

JANSAMPARK PRINTING PRESS

 BYE PASS SIDHRA, JAMMU
 Mob. 9419104223

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:
 - Increase in body temperature
 - Persistent vomiting
 - A sharp rise in temperature
 - Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool
 - Redness
 If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 232 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

Swachh Bharat campaign becoming new path to prosperity: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hailed the Swachh Bharat Mission as the largest and most successful people's movement of the 21st century, emphasising its impact on public health and wellbeing.

Addressing an event to mark 10 years of the mission, Modi said that mass participation has transformed the campaign into a new path to prosperity for India.

"You all made the Swachh Bharat Mission a



success," the prime minister said while noting that over 28 crore people took part in more than 27 lakh events organised in just 15 days during the "Sewa

Pakhwada". He said chief ministers, ministers, and other representatives played key roles in this national effort and underlined that "con-

tinuous efforts can only lead to a clean India."

During the event, the prime minister inaugurated projects worth around Rs 10,000 crore under the Swachh Bharat and AMRUT 2.0 missions which include water and sewage treatment plants across several states.

"When people talk about 21st-century India even after 1,000 years, they will definitely remember the Swachh Bharat Mission," Modi said, emphasising the lasting legacy of the cleanliness campaign.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Shah wished for better health for Kharge so that he can witness India's development by 2047

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 2

Elections in J&K and Haryana are at their peak. In this context, all political parties are engaged in a political game of accusations and counter-accusations against each other. However, during a public meeting in J&K, Cong President Mallikarjun Kharge made a controversial statement about PM Modi, saying, "I will stay alive until PM Modi is ousted from power." This remark has created quite a stir in the political corridors.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister, BJP veteran, and a key figure in



Indian politics, Amit Shah, expressed his objection to Kharge's statement on X, stating, "On September 29, Congress President Mallik arjun Kharge used indecent language in his speech, leaving himself, his leaders, and his party behind." Congress Presi-

dent Mallikarjun Kharge has embarrassed himself, his leaders, and his party by using completely inappropriate and disrespectful language in his speech. By bitterly displaying hatred, he unnecessarily dragged PM Modi into his personal health issues, stating that he will not rest until Modi is removed from power. "This shows how much hatred and fear Congress members have for PM Modi, as they constantly think about him. As for Kharge ji's health, Modi ji, I, and all of us pray that he lives a long and healthy life. May he live for many years to witness the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Cong Chief signals willingness for post-poll alliance with anti-BJP groups for Govt formation in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 02

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra on Wednesday said that his party is prepared to form a post-poll alliance with any political group or individual opposed to the policies of the BJP. He also expressed optimism that if the undercurrent in the Jammu region translates into votes, the Congress will secure a sweeping victory.

In an exclusive interview with the news agency, Karra stated that if necessary and if need arises, the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir would not hesitate to form an alliance with like-minded groups or individuals to form the next government.

"The post-poll alliance will be formed only with those who are against the policies of the BJP. It could be with any individual who shares our vision, opposes BJP's policies, seeks the restoration of statehood, and stands against the repressive, oppressive, and suppressive measures of the BJP," Karra said.

He however declined to specifically comment over whether PDP will be part of the next government. "As I already told you, it could be anyone who is against the BJP's policies and approach."

When asked about reports that the National Conference (NC) fielded a former legislator as a "proxy candidate" against him in the Shalteng constituency of Srinagar, where Karra contested as an NC-Congress candidate, he emphasized that he upheld the spirit of the alliance. "I contested the election with full commitment, utilizing all resources at my disposal. For me, every election is a tough contest, no matter who the opponent is," he said.

Karra noted that as JKPCC President, he took swift action against

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Life and work of Gandhiji is shaping new Jammu Kashmir today: LG Sinha

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 2

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the UT-level function commemorating the 155th birth anniversary celebration of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, at Raj Bhawan.

The event, organized by the Department of School Education & Department of Higher Education, also marked the closing ceremony of the Swachhata Pakhwada and Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan.

In his address, the Lt



Governor extended felicitations to the people on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and the birth anni-

versary of former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. Paying tributes to

Mahatma Gandhi, the Lt Governor said the leadership, ideals and values of Bapu has inspired the

entire country to come together for the cause of independence and build a nation that will make a lasting contribution to peace and progress of the world.

Observing that Gandhiji's ideals of truth, non-violence, compassion and kindness present the solutions to all the challenges before the tumultuous world, the Lt Governor called upon the people to spread Bapu's vision all over the world to make this planet a peaceful and a better place.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Poll body revises voter turnout to over 69% in third phase of J&K election

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 02

Over 69 per cent voter turnout has been recorded in the third phase of assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir, the poll body said on Wednesday.

In a statement, issued to news agency, the approximate voter turnout of 69.65% has been recorded in 40 constituencies in the third phase. "The same shall continue to be updated by the field level officers as the remaining polling parties keep returning and updat-

ed figures will be available AC and district wise live at Voter T urnout App," the statement reads.

According to figures, Bandipora recorded 67.68 percent turnout, Baramulla recorded 61.03 percent, Jammu 71.40 percent, Kathua 73.34 percent, Kupwara 66.79 percent, Samba 75.88 and Udhampur recorded 76.09 percent turnout.

The poll body said that this is an approximate trend, as data from some polling stations takes time and this trend does not include postal ballot.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

J&K Polls Candidates keep fingers crossed as all eyes on October 8 counting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 2

As all three phases of Assembly polls have culminated peacefully in J&K, all eyes are now on October 8, the day results of 90 seats will be out. On the same day, things will be clear as to who will form the government J&K after a gap of ten years.

After Tuesday's polling, focus has shifted to appointment of counting agents by the candidates as well as preparation by the election commission of India to keep the count-

ing day peaceful and fool-proof.

As per the news agency, Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held after 10 years and this time the enthusiasm of people to participate in the democratic process was unmatched.

During these elections the fate of one former chief minister, UT president of two major national parties Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), chiefs of three major regional parties, several former ministers and many new faces has been

sealed in the electronic voting machines (EVMs).

The presence of banned Jamaat-e-Islami backed candidates in the electoral politics for the first time since 1987 allegedly rigged elections has given a new direction to these elections which is one of the reasons for improved voter turnout in Kashmir valley. The JI backed candidates contested as independents but they were of the opinion that had the union government lifted the ban on their organization, they would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Modi's "Swachhata" call from red fort turned into mass campaign: Dr Jitendra Singh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

"It is a unique success story of a government initiative in the history of independent India... Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi's "Swachhata" call from Red Fort turned into a mass campaign, which motivated a spontaneous voluntary effort to maintain cleanliness and brought about a behavioural revolution among people across the country".

This was stated here today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and



Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh while launching, on

the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Special Campaign 4.0 under the Government of India's "Swachhata Hi Sewa" programme, reiterating the Government's deep commitment to cleanliness, public hygiene, and service.

Leading two events at the national capital here, one at Nehru Park, organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), and another at Prithvi Bhawan hosted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised the Government's efforts to institutionalise cleanliness and

reduce administrative pendency.

Dr. Jitendra Singh hailed the success of the previous campaigns and shared the remarkable achievements of the previous three campaigns, which have led to significant gains which include Rs. 1162.49 crore generated through the disposal of e-waste and scrap, 355.6 lakh sq. ft. of office space cleared for productive use, 96.1 lakh files closed or weeded out, 4.05 lakh cleanliness sites identified and cleaned etc.

Special Campaign 4.0 takes a broader approach, focusing on public-centric

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Hope big powers ensure there is no World War III: Farooq on ongoing Iran-Israel conflict

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 2

In light of the escalating tensions in the Middle East, National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday, stressed the need for peace and hoped that the big powers of the world will ensure that there is no third World War.

"I hope the big powers of the world will ensure that there is no World War III...People are dying on both sides. Humanity is dead. The Russia-Ukraine war is also going on. May God bring back human-



ity," Farooq Abdullah said. The former Chief Minister also exuded confidence in winning the assembly elections in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and said that the Congress-NC alliance will form the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk released by Delhi police

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was detained by the Delhi Police, has been released from Bawana Police Station on Wednesday (October 2, 2024). A team of Delhi Police escorted him to Rajghat where he is expected to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Mr. Wangchuk, along with around 120 others from Ladakh, was detained on Monday (September 30, 2024) night, at the Delhi-Haryana border. Mr. Wangchuk and his supporters were detained while marching from Leh



to Delhi to demand constitutional safeguards for Ladakh. The march, which began on September 1, was set to culminate at Rajghat on October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.

Earlier, Ladakh's Member of Parliament, Mohamad Haneefa, was released by the Delhi

police, the MP confirmed. Mr. Haneefa was detained by Delhi police on Tuesday (October 1, 2024), a day after more than hundred protesters from Ladakh, including Sonam Wangchuk, were held at the Delhi-Haryana border.

On October 1, The Kargil Democratic Alli-

ance (KDA) and Apex Body, Leh had called for a bandh across Ladakh following the detention of renowned activist Sonam Wangchuk on Monday (September 30, 2024) night. Shops in Ladakh were observed closed as residents demanded Mr. Wangchuk's release and advocate for the sixth schedule to safeguard the region's rights.

Mr. Wangchuk and other volunteers had embarked on a foot march from Leh to New Delhi to urge the Centre to resume dialogue with Ladakh's leadership regarding their demands.

One of their key demands is for Ladakh

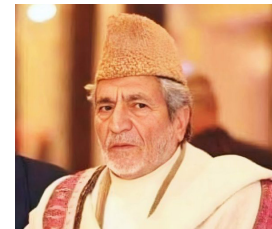
BJP's Surankote candidate Bukhari dies of heart attack in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 2

Former minister and BJP candidate from Surankote, Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari, died on Wednesday after collapsing at his residence in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, party leaders said.

He was 75 and is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son. Bukhari was unwell for some time and suffered a heart attack at 7 am, leading to his death, a BJP leader said.

Bukhari, a two-



time former MLA from Surankote, joined the BJP in February this year after the Centre granted Scheduled Tribe status to his Pahari community.

He was fielded from Surankote, which went to polls along with 25 other segments in the second phase on September 25.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Assembly Elections-2024

DEO Samba inspects strong room, ensures secure EVM Storage ahead of Counting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 2

The District Election Officer (DEO) Samba, Rajesh Sharma, along with SSP Samba, Vinay Kumar, conducted a detailed inspection of the Strong Rooms where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) from the 69-Ramgarh, 70-Samba, and 71-Vijaypur constituencies are securely stored.

The inspection, carried out at the Strong Rooms located at the DC Office Complex, Nandani Hills Samba, and Vijaypur, focused on reviewing the stringent security measures in place. These EVMs will remain under high security until the counting process begins.

During the visit, DEO Rajesh Sharma reviewed key security elements, including round-the-clock CCTV surveillance,



deployment of security personnel, and strict access control protocols at each site. He expressed satisfaction with the robust security arrangements and commended the election staff and security forces for their vigilance. He further directed on-site officers to remain alert and ensure strict enforcement of access

control, limiting entry to only authorized personnel. Additional Deputy Commissioner Samba, Jagdish Singh, and Returning Officers (ROs) - Sunaina Saini (69-Ramgarh), Kusum Chib (70-Samba), and Umesh Sharma (71-Vijaypur) - along with AROs and other district officials were also present during the inspection.

Assembly Elections-2024: Training Session Equips Poonch Staff for October 8 Vote Tally

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 2

Ahead of the vote counting scheduled for October 8 in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, a special training session was conducted for the district staff responsible for tallying votes in Poonch district. The elections for the three constituencies of Poonch district—Surankote, Haveli, and Mendhar—took place on September 25, and preparations are now in full swing to ensure a smooth and transparent counting process. The training session, chaired by the District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, Vikas Kundal, was held at the New Auditorium of Government Degree College Poonch which was attended by 219 counting supervisors and counting assistants, along with 14 micro observers.

These officials will be



deployed at the designated counting centre at Girls Higher Secondary School, Poonch, on October 8.

During the session, the DEO emphasized the importance of accuracy, impartiality, and adherence to the Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines throughout the counting process. It was reiterated that no one, including candidates or their representatives,

would be allowed to carry mobile phones inside the counting centre. The results will be uploaded to the ECI website after each round, with subsequent rounds starting immediately after the completion of the previous ones. The first round will focus on the counting of postal ballots. To ensure transparency, the counting centre will be under tight security, with CCTV cameras

monitoring all activities. The DEO stressed the need for punctuality and professionalism among the counting staff, urging them to handle Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with care and precision.

The session, conducted by master trainers, provided hands-on guidance on handling EVMs and the proper execution of the counting process. With all preparations in place, the vote counting for Surankote, Haveli, and Mendhar is set to proceed efficiently on October 8, with the results expected to be tallied accurately and without delay.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Deputy DEO Poonch, Saleem Ahmed, RO Poonch Qadeer Ul Rehman, Tehsildar Haveli and other senior officials also were present on the occasion.

Arrangements for upcoming festivals of Navratri, Mahanavmi & Dussehra finalized in Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 2

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, a review meeting was chaired by ACR, Mohammad Jahangir Khan to discuss and finalize the arrangements for the upcoming festivals of Navratri, Mahanavmi, and Dussehra.

The meeting focused on ensuring that all necessary arrangements are in place to facilitate the smooth celebration of these festivals without any inconvenience to the public.

The ACR emphasized that all departments must work in close coordination to ensure that the festivals are celebrated in a peaceful and organized manner. He urged all officers to ensure their teams are fully prepared and that all arrangements are completed well in advance.

70th Wildlife Week kick-starts from Dachigam National Park

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 2

On the eve of 70th Wildlife Week 2024, Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K, Wednesday organized an inaugural function for the event at breathtaking Dachigam National Park, here.

The inaugural event attracted participation from numerous school students who gathered to celebrate the beauty of nature and learn about the importance of preserving wildlife. Activities included nature walks, educational workshops, and interactive sessions led by wildlife experts, fostering a spirit of environmental stewardship among the younger generation.

Speaking on occasion, Regional Wildlife Warden, Tawheed Ahmad Deva said, "Today marks not just the beginning of Wildlife Week, but also a renewed commitment to protecting our natural heritage. The enthusiasm shown by the students is a testament to the growing awareness of wildlife conservation in our society. It is impera-

tive that we instill a sense of responsibility towards our environment in the youth, as they are the custodians of our planet's future."

Deva further said, as Wildlife Week unfolds, it serves as a reminder of the intricate balance between human activity and nature, encouraging everyone to play their part in safeguarding the environment for generations to come.

The week-long celebration will feature various programs aimed at raising awareness about wildlife conservation, including film screenings, art competitions, and expert talks. The initiative seeks to inspire participants to take action in their communities and contribute positively to the preservation of wildlife.

Among others, Rashid Y. Naqash, Regional Wildlife Warden HQ, Parvez Wani Wildlife Warden Central, Intesar Suhail, Wildlife Warden, North, Aliya Mir SoS Wildlife and Nadeem Qadri Amicus Curiae, J&K High Court were present on the occasion.

District Judiciary Kathua celebrates Gandhi Jayanti with "Swachh Bharat Diwas" initiative

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCTOBER 2

The District Judiciary Kathua, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kathua, celebrated 'Swachh Bharat Diwas' on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, promoting a message of cleanliness and environmental responsibility. The event, held in the District Court premises, was themed "Swabhav Swachhta, Sanskaar Swachhta" and aimed to raise awareness about the importance of hygiene and sanitation.

Under the leadership of Chairman of DLSA Kathua (Principal District and Sessions Judge Kathua) Jatinder Singh Jamwal, organized by Secretary DLSA Kamiya Singh Andotra, the event featured a rally from Mukherjee Chowk, engaging the local community in a call for cleanliness.



The event was graced by the presence of Additional District and Sessions Judge Kathua Parvin Pandoh, Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Kathua Munish Kumar Manhas, Munsiff/JMIC Kathua Viren Magotra, Legal Aid Defense Counsels; members of the Bar; staff from both the District Judiciary and DLSA Kathua; Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs); and officials from the Municipal Council Kathua.

In his address, Jatinder Singh Jamwal underscored the significance of cleanliness, sanitation, and effective waste manage-

ment, highlighting their far-reaching impact on societal well-being. Secretary DLSA, Kamiya Singh Andotra, in her address, reminding attendees of the importance of the day with the timeless phrase, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." She encouraged citizens to actively participate in maintaining clean public and private spaces.

The event served as a meaningful tribute to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and reinforced the community's commitment to a cleaner, healthier environment.

Two-Week Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign of GCW Parade culminated at Gandhi Jayanti

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 2

In a significant tribute to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, Government College for Women, Parade, organized a comprehensive two-week campaign under the Swachhta Hi Seva initiative from September 17 to October 2, 2024.

This series of activities marked the 155th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, emphasizing the importance of cleanliness and community service.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) units of the college spearheaded this initiative, coordinating a variety of impactful activities that engaged students and faculty alike. Participants undertook a Swachhta pledge, committed to cleanliness,

and organized multiple cleanliness drives across the campus and surrounding areas. In addition to these efforts, the campaign included plantation drives to enhance green cover and contribute to environmental sustainability.

Creative outlets were also provided through essay writing competitions and a walkathon, aimed at raising awareness about cleanliness and health. The diverse range of activities not only highlighted the importance of hygiene but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and collective responsibility among the students.

A notable feature of the campaign was the "Seva Se Sikhein" experiential learning program, conducted in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Jammu. NSS volunteers

participated in this initiative, assisting in various activities at the OPD and Emergency departments of Government Medical College Jammu.

The activities culminated on Gandhi Jayanti, where Principal Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo addressed the gathering, praising the volunteers and program officers for their dedication and hard work. He emphasized the importance of these initiatives in instilling a culture of cleanliness and social responsibility, aligning with Gandhiji's vision for a better society.

To conclude the campaign, NSS volunteers participated in an hour of shram dhan (voluntary labor) at the college campus, symbolizing their commitment to the principles of selfless service and community development.

Ramban Administration organised activities under Kusht Mukat Abhiyaan to mark Gandhi Jayanti

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 2

The District Administration Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, observed Gandhi Jayanti in Ramban.

In line with the national campaign for a Leprosy-Free India, the Health Department, under the leadership of Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Magotra, and guidance of Zonal Leprosy Officer, Dr. Sushma Mattoo, marked the occasion by launching the Kusht Mukat Abhiyaan at District Hospital Ramban.

The event, organized under the direct supervision of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Ramban, Dr. Kamal Jee Zadoo, and attended by DHO Ramban and Incharge Medical Superintendent Dr. Rafi, along with Orthopaedic Surgeon Dharm Pal Sharma, PMA, and staff from the Malaria and Leprosy Sections, aimed to spread awareness and eliminate leprosy transmission at the district level by achieving zero new cases by 2027.

Floral tributes were paid to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, by District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Malik, alongside



staff members. This was followed by an awareness lecture by Dr. Malik, who educated the gathering on the causes, transmission, symptoms, treatment, and prevention of leprosy.

In a significant move, a Kusht Mukat (Leprosy-Free Awareness Van) was flagged off by DHO Dr.

Mohammad Iqbal Malik from District Hospital Ramban.

The van, adorned with slogans and pamphlets about the Kusht Mukat Abhiyaan, passed through key areas including Main Chowk Ramban, Maitra, Karol, and surrounding areas, raising awareness

about leprosy among the public. Similar Gandhi Jayanti celebrations were held across all health blocks in the district, furthering the message of a leprosy-free society and honoring Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of health, equality, and social justice.

DLSA Samba organises cleanliness drive to observe Gandhi Jayanti

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 2

In a remarkable display of commitment to the principles of cleanliness and sustainable living, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Samba, under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority spearheaded a stellar "SWACHHTA HI SEWA - 2024" at District Court Complex, Samba.

Under the leadership and guidance of Chairman DLSA, Samba, Ravinder Nath Wattal and under the guidance of Sandeep Singh Sen, Secretary DLSA Samba, "SWACHHTA HI SEWA - 2024" witnessed enthusiastic participation of Arvind Sharma, Addl. District and Sessions Judge, Samba, Umesh Sharma, Chief Judicial Officer Samba, Himani Parihar, Munsiff, Samba, Rashi Verma, Mobile Magistrate, Samba, and Kritika Sethi, Addl. Munsiff and staff members of

DLSA, Samba, members of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), Penal Lawyers, devoted Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and diligent officials from the Municipal Committee Samba.

The event commenced with an inspiring cleanliness drive within the District Court Complex Samba, setting the tone for cleaner and greener environment. Participants in a collective effort to clean and beautify their surroundings took up brooms to sweep away the debris of neglect, breathing new life into the surroundings.

This initiative is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our community and our unwavering commitment to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

The participants also took pledge that they shall take keen interest in keeping their surroundings neat and clean.

Gandhi Jayanti celebrated with enthusiasm across the Schools of District Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 2

Under the overall supervision, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kishtwar, Javid Ahmed Kichloo, all Govt and Private Educational Institutions of the district celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with enthusiastic spirit, today.

Nearly 800 government and private schools across the district united to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti with great fervor. Over 40,000 students participated in a variety of events aimed at honoring the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

The day was filled with activities designed to promote Gandhi Ji's timeless values of non-violence, peace, and community service.

Schools hosted debate competitions focusing on

Gandhi's non-violence movement, where students passionately discussed how non-violence shaped India's struggle for independence. This was followed by a quiz competition that tested participants' knowledge about Gandhi Ji's life and philosophies.

A painting competition was also organized, where students used their creativity to interpret Gandhi Ji's contributions to India's freedom struggle. Through art, students were able to express their respect for the Father of the Nation, adding a unique and reflective element to the celebration.

This district-wide celebration serves as a reminder of Gandhi Ji's enduring legacy, inspiring the younger generation to follow his principles in their everyday lives.

DLSA Ramban celebrates Gandhi Jayanti, conducts cleanliness drives

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 2

To pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi Ji on his 155th birth anniversary and as a part of National Campaign launched by Government of India under the banner "Swachhata hi Sewa - 2024", District Legal Services Authority, Ramban organized different activities including Cleanliness drives in collaboration with Municipal Council Ramban.

Awareness Program on the topic " Safayi Apnao Bimari Bhagao' " and an awareness Rally was also organized at District Court Complex, Ramban.

The activities were conducted under the leadership of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ramban Deepak Sethi.

The "Swachhata Hi Sewa" program witnessed enthusiastic participation of Judicial Officers from District Court Complex, Ramban, dedicated staff members of District Judiciary Ramban and DLSA Ramban, members of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), Panel Lawyers, devoted Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and diligent officials from the Municipal Committee, Ramban.



The Chairman DLSA, Ramban in his special address, highlighted the importance of Gandhi Jayanti and the significance behind Swachhata Divas/Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign 2024.

He also delivered an inspiring address on the importance of sustainability and the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives to save the mother nature.

Secretary, DLSA Ramban Anjana Rajput presented the welcome address while vote of thanks was presented by , Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Ramban Shilpa Dogra.

The objective of organizing these programs was to spread awareness through community participation and also to give impetus to implementation of Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign 2024, to disseminate the importance of Sampurna Swachh

Ramban and to reinforce the concept of Sanitation as everyone's duty.

The event commenced with an inspiring cleanliness drive within the District Court Complex, setting the tone for a cleaner and greener environment. Participants in a collective effort to clean and beautify their surroundings took up brooms to sweep away the debris of neglect, breathing new life into the surroundings.

Later, an awareness rally was also organized by DLSA Ramban in collaboration with Ramban Public School which was flagged off from District Court Complex in the presence of Judicial Officers, Prosecuting Officers, Panel Advocates, Faculty Members and students of Ramban Public School in which cleanliness drive was taken out in and around the streets of Court Market, Ramban

Gandhi Jayanti: Swachhata Day celebrated in Model Panchayat Lachdayaram-A, Block Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 2

In commemoration of Gandhi Jayanti, Model Panchayat Lachdayaram-A Block Kishtwar, in collaboration with the School Education Department, observed Swachhata Day.

The event was aimed to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and community participation in maintaining a clean environment.

The programme was attended by Phulail Singh, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kishtwar; Sanjeev Kotwal, Block Development Officer (BDO) Kishtwar; Heads of Institutions (HOIs) from various schools, students and prominent citizens.

Phulail Singh emphasized the significance of behavioral change for overall sanitation in the Panchayat especially the students to become the torch bearer for this ambitious campaign. Swachhata is not just a responsibility, but a collective commitment towards a healthier and more prosperous society," said ACD Kishtwar.

A pledge of sanitation was administered by Rakesh Kumar , Headmas-



ter MS Hullar to reaffirm commitment to maintaining cleanliness in daily life on voluntary basis.

During the event, appreciation certificates were awarded to Swachhata Warriors Pihoo Shan, Naseer Ahmed, Khalid Hussain, Farooq Ahmed & Jaffer Hussain for their exemplary contributions during Swachhata Sangram held between 1st August to

15 August 2024.

Concluding the event, ACD Kishtwar visited the Panchayat to review saturation of performance indicators under the Model Panchayat initiative, as identified by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar.

He urged the community to participate actively in the inclusive growth of the Panchayat.

Jammu wing of J&K, Ladakh HC observes Gandhi Jayanti, 10th anniversary of SBM



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 2

Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, directions of Registrar General, Shahzad Azeem and supervision of Registrar Judicial, Jammu Wing, Sandeep Kour, the Gandhi Jayanti and 10th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission with the theme of Swachhata Hi Sewa 2024, 'Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata' was celebrated in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Jammu Wing.

A cleanliness drive was conducted in the

High Court Complex and adjoining areas in which Judicial Officers, officials of the registry and CRPF personnel participated.

Among others present were Rajender Sapru Registrar Rules; Mayank Gupta Joint Registrar Judicial/Protocol; Jeewan Sharma Secretary, High Court Legal Service Committee; Ajay Kumar Sharma, Baldev Raj, Aftab Ahmed Chouhan, and Asif Mahajan Additional Registrars and Sanjay Kumar Bhat Joint Registrar.

On the occasion, Sandeep Kour gave message of maintaining cleanliness not only in our home and working places but also of our mind and soul.

High Court celebrates Swachh Bharat Divas at Srinagar wing



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 2

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, under the directions of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, today celebrated the Swachh Bharat Divas, a mission launched by the Government of India to fulfill the dream of clean and hygienic India, at Srinagar Wing of High Court.

The event was attended by Registrar Judicial Srinagar Wing, Farooq Ahmad Bhat besides all officers and officials of Srinagar Wing, who collectively made commitment towards contributing their

efforts in achieving comprehensive cleanliness throughout the country.

Farooq Ahmad Bhat emphasized the role of all the officers and officials of High Court in spreading awareness about the need of hygienic and clean society in overall development of all the citizens of India. While appreciating the launching of such noble missions, the Registrar Judicial stressed upon the need of many more such programs in future to ensure comprehensive and overall development of the nation.

The event was concluded with distribution of sweets by the Registrar Judicial among the Safaimitras/ Safaikaramcharis.

Assembly Elections-2024 First randomization of counting staff conducted in Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 2

The first randomization of counting staff for the four Udhampur Assembly constituencies AC-59 Udhampur West, AC-60 Udhampur East, AC-62 Ramnagar and AC-61 Chenani was successfully conducted today under the chairmanship of District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai.

The process took place at Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Udhampur, in the presence of Returning Officers for each constituency, ahead of the counting

scheduled for October 8, 2024.

The randomization process was carried out using specialized software designed to ensure transparency, fairness in accordance with the Election Commission of India guidelines. The entire procedure was video recorded to further uphold the integrity of the process.

In preparation for the counting day, all necessary arrangements have been made, including training and orientation sessions to ensure the staff is well-equipped for a smooth and efficient counting process.

JMC observes Gandhi Jayanti at 'Muskan' Div. Com Pays Floral Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 2

To mark the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) organized a special function today at 'Muskan' Home for Mentally Challenged Children, Chhani Rama.

The event was graced by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, who along with other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the importance of following the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. He urged citizens to contribute towards keeping the city clean and neat, calling on everyone to work hand-in-hand with relevant agencies including JMC to maintain cleanliness. He also stressed the need to avoid the use of polythene to protect the environment and encouraged the use of dedicated vehicles for



garbage collection. While interacting with the children at the home, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the potential of specially-abled children and assured to provide them platforms to excel at local, national, and international levels, particularly in Paralympic events.

Welcoming the participants, Commissioner JMC, Dr Devansh Yadav informed that various teams of JMC today organized comprehensive sanitation drives at various locations in different wards

of JMC. This initiative was aimed at honoring Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of cleanliness and public health.

The sanitation drive involved a series of activities designed to enhance the overall hygiene and aesthetic appeal of the wards he said and added that it would be regular feature to give the city an aesthetic look.

In addition to paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, the Divisional Commissioner and dignitaries also paid homage to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. As part of

the occasion, saplings were planted in the premises of the home to promote environmental consciousness.

The event featured skits presented by the inmates and students from various educational institutions, showcasing the life, philosophy, and principles of Mahatma Gandhi.

Prominent attendees included Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal; Joint Commissioner (R&E), Rakesh Gupta; Joint Commissioner (H&S), Abdul Star; Joint Commissioner (Works), Firdous Ahmad Qazi; Deputy Commissioner (North), JMC, Sanjay Badyal; Deputy Commissioner (South), JMC, Lal Chand; Chief Accounts Officer, Sandeep Manhas; Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma, and other senior officers from District Administration and JMC. The dignitaries also distributed certificates among the participants of the event.

Gandhi Jayanti celebrated with enthusiasm across Educational Institutions in Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 2

Educational institutions across Poonch district observed Gandhi Jayanti with great zeal, focusing on cleanliness drives and cultural programs to honor the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Leading the celebrations, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Poonch, Lal Hussain, initiated a Swachhata pledge and campaign from his office. Vijay Kumar, ZEPO Poonch, and many senior officials from the education department were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Lal Hussain emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness, not only as a one-day event but as a continuous

effort. It is our collective responsibility to keep our surroundings clean, starting from our workplaces and schools," he stated.

In schools across the district, students showcased their reverence for Mahatma Gandhi by donning traditional Gandhi attire and performing colorful cultural programs.

The children further demonstrated their commitment to the principles of Swachh Bharat by conducting "safai abhiyans" (cleanliness drives) within and around their school premises. The day-long events in the district were marked by active participation from both students and staff, reflecting the collective responsibility towards cleanliness, a principle dear to Mahatma Gandhi.

Kusht Mukti Abhiyan Rath launched at Doda on Gandhi Jayanti

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 2

To mark the Gandhi Jayanti, the Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the Department of Health under the banner of District Leprosy Society Doda conducted the Kusht Mukti Abhiyan, besides taking a pledge on Cleanliness & Leprosy at CMO Office Doda.

The programme was held under the able guidance of Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about cause, transmission, sign and symptoms, treatment, prevention of leprosy and social stigma associated with the disease among the community. On the occasion, the Para Medical Supervisor Surinder Singh administered a pledge to all the staff to maintain cleanliness in and around their surroundings besides gen-



erated awareness about the Leprosy disease.

Medical Officer Leprosy Unit Doda Dr Javed Ahmed Parray, Mohd Shafi Attu, Dy CMO, staff members and a large number of students from ANMT Doda were present on the occasion.

On the occasion, the speakers sensitized the participants about the

symptoms, causes and treatment of leprosy and stressed upon the staff to work with dedication in conducting the survey with the hope that an effective campaign will help in detection of hidden leprosy cases in remote areas in the District.

Later, Dr Javed Parray along with others flagged off the Kusht Mukti Abhi-

yan Rath as a part of IEC, which will aware the general masses about the early sign and symptoms of leprosy.

Meanwhile, the department also enjoined upon all the field staff to spread mass awareness about this disease in the community and to clear all the misconception about the leprosy disease from the people.

Leprosy Awareness Van flagged off on Gandhi Jayanti in Samba



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 2

To mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, an awareness van on leprosy was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Vinay Sharma, and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Vidhi Bhattal, at the DC Office Complex, Nandani Hills, Samba.

The event paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's con-

tributions towards eradicating leprosy.

The awareness van, which will cover the entire Samba town, is equipped to disseminate crucial information about the causes, symptoms, treatment, transmission, and preventive measures related to leprosy through audio messages and jingles.

Dy CMO, BMOs, CHOs, PMA, and other medical and paramedical staff, were present to support the campaign.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Life and work of...

"Bapu's dream was that India would become a ray of hope for the humanity and it will be a peaceful, self-reliant and developed nation. The responsibility of fulfilling these dreams rests on 140 crore Indians and the younger generation will have to play a bigger role in this journey," the Lt Governor said.

Highlighting the transformational work done in the last five years in J&K, the Lt Governor said, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, empowerment of grassroots democracy and violence-free elections is a testament that Jammu Kashmir is shedding the past and creating a new future.

"Life and work of Gandhiji is shaping new Jammu Kashmir today. The world has recently witnessed a historic, free, peaceful and fair assembly elections. 1 crore 40 lakh citizens have reiterated their faith in the values of the Constitution and have resolved to contribute to the development of this beautiful Union Territory and the country," the Lt Governor said.

He said the young generation in J&K now understand the importance of peace and democratic values and hence today they do not have tools of destruction in their hands but instruments of creation. "Our youth are determined to follow the path of truth and non-violence and to build a prosperous society," he said.

The Lt Governor also appreciated the School Education Department and students from schools across J&K for their cleanliness endeavours like adopting a local water body, local park or a local heritage site to undertake cleanliness drive twice every month, as a mark of respect to Mahatma Gandhi.

He urged the people, especially the youth to identify one place in all the cities and villages and dedicate one day of the month for activities like cleanliness drives and Shramdaan.

The Lt Governor also appealed to all sections of the society to take inspiration from Bapu's life and work towards public welfare.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the students who have excelled in various competitions as a part of Gandhi Jayanti celebration.

The event also featured the enthralling performances from Artists and Students depicting the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

Sh Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of School Education & Department of Higher Education; senior officials; heads of educational institutions; students, teachers, youth and prominent citizens from across the UT joined the celebration, in person and through virtual mode.

Candidates keep fingers...

have contested over 50 seats in the UT.

This Assembly election was first for a couple of parties, J&K Apni Party led by former minister and PDPian Syed Muhammad Altaf Bukhari and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) led by former congressman Gulam Nabi Azad, which came into existence after the August 5, 2019 decision of abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, and their presence, especially in Kashmir region and Chenab valley of Jammu region, was visible.

During the campaigning there was a visible regional divide between Kashmir valley and Jammu region and even the BJP leaders from Jammu mince no words to seek votes on the name of Dogra Hindu CM from Jammu.

This election, held in three phases, was incident free and no untoward incident happened anywhere in the UT and the Election Commission of India (ECI) tried their best to make it free and fair.

To enhance participation of more people into the electoral process, things like home voting for 85 plus voters and persons with disability, postal ballots for government employees working outside their home districts and advance postal ballot voting for employees appointed on election duty were witnessed which saw huge participation. KNO

Poll body revises...

"Final actual account of votes recorded for each PS is shared in Form 17 C with Polling agents at close of polls," it said. KNO

Swachh Bharat campaign...

The prime minister also criticised previous governments for neglecting basic sanitation.

"They never considered dirt and lack of toilets as national issues. It was like they made dirt a part of their lives," he said.

He said those who used Mahatma Gandhi for their political benefits and vote bank have now forgotten his subject of interest. He said that filth and lack of toilets were never considered as a national issue.

As a result, said the prime minister, there were no discussions about it in society and lack of cleanliness became a part of life. He also recalled facing criticism after raising this issue from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

"The first job of a prime minister is to make the lives of the common man easy. I talked about toilets and sanitary pads, and today, we see the results," he said.

The prime minister highlighted that more than 60 per cent of the population was forced to defecate in the open a decade ago, which he called as an insult to Dalits, backward classes and tribal communities, and a major source of inconvenience for women.

Modi noted the "sufferings of mothers, sisters and daughters due to the lack of toilets" and also pointed out the threats to their health and safety. He said that the filth caused by open defecation had endangered the lives of children and was a major cause of child mortality.

He also cited studies and reports that underline the positive outcomes of the mission.

An international study has shown that the Swachh Bharat Mission is saving the lives of 60,000 to 70,000 children annually, while a UNICEF report indicates that over 90 per cent of women feel safer due to the construction of household toilets, he said.

Additionally, the World Health Organization has credited the mission with saving 300,000 lives between 2014 and 2019 by reducing deaths from diarrhoea, Modi added.

The prime minister also noted a shift in attitudes toward sanitation workers, stating that the Swachh

Bharat Mission has brought them respect and pride.

"Cleanliness is not just a one-day task but a lifelong value," he said, urging citizens to pass on the value of cleanliness from generation to generation and treat their surroundings with the same care as places of worship.

Modi said steps have been taken to eliminate the problems arising from manual cleaning of septic tanks and informed that the government is working together with private and public sectors in this regard.

"We are also encouraging professionals and startups," he added.

He added that currently about 5000 start-ups related to clean-tech were registered.

Modi emphasised that many new opportunities were being created in the water and sanitation sector, be it waste to wealth, collection and transportation of waste, reuse and recycling of water.

"Swachh Bharat Mission has given a significant boost to the circular economy in India", the prime minister said highlighting that waste generated from households is now being converted into valuable resources.

He added that this mission had revealed the true energy and potential of the people to him.

Modi said that the country should know that there are lakhs of people who had donated their money and valuable time to make this mission successful though their faces were never shown on TV or their names were never published in the newspaper.

He added that he was thankful to the people along with the industries involved in the production of single-use plastic for joining hands and supporting the initiative.

He also thanked the political parties that supported the initiative. "They must have missed out on criticising me for it but now that I have mentioned it they might start criticising," he said.

The prime minister highlighted that more than 12 crore toilets were built in the country and the scope of toilet coverage reached 100 per cent from less than 40 per cent previously.

Highlighting the public awareness brought about by the Swachh Bharat Mission, Modi cited the example of child deaths in Gorakhpur due to brain fever that were addressed with emphasis on cleanliness.

To mark the landmark day, Modi also went to a school to take part in a cleanliness drive along with girl students.

During an interaction with the students, he asked them about the benefits of cleanliness and spoke about the problems, including diseases, that are caused by a lack of toilets. He said his government's focus on building toilets in schools with separate toilets for girls led to a drastic fall in their dropout rates.

He encouraged them to practice yoga and spoke about the benefits of the Sukanya Samridhi scheme, under which bank accounts opened for a girl child provide a higher interest rate to help them in higher studies and marriage as well.

The prime minister asked them to shun plastic carry bags and said cleanliness should not be seen as work for one day but a daily habit. (Agencies)

Hope big powers...

government in J-K.

The turmoil in West Asia escalated after Iran launched nearly 200 ballistic missiles towards targets in Israel. Following this, the United States military coordinated closely with the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) to help defend Israel against this attack.

Cong Chief signals...

elements within the Congress violating alliance norms. "However, I didn't see any reports in the newspapers about the NC leader who contested as an independent being reprimanded by his party. That is for the National Conference to decide. As for the Congress, it will always abide by its principles," he added.

He further remarked that the significant voter turnout during the recent assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir was largely driven by anti-BJP sentiment. "I believe the higher participation reflects people's desire for a change in governance. They want to keep the BJP away from the corridors of power. I was in Jammu just yesterday, and based on what I've observed, if the undercurrent in Jammu translates into votes, the alliance will perform exceptionally well," Karra said. KNO

BJP's Surankote...

Bukhari had quit the National Conference in February 2022 after four decades long association following an argument with party president Farooq Abdullah over the Scheduled Tribe status.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and the leaders of other political parties condoled Bukhari's death.

"Bukhari was a mass leader and his death left a void which is very hard to fill," Raina said. (Agencies)

Shah wished for better...

construction of a developed India by 2047 under PM's leadership."

This is not the first time Congress President Kharage has insulted PM Modi. Kharage has compared PM Modi to a "poisonous snake," "chief of liars," and even likened him to Ravana. Such statements indicate that the power-hungry Congress members harbour only poison, hatred, and fear towards Modi. The desire for power has destroyed all morality within the coalition party. The Congress President has shown his frustration and fear through his statements about Modi. Kharage is the only leader of Congress on whom one should not get angry but should express sorrow and regret for him. Congressmen are acting like leeches by torturing a weak old man with their agenda. There is a saying that, 'A worthless son makes his elderly father take care of him till his last breath.'

Ladakh activist...

to be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, granting law-making powers to the local population to protect their land and cultural identity.

SGWF Observes Gandhi Jayanti across the Union Territory

JINNEWSERVICE

JAMMU, OCT 2

The Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation (SGWF) commemorated Gandhi Jayanti, paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Lala Hans Raj Mahajan (Sher-E-Duggar) across the Union Territory with a series of Swachhta Abhiyans. This initiative saw widespread participation, with numerous volunteers joining from different regions to spread the message of cleanliness and social responsibility.

Dr. Sonia Verma, Director/CEO of SGWF, led the Swachhta Abhiyan at Jia Pota Ghat, Akhnoor, where she was joined by morning walkers and renowned citizens of Akhnoor, including Raju Bajjigar and his team. The event focused on maintaining cleanliness along the riverbanks and enhancing environmental awareness among the local community. Makhani Devi, General Secretary of SGWF, conducted the Swachhta Abhiyan at Chowki Chora, where she mobilized women volunteers from nearby localities to participate in the cleanliness drive. Her efforts ensured that the campaign reached every corner of the area, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a clean environment.

Reeta Verma, National President of SGWF, spearheaded the Swachhta Abhiyan at Mera Mandrian and its surrounding areas with the involvement of numerous volunteers. Her leadership played a vital role in spreading the message of cleanliness and honoring the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. Dogar Nath and his team observed the Abhiyan at Rajouri, while other SGWF volunteers conducted similar drives at different locations, ensuring the message of cleanliness and community responsibility reached all corners of the Union Territory.

Dr. Sonia Verma highlighted the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi on his 155th birth anniversary, emphasizing his principles of truth, non-violence, and cleanliness. She also reflected on the legacy of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, honoring his famous slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," which continues to inspire millions across the nation. Dr. Sonia Verma, Director/CEO of SGWF, emphasized Mahatma Gandhi's core values of truth, non-violence, and cleanliness. She discussed how Gandhi's concept of 'Swaraj' was not only about political independence but also about self-discipline, self-reliance, and maintaining personal and community

The march was organised by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) in coordination with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), both of which have been leading an agitation for the past four years. (Agencies)

Modi's "Swachhata"...

ministries like Defence and Home, as well as their Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). It aims to institutionalise cleanliness and streamline processes, tackling areas such as MP references, Parliamentary assurances, PMO references, and public grievances. This time, the campaign will be monitored digitally, from 2nd October to 31st October 2024, with results being evaluated in November.

The Minister thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for addressing the foundational issue of cleanliness through the Swachhata campaign. He emphasised that the Prime Minister's vision has transformed Swachhata from a government-led initiative into a behavioural revolution. "The Swachhata campaign has become ingrained in the psyche of the people," Dr. Jitendra Singh remarked, noting how rarely a government campaign becomes a mass movement that changes public attitudes. "Today, cleanliness is not just a government directive, but a core value embraced by citizens."

Dr. Jitendra Singh further stated that the ongoing Special Campaign 4.0 aims to institutionalise these behavioural changes across government offices, with a focus on reducing administrative pendency and optimising public service.

Human-Centric Highlights of the Day include 1) Swachh Anjali: Dr. Jitendra Singh, along with senior officials, paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by offering 'Swachh aanjali,' reaffirming the Government's commitment to Gandhi's vision of a clean India. "Today's tribute to the Father of the Nation is a reminder of the legacy we are carrying forward through these cleanliness drives," 2) Plantation Drive - Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam: At both Nehru Park and Prithvi Bhawan, Dr. Jitendra Singh planted saplings as part of the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative, symbolising the Government's focus on environmental sustainability. "Each sapling planted today stands for a future rooted in sustainability," he shared.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also honoured "Safai Mitras" by distributing safety kits and sweets, acknowledging their crucial role in the campaign's success. "Our SafaiMitras are at the heart of this campaign. Their dedication is an example of true public service," Dr. Singh noted.

In addition, the Minister led the "Shramdaan" activities at Nehru Park and Prithvi Bhawan, joined by officials from DARPG and the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Their hands-on participation reinforced the message of civic responsibility and the importance of collective action in keeping public spaces clean.

Dr. Jitendra Singh commended the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) for achieving remarkable success in the earlier campaigns, leading to the freeing up of over 355 lakh sq. ft. of office space and generating revenue from scrap disposal. He also lauded the Ministry of Earth Sciences for its efforts in cleaning 96 beaches across the country, an initiative that reflects the Government's commitment to keeping not only office spaces but also public spaces clean.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated how the Swachhata Campaign had empowered women



and upliftment of the marginalized communities in Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized that Mahajan's life was a testament to dedication, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to societal betterment. SGWF draws inspiration from his teachings, working tirelessly to ensure environmental preservation and community service. Makhani Devi, who is also a school teacher, conducted a debate competition at Chowki Chora, where students from various classes participated, remembering the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. This activity aimed to instill Gandhian values among the younger generation, encouraging them to become responsible citizens.

Sandeep Sharma, Treasurer of SGWF, along with Nitish Abrol, Rahul Dogra, Ashok Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Rahul Sharma, Parkreet Mehta, Kanav Sharma, and Raghuvir Abrol, led the Swachhta Abhiyan at Shri Hari Mandir Namandhar Akhnoor, further reinforcing SGWF's commitment to environmental cleanliness and sustainability.

The Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation's collective effort to observe Gandhi Jayanti through the Swachhta Abhiyan stands as a testament to their dedication to promoting cleanliness, environmental sustainability, and the teachings of great leaders. The foundation continues to work towards creating a cleaner, greener, and more socially conscious society.

Assembly Elections-2024 ADDC Rajouri reviews preparations for counting of ETBPS and Postal Ballots in District



JINNEWSERVICE

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 2

In compliance with the directions of the District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, the Additional District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Raj Kumar Thapa, today chaired a crucial review meeting to assess the preparedness for the counting of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballots (ETBPS) and Postal Ballots in the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the requisition of essential equipment, including scanners and printers, required to facilitate the smooth and accurate counting process.

The Nodal Officer for Postal Ballots, Sheraz Chouhan, provided a comprehensive briefing

on the current status of postal ballots, outlining the steps taken to ensure transparency and efficiency.

The ADDC emphasized the importance of adhering strictly to the guidelines set forth by the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding the handling and counting of ETBPS and Postal Ballots. He directed all officials involved to ensure that all necessary arrangements are made well in advance to avoid any delays or discrepancies during the counting process.

The meeting was attended by Returning Officers (ROs), District Informatics Officer (DIO) NIC, and other district officers, who actively participated in discussions to ensure seamless coordination among all departments involved.

in its early stages by constructing over 4 lakh toilets, and how the movement has now grown to tackle issues like wealth generation from waste. "Special Campaign 4.0 is about turning waste into wealth, and making cleanliness a permanent feature of public life," he added. Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG, and Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, along with senior officials from both ministries, actively participated in the events.

Central University of Jammu Organizes Plantation Drive, Awareness Sessions Under Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 2

Central University of Jammu under Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 campaign with theme "Swabhav Swachhata Sanskaar Swachhata" organized a number of events toward creating awareness of environmental and community participation. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu, appreciated the efforts and conveyed his heartfelt congratulations for the success of all these events. He appreciated efforts of the organizers and underlined the significance of such actions for the creation of the cleaner environment of the future. He further said, that this country-wide campaign, Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 at the Central University of Jammu has



not only educated the faculty and students on environmental issues and the responsibility each one in society bears to keep our environment clean but also engaged the university in a hands-on approach towards the realization of ensuring a clean India by the year 2024.

The event Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam plantation drive was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students Welfare and Lt Dr. Pankaj Mehta, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science

and ANO 4 J&K Bn NCC. Students, faculty members, and staff were very active in this symbolic act for environment conservation.

In the second event, Student For Development (SFD) Coordinator, Mr. Shubham Raina explained and demonstrated the utilization of vermimash, as an organic liquid fertilizer made from vermin composting. The session informed the participants about the sustainable method of farming by incorporating

organic waste in the soil, which supports the motto of going green.

The third event in the series was conducted by Ms. Rubia Kouser, Research Scholar where she explained the procedure of using waste materials for Pellet formation using Bomb Calorimeter. The kind of knowledge shared in the session was helpful and down to practice in matters such as waste management, power and heat efficient fuel.

All these events were conducted under the supervision of Prof. Richa Kothari, Nodal officer for the SHS 2024 campaign where the activities were aimed at driving people to follow the core message of the campaign.

Indian Army organizes Blood Donation Camp at GMC Doda



JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCT 2

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day is observed every year on October 1. It was first observed on October 1 to promote the awareness for blood donation and its life-saving importance.

This year, the Indian Army, which is also known as the 'Citizen's Army' is celebrating 75 glorious years of its raising and is reaching out to the citizen of India through nationwide events and activities. In this series of events, the 'Doda Terrifiers' in collaboration with

GMC Doda, organised a voluntary Blood Donation Camp on 1 October at GMC Doda in which a large number of youths from Doda district and soldiers of Indian Army donated blood and urged the citizens of the state to come forward and join the nation building.

CUKashmir in collaboration with Municipal Council Ganderbal organises massive cleanliness drive

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, OCT 2

Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) in collaboration with the Municipal Council Ganderbal on Wednesday organised a massive cleanliness drive under the Swachhata Hi Seva 2024, which marks culmination of its series of events besides a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 155th birth anniversary – honoring his lifelong advocacy for cleanliness, self-reliance, and community responsibility.

The drive was held on the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and as part of Swachhata Diwas, by the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of the varsity within the premises of Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple Tullmulla, Ganderbal, reflecting Mahatma Gandhi's unwavering dedication to cleanliness and sanitation as essential pillars of both personal and societal development.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. A Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor. Addressing the gathering, Prof. A Ravinder Nath emphasized the profound connection between education and cleanliness as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi, stating that cleanliness is an integral part of our cultural and moral values.

"This Swachhata drive is not just an activity, but a way to instill Gandhian principles of cleanliness and responsibility in our future generations," Prof. A Ravinder Nath said, adding, it's not just a one-day event, but a way of life, stating that "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign is a testament to how collective efforts can lead to positive change.

He further stressed that maintaining cleanliness is crucial for personal, societal, and environmental well-being, urging the participants to integrate cleanliness into their daily lives as a sustainable habit. He hailed the NSS unit for holding a series of events.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan held at Army Public School, Akhnoor

JINNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR : 02 OCT 24

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) is a nationwide cleanliness campaign initiated by the Govt of India. The campaign was launched on 02 Oct 2014. The campaign aims to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management across India. The mission focuses on creating a cleaner environment, improving sanitation practices and promoting hygiene through public awareness and participation. Focus Areas of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Elimination of Open Defecation, Construction of toilets specifically in rural areas to eliminate open defecation, Solid Waste Management, Promoting waste segregation, recycling, and proper disposal methods. Spreading Awareness among people about



hygiene, sanitation and the importance of cleanliness. Clean Public Spaces. Cleaning streets, roads and infrastructure to enhance urban and rural environments. This campaign involves the active participation of citizens, organizations, and local governments making it a people-driven movement for a cleaner and healthier India. In order to motivate the students at budding stage, a cleaning

drive was conducted by students of Army Public School, Akhnoor at Ambaran Village under the theme of "Swabhav Swachhata Sanskaar Swachhata". Total Str of 40 students including 20 NCC cadets participated in the drive. Students participated with zeal & enthusiasm and cleaned the public spaces and carried out solid waste management under the able guidance of teachers.

NIT Srinagar celebrates 'Swachh Bharat Diwas-2024' to mark Gandhi Jayanti

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 2

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday celebrated Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024, marking the 10th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission and organised a special cleanliness drive as part of the 'Swachhata Pakhwada 2024' campaign. The event was organised by the NSS unit of the Institute, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff members. The pledge ceremony was held at the Main Faculty Block at 9:30 AM and was administered by the student coordinators.

It was followed by a mega cleanliness drive carried out by sanitation staff accompanied by NSS student volunteers from Fountain Park to the Director's residence.

Under the banner of 'Swachhata Hi Seva' participants armed themselves with brooms, dust-



bins, and waste disposal equipment to embark on a comprehensive cleaning mission.

In his message Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Ravinder Nath said that cleanliness was one of Mahatma Gandhi's core beliefs, and today, we pay our tribute to him by actively contributing to a cleaner and greener future.

"Such campaigns are the need of the hour, bringing hope for a cleaner and healthier environment," he said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman also actively participated in the cleanliness drive and inspired others with his dedication to the cause.

"There is significance of Gandhi Jayanti as it is not only a day of remembrance but also an occa-

sion for us to reflect on the values and principles that Mahatma Gandhi stood for," he added.

The mega cleanliness drive was attended by NSS Coordinator, Dr. Jitendra Gurjar, Dr. Mukund Sharma, Dr. H S Pali, Dr. Pramod Yadav, Hindi Officer Dr. Rajesh Shukla, Dr. Ashok Kumar and Dr. Brajendra Singh Sengar.

This year's theme, 'Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata,' emphasises the importance of cleanliness and environmental well-being.

NIT Srinagar campus witnessed a flurry of activity as students, faculty, and staff worked tirelessly to ensure every nook and corner was spotless. The initiative extended its scope to include waste segregation and respon-

sible disposal, promoting sustainable practices.

NSS Coordinator and Nodal Officer for Swachhata Pakhwada, Dr. Jitendra Gurjar highlighted the campaign's role in reminding the institute of its responsibility towards its surroundings and the environment.

He underscored the importance of collective action in instilling a sense of ownership among the students, encouraging them to be responsible citizens.

Dr. Gurjar expressed his gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A Ravinder Nath and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman for their unwavering support of such initiatives on the campus.

He said the event showcased NIT Srinagar's dedication to promoting cleanliness, sustainability, and social responsibility, reflecting Mahatma Gandhi's values and inspiring a cleaner, greener future for everyone.

DALSA, G Peace celebrates Gandhi Jayanti in Court Complex Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 2

In order to commemorate one 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 120th birthday of Lal Bahadur Shastri the District Legal Services Authority Jammu in collaboration with Global PEACE Organization organized a mega event in the District Court complex, Jammu in which large number of judicial officers, advocates, PLV's and volunteers of Global PEACE Organization participated in which Sh. Yash Paul Bourney Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority Jammu was the Chief Guest and Ms. Bala Joyti, Sh. Kamlesh Pandit and Sh. Chain Lal Bavoria senior District and Sessions Judges were the guests of honour.

In the first session a seminar on Gandhian Thoughts and 'Swachhata Hi Sewa hai' was organized. The Chief Guest Sh. Yash Paul Bourney enlightened the audience about the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri. He urged everyone to imbibe Gandhian principles of thought in their day to day life and spread his message of truth and non-vio-



lence across the globe. We should clean our thoughts and work with dedication and devotion to pay real tribute to Gandhi ji. Ms. Bala Joyti Sr. District and Sessions Judge, CBI Court Jammu spoke at length about the cleanliness drive and urged everyone to maintain cleanliness at home, offices and the surroundings so as to give a true meaning to the campaign Swachhata hi Sewa hai.

Advocate Sheikh Altaf Hussain Chairman Global PEACE Organization highlighted the moral values of Gandhi by narrating a poem spreading positive vibes to everyone. Ms. Simriti Sharma Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu presented the welcome address the beautifully conducted the proceedings of the event.

On this occasion the

dozens of employees of the Jammu Municipal Corporation and Safai Karamcharis in the court were presented the certificates of appreciation as a mark of respect and blankets were distributed to them as a token of love.

In the second session the judicial officers, employees of the court and volunteers of Global PEACE Organization participated in the cleanliness drive in the court complex and sent a message of cleanliness to the society.

Later a plantation drive was also organised in the court complex with the assistance of the Forest Department. Dr. Trishi Gupta, Advocate Altaf Hussain Janjua, Advocate Digvijay Singh Bandral and Mohd Sikander Wani, PLVs assisted in organizing the event successfully.

A three-day long 177th founder's day celebrations kicks off at The Lawrence School, Sanawar

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 2

A three-day long 177th Founder's Day celebrations commenced amid Gandhian thoughts, nostalgia of yesteryears, old memories and sporting spirits at The Lawrence School, Sanawar, the world's oldest co-educational residential school on Wednesday. The students, management and Old Sanawarians gathered to mark the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti wherein Justice Arvind Malhotra, District and Session Judge at Solan graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The Chief Guest announced and felicitated the Gandhi Award winners Sirat Dua, Tanmaya Sahni and Inaaya Kumar on the occasion. The Gandhi awards were instituted by Navin Chawla, former Chief Election Commission of India and an alumnus of the School. This followed by felicitation of ten employees identified as Safai and Paryavaran Mitra, who were honoured for their commendable contribution in Svabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign. In his address, Justice Malhotra lauded the infusion of a bit of Gandhism despite the era of competitive-



ness for the betterment and positive change in the society. Thereafter, a basketball and a festival futsal matches were played between Old Sanawarians (OS) and Present Sanawarians to brace up a sense of sportsmanship in both the counterparts. Present on the occasion, Pankaj Sapru, President, Old Sanawarians Society (OSS) emoted, "This playground had been the foundation of their fitness. It is a nostalgic feeling for the entire OS team to get into the actions against young ones." The afternoon witnessed a special assembly for the jubilee students at the school's chapel. As many as 80 alumni of the 1954, 1959, 1964 and 1999 batches refreshed their memories with the students. The Headmaster, Himmat Singh Dhillon, highlighted the school's achievements of the recent times and appraised about the upcoming projects. The students made the atmo-

sphere more emotional by reading the messages sent by numerous Old Sanawarians. Many fondly reminisced about their school days, sharing memories of teachers who played a magnificent role in their upbringing.

At the sidelines of the events, students along with departmental faculties organized exhibitions to showcase their talent in the form of art, sculpture, photography, fashion designing, wood craft and other forms. The Founder's day celebrations will continue on Thursday and Friday which will feature dramatics, cultural extravaganza expressing history, heritage and tradition of the 177 year old school. Kiran Tandon Nadar, Chairperson, Kiran Nadar Museum of Arts and Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation will preside over an event on the last day followed by the inauguration of newly constructed girls' dormitory.

IIMC Jammu Students Take Inspiration from Gandhi on his 155th Birth Anniversary



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 2

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication on Wednesday celebrated the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi with an insightful discussion on 'Swadeshi, Swachhata, and the Relevance of Gandhi's Ideologies in Today's World'. Students from English Journalism, Hindi Journalism, and Digital Media were present in the gathering. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students who expressed their deep appreciation for Gandhi's teachings. They acknowledged the significance of adopting Indian-made clothing as a means to support the country's economy and heritage. Mohd. Haider, a student from English Journalism, highlighted the need to switch to a more cultural approach in our everyday lifestyle to con-

serve the Indian heritage and support the economy.

In the event, students also delved into the importance and need of 'swachhata' (cleanliness). They expressed how Gandhi's principles of non-violence, simplicity, and sustainability inspire them.

"Gandhi left a key to us – the key to resort to things with a non-violent approach. This is very much needed in the world that we currently live in," said Saloni Sharma, a student of English Journalism.

The students emphasized that Gandhi's principles are timeless and relevant, and they have a great potential to inspire positive change. Anamika Pandey, a student of digital media, shed light on Gandhi's role in spreading awareness about cleanliness and how the current generation of Indians is carrying his legacy forward.

EDITORIAL

Reaping the benefits of peace on borders

The assembly elections in Jammu, particularly in the border villages along the International Border (IB) with Pakistan, mark a significant turning point for local democracy and community engagement. For the first time in decades, villagers in areas like Jerda, close to the IB, were able to cast their votes without enduring the arduous trek of several kilometers to polling stations. This development is not just a logistical improvement; it symbolizes the profound impact of lasting peace and the aspirations of communities yearning for stability and recognition. Until the ceasefire agreement in February 2021, the Jammu division was marred by violence and uncertainty, with villagers frequently subjected to shelling that disrupted their daily lives and eroded their sense of security. The fact that polling stations have now been established within these communities reflects a crucial shift. As former Sarpanch noted, the establishment of a polling station in Jerda is not merely about convenience; it represents the restoration of their democratic rights in a place that has long been overshadowed by conflict. The festive atmosphere in Jerda on polling day serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience and hopes of these communities. For many residents, casting a vote in their own village was an emotional moment, a reclamation of agency that had been denied to them for far too long. This joy was echoed across other border areas, such as Akhnoor and Chhamb, which also recorded impressive voter turnouts. These statistics are not just numbers; they signify a collective desire for peace and progress. Moreover, the establishment of facilities like the 'Air-Conditioned Tourist Bunker' in Jerda, which includes a library and television, is a promising step towards border tourism. It highlights an emerging opportunity for economic development that could transform these previously neglected areas into vibrant hubs of cultural exchange and tourism. If successful, this model could be replicated in other border villages, further integrating them into the national narrative and enhancing their prospects. As residents celebrate their newfound ability to participate in democratic processes, it is essential to recognize the broader implications of this peace. The establishment of polling stations closer to home not only adheres to the guidelines set by the Election Commission of India but also enhances the safety and security of voters in sensitive areas. The presence of polling stations near Border Bunkers underscores a commitment to ensuring the protection of citizens while they exercise their rights. The shift in the political landscape is a testament to the resilience of the people living along the border. Their voices are now being heard, and their needs are being addressed. This growing political engagement is crucial in fostering a sense of belonging and citizenship among residents who have often felt marginalized. The road to lasting peace and development is still long, but the recent elections signal a hopeful trend. Residents are not merely voting; they are making a statement—a declaration that they want to live in peace and that they demand attention to their needs. The voter from Suchetgarh, who articulated her community's hope for continued peace, encapsulates the collective aspiration of these border villages. The electoral participation in Jammu's border areas is a beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards a future defined by peace, prosperity, and democratic engagement. As communities continue to rebuild in the aftermath of conflict, it is imperative that their voices are amplified and their needs prioritized. The benefits of peace, as evidenced by these elections, extend far beyond the ballot box; they pave the way for a more inclusive and vibrant society that honors the aspirations of all its citizens.

Navratri is the celebration of feminine power

OMKAR DATTATRAY

Navratri festival is celebrated twice in a year, once as Chitra Navratri and then as Sharad Navratri. Both Navratri's are celebrated with great devotion and traditional gaiety. The underlying essence and spirit is the celebration, respect and reverence to feminine power which is the cause and action of the universe. Thus Navratri is dedicated to the importance of feminine power without which we cannot think of the universe. Therefore by celebrating the Navratri's, we actually celebrate feminine power as its significance is very great in the world and for all humanity. As the name implies, Navratri consists of nine days and nights which are dedicated to the nine forms of the Shakti. During Navratri people especially the women keep fast and worship the small girls being the form of Shakti that is being the feminine power. Navratri shows and teaches us to revere and respect women and therefore we should learn to respect the women folk in the day to day life and only then we are successful in celebrating Navratri. We should appreciate that before manifestation of the universe, when nothing else existed, what existed was the omnipresent formless Divine Consciousness. This is also called the static consciousness or Shiva in Hindu scriptures. When universe came into being, first of all from static consciousness manifested Dynamic Consciousness Shakti. Shakti is the feminine power of Shiva and is the creative force behind

the world. Shiva as masculine power is not capable of creating anything without feminine power and hence first to manifest is His own creative feminine power as Shakti, who was then allowed to create the universe. This Shakti is also known as the Divine Mother, as everything in the universe has taken birth from its womb. This Divine Mother, which has given birth to the universe, also nurtures and sustains it, and has the power to destroy it. There are primarily and actually nine aspects of the Divine Mother which helps it to create, sustain and destroy or dissolve back the universe. There are nine aspects of the Divine Mother are worshipped in the Hindu religion as nine shaktis during the nine day Navratri festival. These nine forms of the Divine Mother (Goddess Durga) are named as Shalputri, Brahmacharni, Chanderganta Kushmandi, Skindamata, Kyantyne, Kalratri, Mahagauri and Seddhatri. Durga is the inaccessible, invincible one and omnipotent, the main source of energy for creation. Shalputri is the mother of gross universe. All the gross objects and beings have manifested from this Shalputri aspect of the Divine Mother. Brahmacharni is the form of celibacy. As per sanatana Dhrama, Durga in her Kali roopa fought demons for nine days and eventually freed mother earth from their atrocities. Thus the tenth day is celebrated as Vijaydashmi meaning the day of victory, triumph over bad elements. The Navratri festival basically denotes the tremendous potential power, the femi-

nine aspect of creation has within herself, which also draws down to the power of an ordinary/common women. In fact women is the epitome of the feminine aspect of creation and till she is respected, loved and treated as auspicious for the entire human race, she can give joy, peace and help in the growth of every aspect of creation. Shailputri is the daughter of the Mountain king Himavat, and is manifestation and form of the Hindu mother goddess Mahadevi, representing herself as the pure form of goddess Parvati. She is the first Navadurga venerated during the first day of Navratri, and is incarnation of Goddess Sati. Thus Maa Shailputri is one of the Navadurgas and is the provider of fortune and prosperity. Devotees hail her as mother nature and pray for their spiritual awakening. The second form of Navadurga is called Brahmacharni which means a devoted female student who lives in an Ashrama with her Guru along with other students. She is the second form of Mahadavi and is worshipped on the second day of Navratri. The goddess Brahmacharni is an aspect of Parvati and wears white clothes, holding a japamala in her right hand and a kamandalu in her left. She is the form of Navadurga who did severe penance and is the goddess of devotion and penance. The third form of Maa Durga is known as Chandraganta. On the third day of Navratri, this form of Durga is worshipped. She is called Chandraganta because on her forehead is half moon in the shape of Ganta. By her worship, the devotees are freed from all

the troubles of this body and with ease reach to supreme bliss. It is the Chandarganta who had killed the demon Mahesura and freed the world from this cruel demon. The fourth form of Maa Durga is called Kushmanda. She has created the universe with her small smile and thus the name Kushmanda. She is worshipped during the fourth day of Navratri. Skandamata is the fifth among the Navadurga forms of Mahadevi. Her name comes from Skanda, an alternate name for the war god. She is the powerful goddess whose love and care helped lord Kartikeya to defeat the demon Tarkasura. Lord Shiva and Maa Parvati's first son, Lord Kartikeya, was also known as Skanda. Hence Maa Parvati is often referred to as Skandamata. She is believed to protect her devotees, just like a mother protects her child from harm. The sixth form of Maa Durga is known as Katyani and she is an aspect of Mahadevi and the slayer of the tyrannical demon Mahishasura. In Shaktism, she is associated with the fierce forms of Shakti or Durga, a warrior goddess, which also includes Bhadrakali and Chandika. With the difficult penance of saint Kantiyan she took birth from the couple of Katayana as she was happy with his penance and hence the sixth form of Maa Durga is called Katayani. She is believed to bless her devotees and benefits them. The seventh form of Maa Durga is known as Kalratri and she is worshipped on the sixth day of Navratri. She seems very dangerous and fearful, but she always gives good results and

blessings. She is first referenced in Devi Mahatmya. Kalratri is one of the fear-some forms of the goddess. She is the goddess of auspiciousness and courage. Kalratri is traditionally worshipped during the nine nights of the Navratri celebrations. The seventh day of Navratri pooja in particular is dedicated to her and she is considered the fiercest form of mother goddess, her appearance itself invoking fear. This form of goddess is believed to be the destroyer of all demon entities, ghosts, evil spirits and negative energies, which flee upon knowing of her arrival. Kalratri is also known as Shubankari meaning auspicious /doing good in Sanskrit, due to the belief that she always provides auspicious results to her devotees. Hence, it is believed that she makes her devotees fearless. Mahagauri is the eighth form among the Navdurga aspects of the Hindu mother goddess Mahadavi. She is worshipped on the eighth day of Navratri. According to Hinduism, Mahagauri has the power to fulfill all desires of her devotees. The one who worships this goddess, gets relief from all the sufferings in life. She is the goddess of beauty and women. She is very powerful and is the bestower of all good fruits and results. Siddhidhatri is the ninth and final among the Navadurga aspects of the Hindu mother goddess Mahadavi. As the name Siddhi implies the supernatural power or meditative ability and Dhatri means giver or awardee. She is worshipped on the ninth day of Navratri. She fulfills all the divine aspirations. It is believed that one side of

Lord Shiva's body is that of Goddess of Siddhidatri. Therefore Shiva is also known as Ardhanarishwara. According to Vedic scriptures, Lord Shiva attained all the siddhis by worshipping this form of Maa Durga. She is in fact the goddess of supernatural powers or Siddha's. On the ninth day of the Navratri, nine small girls are worshipped as being the nine forms of Maa Durga and their feet are washed and they are offered fruits, money, utensils etc. We Indians worship the feminine power during Navratri's but alas! in actual practice the women are heaped atrocities and they are harassed and even some are subjected to sexual assaults. There is talk of the empowerment of women but in actual world, the women folk is harassed and even molested. It is a big contradiction that on one side we worship the women and on other side there are the increasing cases of molestation and sexual assaults on the women which is very unfortunate and this way we nullify the essence and spirit of Navratri pooja. The best performance of the Navratri celebrations is only when we learn to revere, respect and honor the women in the day to day life and in homes, places of worship, at workplaces, in educational institutions and at all the places because where women are respected, gods travel there. Thus the best way to celebrate the feminine power is that we should respect the women in the actual world.

The author is a columnist, social and KP activist

Sleep, Spirituality and the Modern Mind

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

In the famous poem "Childhood", Ravindra Nath Tagore bemoans the loss of innocence as a child grows up. One thing we can all agree that to sleep like a child is a great asset. But as we grow up our minds begin to play havoc with our sleep. Before I go any further let us understand the basics of sleep. Sleep is one of the most important biological functions and inadequate sleep can cause many problems. Sleep is the time when the body rejuvenates itself. Sleep restores physical well-being and removes fatigue related to emotion-

al activities.

Our brains are beehives of activities during sleep, including the time when one is dreaming. How much sleep is required? It depends on each individual according to age, type of activities, level of activities, etc. Lord Krishna has mentioned sleep as one of the four activities, which must be appropriate. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 6.17) We need sleep excellence. What does the modern man do? There are three types. One cuts on sleep and another cannot fall asleep and resorts to drinks and drugs.

The third sleeps too much wasting precious

human life. Taking up the busy ones, they have no respect for rules made by God - the Creator of our bodies. They feel that they can do with less sleep and nothing adverse will happen. But they get harmed in many ways.

The first causality is the energy level; it goes down. Physical health is affected in many ways, but it takes a long; one feels that he is fine until hit by some serious health problem. Performance declines; cognitive ability reduces; memory consolidation is affected as does mental health. You cannot copy someone else, because, as stated earlier, it is, person

specific - a bodily necessity. The second group suffers no less, if anything substantially more in the long term. One thinks that he can order the body to sleep whenever one wants. Have you tried to postpone sleep? What happens? Circadian rhythms are 24-hour cycles that are part of the body's internal clock. Its primary function is sleeping and waking.

We cannot take charge; it controls us. So what does the modern man do? He resorts to artificially induced sleep by taking drinks and drugs. We all know what drinks do to our liver. And drugs are similarly harmful to

the brain. Both are habit forming. One is stuck once this is continued over some time. Why is one unable to fall asleep, when bodily and mentally tired? Because we have allowed our minds to take charge of our lives.

We have unlimited desires for a sense of enjoyment, power, fame, etc. We are being driven by emotions like lust, greed, anger, hate, etc. By the way, drinks and drugs do not stop bad and scary dreams from coming, which leave a very bad feeling upon waking up.

The third kind harms oneself in more ways than one by making sleep

one's shelter. Let us come to our senses. Shelter is available in God. There are simple spiritual practices, which connect one to God. He will help us curb our wrong tendencies, as only God can. But one has to first accept that one is wrong; one has to give up overblown ego. It is quite strange that a small, ignorant and helpless soul has such a big ego. What is the conclusion? There is only one shelter, as instructed by Lord Krishna. You will get plenty of sleep and of good quality too sans bad dreams.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

Walking through the woods in UK

ASHOK K MEHTA

Hadlow Stair is a village in Tonbridge Kent, UK, with the Old Hadlow Road leading to it. Tonbridge is a poorer cousin of the historic Tunbridge Wells but a great place for a walking-talking vacation this September when the sun broke through the clouds permitting invigorating small walks. Hadlow Stair is the perfect escape from rain-soaked London, just 40 minutes away by train to Charing Cross in Trafalgar Square. Ordinary Brits have been stunned by the new Labour, suspending Pound 200 winter fuel allowance to pensioners, ostensibly to fill the Pound 22 bn deficit left by the Tories though inflation is below 3 per cent. In the village, most read newspapers only on the weekend: the talk is about Ukraine, Gaza and Lebanon and Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his wife accepting gifts. Former civil servant Sue Gray who sorted out Boris Johnson for

his indiscretions during the pandemic is now the chief advisor to Starmer with a pay package of Pounds 180,000, surpassing the wages the PM gets. Modernising Britain's Continuous Sea Deterrence as well as upgrading its nuclear submarines from Vanguard to Dreadnought class is also underway. Peers in the House of Lords warned that 2.5 per cent on defence spending (at present 2.3 per cent) may not be enough to meet the challenges and fix the military.

Here too, there is a Pound 10 bn hole which is proposed to be filled up by taxes. India's spending is below 2 per cent with immeasurably bigger threats. But who cares! All this and more, John Lawson, my walking companion shares with me. Amongst all the walks the one in the undulating woods nearby is most enjoyable as John takes myriad routes and detours along the soggy earthy soil. You can do a dozen different trails here and not know they are in the same woods.

Go south from Hadlow Road past the Scottish St Andrews Church across fields and through apple orchards with apples to eat and apples to cook. But there are no pickers due to Brexit, laments John.

The Chinese have invented an apple-picking machine which is yet to make its commercial debut. Here, in the fields too, John has manufactured several walking trails - the special one is along the Medway river to Tonbridge town which has everything from Marks and Spencers to Waitrose and Sainsburys to Kathmandu Valley and Dalchini restaurants to Humphrey and Bean Pub where we were privy to a brawl. There is also the Tonbridge Castle. My favourite walk though is through the Higham Woods. This I did every morning, meeting making friends with people walking their dogs. Every house here has a cat or a dog or even a horse! Almost every afternoon John and I did serious walking bringing the milometer to

roughly 120 plus miles in 12 days. In his spare time, John moves auto parts and trucks in the UK and Europe where too, Brexit means cost and time overruns. At the Labour Party annual conference, Starmer said he wants to reset relations with European Union and make Brexit work with the EU reset. The biggest applause at the conference was reserved for the Home Secretary, who decried the recent racial riots. Migrants continue to sail across the Channel and since Rwanda is a closed issue, they will be settled in Britain. I've been travelling to the UK since the 1970s and can say this: Indian or Asian or coloured are no longer looked down upon even though many of the menial jobs are still being done by them. I was horrified to learn that there is a Gorkha Cleaning Company in Kent. The Gorkhas, the Brits once worshipped in battle are all but forgotten except by the likes of Joanna Lumley. This became more evident in

London where along a side lane from Whitehall Avenue resides the life-sized stone statue of the eternal Gorkha soldier. The plan to raise a third battalion of Gorkha Rifles was abandoned though three Gorkha companies were raised for the Special Forces. Aldershot is where retired Gorkhas allowed residency in Britain live, while the battalion is further south. The other battalion is in Brunei for which the Sultan pays. Sadly, very few recognise the badges of the Gorkha Regiment any more.

Why blame the Brits when we have offered the poor choice of Agniveer to Nepali Gorkhas who stopped joining five years ago? The British Army is 70,000 (with a reserve of 30,000) soldiers and infantry less than the size of our Gorkha Brigade. The Navy and Air Force together make another 70,000 warriors but all field state-of-the-art equipment including conventional and strategic forces which are the best in Europe.

The military component of the Indian High Commission in Aldwych has been downsized from three officers to just one with a Naval Commodore holding the fort instead of the Army Brigadier. Returning to my grudge on the tarmac along Whitehall Avenue, the old MoD has become Raffles Hotel, RUSI next door renovated and a few meters ahead are bronze statues of leaders who won fame in India: Field Marshals Slim, Auchinleck, and Allanbrooke. Another Indian famous is the Duke of Wellington honoured in Trafalgar Square and Wellington Corner. The Brits nurture the military and that's one reason they are respected. Thoughts that wafted during the walk in the woods. We must learn. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

Study says diagnostic errors can occur in 1 in every 14 hospital patients

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 2

Diagnostic errors are likely to be occurring in as many as 1 in every 14 (7 per cent) hospital patients which requires new approaches to medical surveillance, a new study has stressed.

The study, published online in the journal *BMJ Quality and Safety*, said that 85 per cent of these errors are likely preventable and underscore the need for new approaches to improving surveillance to avoid these mistakes from happening in the first place.

The most frequent diagnoses associated with diagnostic errors included heart failure, acute kidney failure, sepsis, pneumonia, respiratory failure, altered mental state, abdominal pain and hypoxaemia (low blood oxygen levels).

According to the study,



cases deemed to be at high risk of diagnostic error were categorised as transfer to intensive care 24 or more hours after admission, death within 90 days of admission either in hospital or after discharge and complex clinical issues but

no transfer to intensive care or death within 90 days of admission.

"Complex clinical issues included clinical deterioration, treatment by several different medical teams, unexpected events such as cancelled surgery, unclear

or discrepant diagnostic information recorded in the medical notes," the findings showed.

Harm was classified as minor, moderate, severe, and fatal, and whether the diagnostic error contributed to the harm and whether

it was preventable were also assessed. Cases with discrepancies or uncertainty about the diagnostic error or its impact were further reviewed by an expert panel.

Among all the cases reviewed, diagnostic errors were found in 160 cases (154 patients). These comprised intensive care transfer (54), death within 90 days (34), complex clinical issues (52) and low risk patients (20). The study authors wrote that an estimated 85 per cent of harmful diagnostic errors were preventable, with older, White, non-Hispanic, non-privately insured and high-risk patients most at risk.

The researchers suggested that a careful analysis of the errors and integrating AI tools into the workflow should help minimise their prevalence, by improving monitoring and triggering timely interventions.

Australian research reveals impact of partner violence on child health

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, OCT 2

The children of mothers who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) are more likely to suffer from poor health outcomes, Australian research has found.

In a new study, a team of researchers led by the Menzies School of Health Research at Charles Darwin University (CDU) revealed the impact of IPV on child health, Xinhua news agency reported.

They found that children younger than five years whose mothers experienced IPV were more likely to develop acute respiratory infection, diarrhoea and be under-nourished.

The risk of poor health outcomes was much higher among children whose mothers experienced multiple types of violence, the research found.

Researchers from insti-



tutions including CDU, the University of Sydney, the Australian National University and the University of Queensland examined data from 238,060 children younger than five living across 37 sub-Saharan African countries.

It was the first study to comprehensively analyse the link between a mother's experience of physical, emotional and sexual violence and co-occurrence and the subsequent effect on their child's health.

"Research into the impact of exposure to violence on children's health and development is essen-

tial for understanding possibilities for prevention," Gary Robinson, director of the Menzies School of Health Research Center for Child Development and Education, said in a media release on Tuesday.

The research said that sub-Saharan African countries need to prioritise the development and implementation of strategies encompassing IPV preventive measures and support for affected families.

"Countries in the sub-Saharan Africa region, including Chad, Comoros, Gabon, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Burundi, South Africa, and Liberia, merit specific attention due to heightened risks of adverse childhood outcomes associated with IPV," the study said.

A multidisciplinary approach that integrates health care, social services and legal frameworks is paramount to mitigate the wider impact of IPV, the research said.

Doctors' group renews demand to revisit medical school quota hike

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 2

A major lobby group of community doctors on Wednesday renewed its demand for the government to revisit the 2025 medical school admissions quota, clouding prospects for a breakthrough to resolve months-long walkouts by junior doctors.

Choi Anna, a spokesperson for the Korea Medical Association (KMA), told reporters that the association will not join a government-organised committee tasked with estimating the medical workforce shortage, unless the government opens talks about a possible change in the 2025 medical school admissions quota.

Health Minister Cho Kyoo-hong has said it is



impossible to amend the planned increase in the medical school admission quota for next year, as universities already fixed details for their enrolment plans, reports Yonhap news agency.

"As the government insisted on opening discussions without limits in agendas, the admission quota for 2025 must be discussed," Choi said.

"While the government claims that the increase in next year's medical school quota is irreversible simply because the admissions process has begun, it is still possible if it decides to act," Choi said.

Thousands of trainee doctors have been absent from their workplaces in a form of mass resignation since February, with the medical community call-

ing for discussions on the agenda from scratch.

Meanwhile, a presidential committee on medical reform is set to establish a new body to estimate the shortage of doctors and better reflect the medical community's demand amid the protracted walkout, a senior official said.

About 12,000 trainee doctors have left their worksites since February 20 in protest of the government's plan to boost the number of medical students by 2,000.

The permanent body will use data, such as the number of medical graduates, population demographics and health insurance statistics, to estimate the required number of healthcare workers for the future.

Researchers develop new injectable to prevent hypoglycemia in diabetics

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 2

A team of researchers on Wednesday reported a new injectable solution to prevent and treat hypoglycemia condition in diabetic patients.

According to the team, if glucose levels plunge too low, people can experience hypoglycemia, which can lead to dizziness, cognitive impairment, seizures or comas.

Researchers in the journal *ACS Central Science* report encapsulating the hormone glucagon. Glucagon is a hormone that signals the liver to release glucose into the bloodstream. It's typically given by injection to counteract severe hypoglycemia in people who have diabetes.

To improve glucagon



stability and prevent hypoglycemia, Andrea Hevener and Heather Maynard looked to micelles - nanoscale, soap-like bubbles that can be customised to assemble or disassemble in different environments and are used for drug delivery.

They developed a glucose-responsive micelle that encapsulates and protects glucagon in the bloodstream when sugar levels are normal but disassembles if levels drop dan-

gerously low. To prevent hypoglycemia, the micelles could be injected ahead of time and circulate in the bloodstream until they are needed.

In mouse trials, the nanocapsules activated when blood sugar levels dropped dangerously low and quickly restored glucose levels. In lab experiments, the researchers observed that the micelles disassembled only in liquid environments that

mimicked hypoglycemic conditions in both human and mice bodies: less than 60 milligrams of glucose per deciliter.

Next, when mice experiencing insulin-induced hypoglycemia received an injection of the specialized micelles, they achieved normal blood sugar levels within 40 minutes.

From additional toxicity and biosafety studies in mice, the researchers note that empty micelles didn't trigger an immune response or induce organ damage.

"While more studies are needed, the researchers say their proof-of-concept is a first step toward a new on-demand and effective method for preventing or mitigating extremely low blood sugar levels," the researchers noted.

Just 1-minute phone break in classrooms can help students perform better

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 2

As screen addiction among children becomes a nightmare for parents and teachers, allowing students to use smartphones for a very brief amount of time can actually enhance classroom performance and reduce phone use, researchers said on Wednesday.

A team of US researchers conducted a term-long experiment that showed that allowing college students to use their phones for just one minute could result in less phone use during class and higher test scores.

"We show that technology breaks may be helpful for reducing cell



phone use in the college classroom," said Professor Ryan Redner, a researcher at Southern Illinois University and first author of the study published in the journal *Frontiers in Education*. "To our knowledge, this is the first evaluation of technology breaks in a college classroom."

The researchers found that in class sessions where one-minute breaks were in effect, students' test performance peaked. Higher average test scores (over 80 per cent) were consistently observed.

"Our hope is that it means students were less distracted during lecture,

which leads to better performance," said Redner.

Phones can be distracting as students report using their phones for non-academic purposes as often as 10 times a day. In classrooms, phones are not allowed.

However, throughout a full term, the researchers experimentally evaluated the effectiveness of technology breaks, lasting one, two or four minutes, respectively.

During these breaks, students were not allowed to use their phones, but were encouraged to ask questions. Both breaks occurred 15 minutes into the lecture element of class. In the study, phone use was defined as touching the phone.

The results showed that when technology breaks were implemented, students generally used their phones less often than during sessions with question breaks.

During technology breaks lasting just one minute, phone use was at its lowest, making them most efficient at reducing the time students spent on their phones during class.

"One possibility is that one minute is enough to read and send a smaller number of messages. If they have more time to send many messages, they may be more likely to receive messages and respond again during class," explained Redner.

Hyderabad: Launching first nationwide Telemedicine centre for Deaf

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 2

The KIMS Foundation and Research Centre (KFRC) on Tuesday announced the inauguration of its Telemedicine centre for the Deaf. India is home to over 1.8 million individuals with profound hearing loss, and Deaf people in India face numerous challenges when interacting with healthcare professionals, primarily due to communication barriers.

A significant hurdle is the shortage of certified Indian Sign Language (ISL) interpreters, with only around 300 interpreters available nationwide.

This lack of accessibility often prevents deaf individuals from accessing essential healthcare services, making it difficult to schedule appointments or communicate effectively with doctors.

To address these challenges, the centre was inaugurated by Rajyasri Bollineni

along with Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Bollineni Bhaskar Rao and DEF Founder and President Mr. Sandeep, with an aim to bridge the gap in healthcare accessibility for the deaf community by using advanced video interpretation systems that enable ISL communication between deaf patients and doctors, the foundation said in a release here.

The centre is designed to offer real-time virtual communication between deaf patients and healthcare providers through certified ISL interpreters. This system not only helps facilitate smooth communication but also allows patients to receive care from the comfort of their own homes, Rajyasri said on an occasion.

By leveraging technology, the centre ensures that healthcare becomes more inclusive and accessible for the deaf community, who often struggle with accessing basic medical services, she said.

20 PC OF GLOBAL HEART ATTACK DEATHS OCCUR IN INDIA

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, OCT 2

Prevalence of coronary heart disease has gone up three times over the past three decades in India which now records 20 percent of heart attack deaths worldwide, a report said on Tuesday.

The report on India's cardiac health - Every Beat Counts - has been launched by BM Birla Heart Hospital, part of CK Birla Hospitals.

The report not only sheds light on the cardiac health crisis but also offers insights and actionable strategies to

address the growing prevalence of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) across the country.

According to the report, 20 pc of heart attack deaths worldwide now occur in India, and approximately 90 million Indians currently live with cardiovascular conditions.

The mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (CVD) in India stands at 272 per 100,000 population, exceeding the global average of 235.

Notably, this mortality rate varies significantly between urban and rural areas - it is reported to be 450 in urban India and 200 in rural India.



The report also emphasises the high prevalence of the "thin-fat" body type among Indians, which is characterised

by a normal or below-normal weight but with a higher body fat percentage, resulting in increased cardiovascular risks.

Cardiovascular diseases account for 24.5% of all deaths in India. Alarming, states such as West Bengal and Punjab report mortality rates in which over 35% of deaths are attributed to heart disease.

The report indicates that cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are a leading concern within the health landscape, placing an increasingly heavier burden on India's healthcare system each year.

India faces significant chal-

enges regarding healthcare infrastructure and access, especially in the area of cardiac care.

The country has one cardiologist for every 250,000 Indians, in stark contrast to the United States, where there is one cardiologist for every 7,300 Americans.

The report highlights the urgent need for improved infrastructure, greater access to specialised care and enhanced public awareness to address the escalating cardiovascular crisis in India across all age groups.

CVD is increasingly impact-

ing younger populations, including children, with 10% of infant mortality in India now linked to heart diseases.

The report points out a critical shortage of infrastructure and specialised care, resulting in higher surgical risks and long-term complications for children with congenital heart conditions.

India trains only 35 paediatric cardiologists each year, and the surgical mortality rate for these conditions among children in India ranges from 8% to 13%, compared to less than 5% in developed countries.

PM Modi launches Rs 83,000 cr tribal dev schemes in Hazaribagh on Gandhi Jayanti

AGENCIES
HAZARIBAGH, OCT 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of a series of development projects, worth over Rs 83,000 crore, aimed at uplift of tribal communities from Jharkhand's Hazaribagh on Gandhi Jayanti on Wednesday.

The event took place at the Vinoba Bhawe University here, where the Prime Minister unveiled the various schemes with a strong focus on tribal welfare.

The centrepiece of the launch was the 'Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan', a massive Rs 79,156 crore initia-



tribe aimed at integrating tribal-dominated villages into the mainstream and fostering economic empowerment.

This scheme targets approximately 63,000 tribal villages spread across 2,740 blocks in 549 districts of 30 states and

Union Territories, directly benefiting over 5 crore tribals.

Key components of this scheme include the construction of 20 lakh houses for tribal families, the development of 25,000 km of rural roads and bridges to enhance

connectivity, provision of clean drinking water, along with gas and electricity connections to every household.

Apart from this, the scheme also envisages the establishment of 100 tribal market centres, mobile health centres, ashrams, and skill development centres aimed at improving education and healthcare access with a focus on promoting agriculture, and horticulture to enhance the income of tribal communities, while, at the same time, preserving tribal culture, heritage, and traditions.

In addition to this, PM Modi also inaugurated the PM Jan Man Yojana,

launched 40 Eklavya schools in Jharkhand, and laid the foundation stone for 25 more.

These schools aim to provide quality education to tribal children in remote areas.

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram welcomed Prime Minister Modi at the event, presenting him with a shawl and a Sohrai painting, a symbol of Jharkhand's rich Sarna tribal culture.

These initiatives signify a significant step toward bridging the development gap for India's tribal population, focusing on infrastructure, education, healthcare, and cultural preservation.

Bihar Minister slams Water Resource Dept over flood handling

AGENCIES
PATNA, OCT 2

Bihar Rural Work Minister Ashok Choudhary on Wednesday criticised the state Water Resources Department over its handling of the flood situation in the state.

"Had the department been more vigilant and proactive many embankments could have been saved from breaching which would have reduced the impact of the floods," the minister said.

He added that the flood came unexpectedly and late in the season leading both the state government and the public to assume that Bihar would escape major flooding this year.

"However, the situation

in the Kosi River, which experienced its worst overflow in 56 years, caught the department off guard. If the Water Resources Department had been more cautious, the embankments might not have failed due to the excessive water flow, potentially lessening the devastation caused by the floods," the minister said.

However, despite criticising the Water Resources Department, the minister emphasised that the Nitish Kumar-led state government is actively working to assist the affected population.

"The relief materials are being distributed, relief camps have been established, and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is personally overseeing the relief efforts.

The government will provide financial support by depositing 7,000 directly into the bank accounts of those impacted by the floods," Choudhary said.

In response to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the minister pointed out that while the RJD claims to have helped flood victims during its tenure, the situation could have been different.

He suggested that the lack of attention to Bihar's development under the UPA government contributed to the recurring floods in the state. He also acknowledged the Union government's role in assisting Bihar during the floods, noting that both the Central and state governments are working together to support the victims.

PM Modi virtually inaugurates gaushala with Bio-CNG plant in Gwalior

AGENCIES
BHOPAL, OCT 2

On the occasion of Swachh Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated a gaushala with a Bio-CNG plant in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior on Wednesday and also launched various development projects worth Rs 685 crore for the state.

This is India's first modern and self-reliant gaushala with a Bio-CNG plant, according to an official statement.

The gaushala (cow shelter) at Lal Tipara has 10,000 cows being cared for with the support of the Gwalior Municipal Corporation and the saint community. The shelter can produce three tonnes of natural gas per day by using 100 tonnes of cow dung.

The plant has been set

up in collaboration with the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), and will also produce 20 tonnes of high-quality organic manure, the MP government said in a statement. The IOC will assist in the operation and maintenance of the plant. The gaushala was developed for Rs 32 crore from the corporate social responsibility fund of the IOC.

Considering its future expansion, additional one-hectare land has been reserved. In order to construct a modern cow shed for 2,000 cows, at the gaushala, Rs 2 crore have been provided from the local area development fund of Member of Parliament. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed gratitude to PM Modi for realising his vision of "waste to wealth" for the nation. He also thanked the community of seers

and devotees for taking care of mother cows.

CM Yadav said his government will support the expansion of this initiative in other parts of the state. It is worth recalling here that the largest Bio CNG plant in Asia is operational at Indore, and that was also inaugurated by PM Modi.

Gwalior's bio-gas plant will produce approximately 2 to 3 tons of bio CNG and about 20 tons of high-quality organic manure every day. This will generate an income of around Rs 7 crore for the Gwalior Municipal Corporation.

This project will help people in the Gwalior region in many ways, especially farmers living in surrounding districts will be encouraged to practice organic farming as they will be easily getting bio-manure at very reasonable prices.

Siddaramaiah, authorities conspiring to destroy MUDA scam evidence: Kumaraswamy

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 2

There is a systematic plot to destroy evidence and cover up the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy has alleged.

Speaking to the media before attending the Gandhi Jayanti event near the JD-S party office, Kumaraswamy made serious charges that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his close confidante Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, Lokayukta officials, and MUDA authorities are involved in a coordinated effort to cover up the scam.

He further demanded the immediate arrest of the MUDA Commissioner for violating court orders by accepting the return of



plots from the Chief Minister's wife.

The act of return of 14 plots by CM Siddaramaiah's wife was suspicious. This action violates court orders and constitutes contempt of court. Therefore, the MUDA Commissioner must be arrested," he urged.

Kumaraswamy alleged that by returning the plots,

Report). On Tuesday, Parvathy, the wife of CM Siddaramaiah, personally visited the MUDA office and announced the return of the plots, he stated.

Following this, all the plots were handed back to MUDA, and the sale deeds for the 14 plots were cancelled, according to the MUDA Commissioner's statement. Kumaraswamy underlined that this entire process happened at "rocket speed."

Everything seemed suspicious. Despite orders from the High Court and various judicial bodies, the MUDA Commissioner decided to accept the return of the plots without having the authority to do so, Kumaraswamy maintained.

He accused the CM of misusing his power and questioned on what basis the return of the plots was

allowed, stressing that the MUDA Commissioner had acted beyond his powers and should be arrested immediately.

The Union Minister further alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is misusing Lokayukta officials.

The CM interfered with the investigation.

Who owns the properties? The CM's family deceived the public by creating fake documents and making false claims of ownership. They (CM's family) argued that the acquired land belonged to them and claimed its value as Rs 62 crore. When and where did the MUDA Commissioner accept the request to return the plots, where did he go and whom did he meet? Kumaraswamy questioned. The CM has misused his power, he remarked.

WHO chief praises PM Modi on Swachh Bharat Mission's 10th anniversary

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and commended the efforts of the government on the 10th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

He highlighted the significant strides made in achieving sustainable development goals through this transformative initiative, which mobilises communities to promote a cleaner and healthier nation.

Affectionately introducing himself as "Tulsi Bhai", the WHO Director-

General remarked, "I am honoured to help you celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission, it shows how strong political commitment can drive transformative change toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)."

He further added that the Indian government made sanitation and hygiene national priorities by mobilising resources, engaging communities and igniting a movement to eliminate open defecation and promote a cleaner, healthier nation.

Commending the Swachh Bharat Mission for its focus on equity, local engagement, accountability and sustainability Tedros Adhanom stated,



"It prioritised basic sanitation in rural and underserved areas, mobilised local leaders and used data to track progress."

"Initiatives like these deliver huge benefits for public health, improve sanitation, and save lives by significantly reducing the burden of diseases such as diarrhoea and malnutrition," he added.

He also acknowledged the contribution of the Swachh Bharat initiative to long-term well-being and socio-economic development in communities across India.

The WHO chief also commented on the Ayushman Bharat national health protection scheme, saying, "Alongside the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, this

initiative demonstrates your excellencies' commitment to improving the health and well-being of India's huge population."

The WHO chief concluded expressing his thanks to India. "Thank you for your leadership and may your achievement be an inspiration for the world," he remarked.

Initiated in 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Swachh Bharat Mission targeted to make India Open Defecation Free (ODF). Marking the occasion of the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day paid tribute to India's founding father. Taking this to his social media

X, PM Modi remarked, "Today, on Gandhi Jayanti, I took part in Swachhata-related activities with my young friends. I urge you all to also take part in some or the other such activity during the day and at the same time, keep strengthening the Swachh Bharat Mission. #10YearsofSwachhBharat".

This massive undertaking successfully mobilised nationwide participation, marking it as the largest behavioural change movement globally. By 2019, the mission celebrated the construction of over 100 million individual household toilets, declaring more than six lakh villages ODF, a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary.

Union Minister Manjhi stresses on Khadi promotion for job generation

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 155th birth anniversary on Wednesday by visiting the iconic Khadi Bhandar in the national Capital.

Union Minister Manjhi remarked that Mahatma Gandhi promoted Khadi for employment generation and self-reliance, and Indians should follow his path.

"We should promote Khadi as far as we can. That is why we have come here, and ministers are buying Khadi, encouraging people to purchase more. Our presence here

at Khadi Bhandar aims to boost the sale of Khadi," said the Union Minister.

According to official figures, in July the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) registered a robust 15.7 per cent growth in sales to cross a record Rs 1.55 lakh crore and created a staggering 10.17 lakh new jobs in rural areas during the 2023-24 financial year.

The Union Minister also addressed the multifaceted nature of cleanliness saying, "People usually say that cleanliness means keeping the streets clean, wearing clean clothes, or staying healthy. But there is another meaning to it as well.

Prashant Kishor is out of touch with public sentiment: JD-U

AGENCIES
PATNA, OCT 2

The JD-U on Wednesday criticised the Jan Suraj Chief Prashant Kishor, saying that he has a dual stand on the liquor ban in the state and is out of touch with the public sentiment.

"Prashant Kishor has a dual stand, particularly regarding the liquor ban. He has objected to the ban yet frequently invokes the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, who supported such prohibitions. He should engage the women's community in Patna to see if they support lifting the ban. He is out of touch with public

sentiment. He should start a signature campaign from Patna Women's College for the lifting of the liquor ban," said JD-U Spokesperson Neeraj Kumar.

Kumar alleged that Prashant Kishor is a 'political businessman', claiming that his foray into politics is a result of his fading influence in political consultancy.

"Kishor criticises the migration of people from Bihar, and people like him educate their own children in metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai," Kumar said.

He also highlighted Kishor's silence on inci-

dents like the RG Kar Medical College in West Bengal, attributing it to his political ties with the Trinamool.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwari also downplayed the significance of Prashant Kishor's entry into the political arena, claiming that Kishor's new party will have no impact.

"The formation of political parties is common and everyone has the right to contest elections. The RJD has strong leadership as well as its ideology and commitment to the people, which will keep the party relevant and unaffected by Kishor," he said.

MHA releases Rs 855 crore as central share to 6 flood-affected NE states

AGENCIES
AGARTALA, OCT 2

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has released Rs 855.40 crore to six flood-affected northeastern states as a central share from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and an advance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), officials said on Wednesday.

According to a Disaster Management official in Agartala, Assam got the highest flood relief aid of Rs 716 crore, followed by Rs 50 crore to Manipur, Rs 25 crore to Tripura, Rs 23.60 crore to Sikkim, Rs 21.60 crore to Mizoram, and Rs 19.20 crore to Nagaland.



This Rs 855.40 crore financial assistance is part of the Rs 5,858.60 crore released to 14 flood-affected states. The other affected states include Maharashtra (Rs 1,492 crore), Andhra Pradesh (Rs 1,036 crore), Bihar (Rs

655.60 crore), Gujarat (Rs 600 crore), West Bengal (Rs 468 crore), Telangana (Rs 416.80 crore), Himachal Pradesh (Rs 189.20 crore), and Kerala (Rs 145.60 crore). Chief Ministers Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Manik Saha (Tri-

pura), and N. Biren Singh (Manipur) thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for the flood relief assistance. An official statement said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Shah, the Modi government stands shoulder to shoulder with the states affected by natural calamities in mitigating the hardship faced by the people.

Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) were sent to flood-affected Assam, Mizoram, Kerala, Tripura, Nagaland, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Manipur for an on-the-spot assessment of the damages. Further, IMCTs will be sent shortly

to make an on-the-spot assessment of damage in the states of Bihar and West Bengal, which have also recently been affected by floods. After the assessment reports of IMCTs are received, additional financial assistance from the NDRF will be approved for the disaster-affected states, as per the established procedure.

The statement said that more than Rs 14,958 crore has already been released to 21 states during this year. Of the Rs 14,958 crore, Rs 9,044.80 crore was released from the SDRF to 21 states, Rs 4,528.66 crore from the NDRF to 15 states and Rs 1385.45 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 11 states.

PM Modi wishes for peace and hope in Jewish New Year greetings to 'friend' Netanyahu

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday sent his greetings to Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and people of Israel on the occasion of the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah.

"Best wishes on Rosh Hashanah to my friend PM Netanyahu, the people of Israel and the Jewish community across the world. May the new year bring peace, hope and good health in everyone's life. Shana Tova!" PM Modi posted on X.

PM Modi's wish for peace and hope came less than 18 hours after Iran fired a barrage of nearly 200 missiles at Israel on Tuesday night.

Both leaders had spoken over phone on Monday on the recent developments in West Asia.

"Spoke to Prime Min-



ister 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 to supporting efforts for an early restoration of peace and stability," said PM Modi after his phone call with Netanyahu on September 30.

Deeply worried at the escalating situation across the region, India

on Wednesday called for "restraint by all concerned".

"We are deeply concerned at the escalation of security situation in West Asia and reiterate our call for restraint by all concerned and protection of civilians," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday, following Iran's attack on Israel.

The statement, however, did not mention name of any country but

expressed concern at the escalating situation across the Middle East.

"It is important that the conflict doesn't take a wider regional dimension and we urge that all issues be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy," it added.

Earlier in the day, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a travel advisory for Indian citizens, advising them to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran due to the current crisis.

"We are closely monitoring the recent escalation in the security situation in the region," the MEA travel advisory said adding that "Indian nationals are advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran".

The MEA also urged Indians currently residing in Iran to remain vigilant and stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Tehran. Meanwhile, Lok

Sabha Speaker also sent Rosh Hashanah greetings to Israeli Parliament Speaker Amir Ohana, on Wednesday.

"On the auspicious occasion of Rosh Hashanah, my heartiest greetings to Speaker Amir Ohana, and the Jewish people from around the world. May the New Year bring hope and peace to all. Shana Tova!" Birla posted on X.

Responding immediately to his greetings, the Knesset Speaker hailed the time-tested partnership between India and Israel.

"Thank you, my dear friend, Om Birla, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Indian Parliament, for your New Year wishes. India is one of our closest friends, and in the new year we will continue to enhance the ties between our countries, peoples and parliaments," said Ohana.

Deeply concerned at escalation of security situation in West Asia: India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

India on Wednesday called for "restraint by all concerned" while reiterating that it remains "deeply concerned" at the escalation of security situation in West Asia.

"We are deeply concerned at the escalation of security situation in West Asia and reiterate our call for restraint by all concerned and protection of civilians," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday, following Iran's attack on Israel on Tuesday night.

The statement, however, did not mention name of any country but expressed concern at the escalating situation across the Middle East.

"It is important that the conflict doesn't take a wider regional dimension and we urge that all issues be addressed through dia-



logue and diplomacy," it added.

Last week, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar had held discussions with the Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on the current geopolitical scenario in the region during the BRICS meeting held on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York.

Earlier in the day, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a travel advisory for Indian citizens,

advising them to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran due to the current crisis.

"We are closely monitoring the recent escalation in the security situation in the region," the MEA travel advisory said adding that "Indian nationals are advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran".

The MEA also urged Indians currently residing in Iran to remain vigilant and stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Tehran.

Somali President urges for investments in agricultural sector to boost economy

AGENCIES
MOGADISHU, OCT 2

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud opened the First International Conference on Agri-Value Chain Investments in the country to help boost the agricultural sector, the backbone of the economy.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation organised the two-day conference on Tuesday to promote partnerships, investment, and sustainable growth in Somalia's agriculture industry.

The conference brought together international investors, the business community, donors, and agricultural experts who are exploring sustainable agri-investment opportunities and fostering robust partnerships, Xinhua news agency reported.



In the opening remarks, President Mohamud underscored the opportunities within Somalia's agricultural sector, noting that the country is strategically positioned for growth and is ready to welcome global partnerships that will drive prosperity.

"Somalia is open for business, and our agricultural sector is ripe for investment. With over 3,300 km of coastline and a strategic location

on major global shipping routes, we offer unparalleled access to international markets," he told participants in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

"Our young, dynamic population, with over 70 per cent under the age of 30, is eager to embrace innovation.

Together, we can transform this potential into prosperity, benefiting both our nation and the world," he said.

The President also highlighted Somalia's commitment to improving agricultural infrastructure, promoting private sector engagement, and fostering innovation across the entire value chain. He invited investors to be part of Somalia's agricultural revolution, emphasising the country's fertile lands, diverse climate, and potential for crops such as sesame, bananas, and mangoes.

Mohamud told participants of the government's plans to ensure Somalia is suitable for investments, which he said is the basis of the eradication of terrorists, the development of laws and governance, the building of economic infrastructure, and being part of the markets and international business associations.

Marked by congeniality, Walz-Vance debate a polar opposite of acrimonious Harris-Trump encounter

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 2

The optics of the almost congenial vice presidential debate between Democrat Tim Walz and Republican J. D. Vance were the stark opposite of the acrimonious presidential faceoff between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.

Expected fireworks at the vice presidential debate on Tuesday night ended up a damp squib as the two rivals avoided personal attacks and even expressed mild agreement on some issues.

The 20-year age difference between Vance at 40 and Walz at 60, is a reversal from the presidential, where Trump is 78 to Harris, 59.

Harris and Trump hovered over the debate like ethereal presences whose performances in office the



debaters had to defend - on immigration, inflation, foreign policy, and energy.

Walz, the balding avuncular former teacher and football coach, who proclaimed his middle-class background, was more tense, speaking with his hands and making dramatic facial expressions.

Vance, the bearded 40-year-old, suave self-made millionaire venture capitalist, stressed the depths of abject poverty he grew up in with a mother who was a drug

addict and a grandmother who couldn't afford to heat their home in winter.

His performance was different too, from the scorch-earth rhetoric of Trump and a contrast to his pugilistic persona on the campaign trail.

Vance put on a measured and often genial performance, saying at one point, "If Tim Walz is the next vice president, he'll have my prayers, he'll have my best wishes, and he'll have my help whenever he wants it".

Walz said, "I've enjoyed tonight's debate, and I think there was a lot of commonality here."

"Me too, man," Vance responded.

The congeniality was perhaps a disappointment to the extremes of both parties who wanted them to go for the jugular.

They seem to agree on some aspects of the housing crisis, on childcare and on reducing gun violence, but not on the solutions.

On the extremely divisive issue of legal abortions, Vance tried to put on a compassionate face, without ceding ground on his opposition to it but accepting his state's referendum backing it.

But there were tense moments, too.

At one point the moderators cut off the microphone as they squabbled on the immigration issue.

Over 100,000 people move from Lebanon into Syria: UN

AGENCIES
UNITED NATIONS, OCT 2

More than 100,000 people have moved from Lebanon into Syria, as over 200,000 people have been displaced from southern Lebanon due to the evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military, a UN spokesman said.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned that the number of displaced people is expected to rise, as the Israeli Defense Forces continue to issue evacuation orders, including in 30 villages in south Lebanon, and those orders were issued between Monday and Tuesday, said Stephane Dujarric, the chief spokesman for UN Secretary-General



Antonio Guterres, Xinhua news agency reported.

In northern Israel, over 60,000 people remain displaced from their homes, said the spokesman at a daily briefing.

The UN Refugee Agency continues to step up its emergency response and work with partners to provide urgent humanitarian and protection support in its response to those displaced in Lebanon.

The United Nations and its partners are supporting the Lebanese government's response by providing food, nutrition for children, water and other essential supplies such as mattresses and hygiene kits.

The United Nations Children's Fund supported nearly 200 collective shelters hosting 50,000 displaced with essential supplies.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Chinese Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong on Wednesday said that Beijing is willing to work with the Indian side to advance bilateral relations on a "healthy and stable track".

The diplomat was responding to President Droupadi Murmu's customary greetings to Chinese Xi Jinping and people of China on the occasion of the country's 75th National Day on Tuesday.

"President Droupadi Murmu sent her congratulatory message to President Xi Jinping and the Chinese people on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. China is willing to work with the Indian

side to advance bilateral relations on a healthy and stable track, in accordance with the principle of mutual respect, mutual understanding, mutual trust, mutual accommodation and mutual accomplishment," Xu Feihong posted on X on Wednesday afternoon.

The Chinese Ambassador also posted President Murmu's message, dated September 27, along with his comment.

In her greetings, President Murmu conveyed her best wishes to the Chinese President's personal health and well-being, and for the progress and prosperity of the people of the People's Republic of China.

"As two large neighbours with many common developmental challenges and shared regional inter-



ests, it is important that we work towards peaceful and stable relations between our two countries," wrote President Murmu.

"I look forward to working with you to realize a mutually beneficial relationship and leverage our respective strengths for the benefit of people of both countries and the region and world," she mentioned.

Last month, during a meeting between National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Russia's Saint Petersburg held on the sidelines of the Meeting of BRICS High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters/National Security Advisors, the two sides had agreed that the India-China bilateral relationship is significant not just for the two countries but also for the region and the world.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the significant meeting between NSA Doval and Wang Yi, who is also a Member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Political Bureau besides being the Director of the Office of the Central Foreign Affairs Commis-

sion, gave the two sides an opportunity to review the recent efforts towards finding an early resolution of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which will create conditions to stabilise and rebuild bilateral relations.

"Both sides agreed to work with urgency and redouble their efforts to realize complete disengagement in the remaining areas. NSA conveyed that peace and tranquility in border areas and respect for LAC are essential for normalcy in bilateral relations. Both sides must fully abide by relevant bilateral agreements, protocols, and understandings reached in the past by the two Governments," the MEA stated after the meeting.

Pakistan polio tally mounts to 26 as Sindh records two more cases

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, OCT 2

The total number of polio cases in Pakistan has risen to 26 after two more cases were reported from Sindh, the National Institute of Health (NIH) announced.

According to an NIH official, one case was detected in the Karachi East district, and the other was in the Sajawal district on Tuesday, reports local media.

Of the 26 cases, 22 have been reported in the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh, while two cases were found in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one case each in Punjab and the federal capital, reports Dawn.

Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Ayesha Raza Farooq, expressed concern over the ongoing threat posed by the disease.

"It is heartbreaking that Pakistani children are still being threatened by a disease that can be easily prevented

with the polio vaccine," she said. Stressing that there is no cure for polio, she highlighted the importance of repeated vaccinations to protect children from the disease's paralytic effects.

"One child affected by polio means that hundreds of children around them can be silent carriers of the virus," she warned, adding that no child is safe until all children in Pakistan are vaccinated to build a barrier against the virus.

Dutch PVV party leader presses for emergency law to restrict asylum influx

AGENCIES
THE HAGUE, OCT 2

Dutch far-Right Party for Freedom (PVV) leader Geert Wilders, who is leading the largest partner in the four-party ruling coalition, intensified pressure on the government for emergency legislation to curb the influx of asylum seekers, hinting that the

coalition could collapse if his demands are not met.

Speaking to Dutch media on Tuesday in The Hague, Wilders stressed that the coalition parties, which include his PVV, the New Social Contract (NSC), the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), and the Farmer-Citizen Movement (BBB), had already agreed

on the need for emergency measures in their coalition agreement.

"I hope that people realise that this has not only been agreed but that there is also very little room to manoeuvre for us," Wilders said. "If we do not get emergency legislation, then the government will have a problem. I do not know whether we will

continue happily for much longer."

In the coming weeks, the Dutch government is set to discuss potential emergency measures related to asylum policy. The PVV is pushing for the Cabinet to declare "exceptional circumstances" to curb the influx of asylum seekers, Xinhua news agency reported.

Israel-Iran conflict: India Inc braces for wider sea trade disruption

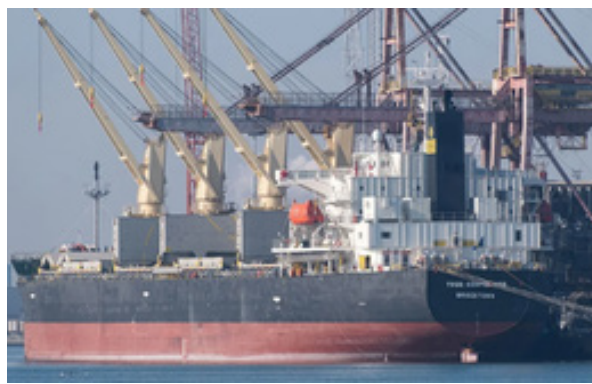
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

As the conflict in the Middle East escalates with Israel vowing to retaliate after the missile attacks by Iran, India Inc is bracing for a wider trade disruption across the key Red Sea route.

The conflict can lead to higher cargo freight rates as Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah militia has close ties with the Houthi rebels in Yemen -- responsible for most attacks on ships travelling via the Red Sea route, say industry experts, adding that a direct conflict between Israel and Iran may severely disrupt the crucial trade route for the Indian exporters.

The Red Sea crisis started in October last year, with Iran-backed Houthi rebels disrupting trade in the area.

This has affected India's



petroleum exports which dropped 37.56 per cent to \$5.96 billion in August this year, down from \$9.54 billion in the same month last year.

As per a recent Crisil Ratings report, Indian companies use the Red Sea route through the Suez Canal to trade with Europe, North America, north Africa, and part of the Middle East.

The report mentioned that these regions accounted for 50 per cent of

India's exports worth Rs 18 lakh crore and 30 per cent of imports worth Rs 17 lakh crore in FY23.

The country's overall merchandise trade (exports and imports combined) in FY23 was Rs 94 lakh crore, with 68 per cent (in value terms) and 95 per cent (in volume terms) shipped by sea.

The attacks on ships sailing in the Red Sea area since November last year have forced companies to look for alternative, longer

routes past the Cape of Good Hope.

The Crisil report further said that this has not only stretched delivery time by 15-20 days, but also increased the transit cost substantially because of incremental freight rates and insurance premiums. Industry experts say that India's trade with the Middle East still remains healthy due to friendly regional players such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar. The bilateral trade between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries reached \$162 billion last year.

As per the latest government data, the GCC now contributes 15 per cent of India's total trade and sectors like energy, defence, security and health are growing in the region.

Moreover, according to the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF)

data, the trade via the Egyptian Suez Canal nosedived by 50 per cent (year-over-year) in the first two months of the year.

In FY24, the Suez Canal's annual revenue dropped by about 23.4 per cent due to the Red Sea crisis. According to Osama Rabie, Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA), "revenues fell to \$7.2 billion in the fiscal year 2023/2024 that ended in June from \$9.4 billion a year earlier".

According to experts, the rising tensions in the Red Sea area are not only affecting the Suez Canal but also the maritime transportation market, trade movement and international supply chains.

On Wednesday, India issued a travel advisory for its citizens, advising them to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran due to the escalating tension in the region.

India IPO boom: 15 companies submit draft documents in just 1 day

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

As Indian stock markets continue to show robust growth despite global uncertainties, a record 15 companies registered their initial public offering (IPO) documents with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on the last day of September.

This took the total filings for the month to 41 which is the highest-ever IPO document filing in a single month.

According to market watchers, the surge in draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filings happened as audited financials for the quarter ending March 31 are valid only until September 30.

"We forecast more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore of fund raise via IPOs this year. Increasing number of growth-stage businesses will hit the street. Moreover, we will have

trend of multinationals coming to tap Indian capital market," said Mahavir Lunawat, Managing Director, Pantomath Capital Advisors.

"Besides, several other market liquidity parameters, notably monthly mutual fund flow has doubled since last quarter and we are getting close to Rs 40,000 crore of money every month. This has fuelled capital market buoyancy phenomenally," he added.

The Indian equity markets have reached all-time closing highs, reflecting investor confidence driven by anticipated changes in the domestic interest rate cycle following the US Federal Reserve's recent 50-basis-point rate cut.

The overall trend in the Indian equity market remains positive, said experts.

Additionally, the inclusion of Indian sovereign bonds in JP Morgan's

global debt indices has attracted around \$18 billion in foreign investment over the past year, with expectations for continued growth following recent US interest rate cuts.

According to analysts, this influx is lowering bond yields, reducing borrowing costs, and positioning Indian debt as increasingly attractive for foreign investors. Future monthly inflows could reach \$2 to \$3 billion, significantly boosting foreign participation in India's bond market.

As per Angel One Wealth data, in the first half of this year, more than 5,450 companies have been listed across the world, in which India's share was about 25 per cent.

Last year also a large number of IPO listings were seen in India. The reason for this was the high inflow by domestic investors in emerging companies and sectors.

Vistara to get 'AI2' flight number after merger with Air India next month

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

National carrier Air India on Wednesday said that flights operated by Vistara will start using the flight code 'AI2' after the merger of the two airlines next month.

Despite the integration on November 12, the Vistara experience will "remain the same", said the Tata Group-owned airline.

The merger involves Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, and Air India.

Currently, Air India uses the airline code 'AI' while Vistara uses 'UK.' According to the company, both the airlines have been working hard for over a year to ensure that the merger

of the legal and regulated entities is seamless for both customers and staff.

"Though the legal entities and Air Operator Certificates will become one on 12 November, the Vistara experience will remain.

Vistara aircraft, crew and service will continue to operate as before, but with AI2XXX flight numbers bookable via airindia.com," said an Air India spokesperson in a statement.

In parallel, Air India's narrow-body fleet continue to be upgraded with new aircraft being delivered, legacy aircraft being refitted with entirely new interiors and Vistara's catering now also extended to Air India.

"We look forward to

drawing upon the proud legacies and best practices of both airlines as we form a new airline group of which India can be proud," the spokesperson added.

In July this year, Air India said it had completed harmonising operating procedures across key functions for the four Tata Group airlines as a crucial step towards the merger. Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Group (51 per cent) and Singapore Airlines (49 per cent), is being merged into Air India to create a single full-service carrier.

At the same time, Air India's subsidiaries, AIX Connect (formerly Tata Air Asia) and Air India Express, have merged to form a single low-budget airline.

Leverage India's unmatched scale: Piyush Goyal tells US companies

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has invited American companies to leverage India's unmatched scale and take advantage of the 'Make in India' initiative, particularly in high-tech manufacturing and quality production.

Minister Goyal, who began his four-day visit to the US this week, had a discussions with existing and potential US investors, highlighting the avenues for cooperation in various sectors.

According to a Ministry of Commerce and Industry statement, in his meeting with Stephen Schwarzman who is the CEO of top investment firm Blackstone, Minister Goyal took note of the fact that the company has already invested about \$50 billion in India and is one of the



largest commercial and real estate investors in the country.

Timothy F Geithner, President of Warburg Pincus, also called on the minister for a one-on-one discussion that covered various areas where there is scope for further improving the ease of doing business.

"Had an engaging meeting with Sanjiv Ahuja, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of the leading global digital infrastructure firm, Tillman Global Holdings," the minister posted on X

social media platform.

"India's world-class digital infrastructure offers exciting investment opportunities, including in sustainable data centres. With its skilled talent pool, we are nurturing innovation and enterprise to position India as a leader in green technology and capabilities," he added.

The minister also chaired a roundtable discussion with young CEOs and entrepreneurs of Indian origin in New York, organised by the Consulate General of India.

Co-CEO, and Chirag Patel, President and Co-CEO of Amneal Pharmaceuticals. They explored ways to enhance India's pharmaceutical ecosystem for high-end R&D, including biologics, and improved manufacturing capabilities to establish a robust global supply chain.

A productive meeting was held with Henry R Kravis, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Chairman of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co (KKR).

The Commerce Minister highlighted potential investment opportunities in India's electronics manufacturing, data infrastructure, and logistics sectors.

He underscored the consistent economic growth in India over the past decade and the vast consumer market, which present numerous opportunities for strategic investments.

The Commerce Minister met Chintu Patel,

SEBI announces new measures to curb F&O trading, strengthen equity markets

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 2

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced several new measures to curb speculative trading in the futures and option (F&O) segment as nine out of ten participants have consistently lost money over the past three years.

Under the F&O measures, market regular has increased the minimum contract size in the index derivatives to Rs 15 lakh from the current Rs 5 lakh.

SEBI has also reduced the weekly index expiry count to one per exchange. This means that exchanges



can only offer one expiry in a week on one benchmark index.

"In order to specifically address this issue of excessive trading in index derivatives on expiry day, it has been decided to rational-

ise index derivatives products offered by exchanges which expire on a weekly basis. Henceforth, each exchange may provide derivatives contracts for only one of its benchmark index with weekly expiry,"

SEBI said in a circular.

The market regulator has taken this step due to heavy losses incurred by retail investors in the F&O segment.

As per the recent study released by SEBI, in the last three years, a combined loss of Rs 1.81 lakh crore has been incurred by 1.10 crore traders. Out of these, only 7 per cent of traders have been successful in making a profit.

After the new SEBI circular, the size of derivatives contracts in benchmark indices like Nifty and Sensex will increase from Rs 5 lakh-Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh-Rs 20 lakh.

This measure would be

effective for all new index derivatives contracts introduced after November 20, 2024.

The derivatives market in India has significantly increased in the last few years. In July, SEBI's paper said that India's derivatives market has surpassed the cash market. At present, India accounts for 30 to 50 per cent of the total global derivatives trading.

According to the data, cash market turnover in India has doubled from FY 20 to FY 24, while the turnover of index options has increased 12 times to Rs 138 lakh crore in FY 24, which was Rs 11 lakh crore in FY 20.

Record 22.98 lakh director KYC forms filed in first 6 months of FY25: Centre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

A record 22.98 lakh director KYC forms have been filed in the first six months of the current fiscal (FY25), exceeding the entire FY24 figures, the government informed.

According to a Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) statement, it observed robust director KYC filing during FY25.

From April 1 till September 30, 22.98 lakh DIR-3 KYC forms were filed, compared to 20.54 lakh forms filed during the same period last fiscal.

"The filing upto Sep-

tember 2024 during FY25 has exceeded filing of 22.02 lakh forms during entire FY23-24," the ministry noted.

The government is aiming to enhance stakeholders' experience on MCA-21 portal and taking proactive measures towards ease of doing business and ease of living. According to MCA, a special team has also been constituted to look into the grievances of stakeholders for efficient disposal, suggest systemic solution, if required, and provide better guidance to the stakeholders for their compliances on MCA-21 Portal.

As per the provisions

of Rule 12 A of Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules 2014, every individual who holds a Director Identification Number as on March 31 of a financial year need to submit DIR-3 KYC form on or before September 30 of immediate next financial year.

Moreover, where an individual who has already submitted DIR-3 KYC in relation to any previous financial year, submits DIR-3 KYC web in relation to any subsequent financial year it shall be deemed to be compliance of the provisions of this rule for the said financial year, informed the ministry.

Ola Electric's EV market share drops to 27 pc as problems mount

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Bhavish Aggarwal-run Ola Electric continues to lose its market share in the Indian EV market and in the month of September, it further dropped to 27 per cent amid rising competition as well as its crippling service centres.

The company saw 24,665 e-scooter sales last

month, from 27,587 units sold in August, according to the government transportation portal Vahan.

Ola Electric's market share has been consistently decreasing amid rising competition from rivals like TVS Motor and Bajaj Auto. It earlier dropped to 31 per cent in August.

The company's nearest rivals TVS Motor and Bajaj Auto narrowed the gap in

September, increasing their market share once again. Bajaj Auto showed growth with registrations rising to 19,103 units in September (from 16,789 units in August). TVS Motor registered 18,084 units, up from 17,649 units in August.

Ather Energy also saw a boost in sales, with volumes climbing to 12,676 units in September (from 10,980 units in August).

India's EV market rises 23 pc in September with 1.59 lakh unit sales

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

In a boost for the electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the country, the total EV registrations reached 1.59 lakh units in September -- up from 1.29 lakh units in the same month last year.

According to the government's VAHAN data, EV registrations saw a significant 23 per cent increase (year-on-year). In the first half of the current fiscal, EV volumes increased 20 per cent compared with



the same period last year. Electric two-wheeler sales were 0.90 lakh units, a rise from 0.64 lakh units

in the same month last year. The electric three-wheeler segment saw 0.63 lakh unit sales, compared

with 0.58 lakh units in September 2023, as per the data.

Ola Electric saw a dip in sales to 24,665 units in September from 27,587 units in August. Bajaj Auto showed growth with registrations rising to 19,103 units in September (16,789 units). TVS Motor registered 18,084 units, up from 17,649 units in August.

EV firm Ather Energy saw a boost in sales, with volumes climbing to 12,676 units in September (from

10,980 units in August). Hero MotoCorp saw a decline in sales to 4,304 units (from 4,755 units).

In the electric three-wheeler segment, Mahindra Last Mile Mobility maintained its leadership with 6,087 units, followed by Bajaj Auto with 5,004 units.

For the first half of the current fiscal (FY25), total EV registrations across all segments rose to 8.93 lakh units compared with 7.45 lakh units in the same period last year.

Women's T20 WC: When you play for India, there are no excuses, says Smriti Mandhana

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Ahead of India's campaign starting in the Women's T20 World Cup on October 4 against New Zealand, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana said there are no excuses on offer when someone is playing for the country at the international level.

India will also play an afternoon game against Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium on October 6. "The afternoon game is going to be a challenge due to the heat, but when you play for India, there are no excuses. You have to prepare well, and I think we have a couple of afternoon sessions lined up to help us get used to the conditions."

"By the time we face Pakistan, I'm sure we'll be ready. Mentally, we need to stay strong and keep pushing, staying hydrated is key. It hasn't been easy.



Coming from India, we are somewhat used to the heat compared to other teams, but the first couple of days were really tiring.

"I'm sure by the time we reach our first match, we'll be better adjusted to the conditions. The preparation has been really good. We had an amazing camp in Bangalore before coming to Dubai, where we tried to cover all bases. Now, it's just about fine-tuning everything before we get going," said Smriti to broadcasters Star

Sports. Talking about the India-Pakistan rivalry in women's cricket, Smriti remarked, "I think the India-Pakistan rivalry is more about the emotions of the fans than anything else. It's not like the players don't talk to each other; it's the emotions from both nations that make it so intense."

"For me, every World Cup match is special, and we put the same amount of effort into each game. But there's definitely a lot

of emotion attached to the India-Pakistan games," she added. India will also be facing Australia and Sri Lanka in their Group A games. "Every game in the World Cup is important, and you have to give your 100% in each one. New Zealand and Sri Lanka are strong teams, but with Australia, you know you can't afford to make mistakes."

"You have to bring your best game on that particular day to get the better of them. There's always excitement when facing Australia because they're such a good team, and beating them is a great challenge," added Smriti.

The left-handed opener, whose cricketing idols were Kumar Sangakkara and Meg Lanning, said she has a lot of fun in opening the batting with Shafali Verma. "It's a lot of fun opening with Shafali. The conversations between us are pretty funny. I hope

the mic never catches them because they can be really random!"

"We've been opening together for the last 2-3 years and know each other's game really well. Many times, we don't even need to talk; we can just communicate with gestures. There's a great bond between us, and if we get going in the powerplay, it's always good for the team."

Speaking about playing under Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti signed off by saying, "It's been amazing to be on this journey with Harman since my debut. Over the last 8-9 years, we've seen how much women's cricket has grown."

"One thing about Harman is that she's always going to fight it out, no matter the situation. She's fierce and always gives her best, and that's something I admire. She's not only a motivation for me but also for the younger players in the team."

Women's T20 landscape undergone a lot of change: Mithali Raj

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

With the ninth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup set to commence on October 3 in the UAE, former India captain Mithali Raj said the tournament's landscape has undergone huge change in the last few years.

The first-ever Women's T20 World Cup at a neutral venue will see India reviving its quest to win its maiden trophy. "The Women's T20 landscape has undergone a lot of change over the years and the growing interest among fans is palpable. This tournament isn't just about crowning champions—it's about celebrating the hard work, dedication, and journey of women cricketers globally."

"I have seen from close quarters how the players have worked hard on their skills in this format and am excited to get close to the action and share my perspective and some interesting stories," said Mithali in a statement issued by



the International Cricket Council.

Mithali will be a part of the commentary team for the tournament alongside previous T20 World Cup winners Mel Jones, Lisa Sthalekar, Stacy Ann King, Lydia Greenway, and Carlos Brathwaite.

Anjum Chopra, Katey Martin, Sana Mir, WV Raman, Natalie Germanos, Ian Bishop, Kass Naidoo, Nasser Hussain, Alison Mitchell, and Mpumelelo Mbangwa complete rest of the broadcasting line-up.

"The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 is another monumental step forward for the game. It's incredible to see the rapid growth of women's cricket, not just

in terms of skill and athleticism, but in how it's being embraced globally."

"The record-breaking increase in prize money now has the women earning the same as the men for match wins and finishing positions, a testament to the sport's rising stature. I can't wait to see the world's best players battle it out on this huge stage, and I'm thrilled to be part of the commentary team for this historic tournament," said Mel. India are in Group A alongside six-time champions Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, while Group B comprises Bangladesh, 2009 champions England, South Africa, 2016 winners West Indies, and Scotland.

"The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 in the UAE is a historic event for so many reasons. We're seeing elite athletes at the peak of their powers, and with the increased prize pool, it's clear the game is being given the platform and respect it deserves.

India to host inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in 2025

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) and the International Kho Kho Federation, have announced that the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup will take place in India in 2025.

The event will witness the participation of 24 countries from 6 continents and will feature 16 men's and as many as women's teams.

Ahead of the World Cup, the KKFI plans to take the sport to 200 elite schools across 10 cities to promote the sport. The federation will also run a membership drive for the school students with the aim of registering at least 50 lakh players ahead of the mega tournament.

Sudhanshu Mittal, KKFI president expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming event, "We are incredibly excited to host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup. This tournament is not just about competi-



tion; it's about bringing nations together, promoting cultural exchange, and showcasing the beauty and intensity of Kho Kho to the world. Our ultimate goal is to see Kho Kho recognised as an Olympic sport by 2032, and this World Cup is the first step towards that dream."

The tournament will feature a week-long series of matches, with top-tier athletes from across the globe demonstrating their skills, agility, and teamwork. Meanwhile, the Kho Kho World Cup aims to elevate this indigenous

Indian sport to an international stage. By hosting this landmark tournament, the KKFI aspires to secure Kho Kho's place in the Olympic Games by the 2032 edition, marking a significant milestone in the sport's history.

Kho Kho has its roots in India, and the World Cup will highlight the rich cultural heritage and competitive spirit of the sport. The sport that started in the mud and now gone to the mat has a global presence with 54 countries playing the sport across the world.

IPL 2025: Ajay Jadeja reckons Dhoni, Gaikwad, Jadeja to be CSK's no-brainer retentions

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Former India cricketer Ajay Jadeja reckons MS Dhoni, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ravindra Jadeja will be the three no-brainer retentions for the Chennai Super Kings ahead of IPL 2025 mega auction.

The ten IPL franchises can retain up to six players from their IPL 2024 squad, including a maximum of five capped players (Indian & overseas) and a maximum of two uncapped players ahead of the mega auction.

"MS Dhoni for sure. There's no doubt about that, especially because he's now an uncapped player. He's done a lot for the team and has no desire to be treated as the No. 1 player on the squad. His value is unquestioned."

"Ruturaj Gaikwad is the captain, and he's had a



good year, so you'll hope to retain him as well. Ravindra Jadeja can't be left out either, so these three, I think, are perfect for them," said Jadeja on JioCinema.

Ex-India batter Aakash Chopra thinks the Right to Match card (RTM) will be of advantage to CSK, the five-time IPL champions. "I don't think they'll retain five players. They might go for 3-4. I see two players worth 18 CR in Ruturaj

Gaikwad and Ravindra Jadeja. If you want to keep them, you have to match that price. Other than that, they have MS Dhoni, Shivam Dube, and Matheesha Pathirana.

"I think they'll keep Dube and use the RTM card for Deepak Chahar, maybe, depending on his fitness. The price for these players is really high, so the RTM card could be useful to get players for cheaper. If Dube is sold in

the auction, he might fetch over 10 or 11 crores."

Delving on the potential auction strategy for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), Chopra thinks the franchise might let go of their current skipper Faf du Plessis. "I don't think they'll be able to retain their captain. It's not about his ability; it's about his age. When you're talking about a mega auction, it's for the next three seasons."

"You have to question if Faf will be a part of this franchise for three more years, and I personally don't think that's likely. He's a very active cricketer, but he's not excelling in the CPL right now. All good stories come to an end."

On the other hand, Jadeja thinks RCB will be judicious with their IPL 2025 retentions. "We don't even need to discuss

Virat Kohli; it's the same as Dhoni. I favour Rajat Patidar, whether it's his style or his role in RCB's revival. He's the future. In the 4 CR range, you have Anuj Rawat, who has played well alongside Patidar."

"Wicketkeeper-batsmen are rare commodities, especially of high quality. In terms of overseas players, I think they like changing players and styles every year. I think they're going to retain a total of two or three players."

"I believe retaining Mohammed Siraj and Yash Dayal will be an emotional decision. If the backend remains the same, then there is a chance that Dayal gets picked before Siraj. If not, then the new personnel in charge will look at starting from scratch. So, due to the RTM, I think not as many players will get retained," he concluded.

'Tim will continue to be an important leader within this group': NZC

AGENCIES
WELLINGTON, OCT 2

Tim Southee has stepped down as New Zealand Test captain, with Tom Latham confirmed to take up the role full-time.

Latham, who has captained the Test side on nine previous occasions, will lead a 15-strong Test squad including Southee, to India next Friday.

Southee has played 102 Tests for the Black Caps since debuting in 2008, claiming 382 wickets, second only to Sir Richard Hadlee.

The 35-year-old has captained the side in 14 Tests (6 wins, 6 losses, 2 draws) since taking over from Kane Williamson in December 2022, and said the decision to step down was made in the best interests of the team.

"Captaining the Black Caps in a format that's so special to me, has been an absolute honour and a privilege," he said.

"I've always tried to put the team first throughout my career and I believe this decision is the best for the team."

"I believe the way I can best serve the team moving forward is focus-



ing on my performances on the field and getting back to my best, to continue taking wickets and helping New Zealand win Test matches."

"I will, as I've always done, continue to support my teammates, especially the exciting young bowlers making their way on the international stage."

"I wish Tom all the best in the role and he knows I'll be there to support him on his journey, as he has done for me over the years."

Coach Gary Stead acknowledged Southee's contribution to the Test team.

"Tim's a fantastic player and a very good leader

who is held in high regard by the players and support staff," he said.

"He's been a great servant of New Zealand Cricket over nearly 17 years playing on the international stage, and I'd like to acknowledge his humility in stepping down from the role as Test captain."

"It's not easy giving up something you love, but Tim is a true team-man and he's made the decision with the team's best interests at heart."

"He's one of our greatest ever players and we still very much see him playing a part in our Test side moving forward."

NZC CEO Scott Weenink saluted Southee for his selflessness in putting the team first.

"It's a measure of the man that he continues to put the team interests ahead of his own and, despite his obvious personal disappointment, wants to do the best thing possible for everyone else."

"To me, that's the sign of a true leader in every sense of the word."

Weenink said Southee's statesmanship would endure whether or not he was captain.

Open Talent Hunt set for grand finale with combined national competition in Rohtak from Oct 6

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Open Talent Hunt boxing competition grand finale along with the Combined National Talent Hunt will be held in Rohtak, Haryana, from October 6 to 22.

The Elite and Youth men and women competition will be played from October 6 to 13 with the Elite boxers competing in 12 weight categories and the Youth in 10. This will be followed by competition in junior and sub-junior men and women competitions from October 15 to 22 and will have 13 and 14 weight categories, respectively.

Organised by Boxing Federation of India in association with REC Limited, Talent Hunt competition's first two legs saw over 4000 boxers from sub-junior to senior age categories showcase their skills in Noida and Guwahati and the top eight pugilists from both the competitions will get a chance to seek a direct entry in the National Championships by reaching the final, while the quarterfinalists will earn a scholarship



from BFI to support their training.

"Compared to last year, we have received an overwhelming response to the Talent Hunt with the overall quality of boxers coming from different parts of the country has been very encouraging. The direct entry for the two finalists in the Nationals and an outside chance of making it to the National Camp have been two major reasons behind this improved participation and we are looking forward to selecting some good talent to nurture from the combined nationals," said Hemanta

Kumar Kalita, Secretary General, Boxing Federation of India.

The initiative aimed at growing the sport beyond the traditional pockets and in the process identify and nurture emerging talent that can bring glory for the nation in major international competitions like the world championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and the Olympics.

Last year, the talent hunt was held across four locations followed by a Combined Nationals and over 6000 boxers had participated across the country.

Premier League: Brighton defender Van Hecke out for six weeks with 'significant tear'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 2

Brighton and Hove Albion defender Jan Paul Van Hecke is set for an extended period on the sidelines which could amount to six weeks after scans indicated a 'significant tear' on his groin. He missed out on Brighton's 2-4 loss to Chelsea on Saturday.

"I've been wearing it for a while and also played matches with it, but in the final phase against Nottingham Forest, it hit my groin. Afterwards, we had a scan made and it became clear that there was a significant tear."

"It remains to be seen how the rehabilitation will go, but in principle, it will take six weeks. I feel like I'm a little ahead of schedule. I hope that things will go a little faster and that I can connect again sooner," van Hecke told ESPN. Jan Paul van Hecke joined Albion from NAC Breda in September 2020, signing a three-year contract.

Gandhi Jayanti

Swachhata Abhiyan held across all Districts of Kashmir



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 2

One the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated every year on 2nd October to mark the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who was famously known as Mahatma Gandhi, Swachhata Abhiyan was today observed across all the districts of Kashmir.

The celebrations were held under the able direction of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

In Srinagar, the District Judiciary and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), in collaboration with (NGO), observed Swachh Bharat 2024 and celebrated Gandhi Jayanti at District Court Complex Srinagar under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The event commenced with a vibrant rally, which saw enthusiastic participation from all the Judicial officers of the District Judiciary Srinagar, Administrative staff, Court staff, Staff members, Legal Aid Defence Counsels of the District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar,

Jayanti.

The rally traversed within the premises of the District Court Complex Srinagar, transforming it into a symbol of collective commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment. The rally served as the comprehensive cleanliness drive within the premises of the District Court Complex Srinagar, aligning with the spirit of Swachh Bharat Diwas.

The program culminated in a significant plantation drive, initiated by the Chairman DLSA Srinagar and other judicial officers of District Srinagar, emphasizing the importance of preserving our environment for future generations.

This initiative was aimed to honor the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, promoting a sense of responsibility among the youth and the community at large.

In Anantnag, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag organized a cleanliness drive as part of the National Campaign 'Swachhata Hi Sewa (SHS-2024)' to commemorate the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with District Judiciary Anantnag.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Tahir

in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Ek Kadam Swachhata Ki Ore).

After the cleanliness drive, Pr. District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) addressed the gathering emphasizing the significance of cleanliness as a fundamental aspect of a progressive society. He elaborated on Mahatma Gandhi's ideology and the values he stood for and also highlighted the duty of each citizen to contribute towards building a cleaner and healthier nation.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of officials of the District Court Anantnag and DLSA, officials of Legal Aid Defense Counsels, officials of Municipal Council Anantnag, Para Legal Volunteers and other key stakeholders within the judicial system.

Besides the cleanliness drive, DLSA held a sensitization programme on 'Swachhata he Sewa / Swachhata Diwas-2024 at ADR Centre, Anantnag where a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting the dire need of maintaining cleanliness in and around the offices, houses, buildings and other public/private entities.

Officials of District Judiciary and DLSA Anantnag keenly learned about the

Services Committees Ashmuqam, Bijbehara, Vailoo, Shangus and Dooru with zeal and zest.

In Budgam, a remarkable display of community engagement and commitment to Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of cleanliness and sustainability, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority organized a impactful activity, in collaboration with Municipal Committee Budgam as part of the national campaign 'Swachhata Hi Sewa-2024.'

Under the leadership and guidance of Chairman DLSA Budgam, O.P Bhagat, and under the guidance of Secretary DLSA, Nusrat Ali Hakak, the 'Swachhata Abhiyan' witnessed enthusiastic participation of dedicated staff members of District Judiciary Budgam and DLSA, Budgam, members of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), Penal Lawyers, devoted Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and diligent officials from the Municipal Corporation, Budgam.

The event commenced with an inspiring cleanliness drive within the District Court Complex Budgam and all Tehsil Legal Service Committee's of Budgam, setting the tone for a cleaner and greener environment.

The speakers highlighted that cleanliness is not just a virtue; it is a way of life. It reflects our commitment to a healthier and more sustainable future. "This initiative is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our community and our unwavering commitment to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. It is a reminder that the path to a cleaner and greener world begins with each one of us," they said.

The 'Swachhata Abhiyan' organized by DLSA, Budgam, all Tehsil Legal Service Committees of Budgam, reflects not only a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi but also a dedication to transforming his vision into a reality.

Similar events were conducted by Tehsil Legal Services Committees of Charasharief, Chadoora, Beerwah and Magam.

In Ganderbal, the District Judiciary Ganderbal, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, observed Swachh Bharat Diwas on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti with a cleanliness drive in the District Court premises Ganderbal, under the theme 'Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata.'

The event was attended by Abdul Nasir, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Ganderbal; Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal; Moonis Wahid, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Ganderbal, Mahoor; Munsiff/JMIC Ganderbal, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, and other staff members of District Judiciary Ganderbal, DLSA Ganderbal, TLC Ganderbal, as well as PLVs of District Ganderbal and officials of Municipal Council Ganderbal.

importance of cleanliness and pledged to uphold the life of cleanliness and maintain a hygiene work culture in the office.

A plantation drive was also held under the guidance of Chairman DLSA, which was a part of the broader 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' initiative aimed to promote cleanliness and hygiene across the nation.

Similar events were also held at Tehsil Legal

Services Committees of District Judiciary Ganderbal, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, observed Swachh Bharat Diwas on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti with a cleanliness drive in the District Court premises Ganderbal, under the theme 'Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata.'



The event highlighted the importance of the 'Swachhata Hi Sewa - 2024' campaign, including a cleanliness drive conducted in District Court premises Ganderbal, aimed to promote awareness about sanitation and hygiene.

On the occasion, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Ganderbal highlighted the significance of the day, emphasizing the importance of 'Swachhata Hi Sewa - 2024' campaign including cleanliness and its impact on society in general.

Special emphasis was laid on the cleanliness within office premises, scrap disposal, record management including recording/weeding of records. The event aimed to promote awareness about sanitation and hygiene, aligning with the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission.

This initiative demonstrates the commitment of the District Judiciary Ganderbal and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal towards maintaining a clean and healthy environment, inspiring others to join the movement.

In Pulwama, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Pulwama today organized a cleanliness drive under 'Swachhata Hi Sewa-2024' at District Court Complex Pulwama.

The programme was held under the Chairmanship of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Pulwama in coordination with Municipal Committee Pulwama.

Among others the programme was attended by all Judicial Officers, LADCs, staff members, Bar Association of District court Pulwama and staff of DLSA Pulwama, panel lawyers and PLVs participated in the said drive.

In addition to this all the TLCs associated with District Pulwama viz. Awantipora, Tral, and Pampore also held Swachhata Drives within their respective jurisdictions.

In Bandipora, as part of 'Swachhata Hi Sewa-2024' (SHS-2024), the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in collaboration with District Judiciary Bandipora and Municipal Council Bandipora held a cleanliness drive at premises of District Court Complex Bandipora.

The drive witnessed cleanliness drive by staff within the premises with the aim of fostering cleanliness and a sense of responsibility for the communi-

ty's hygiene.

The drive was carried out under the supervision of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA, (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge), Bandipora and guidance of, Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Secretary DLSA Bandipora

The event had the presence of Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Bandipora, and Secretary DLSA (Chief Judicial Magistrate) Bandipora.

The event commenced with the 'Swachhata Pledge' administered by Chairman (DLSA) Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora symbolizing the unwavering commitment to nurturing a cleaner and more sustainable environment. Following the litterers were collected in huge garbage sacks and collectively segregated for proper disposal. All the waste collected was handed over to the Municipal Council Authorities for further proper disposal.

The main objectives of the campaign were to promote community participation in cleanliness initiatives, foster a sense of ownership and responsibility, create awareness on sanitation, hygiene, and waste management best practices. It also aimed to contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment, aligning with the Swachh Bharat Mission's goals.

Similar cleanliness drives on the lines of 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' were also organized by Tehsil Legal Services Committees Handwara, Sogam and Tangdhar.



Dr. Touseef Ahmed Bhat, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar and law students from Kashmir University.

The rally was further energized by the presence of students from Kashmir Model Academy HMT and Habrus International School, Parimpora, who actively engaged in the cleanliness drive, embodying the spirit of Swachh Bharat Diwas and Gandhi

Khurshid Raina (Chairman DLSA) and under the supervision of Secretary DLSA Anantnag, Muzamil Ahmad Wani.

The initiative aimed to promote cleanliness and hygiene within the community while paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi. With the support and encouragement of the local judicial system, the event sought to inspire citizens to actively participate

