may have different priorities compared to those in urban centers, and addressing these varied concerns has been a challenge for all political parties. The outcome of this phase will offer insights into what issues resonated most with the electorate.

Security and the integrity of the electoral process are also under the spotlight. With a large number of candidates and constituencies, ensuring free and fair elections is a daunting task. The Election Commission has deployed substantial resources to maintain law and order and prevent malpractices. The importance of clean elections cannot be stressed enough, as any suspicion of foul play could taint the results and undermine the public's faith in the democratic process.

As the final phase unfolds, it is important to remember that the power ultimately lies in the hands of the people. The 39 lakh electors have the opportunity to shape their future and hold their leaders accountable. Elections are not just about choosing individuals, but about choosing the direction in which communities, states, and the nation as a whole will move.

The results of this phase could have broader political implications, influencing not just local governance but also national politics. In an increasingly interconnected political landscape, regional elections often serve as barometers for national trends, and the outcomes here could provide insights into the larger political mood of the country.

As we await the results, one thing is clear: the vibrancy of Indian democracy remains strong. The participation of millions of voters in this electoral process is a testament to the enduring strength of democratic values in India. Regardless of the outcome, the final phase of elections on October 1 will be a reminder of the power of the vote, and the importance of every individual's voice in shaping the nation's future.

Transforming India through 'Make in India'

PIYUSH GOYAL

On September 25, the country observed 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's game-changing 'Make in India' initiative that is transforming India's industrial landscape by encouraging job-creating investments and giving many ordinary citizens the confidence to become wealth creators. It's been a remarkable 10-year journey, which gave renewed vigour to industrial sectors turning these into engines of growth, meeting domestic demand as well as contributing to exports. The exciting journey began at a difficult time when domestic investors were despondent because of the policy paralysis and poor governance by the indecisive Congress government.

The economy was down, confidence was shattered, headlines were dominated by a regular dose of corruption scandals, inflation was soaring, interest rates were high and the rupee had

an uncertain outlook. To end the feeling of doom and gloom, the Indian voters decisively voted for PM Modi. Our Prime Minister came with a vision for India. He wanted to ensure that India became a global superpower. He wanted India to provide jobs and opportunities to our youth, recognising that manufacturing was critical to India's success story.

That is when the PM launched the 'Make in India' initiative. Ten years has been a remarkable journey, but it would not have been possible for the multidimensional and transformative changes done by the Modi government. Initiatives include GST, the Bankruptcy Code and a multitude of other reforms. To improve the ease of doing business, as many as 42,000 compliance requirements were done away with, and 3,700 provisions that provided for criminal penalties for minor offences were removed from various statutes to protect small businesses from harassment.

India sharply improved its rank in the World Bank's Doing Business Report from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd in 2019. The government's Startup India initiative has encouraged many job seekers to become job creators with the help of Startup India initiative. This has helped the number of recognised startups increase to 1,40,803 in June this year, bringing in investments, and creating more than 15 lakh jobs. These startups are driving the innovation ecosystem in the country, working on solutions to pressing issues in areas such as sanitation, space navigation, reducing food wastage, improving access to healthcare, and empowering women. The development of 11 Industrial Corridors is another focus area of the Government. 20 industrial smart cities are being developed under the program, which would help make these corridors the backbone of India's manufacturing growth. Four of these smart cities have already become magnets of investment with infra-

structure and clearances available for manufacturing units to be set up. Potential investment of Rs 1.7 lakh crore is already committed which will provide direct employment to 80,000 persons and indirect to many more.

The Government's PLI schemes focus on critical sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, textiles and medical devices to create the eco-systems in these sectors for sustained growth and ensure their global competitiveness. PLI schemes have resulted in Rs 1.32 lakh crore in investment and a significant boost in manufacturing output of around 11 lakh crore. More than 8.5 lakh jobs have been created directly and indirectly through this initiative.

The Prime Minister's initiatives on infrastructure have been another shot in the arm of Indian manufacturing, apart from generating demand for goods and services, infrastructure development is a major facilitator of industrial activity. Today, India has a huge,

and growing, network of expressways and highways. New, world-class railway stations are being built, while new freight corridors are coming up. India is increasingly being seen as a very attractive destination for investment. The country provides the 4D advantage - The decisive leadership of PM Modi; the Demographic dividend of our youthful, talented, skilled Indians; the Demand that 140 crore Indians generate in the economy; and Democracy that ensures the safety and security of investors, and the rule of law which will never allow discrimination against one or the other. The 4-D is a very, very compelling case to attract manufacturers to India. Domestic and international investors today find a golden opportunity to grow their business. There is a flurry of activity in the investor community. A series of delegations is visiting India, hungry for opportunities to invest and participate in the Indian growth story. Foreign governments and global CEOs

are keenly eyeing opportunities in India. Many countries are keen to sign trade deals with India.

The world is now looking at India as a manufacturing destination. And the key reason for this interest is India's competitive advantage and robust economic fundamentals. Today, inflation is under control, economic growth is strong and the Modi government is following strict fiscal discipline. This is all the more commendable in the current global situation marred by conflict and uncertainty. The initiatives of PM Modi have helped India rise from the unenviable situation of being regarded as one of the "Fragile Five" in the world in 2014, to being one of the Top Five in the world. In effect, PM Modi's initiatives like Make in India have contributed to making the last 10 years a transformational decade - a quantum jump over the lost decade of Congress rule.

(The writer is Minister of Commerce and Industry; views expressed are personal)

India's education system must prioritise learning over infrastructure

ASHU KAPOOR

Since gaining independence, India has made significant strides in the field of education, especially in terms of infrastructure and expanding access to schools. Classrooms now accommodate children from all walks of life, and government initiatives have succeeded in bringing millions of students into the education system.

However, despite these achievements, a critical component remains neglected—the quality of learning. Infrastructure may be flourishing, but the foundational skills that students require for future success often lag behind. To understand this, imagine a farmer who diligently sows seeds in well-tilled soil, only to find the harvest insufficient because the seeds weren't suited to the soil. In the same way, India's educational progress in infrastructure is commendable, but the students' foundational skills—the seeds of education—are still not producing the robust results we hope for.

Year after year, surveys like the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) and the National Achie-

vement Survey (NAS) reveal a startling reality: a large proportion of students struggle with essential skills like basic literacy and numeracy.

These are the building blocks of education, without which the entire edifice remains shaky. Students are spending years in school, but many are not learning at the expected level. The alarming gap between schooling and actual learning points to a crucial flaw in the system. If foundational skills are not nurtured early on, the benefits of educational progress will remain elusive, much like the farmer's poor harvest.

The introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 brings a renewed sense of hope. It promises transformative change and a shift towards a system that values not just access to education but the quality of learning. Together with the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational and School Education, NEP 2020 emphasizes the need to measure educational progress through well-designed assessments and to tailor interventions accordingly.

The goal is clear: to raise a generation of learners



who are not only equipped with knowledge but also the critical thinking skills required to thrive in the modern world. Research consistently shows that assessments play a transformative role in improving education. Their primary goal is not to rank students or schools but to provide insights into where learners stand on their educational journey. By identifying what students know and can do at individual, school, and system levels, assessments offer a roadmap for educators to develop targeted interventions that

can address specific learning gaps.

In the quest to transform learning, large-scale assessments like ASER and NAS will be pivotal. ASER, a household-based survey, provides insights into basic literacy and numeracy skills, while NAS offers a broader view of students' achievement of curricular outcomes. Recently, the State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) was conducted by NCERT to provide state-level insights into educational progress.

Simply generating report cards on students' performance is not

enough. The data must be used to inform policy decisions and to implement specific interventions aimed at improving learning outcomes. If not, students will continue to face the same challenges year after year, with little improvement. Large-scale assessments should be seen as the first step in a larger strategy to address educational inequities.

While NAS offers a broad overview of the education system, state-level assessment surveys (SAS) have the potential to zoom in on specific issues at the school level. NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of these surveys and recommends that each state conduct its own census-based assessment to drive continuous improvement. By focusing on local contexts, SAS can provide valuable insights into the unique challenges faced by individual states, enabling more targeted interventions.

However, the effectiveness of SAS depends on how well states define their objectives. To make SAS truly impactful, states need to align their assessment frameworks with clear objectives. A well-designed assessment should consider the needs

of the educational system at the state level, and the data collected should be used to support and improve schools, rather than ranking them. India's states would do well to ensure that all stakeholders in the education system—teachers, school administrators, and district-level educators—are trained in data use and analysis.

The road ahead is challenging, but the promise of census-based state assessments is transformative. By monitoring student progress and providing data-driven insights, SAS can reshape India's educational landscape. When combined with national-level assessments like NAS, SAS has the power to create a more responsive, equitable education system. With a strategic approach and strong governance, India can ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

The writer is a Research Fellow at Australian Council for Educational Research (India) and a former Senior Academic Consultant at NCERT and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Views are personal. Inputs by Dr Priyanka Sharma, Director ACER (India)

Breaking life into small steps for lasting fulfillment

Happiness is the most important project of life. It should be broken up into smaller activities to attain the eventual goal. The only time that we probably understand this is in our childhood. As a child, I had intuitively learned the art of allocating the hours of the day for various activities, like waking up, getting ready and spending time in school, having lunch on return, completing homework, going out to play, returning for dinner, and going to bed.

We lived in the present from one hour to the next. I was a satisfied and happy person as I could complete the 'Project Day'. We did not have the need or the time to look too far into the future. As we outgrew childhood, we forgot the lessons learned.

I joined college. Like others, I too started making grand resolutions on the first day of the year.

My resolution could be as mundane as losing the 15 kgs within the first three months, which had taken me a year to gain.

It could also be an important resolution to secure 90 per cent marks in my semester examinations, a substantial improvement over the 60 per cent in the previous one. Each resolution would fly out of the window within the first few months. I had forgotten to take small steps to reach the end destination.

Things did not improve even after I started working. I found a new toy - a 'To Do List'. A diary would be earmarked for this most important ritual.

I would start with one such list and continue adding till I had inked the second or third page with only a few activities completed. I would give up, and start all over again. The previous year's diary was promptly destroyed



lest anyone glanced into it and called my bluff. This continued for a few years till I discovered the computer. I could delete these pending activities

at will, with no one any wiser to my shenanigans. I was fooling only myself. I quit my railway job to join a government company working in the execution

of construction projects. I was exposed to software-based project management tools for the first time. I reluctantly spent weeks with the consultant to develop an activity-based project breakdown structure. He educated us about the importance of breaking each activity into smaller sub-activities. We were reluctant to accept that more activities to monitor would result in successful and timely completion.

He was not satisfied with the first draft of less than 100 activities. He was a tough taskmaster. We marched on, to our ever-increasing despair, and his impatience, till we called it quits after we had reached 1000 odd activities. It was a revelation to me. I now appreciated the time that my wife spent planning the daily household chores. The exercise in project management also brought into stark

focus all the wrong I was doing while making my New Year resolutions and the To-Do Lists, and more importantly, living my life.

I now understand why we remain unhappy most of the time. We forget to derive joy out of each step that we take, however small it may be. The young of today are far more mature. Hina Khan, a young actor, recently diagnosed with cancer, is a courageous woman fighting all that life has to throw at her.

Her thoughts are the most inspiring words I have read in some time, "First normalise the challenges of your lives then set goals for yourself and try to live up to them all along the way. No matter how hard. Never back down. Never give up."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

Prescribe painkillers when necessary to kids: American Academy of Pediatrics

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

Paediatricians must prescribe opioids for pain to children when necessary, with recommended precautions to increase safety, according to a new clinical practice guideline released by the American Academy of Pediatrics on Monday.

The first clinical practice guideline for opioid prescriptions in kids also includes explicit instructions on how and when to prescribe these medications for pain while reducing the long-term risk of addiction.

The guideline, published in the journal *Pediatrics* online, called on Paediatricians always to



start non-opioid medications and treatment, for a patient with mild to moderate pain.

It also marked a shift in clinical practice by recommending a routine prescription for naloxone -- a medication used to reverse overdoses -- alongside every opioid prescription.

"There's been a big pendulum swing in the practice of medicine over the last two decades -- first with opioid-overprescribing, then with a huge cut-back in opioid prescribing, likely leaving some children's pain undertreated," said Scott Hadland, lead author of the guideline. "We want paediatricians to prescribe opioids when they're needed," Hadland said.

While "untreated pain can lead to distress and psychological harm, physicians need to take steps that reduce the long-term risk for addiction," Hadland noted.

The AAP clinical practice guideline recommends that opioids must be prescribed in conjunction with other non-pharmacological approaches, such as physical therapy, to reduce pain and improve function.

They should also be prescribed alongside other non-opioid medications, including acetaminophen and ibuprofen.

The guideline also calls for giving patients and

caregivers educational materials on pain control therapies, opioids, and safe storage and disposal of medications. They should also receive teaching on how to recognise the signs of an opioid overdose and how to intervene.

AAP also outlined several restrictions around the prescription of codeine and tramadol, which are only FDA-approved for use in adults.

"They should not be prescribed in children younger than 12; in patients ages 12-18 with certain chronic conditions; in patients younger than 18 after tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy; or in patients who are breastfeeding," the guidelines stated.

UP govt to build 200-bed male district hospital in Sitapur

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, SEP 30

In a bid to provide top-tier healthcare services in Uttar Pradesh, the state government has initiated the process to construct a 200-bed district hospital for males in Sitapur, official sources said here on Monday.

Sources said that the project, to be built at a cost of Rs 107 crore, will be executed in EPC mode under the supervision of the Planning Department. The department has set the target to complete the project within 18 months of the approval of the Detailed Project Report (DPR), aligning with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to meet future healthcare needs.

To accelerate the project, the preparation of key

monitoring documents, including the Detailed Project Report (DPR), is already underway. The hospital will be designed as a four-storey facility, including the ground floor, with specialised medical blocks on each level.

It will be equipped with modern amenities such as a building management system, solar panels, a public address system, computerised communication and CCTV surveillance. For timely execution, a phased deadline has been set for the construction.

The Project Management Consultancy Agency will oversee the entire process, including the construction phase. The DPR and architectural design will be completed within 75 days, after which, upon approval,

all construction and development work will be finalised within the stipulated 18 months (excluding the rainy season).

The Male District Hospital will be designed to meet future healthcare demands. The facility will be constructed according to the UP Energy Conservation Building Code (UPECBC), incorporating rainwater harvesting and solar energy systems. Waste management will adhere to the Building Material and Technical Council (BMTPC) standards for safe disposal.

The hospital building will feature an OPD, a waiting hall, two OTs, an ICU and examination rooms on the ground floor. The first floor will house four OTs, a conference hall, examination rooms and CMS offices.

Why gynaecological cancers are rising among young Indian women

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

Obesity, diabetes, and Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) are the key reasons why India is seeing a rise in gynaecological cancers like endometrial, ovarian, and uterus, said experts on Monday.

The rise is particularly of concern among younger women, and calls for greater awareness and early screening.

There have been more incidences of endometrial cancer -- cancer that develops in the lining of the uterus -- among young women in their early 30s, a condition traditionally seen in post-menopausal women.

"As obesity rates climb and more women delay childbearing or remain childless, they face prolonged exposure to oestrogen, a known risk factor for endometrial cancer. Conversely, progesterone, produced during

pregnancy, provides a protective effect against this cancer," Dr. Vandana Jain, Sr. Consultant and Chief of Gynae Oncology Services, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCIRC), told IANS.

"Women with conditions like Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD), who often do not ovulate regularly, also find themselves at heightened risk," Jain added.

According to statistics 1 in 100 women are either diagnosed with cancer of the uterus or cancer of the ovary. However, a steady rise in the numbers of these two cancers has been observed of late.

"Obesity, diabetes, and PCOS have all been scientifically proven to be the reasons for the rise in the incidence of cancer of the uterus and ovary, albeit indirectly," Dr. Sai Lakshmi Daayana, Senior Consultant - Surgical Oncology, Apollo Cancer Centres, Hyderabad, told IANS.

Ovarian cancer is the third most common type of cancer among women in India. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the age-adjusted incidence rate of ovarian cancer in India is estimated to be around 6.8 per 1,00,000 women.

Daayana said in the majority of cancers of the ovary, no particular cause is identifiable.

The majority of these patients are above 50 years of age.

"However, it has been established that women who seek fertility treatment are at an increased risk of developing cancers of the ovary many years down the line.

Previously infertility was seen in about 1:10 couples. This number has now risen to 1:3 capsules. PCOS also contributes to a majority of female infertility," the expert said.

Further, the doctor explained that cancer of the uterus is seen with

increasing frequency in two groups of people. Uterus cancer in women aged 50 and above, who have attained menopause is "due to the ever-increasing incidence of diabetes and obesity," Daayana said.

The other group of women where alarming numbers of cancers of the uterus are seen is the PCOS cohort.

"Unfortunately this group is much younger, a majority are in their late 20s or 30s, and most of them have yet to conceive.

These women face menstrual issues such as scanty and infrequent periods, diabetes-like metabolic profile, and weight gain -- all three being causative factors for cancer of the uterus," Daayana told IANS.

Stressing the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, the experts called for long-term lifestyle changes and medication.

Read aloud with newborns, young kids for lifelong benefits: Researchers

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, SEP 29

A team of US researchers on Sunday encouraged parents and caregivers to read aloud with their newborns and young children as an opportunity to foster loving, nurturing relationships during a critical time of brain development.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that pediatricians support families with guidance and books at well-child visits, according to an updated policy statement, marking the first update in AAP recommendations since 2014.

Given the extraordinary amount of research in this area, an accompanying new technical report reviewed the evidence for shared reading as a way to strengthen and nurture relationships, stimulate brain circuitry and create early attachments.

"Reading together with young children weaves joyful language and rich



typically passive or solitary experiences for children and do not offer the same benefits of interactivity and relationship-building, said Navsaria.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that pediatricians should encourage shared reading beginning at birth and continuing at least through kindergarten, including, when possible, in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

They should develop skills to discuss with parents strategies for mutually joyful and developmentally appropriate reading activities and encourage meaningful, language-rich engagement with books, pictures, and the written word, and model techniques to prompt reciprocal, responsive, positive experiences.

"Research tells us that reading proficiency by third grade is a significant predictor of high school graduation and career success," said Klass.

interactive moments into the fabric of daily life," said Perri Klass, MD, FAAP, lead author of both statements.

"As a pediatrician and parent, I suggest making books your bedtime routine, using them to connect and wind down after a busy day, and generally building them into life with a young child. It will strengthen the bonds that hold you together, and build your child's developing brain," Klass added in the statement published in the journal *Pediatrics* online.

Policy statements and technical reports created

by AAP are written by medical experts, reflect the latest evidence in the field, and go through several rounds of peer review before being approved by the AAP Board of Directors and published in *Pediatrics*.

"Turning the pages of a high-quality, print book filled with colourful pictures and rich, expressive language are best," said Dipesh Navsaria, a co-author of the technical report and chair of the Council on Early Childhood.

While touchscreens and other electronic devices may be popular, they are

Indian pharma companies to expand revenues by 9-11 pc in FY25

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

The Indian pharma companies are estimated to expand their revenues by a healthy 9-11 per cent in the current fiscal (FY25), a report showed on Monday.

This will be driven by 9-11 per cent revenue growth from the US market, 7-9 per cent each from the European and domestic markets, and 11-13 per cent from the emerging markets, according to credit rating ICRA.

The revenue growth from the domestic market is likely to improve by 7-9 per cent in FY25 against 6.4 per cent in FY24.



ICRA has maintained its stable outlook for the Indian pharmaceutical industry, led by steady demand in the export and domestic markets and the comfortable credit profile of key industry participants.

Kinjal Shah, SVP and

Co-Group Head-Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said they expect the operating margins of its sample set of companies to remain stable at 23-24 per cent in FY2025, "supported by an increase in revenues, higher contribution of complex generics, spe-

cialty molecules and soft prices of raw materials."

In the US market, revenue growth is expected to moderate to 9-11 per cent in FY25 due to the high base of the previous fiscal. However, it will still remain much higher than the recent years.

Indian pharmaceutical companies also benefited from the easing of pricing pressure in the US in FY24 and FY25 (year to date) due to supply-side constraints in the market, providing volume growth and better pricing opportunities.

"However, the sustainability of the same remains to be seen in the current

fiscal. Additionally, regulatory risks pertaining to this market remain a key monitorable, given the heightened scrutiny by the USFDA," said Shah.

In the European market, the pharma companies are expected to witness revenue growth of 7-9 per cent in FY25, moderating from the previous year, due to the base effect.

The research and development expenses are estimated to remain at 6.5-7 per cent of their revenues as they optimise their spending, focusing more on complex molecules and specialty products, against generics, said the report.

Dr. Agarwal Health Care files DRHP for IPO

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, SEP 30

Temasek Holdings and TPG-backed eye care services of Dr. Agarwal Health Care have filed their draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to raise funds through Initial Public Offering (IPO). The IPO with a face value of Re 1 per equity share is a mix of a fresh issue of up to Rs 300 crore and an offer for sale of up to 69,568,204 equity shares by the promoter and other selling shareholders. The offer also includes a subscription reservation for eligible employees.

The company, in consultation with the book-running lead managers, may consider a pre-IPO placement of specified securities that shall not exceed 20 percent of the size of the fresh issue. If such placement is completed, the fresh issue size will be reduced.

The Offer is being made through the book-building process, wherein not more than 50 percent of the net offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to qualified institutional buyers, not less than 15 percent of the net offer shall be available for allocation to non-institutional bidders, and not less than 35 percent of the net offer shall be available for allocation to retail individual bidders.

The proceeds from the fresh issue to Rs 195 crore for repayment/prepayment, in part or full, of certain of its borrowings; general corporate purposes, and unidentified inorganic acquisition.

Dr. Agarwal Health Care, under the leadership of its Chairman, Dr. Amar Agarwal, offers a wide array of services including cataract, refractive, and other surgeries, consultations, diagnosis, non-surgical treatments, and the sale of optical products, contact lenses, accessories, and eye care-related pharmaceutical items.

Bangladesh records highest daily dengue cases

AGENCIES
DHAKA, SEP 30

A total of 1,221 people were diagnosed with dengue fever in Bangladesh in the past 24 hours on Sunday, the highest number in a single day so far this year, according to the Ministry of Health. In the same period, eight people died due to the mosquito-borne disease, raising the death toll to 158 so far this year. With the fresh infections, the number of dengue cases



surged to 29,786 in Bangladesh, the ministry said. In order to fight the rising number of dengue cases, Bangladeshi health

authorities have strengthened measures to check the breeding of mosquitoes and conduct anti-larval operations.

Healthcare sector at forefront of nanotechnology innovation: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

Healthcare industries are pioneering nanotechnology innovation with use in diagnostics, drug delivery, and medical imaging, according to a report on Monday.

Nanotechnology has the potential to transform numerous industries with a growing demand for sustainable materials, environmental remediation, faster electronics, and innovative therapies.

The report by GlobalData, a data and analytics company, showed that the



healthcare and technology sectors are currently at the forefront of innovation witnessing rapid commercialisation.

In the technology

sector, nanotechnology is enhancing the performance of electronic devices, helping to push forward the next era of advanced computing.

"Nanotechnology's commercialisation varies greatly by sector due to a combination of factors. The first is the level of investment in research and development in each sector. Industries such as technology and healthcare have seen faster commercialisation due to high investment," said Isabel Al-Dhahir, Principal Analyst, Thematic Intelligence at GlobalData.

"The complexity and regulatory hurdles associated with bringing nanotechnology products to market and mixed consumer perception of nanotechnology products in food and consumer goods can also impact commercialisation rates," Al-Dhahir said.

To boost commercialisation of the advanced technology is the gaining of regulatory approvals. This is further complicated by regional divergence in regulation and unclear frameworks. Al-Dhahir noted that "the rapid pace of technological advancements in nanotechnology has outpaced the development of regulatory frameworks, leaving gaps in oversight and enforcement".

To boost commercialisation of the advanced technology is the gaining of regulatory approvals. This is further complicated by regional divergence in regulation and unclear frameworks. Al-Dhahir noted that "the rapid pace of technological advancements in nanotechnology has outpaced the development of regulatory frameworks, leaving gaps in oversight and enforcement".

Devastating floods turn villages into islands in North Bihar

AGENCIES
PATNA, SEP 30

The excessive rainfall in Nepal's catchment areas has caused widespread flooding in several districts of North Bihar, turning many villages into isolated islands.

One of the severely affected areas is West Champaran district, where the water from the Harboda River has flooded over a dozen villages in Madhopur and Guanaha Panchayats. Villagers are struggling to cope with the situation and are desperately demanding government aid, which has not yet reached them.

In Madhopur Panchayat's ward number 6, flooding has submerged everything under four to five feet of water, making it impossible for villagers to access food for themselves and fodder for their cattle.

Ranu Mishra, the representative of the village body, expressed the community's distress, noting that the lack of boats has

left them without any means of transportation.

"We are pleading with the district administration to at least provide boats if food grains cannot be supplied immediately," Mishra said.

The situation highlights the urgent need for government intervention to provide relief, such as food, boats, and other essentials, to ensure that these flood-affected communities receive the necessary assistance to survive.

The floodwaters from rivers like the Gandak and Bagmati have inundated multiple regions, causing widespread devastation.

In West Champaran's Yogapatti block, Janakpur and Futwaria Panchayats are flooded by the Gandak River, while Gopalganj has seen areas like Jigri Tola, Mungraha, Malahi Tola, and Rajwahi village completely cut off from the mainland due to floodwaters.

Farmers, like Ashok Thakur, are facing



immense hardship as their paddy, maize, and sugarcane crops have been destroyed.

"Rain doesn't usually come in September, and this unexpected downpour has devastated us," Ashok lamented.

He emphasized that many farmers had borrowed money for their crops, and the floods had broken their financial stability, making urgent government assistance crucial. The demand for adequate compensation

from the government is growing, as farmers have lost not only their crops but also their livelihoods.

The situation has been aggravated by the breaching of embankments at multiple locations.

In West Champaran's Bagaha block, the Gandak River has broken through embankments, while the Bagmati River has caused breaches in Sitamarhi district, particularly at Bensed block and Runni Saidpur block, where embankments have col-

lapsed in three places. Further breaches were reported in Kharauha, Rupauli, and Madhkaul villages. In Sheohar district, the embankment along the Bagmati River at Tariyani Chhapra has also collapsed worsening the flood impact.

The breaking of embankments has significantly contributed to the worsening flood conditions, increasing the urgency for governmental action to repair these structures and provide immediate relief to the affected population.

In Darbhanga, the flood situation has worsened after the embankment at Badaul village in Kiratpur block was breached due to the strong water flow from the Kosi River. The breach has caused severe flooding in Kiratpur and Ghanshyampur blocks, with around 25 villages now submerged.

Despite efforts by the district administration, including the District Magistrate (DM), Sub-Division-

al Magistrate (SDM), and officials from the Water Resource and Disaster Management department, the embankment could not withstand the powerful water current and broke on Monday morning.

Umesh Kumar, the SDO of Darbhanga (Sadar), said they are continuously monitoring embankments and alerting people through loudspeakers to prepare for potential danger.

Rajiv Roshan, the District Magistrate of Darbhanga, stated, "The district is on high alert, with clear instructions given to all officers to regularly monitor the embankments and ensure that government aid reaches the flood-affected communities.

Food grain and other essential supplies are being distributed in impacted areas such as Bilaur, Ghanshyampur, Taurabora, and other panchayats inundated by the Kosi River floodwaters."

Oppn accuses Mahayuti of diverting funds to 'Ladki Bahin' scheme for poll gains

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, SEP 30

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies on Monday launched a fresh attack on the ruling Mahayuti alliance alleging that it was diverting money from development schemes and ongoing projects to fund the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme for gains in the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections. Interestingly, BJP's Union Minister Nitin Gadkari also referred to the issue recently, saying that uncertainty looms over funds for other schemes as the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme also has to be provided with money, sparking speculation in political circles.

On Monday, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Leader of Opposition Ambadas Danve and MP Sanjay Raut, besides Nationalist Congress Party (SP) Working President Supriya Sule slammed the government for feeding the

'Ladki Bahin' scheme while starving other projects of funds despite purported objections from the state's finance department.

Raut accused the Mahayuti of halting other ongoing schemes to fund 'Ladki Bahin', which could hit the salaries of state government employees, police or home guards.

Sule said that the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme has attracted flak from the finance department, and even the Bharatiya Janata Party's former supporter, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) President, Raj Thackeray, and it is being pushed through with an eye on the elections.

Danve claimed that the government's resources for important projects were being routed to the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme to lure women's votes in the Assembly polls despite objections from many quarters.

Dy CM Shivakumar meets Minister Parameshwara as Siddaramaiah faces MUDA scam heat

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, SEP 30

In an interesting development, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar met with Home Minister G. Parameshwara at his residence in Bengaluru on Monday triggering speculation in the state's political corridors.

Shivakumar, also the state Congress president, and Parameshwara, a prominent Dalit leader, are aspirants for the Chief Minister's post in Karnataka. Sources said the two discussed the present political situation and future moves and there were no government officials present in the meeting. The sources further said the two have come to an understanding in the eventuality of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's resignation as an FIR was lodged against him, and the complainant has also



approached the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

After the meeting ended, Shivakumar while talking to the media, however, dismissed speculations and said no political discussion took place in the meeting with G. Parameshwara.

Do you think there is nothing except for politics? We have the responsibility of delivering to people... The manifesto of the party has been prepared under the leadership of Home Minister Parameshwara. We are implementing the manifesto of the party. The guarantees are implemented and we are delivering on the Yettina-

hole project," Shivakumar stated.

When asked why there were no officers present in the meeting if it was not held for political discussion, Shivakumar said that no officer was required.

Answering a question on whether there was any discussion about the future of the party in the present circumstances and whether there was any agreement between him and Parameshwara, Shivakumar stated, "Nothing related to power was discussed. There is nothing. All 136 MLAs are together. As leaders we do not need the support of any officer. We take calls," he stated. When asked about the statement by BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal that Rs 1,200 crore has been reserved to topple the Congress government in Karnataka, he stated, "I have called a meeting at the KPCC.

Millions of PMJDY bank accounts helping companies boost sales in rural India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

There has been a significant uptick in rural private consumption in India, thanks to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which has helped millions open bank accounts seamlessly and join the mainstream.

There has been a definitive surge in household consumption in tier 2, 3 and 4 cities and even beyond, as evident in sales growth of two-wheelers, ACs, refrigerators, smartphones and FMCGs in small towns and cities.

According to the industry, various consumer financing options, made available after the new bank accounts were opened under the PMJDY - launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 28, 2014 - has



made this stupendous growth possible.

The purchase of two-wheelers in rural India is now at 62 per cent, more than the urban growth (58 per cent) this fiscal to date.

There has been a surge in auto loans for car ownership as people from tier 2, 3 cities and beyond now opt for longer-tenure financing options to afford

the latest vehicles.

As per reports, auto companies like Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Mahindra and Tata Motors feel that finance penetration will rise to up to 84 per cent this year from 75 per cent in the pre-pandemic era.

A continued momentum in discretionary spending of consumers, coupled with a favourable

price effect, has helped private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) pick up, said a latest Bank of Baroda (BoB) report.

According to Kantar Worldpanel, FMCG volumes in the rural market could equal those in the urban market, which is higher at present.

The rural FMCG market is more valuable to the industry than before and is generating almost half the volume and value for the sector.

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), household consumption is poised to grow faster in the second quarter of the current fiscal (FY25) as headline inflation eases, with a revival of rural demand already taking hold.

PMJDY has integrated the poor into the economic mainstream, playing a crucial role in the develop-

ment of marginalised communities, according to the government.

The success of the initiative is reflected in 53 crore people having been brought into the formal banking system through the opening of Jan Dhan Accounts.

According to the government, these bank accounts have garnered a deposit balance of Rs 2.3 lakh crore and resulted in the issuance of over 36 crore free-of-cost RuPay cards, which also provide for a Rs 2 lakh accident insurance cover.

With the support of banks, insurance companies and state governments, we are moving towards a more financially inclusive society and PMJDY would always be remembered as a game changer for financial inclusion in the country.

BJP has disrespected Haryana on every front: Priyanka Gandhi calls for change

AGENCIES
NARAINGARH, SEP 30

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressed a public rally in Naraingarh, Haryana, on Monday, urging voters to oust the BJP government, which has "disrespected them in every front" and support a new Congress-led wave in the state.

"Haryana is the land of Mahabharata. Lord Krishna delivered the message of the Bhagavad Gita from this very place, a message of justice that has shaped our religion, our nation, and our constitution," she said, addressing the large crowd of supporters.

"The farmers, soldiers, and athletes of this land have always honoured and protected the country. Your children have defended the nation at the borders and upheld



its dignity."

Priyanka also criticised the BJP's decade-long rule, stating, "What has the BJP given in return for the protection you've provided to the nation? They have only disrespected you on every front."

She pointed to the struggles of Haryana's farmers, particularly during the protests against the three controversial farm laws.

"The farmers of Hary-

ana, who protested against the three black laws, were met with tear gas, lathi charges, and no dialogue. Despite the Minimum Support Price (MSP) being announced for several crops, ten of those crops are not even being cultivated here. They have betrayed your trust," she said.

Addressing the issue of unemployment in the state, she said, "The unemployment rate is so

high that the hardworking youth of this state are forced to migrate to cities like Delhi for jobs. Yet, the BJP government has shown no respect for the youth."

She also took aim at the Agnipath scheme, stating, "The youth, through the Agnipath scheme, is being asked to guard the borders for four years with no security afterwards, only to return to unemployment."

Turning to athletes, she said, "Our sportspersons, who bring honour to the country by competing at the Olympics, were protesting on the streets, but the Prime Minister didn't even spare a moment to meet them."

She further took a jab at the BJP government's "inefficiency," saying, "Government jobs remain vacant, exam papers get leaked, and there are countless

scams.

What is your future in such a system? If you want to live with dignity and demand justice, you must remove this government."

Priyanka also accused the government of failing to address rising inflation, adding, "The Prime Minister keeps repeating the same promises, but nothing changes. Inflation is at its peak, making it difficult for people to afford healthcare and education for their children.

They talk about 'Parivaar Pehchaan Patra,' but they've become the cause of 'Parivaar Pareshaan Patra.'"

She concluded by calling the current political climate a "wave of respect," urging voters, "Everyone is saying this is a wave of Congress, but I say it's a wave of your respect. So cast your vote wisely, without division."

Manoj Tiwari dismisses CM Atishi's road repair promises, cites 9 years of governance failure

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Monday responded to Delhi Chief Minister Atishi's promise to repair roads in the national Capital soon, stating that failures and problems of the last nine years cannot be fixed in just two months.

"The AAP is simply trying to mislead the public. However, I must acknowledge that Atishi did one good thing - she assessed the situation on the ground by reviewing the roads personally, immediately after becoming the Chief Minister. I had written a letter, and she responded by showing that Arvind Kejriwal is an ineffective leader, while at least she is on the ground after assuming office," the BJP MP told IANS.



"Thank you, Atishi. But, even she can't escape scrutiny. She was the Minister of Roads, so why didn't she act earlier? This current effort is just a facade," he added. He further stated, "A few days ago, we took the LG to inspect the condition of the roads. Now, even MPs are pointing out the dilapidated state of the roads."

"They have two months left to rectify this. Every year, they receive Rs 70,000-75,000 crore - where has it all gone?" the BJP MP questioned while claiming that they can't

hide behind the excuse of excess rain this year.

"Delhi's citizens will punish them and replace them with the Bharatiya Janata Party, which will transform their fate," he remarked. Reacting to Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj's concerns about the deteriorating law and order situation in the city, Manoj Tiwari replied, "When criminals are part of the ruling government, what do you expect? The Chief Minister has had most of his powers taken away by the court due to corruption.

ONLY CBI CAN ENSURE FAIR PROBE AGAINST CM SIDDARAMAIAH: K'TAKA BJP

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, SEP 30

Karnataka BJP reiterated on Monday that only the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) could ensure an impartial investigation against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam and

that it was not possible for the Lokayukta to probe the matter fairly.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, BJP state General Secretary P. Rajeev said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was conspiring to protect his wrongdoings which is clear now as he appointed Manish Kharbi-

kar as the Lokayukta Chief on July 25, the day the state legislative Assembly session was adjourned indefinitely.

"Chief Minister is trying to safeguard himself which is why he insisted that the investigation be conducted by the Lokayukta," he charged.

Rajeev claimed that no other state in India has

given additional investigative responsibilities to a Lokayukta police officer. CM Siddaramaiah has set such a bad precedent, he added. The BJP leader emphasized that if a fair investigation is to be conducted, it must be done by the CBI. "I urge complainants to seek a court-ordered CBI investigation. How Lokayukta

officers could investigate a case against the sitting Chief Minister and whether they would have the courage to rigorously interrogate him," he questioned.

"The Chief Minister, foreseeing that the case against him would either go to the CBI or Lokayukta, weakened the Lokayukta's powers to protect himself.

Over 70 cases are under investigation against the Chief Minister. Siddaramaiah altered the rules for CBI investigations to shield corruption as soon as the case was filed," Rajeev pointed out.

On July 25, Siddaramaiah issued an order appointing IPS officer Manish Kharbikar as the ADGP of Loka-

yukta. Rajeev argued that no state in India with a Lokayukta has ever issued such an order. He claimed that not only was Kharbikar appointed as the Lokayukta ADGP, but he was also given additional responsibility as the Chief of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is an alarming move, Rajeev stated.

Rajeev stated that the appointment of Kharbikar to the Lokayukta, an autonomous institution, with additional charge as SIT Chief was problematic. "While the Lokayukta operates autonomously, the SIT must report to the Home Minister and the Chief Minister, creating a conflict of interest," he stated.

EAM Jaishankar arrives in Washington, to hold bilateral talks with Blinken

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, SEP 30

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar is set to meet US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday, where a range of bilateral and global issues will be on the agenda.

Among the key topics expected to be discussed are the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East.

EAM Jaishankar arrived in Washington, DC, on Sunday. This marks his first visit to the US capital since the Modi government was re-elected for a third consecutive term.

During his stay, in addition to his meeting with Blinken, the External Affairs Minister will also engage with other high-ranking officials from the US administration, as well as members of the Cab-



net.

His itinerary includes an interaction with the think tank community, notably a session hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP), where he will discuss the future of US-India relations.

The CEIP, a globally recognised nonpartisan think tank with a focus on international affairs, operates across various regions, including Europe, South Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, and the US.

EAM Jaishankar will join CEIP President Mari-

ano Florentino Cuellar in a conversation focused on the evolving strategic partnership between the United States and India.

The think tank underscored India's increasing global strategic importance, particularly in shaping US foreign policy.

Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US in 2023 and his more recent bilateral meeting with President Joe Biden, CEIP highlighted how these interactions demonstrate the growing significance of US-India ties.

On September 30, President Biden hosted Prime Minister Modi at his residence in Greenville, Delaware, where both leaders discussed an array of regional and global issues.

PM Modi described the talks as "extremely fruit-

ful" in a social media post. Similarly, President Biden expressed his admiration for PM Modi's ability to identify new avenues for cooperation during each of their meetings.

In its announcement of the upcoming session, CEIP remarked, "Amidst fast-paced global developments, India's bilateral ties with the United States have grown more extensive. The two countries have deepened partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, as well as on defence innovation and critical and emerging technologies."

The event will also address pressing questions about India's role in global leadership and how the two nations can strengthen cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, democracy, security, and trade.

Hurricane Helene: Death toll rises to 93, millions left without power

AGENCIES
FLORIDA, SEP 30

Hurricane Helene's destruction across the Southeast of US has left 93 people dead, millions without power, and several families stranded in floodwaters, according to a media report.

Deaths have been reported in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee, CNN reported on Sunday.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden has assured that his administration is coordinating with state and local officials to provide necessary support and resources to communities affected by Hurricane Helene.

Sharing a post on X, Biden said, "I continue to be briefed by my team on the ongoing response efforts in Hurricane Helene's wake,



and my administration is in constant contact with state and local officials to ensure communities have the support and resources they need. As we continue to support response and recovery efforts, we will make sure that no resource is spared to ensure communities can quickly begin their road to rebuilding."

He added, "Jill and I are praying for those who lost loved ones from Hurricane Helene, and for those whose homes, businesses,

and communities were impacted by this terrible storm."

At least 36 people are dead in North Carolina, according to county and state officials.

At least 25 are dead in South Carolina, including two firefighters in Saluda County, authorities said.

In Georgia, at least 17 people have died, two of them killed by a tornado in Alamo, according to a spokesperson for Governor Brian Kemp.

Three Iranian border security guards killed as fresh violence erupts on Pak-Iran border

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, SEP 30

At least three Iranian border security guards have been killed and several others injured in fresh violence that has erupted in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan area, bordering Pakistan's Balochistan province.

Four different attacks were reported overnight from different cities along the Pak-Iran border on Monday.

"An Iranian border guard was killed and two others sustained injuries in a clash with unidentified armed persons in the Parud intersection of the Rask district of Iran's Sistan-va-Balochistan province," confirmed a source.

"Another Iranian Police personnel of the Ranger unit was shot dead by unidentified armed persons in the Khash city of



the same province," he added.

In another attack, an Iranian Faraja - one of the three components of the Iran Armed Forces - personnel sustained injuries when unidentified armed persons targeted Domak police station in the Zahedan capital city of Sistan-va-Balochistan province in Iran. Similarly, in a separate but parallel attack, an Iranian border security guard was killed in an attack by armed persons,

who targeted Makki station in Hirmand city of the same province.

Militant group Jaish-ul-Adl (Army of Justice), a Sunni majority group operating along the Pak-Iran bordering areas since 2012 as a successor of the Baloch military group Jundullah, has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The group claims that it is fighting for the rights of Baloch people and wants independence from Iran.

It is led by Salauddin Farooqi and is designated as a terrorist organisation by Iran and the United States.

Iran claims that Jaish-ul-Adl is based in Pakistan and has criticised Islamabad for not taking action against the group. Islamabad on the other hand, denies any physical presence of the group inside its territory.

The Pak-Iran border along the Sistan region has been volatile for some time with militant groups carrying out attacks targeted at the Iranian border security forces.

Sistan province, one of Iran's poorest regions, has faced ethnic discrimination.

Baloch population, which makes up only five per cent of Iran's population, is also subjected to disproportionate discrimination and violence.

Saudi Arabia expresses 'great concern' over escalation in Lebanon

AGENCIES
RIYADH, SEP 30

Saudi Arabia is closely monitoring the recent escalation of violence in Lebanon with "great concern," according to the kingdom's Foreign Ministry on early Monday.

The Ministry underscored the necessity of safeguarding Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Xinhua news agency reported.

In light of the ongoing turmoil, Saudi Arabia reiterated its solidarity with the Lebanese people and urged the international community to take decisive action to preserve regional peace and security, warning against the perils of war.

The Ministry also announced initiatives to provide medical and humanitarian aid to support the Lebanese people



during these critical times.

Since September 23, Israel has executed its most extensive military operations against Lebanon since 2006. It also launched airstrikes on Friday evening targeting Hezbollah's headquarters in Dahieh, a southern suburb of Beirut, resulting in the deaths of the armed group's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, along with several senior commanders.

These attacks mark a significant escalation in the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, which

began on October 8, 2023, when Hezbollah launched rocket attacks on Israel in solidarity with Hamas in the Gaza Strip, prompting Israeli retaliatory strikes in southeastern Lebanon.

Addressing the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan called for preserving Lebanon's stability and sovereignty per international law and UN Security Council resolutions.

"The absence of accountability and punish-

ment despite Israel's ongoing violations of international law and humanitarian law encourages further escalation," he added.

Bin Farhan warned that escalation will not bring security or stability to any party.

"It signals dangerous consequences instead and increases the scale of violence and war and further threatens security and stability of the region," he said.

The top Saudi diplomat said his country has "joined international efforts aimed at establishing an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon to pave the way for a sustainable diplomatic resolution," he added.

The US, EU, and several other countries called last week for a temporary cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah to facilitate diplomatic efforts.

Austria's far-right Freedom Party wins general election for 1st time

AGENCIES
VIENNA, SEP 30

The far right won the most votes in an Austrian election for the first time since the Nazi era on Sunday, as the Freedom Party (FPÖ) rode a tide of public anger over migration and the cost of living to beat the centre-right People's Party (ÖVP).

The pro-Kremlin, anti-Islam FPÖ won 28.8 per cent of votes, beating the ruling ÖVP of the Chancellor, Karl Nehammer, into second place on 26.3 per cent, according to near-complete results.

The opposition Social Democratic party scored its worst ever result - 21.1 per cent - while the liberal NEOS drew about nine per cent. Despite devastating flooding this month from Storm Boris bringing the

climate crisis to the fore, the Greens, junior partners in the government coalition, tallied 8.3 per cent in a dismal fifth place.

"We've made Austrian history because it's the first time the Freedom Party is Number 1 in a parliamentary election, and you have to think how far we've come," Herbert Kickl said after the party's record showing, which came seven decades after its foundation in the 1950s under the leadership of a former Nazi lawmaker.

The party has worked to moderate its image and broaden its appeal, but Kickl remains a provocative and polarising figure, roundly disliked by the other party leaders, who immediately united in rejecting the notion of forming a coalition with him.



If Kickl cannot persuade another party to ally with him, it could end the FPÖ's hopes of forming a government and open the door to a coalition of more moderate parties.

Only the ÖVP has offered any indication it could work with the FPÖ, but it has ruled out doing so with Kickl, who has given no hint he could step

aside to let someone else take charge.

Seat projections suggested the ÖVP and SPÖ, which ruled Austria for decades together, could just muster a majority without a third party, which had long looked unlikely.

Kickl's win was hailed by hard-right parties across Europe, where the

far-right has made gains in countries including the Netherlands, France and Germany. That growing support could stoke the risk of divisions inside the European Union over key policy areas like the defence of Ukraine against Russia.

Analysts said irrespective of whether Kickl captured the chancellor, Austria was now in uncharted territory.

"Kickl has often said that (Hungarian Prime Minister) Viktor Orban is a role model for him and he will stand by him."

Kickl, who this year forged an alliance with Orban, opposes providing aid to Ukraine and wants sanctions against Russia withdrawn, arguing they hurt Austria more than Moscow.

On Sunday, Kickl said

he was ready to talk with all parties over forming a coalition, and President Alexander Van der Bellen, who oversees the formation of governments, urged parties to find common ground in negotiations in the coming weeks.

Van der Bellen, a former Greens leader, has voiced reservations about the FPÖ because of its criticism of the EU and its failure to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Late on Sunday, a few dozen anti-FPÖ protesters assembled outside the party's election celebrations, one holding a placard reading "Kickl is a Nazi" as police kept them at bay.

The Islam-critical FPÖ wants to stop granting asylum altogether and build a "fortress Austria" preventing migrants from entering.

Substance painted on Nasrallah's hand helped Israel in tracking him: Report

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, SEP 30

A man, who originally came from Iran, shook the hand of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and managed to smear a substance on him that allowed Israel to track him, according to a media report quoting sources.

Due to the fact that the body of the Hezbollah leader was exhumed intact, there are increasing estimates that Nasrallah died as a result of suffocation, in great agony, as reported on Sunday evening by Channel 12 News.

It was also reported that as he was in a place without ventilation, the Air Force bombings resulted in gases entering

the room, causing him to suffocate to death, Saudi Al Hadath news channel reported.

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) informed earlier that 20 more terrorists were killed alongside Nasrallah in the attack on Hezbollah's central headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon.

"In a precise attack by the Israeli Air Force and under the direction of the intelligence wing, fighter jets attacked and killed the leader of the Hezbollah terrorist organisation Hassan Nasrallah, and the commander of the southern front Ali Karaki, one of the senior commanders who remained in the organisation before the attack," it said.

South Korea to launch Strategic Command amid North Korean threats

AGENCIES
SEOUL, SEP 30

South Korea will establish a new military command this week that will serve as an overarching organ for its key weapons systems to deter evolving North Korean nuclear and missile threats, the defence ministry said on Monday.

The South Korean Strategic Command will be launched on Tuesday amid growing concerns over Pyongyang's continued push to advance its weapons programs, recently highlighted by its latest disclosure of a uranium enrichment facility, Yonhap news agency reported.

The command will be tasked to counter such threats by overseeing operations of major weapons systems, such as Hyunmoo ballistic missiles, F-35 stealth fighters and submarines capable of firing ballistic missiles. South Korea first announced plans to create the unit in 2022.

Over 100 killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon: Ministry

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, SEP 30

At least 105 people were killed and 359 injured in Israeli airstrikes across Lebanon, according to the country's Health Ministry.

The highest death toll was in the South Governorate, where 48 people were killed and 168 were injured in Ain Al-Delb and Tyre, the Ministry said on

Sunday.

The attacks come after an air strike on Beirut's densely populated southern suburbs on Friday killed Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Lebanon's Hezbollah group which has engaged in cross-border fire with Israel for almost a year.

Hezbollah has said it is acting in support of Hamas militants in Gaza, who

attacked Israel on October 7, triggering the war in the Palestinian territory.

After Israel turned its focus north from Gaza to Lebanon and cross-border fire escalated, Israeli attacks have killed hundreds since last Monday, the deadliest day since Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. Lebanon's Health Ministry said there had been deadly air raids near the main

southern city of Sidon on Sunday, while dozens more had died in the east, in the south and in and around Beirut.

The Ministry added that Israeli airstrikes caused "severe damage" to Kana hospital in the south.

The Baalbek-Hermel region in eastern Lebanon's Beqaa Valley was also hard hit, with 33 people killed and 97 injured, according

to the Ministry.

There were also heavy casualties in the country's southern Nabatiyeh Governorate, including in the town of Marjaayoun.

Israel has said that its intensified strikes on Lebanon this weekend are targeting Hezbollah operatives and facilities, and accuses the militant group of using civilians as "human shields".

9 in 10 Indian biz leaders expect job displacement from AI: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

A whopping 94 per cent of business leaders in India expect Artificial Intelligence (AI) to change some office jobs, with over 83 per cent expecting such roles to be replaced, finds a new report on Monday.

The report by the British Standards Institute (BSI), a business improvement and standards company, comes amidst widespread optimism about the positive impact of AI tools on productivity and recognition.

The report examines AI's prospective impact on work, based on 932 business leaders across nine countries. It showed that 86 per cent of people in India believe that companies will be at a competi-



tive disadvantage if they don't invest in AI.

About 78 per cent in India believe that AI tools should be embraced even if some jobs change or are lost as a result and about 80 per cent agree that innovation is more important than protecting existing jobs.

"AI alone will not replace jobs, but AI paired with robotics or other technology may have a sizeable impact in the long term, potentially reduc-

ing reliance on people for repetitive, labour intensive and often risky tasks on construction sites, in factories and warehouses or even restaurants," said Theuns Kotze, Managing Director, BSI Group India Private, BSI.

Notably, 98 per cent of business leaders in India were more inclined to see AI as an opportunity than a risk, while 65 per cent expect AI to be used in the next five years to improve productivity and

efficiency. "AI-powered technologies have the power to transform the way we work across all sectors, and we can expect them to shape how companies recruit staff, manage performance, train employees, and more.

At the same time, it is vital that we consider how to retain human creativity, ingenuity, critical thinking, and collaboration," Kotze said.

"We can use AI to enhance efficiency and productivity, and if we pair it with human insight, empathy, and compassion, we can strengthen organisational culture and foster greater innovation," Kotze added.

Manual roles are also expected to be shaped by AI, with 82 per cent

expecting some to be replaced, likely by AI and robotics together.

The report looks at the prospects for AI to be used in management, job redesign, training, and recruitment, finding that even now 83 per cent of people in India say their organisation is using AI tools to support the candidate recruitment process and a higher proportion (89 per cent) are aware of their business using AI to support any aspect of performance management.

Despite this, HR is not one of the functions expected to be most impacted by AI, with only 33 per cent saying they anticipate this, compared with 67 per cent for marketing, 65 per cent for Finance, and 57 per cent for operations.

India's seven per cent growth fails to generate jobs: Raghuram Rajan

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 30

With 7 per cent economic growth, India is not creating enough jobs as reflected by the number of applicants for vacant posts in some states, Reserve Bank's former governor Raghuram Rajan said and suggested the government needs to focus on promoting labour-intensive industries to generate employment.

Rajan further said some Indians, especially those at upper level, are comfortable and have high incomes, but consumption growth from the lower half of the country has still not recovered to pre-pandemic level.

"That is the unfortunate part...You would think with 7 per cent growth, we would be creating a lot of jobs. But if you look at our manufacturing growth, it

is more capital intensive," he told.

Rajan was asked whether the Indian economy, which is growing at 7 per cent, is creating enough jobs.

According to him, the industries that are more capital-intensive are growing faster, but labour-intensive industries are not growing.

"It is not going well at the lower level. I think the desperate need is for jobs. And you can see this, forget the official statistics.

"You can see it in the number of applications for government jobs, which are overwhelming," said Rajan, who is a professor of finance at US-based Chicago Booth. He said that in the medium term, the Indian economy will grow at 6-7 per cent.

While welcoming the apprenticeship schemes

announced by the finance minister in this year's Budget, Rajan said, "But we have to monitor that very closely, see what works and expand what works much more."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the Union Budget of FY25 that the government will launch three employment-linked schemes based on enrolment in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

Citing examples of Vietnam and Bangladesh, which are doing well in labour-intensive industries like textile and leather, he said, "We need to look at this (labour-intensive industry) very, very carefully, we cannot be left out." Asked why the private sector is still lagging as far as capital expenditure is concerned, Rajan said it is a little bit of a mystery.

Hyundai Motor reach 100 mn units in cumulative production globally

AGENCIES
SEOUL/NEW DELHI, SEP 30

Hyundai Motor on Monday reached a major milestone of 100 million units in global cumulative production, an achievement accomplished in 57 years since the company's foundation, the automaker said.

In celebration of the achievement, Hyundai Motor held a ceremony at its plant in Ulsan, some 300 kms southeast of Seoul, where the company produced South Korea's first mass-produced independent model, the Pony, in 1975.

The company said it delivered its 100 millionth and first vehicle, an Ioniq 5, directly to a customer. The vehicle rolled off the final inspection conveyor belt at the plant's shipping centre during a handover ceremony, reports Yonhap news agency.

"Reaching global cumulative production of 100



million vehicles is a meaningful milestone that was possible thanks to our customers around the world who have chosen and supported Hyundai Motor since the very beginning," Chang Jae-hoon, president and CEO of Hyundai Motor, said.

Chang added, "Taking on bold challenges and being in constant pursuit of innovation have enabled us to achieve rapid growth and will empower us to take one step further toward another 100 mil-

lion units as a mobility game changer."

The Ulsan Plant, which began operations in 1968, holds significant historical importance as the birthplace of the development of the Korean automobile industry.

The plant serves as a central hub for electrification, with Hyundai currently establishing a dedicated electric vehicle (EV) facility at the site.

Hyundai Motor's achievement is seen as one of the fastest growth

among global automakers.

From 1967 to August of this year, the bestselling model was the Avante, known as the Elantra overseas, with 15.37 million units sold, followed by the Accent with 10.25 million units, the Sonata with 9.48 million units, the Tucson with 9.36 million units and the Santa Fe with 5.95 million units.

This achievement follows Hyundai Motor's continuous growth, fueled by the launch of the premium brand Genesis, the high-performance brand N, and the introduction of EVs such as the Ioniq 5 based on the company's dedicated electric global modular platform.

The company's global footprint has expanded with production facilities in Turkey, India, the United States and the Czech Republic, contributing to record achievements, including surpassing 50 million vehicles manufactured in 2013.

India e-commerce sales to reach up to Rs 1.2 lakh cr in GMV this festive season

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, SEP 30

Driven by high pent-up demand and premiumisation wave, e-commerce sales in India are estimated to reach Rs 1 lakh-Rs 1.2 lakh crore in gross merchandise value (GMV) this festive season, a report said on Monday.

This will be 20 per cent year-on-year growth for the e-commerce sector, according to the report by Redseer Strategy Consultants.

Mobiles, electronics and fashion categories are set to gain momentum while other categories (beauty and personal care, home and quick-commerce-led grocery) have had a better business as usual (BAU) performance and will see an incremental upside, "taking their festive growth figure to north of 25 per cent," the report mentioned.

According to Kushal Bhatnagar, Associate Partner at Redseer, mobiles and electronics remain key value and growth drivers this festive season, especially as consumers respond to affordability options that make premium products more accessible. "Moreover, sellers and platforms have potential to unlock



the pent-up demand in the category by optimising for pricing and selection," Bhatnagar added.

As brands look to capitalise on the festive demand, many are strategically leveraging e-commerce platforms to cater to the aspirational customers' needs and reach the relatively less accessible customers in tier 2 cities and beyond.

"As a result, they look to partner deeply with the leading platforms to attract customers via lucrative discounts and offers available in the large-scale festive events," he said.

This festive season, brands are

looking to push premium stock keeping units (SKUs) at a discounted price, to encourage aspirational buying.

Quick commerce, which saw significant traction in 2023, is set to contribute approximately 8 per cent to overall e-commerce growth, up from 5 per cent last year.

Newer categories such as home and kitchen appliances are likely to get pushed aggressively on quick commerce platforms and could also help the platforms to boost their average order values and profitability, the report mentioned.

BRAP 2024 TO ENHANCE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, BOOST 'MAKE IN INDIA' INITIATIVE

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

The government on Monday said that the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2024 is set to establish a seamless business regulatory framework, enhancing the ease of doing business and further strengthening the 'Make in India' initiative.

The action plan aligns with key government initiatives such as the reducing compliance burden (RCB) and decriminalisation, while also integrating elements from the

World Bank's upcoming B-READY programme.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, this convergence will streamline regulatory processes, bolster economic growth and foster greater investor confidence in India's business landscape.

The action plan, led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), introduces next-generation reforms that address the needs of both businesses and citizens.

"The upcoming BRAP

2024 framework introduces an innovative assessment methodology, blending evidence and feedback-based evaluations for a more comprehensive and dynamic approach," said the ministry.

Notably, the BRAP 2024 focuses on reducing approval times, integrating online service delivery, and leveraging initiatives like the National Single Window System and PM Gati Shakti.

As per latest government data, the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme under the 'Make

in India' initiative has been a great success in terms of attracting investments and increasing exports, as actual investment is likely to reach Rs 2 lakh crore in the next year with 12 lakh jobs.

Exports have exceeded Rs 4 lakh crore, with substantial contributions from key sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals and food processing.

To further ramp up the momentum, BRAP 2024 continues to streamline processes, reduce compliance burdens, and implement digital solutions to

make India a preferred global investment hub.

The action plan also covers critical sectors such as labour, environment, taxes, land administration, utility permits, inspection and construction, while also incorporating new areas like ICT adoption and process reengineering.

The government said that BRAP has emphasised transparent service delivery, ensuring that both businesses and citizens have access to clear information on procedures, fees, and timelines.

September 30: Ola Electric share tanks 4 pc, trades below Rs 100 for 1st time

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, SEP 30

Shares of Ola Electric Mobility fell more than 4 per cent on Monday and slipped below the Rs 100 mark for the first time since its listing last month.

During the intra-day trade, the Bhavish Aggarwal-run Ola Electric shares nosedived to Rs 97.84 apiece on the lower end and Rs 102.38 per share on the higher end.

At 1:36 a.m., Ola Electric shares were at Rs 99.10, down 3 per cent. With this decline, the

stock has now dropped about 36 per cent from its peak of Rs 157.4.

Share of the electric two-wheeler maker has declined for ninth out of the last 11 trading sessions.

This recent slump highlights a troubling trend for the company, which once experienced a significant surge following its IPO. Ola's shares had gained over 107 per cent within two weeks from its listing before entering a consolidation phase.

According to recent reports, "Ola Electric's flagship S1 series EV

scooter has become a nightmare for hundreds of customers who are consistently facing issues like malfunctioning hardware and glitching software and spare parts are hard to come by, resulting in inordinate delays."

Ola Electric is based on a direct-to-customer model. The company owns and operates all 500 plus experience centres and 430 service centres across the country.

Last Friday, the company announced to double its company-owned service network to 1,000 centres by the end of year.

Government seeks industry inputs on Income Tax simplification

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

The government has proposed to invite suggestions on Income Tax Act, 1961, from the private sector and tax experts beginning October, as part of an exercise to simplify the direct tax law, sources said.

In a meeting with industry chambers earlier this month, the government said that a functionality will be created in the Income Tax portal wherein suggestions

could be made on different sections of the I-T Act with a view to simplifying the language and reducing litigation.

Following the Budget announcement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had set up an internal committee for a comprehensive review of the six-decade old direct tax law and make it concise, lucid, easy to read and understand.

"In the meeting with industry associations, the revenue department suggested that the func-

tionality be developed by the first week of October to give suggestions for reworking the income tax law," a source said.

Another source said that the exercise is not to write a new tax law or a tax code.

"Just by removing the outdated clauses, the number of pages could be brought down by about 100.

The aim of the I-T law review is simplification of language and mitigation of litigation," the source added.

SBI plans combo product of recurring deposit, SIP to attract depositors: Chairman

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 30

In a bid to attract depositors, State Bank of India is contemplating to come out with innovative products including a combo product of recurring deposit and SIP, said the bank's chairman C S Setty.

With the economy progressing, he said, customers are becoming financially more aware and demanding, and have started looking for innovative investment instruments.

Today the customers are looking at the value proposition as financial literacy improves and the concept of asset allocation will gain greater importance, he said.

"Obviously, nobody wants to put everything in a risky asset or a speculative asset...Banking products will always be part of the basket. So, we are trying to bring products which will appeal to them," he told PTI in an interview.

"We are trying to bring innovation in some of the

conventional products like recurring deposit, which is actually a conventional SIP...Maybe, we can combine both fixed deposit/recurring deposit and SIP, a combo product that could be digitally accessible," he said.

So, he said, these are the innovations which the bank is thinking of in terms of popularising the deposit products among the Gen Z.

Besides, he said, the bank has undertaken a massive outreach programme for the deposit

mobilisation. "As I said, for us, deposit mobilisation is a franchisee job. We have the largest number of physical outlets across the country. We are leveraging our huge physical reach by initiating outreach programmes where customers are contacted. Today, the effort on part of SBI is to reach out to every customer both existing as well as new customers," he said.

Stressing that deposit is a function of interest rate and customer service, Setty said, "obviously,

there is a requirement of adequately compensating our customers, but we would not like to fight in the rate war. I think most of the banks are also pursuing a balancing act of giving the right rate as well as right service. So, our focus is on improving the customer service and also adequately compensating our customers."

In addition, he said, SBI has given thrust on opening new accounts and almost 50,000 to 60,000 savings bank accounts opened a day.

CEO SMVDSB calls for joint efforts to ensure smooth Navratra celebrations

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, SEPT 30

For hassle-free pilgrimage prior to onset of Shardiya Navratra scheduled from October 3 - 12, 2024, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra with security agencies and local authorities. The meeting aimed to assess the critical areas like security and operational preparedness for ensuring a seamless pilgrimage experience during the Shardiya Navratra.

The meeting was attended by Addl. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; SSP, Reasi; Commandant, CRPF; Jt. Chief Executive Officer and Dy. CEO, SMVDSB; SP, Katra; Sub Divisional Magistrate, Bhawan; Asstt. CEO, SMVDSB; SDPO Katra, Bhawan, Tehsilidar, SMVDSB and officers from



Army, IB, CID, Fire Services, SMVDSB and other intelligence agencies.

Pertinent to mention that Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory recently visited the Holy Shrine on September 27, 2024 to review operational preparedness and security measures in the Shrine area. Following his directions, the Chief Executive Officer stressed

the importance of collaborative efforts among stakeholders, anticipating a significant influx of devotees during the upcoming Navratra period. The CEO highlighted essential security measures, including the replacement of RFID cards with new ones for enhanced security and mandatory RFID registration for all pilgrims. To facilitate smooth registration eight registration counters will be operational for pilgrims arriving by train at Katra with an aim

to ensure a seamless and secure pilgrimage experience for devotees, exhorted the CEO.

The CEO also instructed thorough frisking and verification at all entry points alongside a detailed census of pony porters to mitigate security risks. He emphasized the importance of robust crowd management, fire safety and disaster preparedness measures directing the concerned quarters to monitor vulnerable areas and conduct joint patrol-

ling. Additionally, the CEO issued directives for the smooth regulation of vehicle movement, improved sanitation, drinking water supplies and enhanced lighting on the track and Katra. Special attention was called to resolving traffic issues caused by unauthorized parking with plans for a special drive to tow away such vehicles.

Security agencies presented a detailed action plan including the deployment of drones and use of CCTV cameras for real-time monitoring besides deployment of additional security forces and quick response teams (QTRs). It was informed to the chair that a multi-tier security grid comprising the Police and para military forces will be in place to ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the yatra. The meeting concluded with the clear instructions to ensure hassle-free pilgrimage experience for all devotees during the festival.

District Administration Kupwara refutes allegations of 'Cash distribution among voters'

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 30

In light of recent posts being circulated on social media by various quarters alleging unethical conduct/ use of money power in the Kupwara Assembly segment, the District Administration Kupwara today strongly refuted the allegations terming them unfounded.

In an official statement issued here, the District Administration asserted that no credible evidence has been presented to substantiate these allegations as such the accusations are devoid of any merit. It is imperative that all claims are grounded on facts to maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

Pathseekers shines at CBSE North Zone II Taekwondo Championship 2024-25



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH SAMBA, SEPT 30

The Pathseekers International School (TPIS) proudly announces that Omkar Singh, a student of the school, has won a *Gold Medal* in the Under-14, 27 kg weight category at the prestigious *CBSE North Zone II Taekwondo Championship 2024-25* held in Sonapat.

Omkar's outstanding performance has earned him a place in the *CBSE National Taekwondo Championship, which will take place in *Uttarakhand* from *9th to 13th October 2024*. His remarkable achievement has made his school and community proud, as he now prepares to represent the North Zone at the national level.

Upon his return to Pathseekers School today, Omkar was warmly welcomed by the school staff and students. *Mrs. Manpreet

Kaur*, Principal of The Pathseekers International School, congratulated Omkar on his extraordinary dedication to both his academics and sports. She lauded his perseverance and hard work, which have brought such a prestigious accolade to the school.

Mrs. Kaur also praised the efforts of *Mr. Pankaj Kumar*, the Taekwondo instructor at TPIS, for his role in training and mentoring Omkar. She emphasized the importance of balancing academic excellence with co-curricular activities and expressed confidence in Omkar's performance at the upcoming national championship.

The entire school community extends its best wishes to Omkar for his participation in the CBSE National Taekwondo Championship in October. We are confident that he will continue to make us proud on this larger platform.

NC-Cong all set to form next Govt in J&K after Assembly Polls: Rattan Lal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU SEPT 30

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), today asserted that the party, under the visionary leadership of Omar Abdullah, is poised to form the next government of NC and Congress in J&K following the upcoming Assembly elections.

He made this statement while addressing a Joining function at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, organized under the chairmanship of Jitender Singh Lucky, former Vice Chairman of the Cantonment Board and senior National Conference leader.

In his address, Rattan Lal Gupta strongly criticized the "hollow and anti people's policies" of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stating that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are tired and fed up from the false promises and ineffective governance delivered over the past decade. He remarked, "The BJP has subjected the people of J&K to 10 years of darkness. However, the dawn of a new era



is on the horizon, as the Govt. headed by the National Conference is ready to bring true peace, and prosperity in J&K through its revolutionary and progressive manifesto, which has garnered massive support from the public." As it shall give new change to the life style and livelihood of the people of J&K.

The Provincial President emphasized that the National Conference's manifesto, crafted under the dynamic leadership of Omar Abdullah, will usher in "Acche Din" (Good Days) and transform the socio-economic landscape of Jammu and Kash-

mir. He added that people are eagerly awaiting a change, and the party is committed to fulfilling their aspirations with policies that focus on development, peace, and prosperity.

"The dark clouds of BJP's rule are dissipating," he remarked. "The rising sun symbolizes the National Conference's upcoming victory and the hope for a brighter, more prosperous future for Jammu and Kashmir."

The senior NC leader said that the Party has committed in its manifesto to provide 1 lakh jobs to youth of J&K, implementation of J&K Youth Employment

Generation Act within three months, 12 LPG cylinders free of cost to EWS, free travelling of women in all public transport, enhancement of marriage assistance from Rs 50000 to Rs 75000, increase of medical allowance of pensioners to Rs 1000 from Rs 300, Minority Commission to be established, PDS to be strengthened and free ration of 10 kg per person per month shall be given to each BPL families, Rs 5000 Pm to each EWS household, free 200 units electricity power and free drinking water without charges.

Rattan Lal Gupta appealed to

the people of the Jammu region to vote and support National Conference candidates in the upcoming Assembly polls with the aim of restoring peace, development, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Omar Abdullah.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with numerous individuals joining the National Conference, reaffirming the party's growing strength and widespread support as the Assembly polls approach. He appealed to the people to vote and support NC-Congress alliance Candidates.

Among those who joined the party fold included:- Ashwani Kumar, Rajinder Singh, Harminder Singh, Madan Lal, Surinder Kumar, Shammi Mehra, Tarsem Pal Bali, Sanjeev Kumar and others.

Prominent party workers who were present included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, Pandeep Bali Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Waris Gill President Christian Cell, Gurmeet Singh, Dr. Gurdarshan Singh, Sunil Sharma and others.

Jammu and Kashmir Police conduct security meeting ahead of Navratras

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 30

In view of Navratras starting on 3/10/24, Today on 30th of sept Jammu and Kashmir Police in Jammu district under the directions of SSP Jammu, conducted a meaningful meeting with all the stakeholders of Bage e bahu Mandir.

The meeting was chaired by SP South Jammu, Sh Ajay Sharma and attended by SDPO East Sh SShezan Bhat, SHo Bage e Bahu insp Vijay Verma, IC PP Mandir SI Lekhray sharma, President Minibus union, president Auto union, parking incharge, various sewadar organisations, Mandir prabandhak Committee members, president Bage e Bahu market union.

The awareness cum interaction was related to prevailing security Scenario in the JKUT, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders towards strengthening mechanism to manage the huge rush of devotees during Navratras to the important religious place of pilgrimage like Babe wali Mata temple complex and adjoining area.

Latter, SP City South alongwith SDPO City East Jammu, SHO Bagh e



bahu, Incharge PP Mandir toured the whole temple market, surrounding areas, fort complex and main temple premises and interacted with the stake holders to make them aware about the role and responsibilities of citizens, shopkeepers, devotees, volunteers in ensuring safe and smooth Navratras rush keeping in view the present prevailing security scenario. He requested them to inform Police about any suspicious activity/person/object and be a part of larger security grid of Jammu Police.

All important phone numbers were shared with the public, shopkeepers and devotees including the numbers of PCR Jammu. SP South requested the shopkeepers and president Market union to install more CCTV Cameras and increase

the storage capacity of already installed DVRs and check their functionality regularly. Later on, SP South, Jammu along with the team reviewed the security of PP Mandir Bahufort and briefed the deployed Nafri (Manpower) and asked to be alert, extra vigilant and respond quickly in case of any exigency. The public, devotees and shopkeepers, Mandir committee, General public of the area highly appreciated the positive step of Jammu police for public outreach in an important temple complex of jammu and interacting with the stakeholders with full police team towards the safe and smooth Navratras pilgrimage of devotees.

All stakeholders assured SP South and his team of full cooperation during Navratras and otherwise.

IIMC organizes fact-Checking workshop

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 30 SEPT

A highly informative workshop on "Fact-Checking" was organized at IIMC, Jammu by Dr. Archana Kumari, Associate Professor at the Centre for Media Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. The workshop aimed to equip students and media professionals with the critical skills needed to identify, verify, and combat misinformation in today's complex media landscape.

The event commenced with opening remarks by Regional Director Dr. Dilip Kumar, who highlighted the growing problem of information overload. His insightful words set the tone for the importance of fact-checking in the modern age.

Following this, Assistant Professor Dr. Ravia Gupta introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Archana Kumari. Dr. Gupta elaborated on Dr. Kumari's extensive academic and professional background, emphasizing her role as an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and her current position as an Associate Professor at JNU.

When Dr. Archana Kumari took the stage, she began by addressing the lack of effort people put into verifying news,



visuals, and social media content. She emphasized that the spread of misinformation, especially in an era of rapid media consumption, is a growing concern. Dr. Kumari presented a compelling video demonstrating how false news can quickly spread, further driving home the urgency of fact-checking.

During the session, Dr. Kumari discussed the poor training in news institutions and the current challenges within the information landscape in India. She pointed out the growing meme culture as an obstacle in distinguishing credible news from falsehoods, stating that fighting fake news is a significant challenge for journalists and media professionals.

A special focus was placed on the issue of misinformation in regional languages, which often goes unnoticed but poses a major threat to informed discourse. Dr. Kumari introduced the concept of "infodemic," explaining it

as an overwhelming flood of information, including false or misleading content, that spreads during crises.

She also delved into the critical differences between misinformation, disinformation, and mal-information, helping students understand the nuances between these forms of deceptive content.

To conclude the workshop, Dr. Kumari shared essential tips for identifying and combating misinformation. The workshop was an enlightening experience for all attendees, leaving them with a better understanding of the role fact-checking plays in ensuring media credibility.

The event was moderated by Stuti from English Journalism and Anamika from Digital Media. The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Gulshan Kumar, Academic Associate, Hindi Journalism.

Assembly Elections-2024 DEO Bandipora visits Special Polling Stations



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 30

The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today conducted a comprehensive visit to several special polling stations in the district, as part of the preparations for elections scheduled to be held on Oct 01.

The visit was aimed to evaluate the readiness of polling facilities and ensure a smooth electoral process for all voters.

During the visit, the DEO inspected the accessibility and arrangements at each polling station, including Red and Pink polling stations of Bandipora and Sonawari AC, emphasizing the importance of providing a welcoming and efficient environment for voters.

In addition to assessing the infrastructure, DEO engaged with polling officials and gathered

feedback to improve the overall electoral experience.

He said election authorities are committed to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections, and will continue to monitor preparations across all polling stations.

Following the inspection of special polling stations, the DEO visited the control room established for reporting and monitoring on poll day.

The DEO reviewed the operational readiness of the control room, for real-time monitoring and addressing any issues that may arise during the elections. The facility is equipped with the latest technology to facilitate prompt communication and coordination among election officials.

Among others, the DEO was accompanied by ADC Zaffar Husson Shawal, DEO engaged with polling officials and gathered

Vodafone Idea strengthens its India network security with Nokia NetGuard Endpoint Detection and Response

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 30

Espoo, Finland - Vodafone Idea, one of India's largest telco operators, has tapped Nokia NetGuard Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) to strengthen network security against rising cyber threats and security vulnerabilities for its consumer and enterprise customers.

NetGuard EDR, a telco-specific threat detection suite, will provide Vodafone Idea with real-time, automated monitoring to enable rapid detection and mitigation of endpoint-related security incidents. It will minimize security gaps, reduce the need for extensive testing, and optimize operational costs, while maintaining continuous service availability and performance of the protected endpoints in the entire Operational Technology (OT) network.

NetGuard EDR's vendor-agnostic capabilities will integrate seamlessly with Vodafone Idea's existing security tools and processes, strengthening the operator's network security and furthering Vodafone Idea's work of building a state-of-the-art Security Operations Center.



Data Privacy Officer, at Vodafone Idea said: "With the growing sophistication of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure, Vodafone Idea has prioritized telecom-focused protection for our core subscriber and identity management systems. Nokia NetGuard EDR is an important dimension to reinforcing our capabilities and protecting our entire subscriber base."

The deployment will initially cover Vodafone Idea's 4G networks, and eventually the operator's 5G network.

Jagbir Singh, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), at Vodafone Idea said: "Vodafone Idea is fully committed to driving the next phase of network evolution, ensuring that our advanced solutions deliver both unmatched connectivity and security. As we embrace this journey with Nokia, we are focused on building networks that are resilient and capable of supporting the ever-growing demands, including heightened security risks, of digital transformation."

Mathan Babu Kasilingam, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) &

Arvind Khurana, India Market Leader, Cloud and Network Services at Nokia said: "NetGuard EDR will deliver to Vodafone Idea the advanced threat detection and response capabilities they need to ensure proactive protection against ever-evolving and more sophisticated cyber threats. With seamless integration and real-time monitoring, NetGuard EDR will also strengthen the operator's OT infrastructure to safeguard its mission-critical telecom networks and maintain service continuity."

Assembly Elections-2024

DEO Poonch reviews Strong Room security, ensures readiness for Counting Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 30

District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Strong Room at Girls HSS Poonch, focusing on security arrangements ahead of the vote counting scheduled for October 8th. The review, aimed at ensuring the integrity of the electoral process, covered key aspects such as the functionality of CCTV cameras, digital infrastructure, and other allied security arrangements.



The thorough review left no stone unturned, with officials ensuring that all protocols were adhered to. The security of the Strong Room, which will hold the EVMs until counting day, was confirmed to be fully intact and in compliance with Election Commission guidelines.

The DEO was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Deputy DEO Poonch, Saleem Ahmed, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Mendhar, Imran

Rashid Kataria, and Returning Officers (ROs) from Haveli, Mendhar, and Surankote constituencies.

The officials meticulously inspected the security setup, verifying the readiness of the Strong Room to safeguard the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Cyber Cell Jammu solved online fraud & recovered an amount of rupees One Lakh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 30

Cyber cell DPO Jammu, a dedicated unit to deal with cases of online/offline frauds and cyber crime who has been relentlessly working day in and day out for ensuring the safety and security of masses in general has once again successfully recovered an amount of Rupees One Lakh from a fraudster who used to deceive the people by adopting different tactics and extract money from them.

cyber cell Jammu of being fraudulently cheated.

Taking the cognizance of matter the cyber cell Jammu took no time to start the investigations and acted swiftly while exhibiting the ultimate professional excellence through its dedicated skilled human resource which was put to task and in no time the lost amount of Rs.1,00,000/- was recovered from the fraudster.

District Police Jammu, equipped with advanced technology and expert human resource remains at the forefront in the fight against cybercriminals.

Assembly Elections-2024: General Observer visits Sumbal, assess Poll Day preparations

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 30

The General Observer for Bandipora and Sonawari AC, Nelson Eyon Bage accompanied by District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora conducted an on-site visit to Sumbal sub-division to review the poll day arrangements.

During the visit, the General Observer and DEO inspected the DCRC and assessed the facilities available for polling parties and the process of dispatching poll parties.

Paying Special attention to the Special Polling Stations, they evaluated welfare measures for both polling staff and voters during visits to various special polling stations.

The DEO stated, "We are fully committed to ensuring that the electoral process is conducted



smoothly and transparently. Our team is working diligently to meet all guidelines set by the

Election Commission of India, and we are focused on providing a conducive environment for both

voters and election personnel."

Emphasizing the importance of voter education, the DEO said, "we encourage all citizens to participate in the electoral process and make their voices heard."

He said all necessary arrangements have been taken up to ensure a positive experience for every voter. The DEO assured that all preparations are in place in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI), reinforcing the commitment to ensure a smooth and efficient electoral process.

The General Observer was also accompanied by ADC / Nodal Officer MCC Zaffar Husson Shawal and other officials.

Assembly Elections-2024: 654 Polling parties dispatched for Udhampur Assembly Constituencies

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 30

654 polling parties were dispatched to various far-off locations with polling materials for the upcoming General Assembly Elections 2024. These polling parties will serve four Udhampur Assembly constituencies: AC-59 Udhampur West, AC-60 Udhampur East, AC-62 Ramnagar, and AC-61 Chenani. The dispatch operation was conducted under tight security from Government Degree College Boys and Government College for Women, Udhampur.

Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, IAS Probationer Swati Sheemar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh along with the Returning Officers of all four constituencies.

District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai, personally monitored the dispatch, ensuring that the polling parties



were equipped with all necessary polling materials, including Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Addressing the polling staff, DEO emphasized the need for seamless coordination among Zonal and Sector Magistrates, as

well as Police Officers, to ensure the smooth conduct of polling on October 1, 2024. She also interacted with the polling parties, underscoring the critical role they play in upholding the integrity of the electoral process.

While briefing the media, the DEO appealed to all eligible voters in Udhampur District to exercise their democratic right by casting their votes on poll day.

She urged citizens to actively participate in the electoral process. She instructed the ROs, Zonal and Sector Magistrates to ensure the timely arrival of polling parties at their designated locations. DEO reiterated the importance of conducting free, fair and transparent elections, urging all involved to adhere

strictly to the guidelines set by the Election Commission of India. She stressed that it is the collective responsibility of the polling teams to ensure a smooth and orderly election process, upholding the sanctity of democracy.

DC Poonch intensifies anti-drug efforts in NCORD meet

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 30

In a firm effort to counter the rising drug menace, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal chaired a district-level NCORD (Narco Coordination Centre) meeting today, focusing on strengthening both preventive education and enforcement measures across the district. The meeting brought together stakeholders from various sectors to review and enhance strategies aimed at combating drug abuse in the region.

During the meeting, the DC highlighted the crucial role of educational institutions in raising awareness about the dangers of drug use.

He directed the Principal of Degree College Poonch and the Chief Education Officer (CEO) to organize a series of seminars and special lectures to educate students and the public about the detrimental effects of substance abuse.

He emphasized the need for engaging not only students but also parents, creating a community-wide push towards a drug-free lifestyle.

DC Poonch instructed law enforcement agencies to intensify their vigilance by conducting random inspections in public places.

He called for swift and decisive action against those involved in drug-related activities, stressing that a zero-tolerance approach is critical in deterring drug peddlers.

The departments present at the NCORD meeting apprised the DC of the various ongoing initiatives in the district aimed at drug prevention.

These include community outreach programs, awareness drives, and public engagement efforts that address both the supply and demand side of the drug problem.

He urged all departments to work in synergy to strengthen the district's efforts in combating this serious issue.

KNOW DENGUE FOR NO DENGUE Dengue can be Prevented

DENGUE

- Dengue is a viral disease.
- It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito.
- Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness.
- Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) & Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may even cause death if left untreated.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- High fever.
- Frontal headache.
- Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement.
- Muscle and joint pains.
- Rashes on the body.
- Pain abdomen.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Bleeding & low B.P in severe cases.

PREVENTION

- Avoid water stagnation in & around the house.
- Empty water reservoirs regularly like storage utensils, air coolers, plant pots, drums, flower pots and bird baths etc.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams.
- Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.
- Use mosquito nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens for doors & windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes

- Person suspected of having Dengue should visit nearby Health Facility.
- The tests and treatment are available free of cost at Govt. Health Institutions.
- Don't take pain killer and any other medicine without consultation of Doctor.



ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY
STATE MALARIOLOGIST/SPO NVBDCP, J&K,
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU

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