

**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:

- Sudden and continuous fever above 102°C
- Severe joint and muscle pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Dizziness
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness on the face

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## J&K ASSEMBLY POLLS

# Battle lines drawn in Chenab Valley

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

On the eight seats of Chenab valley going to polls in the first phase of Jammu and Kashmir elections, the NC-Congress alliance is hoping to tip the scales in its favour after DPAP leaders withdrew from contest in four seats, while the BJP and PDP are going all out to checkmate their rivals.

The eight assembly segments of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban along with 16 seats spread across four districts of south Kashmir - Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam - are going to polls in the first of the three-phased elections on September 18.

A total of 219 candidates, including 64 in Chenab valley, are in the



fray. Among the 64 candidates, seven are former ministers, four women and 25 independents.

While 10 candidates are in the fray for Bhaderwah, nine each are in Doda and Inderwal, eight each in Doda West and Ramban, seven each

in Kishtwar and Banihal and six in Padder-Nagseni. Doda West and Padder-Nagseni are the two newly created constituencies.

Both the National Conference and Congress have fielded candidates in Banihal, Bhader-

wah and Doda under a 'friendly contest', while a rebel NC leader is fighting as an independent from Inderwal and two BJP rebels are also trying their luck from Ramban and Padder-Nagseni constituencies.

Four of the six candi-

dates of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) - former Advocate General Mohammad Aslam Goni (Bhaderwah), Fatima Begum (Inderwal), Asif Ahmad Khanday (Banihal) and Girdhari Lal Bhau (Ramban) - withdrew from the contest after party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad decided not to campaign due to "health issues".

The withdrawal of the candidature by DPAP leaders on the last day on August 30 is seen as a boost to the NC-Congress alliance.

The BJP is banking on sympathy wave for 29-year-old Shagun Parihar, whose father Ajit Parihar and uncle Anil Parihar were killed by terrorists in November 2018, to retain the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## People of J&K hold PM Modi in high esteem, regional leadership misguided: Chugh

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEPT 1

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary and Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) in-charge, Tarun Chugh, said on Sunday that the people of J-K have great respect for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while criticizing the regional leadership, including the National Conference, People's Democratic Party, and Congress, as being misguided and unpopular among the populace.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir hold Prime Minister Narendra Modi in high esteem. On the



other hand, the leadership of the National Conference, People's Democratic Party, and Congress is misguided and is being rejected by the people," Chugh told reporters after a meeting in Srinagar.

Referring to recent statements by former

Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, and Mehbooba Mufti, Chugh said, "They appear to be among the misguided leaders."

He specifically labelled Omar Abdullah, the National Conference

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## J&K Assembly Polls: Congress candidates eye release of lists for Phase-2 polling

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

As the last date for filing nomination forms for the second phase Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections is on September 5, the candidates of the Congress party are having eyes on the release of lists for the Phase-2 polling ahead of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and senior leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to address two rallies in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rahul Gandhi will address two election rallies in Jammu and Kashmir on September 4 and campaign for the candidates of the NC-Congress alliance in Doodu (Kashmir) for G A Mir and Sangaldan (Jammu) for Vikar Rasool Wani.

"We hope that the visit of Rahul Gandhi to Jammu and Kashmir comes after releasing the list of Congress candidates for Phase-2 with the last date of filing nomination papers falling on September 5," party sources said.

A total of 26 Assembly constituencies in the districts of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam, Reasi, Rajouri, and Poonch will go to polls in the second phase on September 25.

The Congress party has



already announced its first list of nine candidates including senior leaders Ghulam Ahmad Mir from the Doodu constituency and Vikar Rasool Wani from the Banihal seat.

As per the NC-Congress pact, the NC will contest 51 seats, the Congress will contest 32 seats while additionally, one seat each has been allotted to the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP).

Both the parties have also agreed to a "friendly contest" on five seats.

"The Congress party is lagging in finalizing the names of the candidates for Phases 1 and 2," party sources said, adding that the list for Phase 2 is expected to be released by Sep 2-3.

Notably, the BJP, National Conference, and the PDP have already

announced the names of most of their candidates.

"Although the Screening Committee and the State Election Committee have already submitted the panel of names of the candidates to the party high command, the delay is on the part of the Central Election Committee (CEC)," they said.

"Two Ex JKPC Presidents, Vikar Rasool and Ghulam Ahmed Mir, have already filed nomination papers for the first phase of elections," they said adding that apart from two JKPC working presidents, Raman Bhalla and Tara Chand, former ministers Choudhary Lal Singh, Mula Ram, Yogesh Sahni, Shabir Ahmed Khan, youth leaders Shahnawaz Choudhary, Neeraj Kundan, Satish Sharma and many prominent leaders are among the

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## Azad not contesting upcoming assembly elections in J&K: DPAP

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEPT 1

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad will not contest the upcoming Assembly election due to health issues, but the party will still contest on select seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami announced during a press conference in Srinagar that Azad was initially slated to contest from the Doda segment but due to his ill health he has now decided to focus on campaigning for his candidates during the final leg of the first phase.

Nizami emphasized that DPAP has not withdrawn from the electoral race, as rumored, and will instead contest on limited seats where their candidates are strong.

He assured party workers, supporters, and well-wishers that Azad's health is recovering after a

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## Congress, Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti exploited people of J&K: Giriraj Singh

**AGENCIES**  
BEGUSARAI (BIHAR), SEPT 1

Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Sunday attacked Congress, the National Conference, and the Peoples Democratic Party for exploiting the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Prime Minister said that he will conduct the elections. So, he is doing that. The announcement of the elections has been done democratically...The nepotist parties and leaders like Congress, Farooq Abdullah, and Mehbooba Mufti have exploited the people of J-K," Giriraj Singh told reporters on Sunday.

"PM Narendra Modi established democracy by conducting elections of panchayats, and now Vidhan Sabha elections are going to be held," he added.

Polling in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## PM Modi, Amit Shah, other Union Minister's set to campaign in J&K from Sep 10

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

To boost the BJP's election campaigning in J&K, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and other senior ministers of the party are all set to arrive in the UT from September 8 onwards, party sources said. They said talks about the final date about PM Modi's arrival are on and it is expected that PM Modi will arrive in J&K after September 10.

"There may be a little change in PM Modi's arrival in J&K but the



visit of top BJP ministers including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, and the party chief J P Nadda besides other top ministers is 100 per cent confirmed," they said. A senior BJP leader said that PM Modi may arrive in J&K for the campaign for the second phase but other ministers will surely visit

J&K from September 10 onwards.

"A few of them may visit J&K before September 10 but the majority of them will arrive after September 10. PM Modi is expected to address two rallies one in Jammu and another in Kashmir. Dates are being finalised," he said, wishing not to be named.

## Will dialogue with Pakistan end terrorism in Valley? J&K BJP leader asks NC

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

Slamming National Conference for advocating dialogue with Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Sunday asked it to clarify whether initiating dialogue with the neighbouring country will end terrorism and bloodshed in the Union Territory.

He also played down the protests and resignations by his party leaders and workers over the selection of candidates, saying he is confident the BJP will form the government on its own.

The assembly election



in Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to take place on September 18, 25, and October 1. Votes will be counted on October 8.

"Unfortunately, the NC leaders do not talk about the welfare of the people, the Pakistani gun

which brought death and destruction to our land. By advocating for dialogue with Pakistan, they are not doing the right thing," Raina said.

He said starting a dialogue with Pakistan is the prerogative only of the central government

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## EC has changed date of counting of votes in J&K at BJP's behest: Mehbooba Mufti

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEPT 1

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday alleged the Election Commission has changed the date of counting of votes for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls at the behest of the BJP.

"They (ECI) do what suits the BJP. When I contested the (Lok Sabha) elections, they unnecessarily changed the date (of polling). Everything is done as per the wishes of the BJP and its proxy parties," she told reporters here.

Mufti was talking to mediapersons after sever-



al second rung politicians joined the PDP at the party office here.

The Election Commission on Saturday announced a change in the day of counting of votes in Jammu and Kashmir from October 4 to October 8.

The move came after the poll body changed the polling date in Haryana from October 1 to October 5 in view of a festival in that state.

On the transfer of senior police officers during the elections, the PDP chief

said she is happy that all the officers are locals and hoped they will help in conducting free, fair and impartial poll process.

"We all know what happened in 1987... The malpractices led to bloodshed which has not stopped till date. I hope that all the staff involved in the election process will play their role to ensure free and fair elections," she added. On the amendment in the Wakf properties act, Mufti said it is aimed at dispossession of the Muslims.

"Wakf means donating something in the way of Allah.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## J&K Youth will show exit door to 'Modi and Company' on October 1: Mallikarjun Kharge

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT 1

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday claimed "deception" is the only policy of the BJP for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and that they will show the door to "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and company" in the upcoming polls.

In his post on X, Kharge said the youth unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir was a staggering 28.2 per cent (PLFS) in March.

"Deception is the only policy of the BJP for the youth of Jammu and Kash-



mir!" he said.

"Many exam paper leaks, bribes and rampant corruption have delayed hiring across departments for four years now. An astounding 65% of government department posts in

Jammu & Kashmir remain vacant since 2019," Kharge claimed.

In Jammu and Kashmir, over 60,000 government daily wagers have been toiling for more than 15 years, earning a meagre

Rs 300 per day, he said. "Despite their long-standing service, they remain on contract basis, even in essential departments such as Power, Public Health, and Engineering, highlighting the precarious nature of the job crisis," the Congress leader said.

Even though the BJP promised industry in Jammu and Kashmir, the union territory has no major manufacturing units, he said.

The private sector is confined to providing services in farming, hospitality and health, he said.

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## Misrule of NC, PDP had pushed Doda towards uncertainty, militancy: Ashok Koul

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul today said that people of Doda, Bhaderwah and Kishtwar areas have suffered a lot of neglect during previous regimes and during peak of militancy these areas were also underdeveloped. However, abrogation of Article 370 ended that discrimination with people and militancy also stands nailed. He added that a number of BJP workers and common civilians top had sacrificed their lives in these areas due to militancy.

Ashok Koul said time has come to ensure that each and every citizen of Doda and those living in far off places are given their due rights and made to love with better amenities and infrastructure. He was addressing a party workers meeting in support of party candidate from Doda West assembly constituency Shakti Parihar which was also attended by BJP Doda Prabhari and former Deputy Mayor JMC Baldev Singh Billa-waria.

Ashok Koul said because of its wrong policies and having given militants a free run, governments that of NC, Congress or PDP had pushed Doda into the oblivion where people were made



to fend for themselves and face terrorists atrocities. There were times when entire senior BJP leadership courted arrest only to seek declaring Doda as disturbed region because selective killings had shaken the faith of people in the system.

Now that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have abrogated article 370, given army a free hand, strengthened VDGs and acted swiftly on militants, normalcy stands restored. Young boys and girls of Doda are entering into competitive services, promoting regions culture, participating in political prisoners cesses and becoming part of decision taking institutions. These are healthy signs wherein tourists and traders in large numbers are also descending in Doda adding to its prosperity.

Seeking votes and support for party can-

didate Shakti Parihar, BJP Doda Prabhari and former Deputy Mayor JMC Baldev Singh Billa-waria said that time has come to send credible people in the assembly who could become real voice of people and don't play with their sentiments like Congress and NC had always been doing.

Shakti Parihar in his address said that he will work for every section of society and ensure that Doda becomes most sought after district in terms of business, health tourism and pilgrimage. Doda he said had immense potential but precious governments ignored it. It's because of Narendra Modi that o ace is prevailing and mega infrastructures are giving people better access to even far off places. He highlighted various schemes of Modi government and sought votes for BJP to elect a credible government in J&K.

## NC emerging as preferred choice of J&K people, says Rattan Lal Gupta

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

In a significant political development, Dr. Subhash Chander Sharma Rtd Professor, Social Activist and leader of POK refugee and Sunil Sharma Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and popular social activist, Sunit Sharma, have joined the National Conference (NC) during a programme held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu. Rattan Lal, Provincial President, JKNC, extended a warm welcome to Dr. Subhash Sharma and Sunil Sharma into the party fold. The Joining Programme was organized by Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone and S. Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC.

In his address, Rattan Lal Gupta underscored the surging momentum of the National Conference (NC) throughout Jammu & Kashmir. He highlighted that the party is increasingly emerging as the preferred choice among the region's electorate, a testament to its growing appeal and the trust it commands from the public.

The senior NC leader emphasized that the NC's commitment to address-



ing the concerns and aspirations of the people is resonating deeply across various communities. He asserted that the party's vision and policies are aligning with the needs and hopes of the residents, positioning NC as a beacon of positive change.

Rattan Lal confidently stated that only the National Conference possesses the capability and determination to guarantee a brighter and more prosperous future for Jammu & Kashmir, promising enhanced development and progress under its leadership.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary of JKNC, underscored the party's core values of secularism. He assured the public that the National Conference continues to stand firmly as a secular party, committed to upholding the principles

of unity and inclusiveness. Vijay Lochan, Chairman of the JKNC SC Cell, spoke about the party's unwavering commitment to protecting the rights of weaker sections of society. He assured that the National Conference remains steadfast in its mission to advocate for and uphold the rights of marginalized communities.

Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone JKNC, another prominent leader of the party, highlighted the National Conference's dedication to the welfare of farmers. He reiterated the party's commitment to implementing policies and initiatives that will enhance the livelihoods and well-being of the agricultural community.

Dr. Subhash Chander Sharma and Sunil Sharma said that they were impressed by

the progressive development and pro people Manifesto of JKNC issue for the forth coming Assembly elections. The JKNC Manifesto shall bring peace, prosperity and development in J&K.

Among those who were present include: - Bimla Luthra former MLA, Pard-eep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu. Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Vijay Laxami Datta Senior leader, Vikram Puri Chairman Trade and Industry, S. Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Joginder Kour District Vice President Jammu Urban women wing, Nitish Gowsami Provincial Secretary YNC, Som Raj Taroch Joint Secretary Central Zone, Zamir Quersh, Jatinder Kumar District President SC Cell, Ajay Kumar Block Secretary Jammu Urban, Jagga Ram, Veena and others.

## Doctoral Degree awarded to Ms. Perna Katoch in School of Business, SMVDU

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

Ms. Perna Katoch D/o Mr. Suraj Singh Katoch and Mrs. Sangeeta Katoch has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Business by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, J&K. The candidate has worked on the topic "The Relationship of Entrepreneurial Orientation, Digitalization and Firm's Performance- A Study of Women Entrepreneurs of J&K" under the supervision of Dr. Syeda Shazia Bukhari, Assistant Professor, School of Business, SMVDU, Katra. Ms. Perna Katoch has qualified UGC-NET in Commerce and has published her research work in various reputed high-impact factor ABDC/SCI/SCIE and Scopus journals, and also presented papers in international conferences. The candidate thanked Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for granting all the necessary support and facilities for carrying out the research work. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU), Dr. Ashutosh Vashishtha (Dean Faculty of Management), Dr. Syeda Shazia Bukhari (Supervisor, SOB) and other committee members congratulated the candidate and wished her a bright future ahead.

## Reddy flags off 6 high-tech vans to carry BJP Govt's achievements in every nook & corner

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

Giving momentum to its campaign for the upcoming Assembly elections in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP on Sunday flagged off six (6) vans for making people aware about BJP government's achievements, various welfare schemes, development works, both completed and ongoing besides future programmes of the party.

The 6 vans were flagged by Union Minister and J&K election Incharge, G Krishna Reddy today from Hotel Ritz in presence of many senior leaders of the party.

These 6 vans are equipped with high-tech audio and video system, BJP's campaigning material i.e pamphlets mentioning achievements, various welfare schemes, develop-



ment works carried out in the ten years besides of BJP government's future programmes.

These vans will cover each nook and corner of each Assembly segment going to polls in the first phase. J&K BJP President, Ravinder Raina, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, MP Jugal Kishore

Sharma, former Deputy Chief Ministers, Dr Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta and other leaders of the BJP and scores of workers were also present on the occasion.

The vans were flagged off amid slogans from the enthusiastic workers and leaders like 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' 'BJP Zindabad-2' etc.

JNEWS SERVICE  
TAMIL NADU, SEPTEMBER 1

In a strong endorsement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the Economic Times World Leaders Forum, Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Er Gulam Ali Khatana, emphasized the transformative impact of the government's reforms on India's economy and its global standing.

Khatana's remarks underscore the BJP's commitment to advancing India's development agenda and solidify the party's stance as a driving force behind the country's ongoing economic transformation.

Echoing the Prime Minister's message of "Reform, Perform, Transform," Khatana highlighted how these principles have been pivotal in driving India's unprecedented growth over the past decade. He praised the government's focus on inclusive development, pointing to the upliftment of 25 crore people from poverty and the rise of a new middle

class as clear evidence of the administration's success.

"The Prime Minister's vision for India's economic future is not just ambitious; it's achievable," Khatana stated. "We've seen remarkable progress in modernizing infrastructure, supporting MSMEs, and promoting India as a global manufacturing hub. These initiatives are laying the groundwork for India to emerge as a leading global economic powerhouse."

Khatana lauded the government's efforts to create a conducive environment for business growth and foreign investment. He emphasized that the ease of doing business reforms, coupled with initiatives like "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat," have significantly boosted India's appeal as a destination for global manufacturing and investment.

Referring to Prime Minister Modi's emphasis on green energy, technology, and tourism as pillars of India's future growth, Khatana expressed confi-

dence in the government's vision to make India a developed nation by 2047. "Our commitment to sustainable development, coupled with our push for technological innovation, positions India at the forefront of the global transition to a greener, more digital future," he remarked.

The BJP leader called upon the private sector to partner with the government in this ambitious journey, underscoring the importance of innovation, high-quality growth, and international cooperation in achieving these goals. "The path to becoming a developed nation requires a collaborative effort between the government, private sector, and our international partners," Khatana stated. "We invite businesses and innovators from around the world to join us in this transformative journey."

Khatana also highlighted the government's focus on skill development and education as crucial components of India's growth strategy. "By empowering our youth with the

skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow, we're not just building a workforce; we're nurturing the innovators and entrepreneurs who will drive India's future success," he said.

Khatana reiterated the BJP's unwavering commitment to Prime Minister Modi's vision of a prosperous, inclusive, and globally influential India. "Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India is not just participating in the global economy; we're shaping it," he declared. "The reforms and initiatives undertaken by our government have set India on a trajectory of sustainable, inclusive growth that will benefit not just our citizens, but contribute to global prosperity and stability."

As India continues its ascent on the world stage, the endorsement from senior BJP leaders like Khatana serves to reinforce the party's alignment with the Prime Minister's economic vision and its determination to see India realize its full potential as a global economic leader.

## JKBS Members express deep shock over unfortunate demise of Inspector Darshan Lal Mandi

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha Members at their meeting held here today, expressed deep shock over the sad, sudden and untimely demise of Inspector Darshan Lal Mandi, who hailed from Village Doullian and was serving in Railway Police at New Delhi. JKBS General Secretary R.L.Kaith said, Inspector Darshan Lal Mandi had a good nature and was a highly disciplined police officer. He was awarded the 'Indian Police Medal' for meritorious service by the Minister of Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, and later received 'Ati Utkrish Sewa Padak' from Inspector General of Police Shri Atul Kumar Srivastava for performing his duties with conspicuous devotion, skill and courage.

## Sikhs got justice under Modi's regime after 40 years: RP Singh

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

The BJP's National Spokesperson, RP Singh, on Sunday said that Sikh community, the most nationalist community, got justice under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime after a long struggle of forty (40) years and hoped that Jagdish Tytler would be hanged in Modi's tenure.

This was stated by RP Singh after offering Ardas at Gurudwara Chad Di Kalan in Jammu today. "I welcome the decision of the CBI court to initiate proceedings against Tytler," RP Singh said, while adding, "I also provided a video to the court in which Tytler has confessed of killing over 100 Sikhs".



"Congress leader, Sajjan Kumar was sentenced during Modi regime and Tytler will also be hanged during PM Modi's tenure," RP Singh said.

Singh said that attack on Akal Takht was carried out to win elections and added, "I have also brought in public domain the video of Rajeev Gandhi saying Jab Bada Ped Girta Hai To Dharti Hilti Hai".

"Dhingra Committee in its report had said that there was some 'invisible hand' in the 84 riots," RP Singh, adding "I have filed a petition demanding that the 'invisible hand' behind the 84 riots must be made public. We all know which party has its symbol Hand, Singh said. "Former RAW Chief, GB Sidhu, has also mentioned in his book that Police, Judiciary and

Administration compromised in 84 riots against Sikhs," RP Singh said.

The former RAW Chief, RP Singh said, "also mentioned in his book that Rajeev Gandhi, Arun Nehru and Kamalnath used to hold meetings on how to target Sikhs during 84 riots".

Singh said that Sikh community, the most nationalist community, got

justice during PM Modi's regime. "The Guruvani of Baba Nanak Dev is being translated in many Indian languages after the initiative of PM Modi led government," Singh said, adding, "With the initiative of UNESCO, Guruvani is also being translated in many foreign languages".

The translation has been completed in Spanish language, he said. The BJP's National Spokesperson said that due to efforts of Modi Government 'Veer Bal Diwas' is celebrated in 190 countries of the world.

"Apart from 190 countries, 'Veer Bal Diwas' is also celebrated in all the States of the country due to efforts of Modi Government," RP Singh said, adding, "It is a matter of pride for the Sikh community".

## Ghulam Nabi Azad recovering, set to join campaign soon: Nizami

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR SEPT 1

Chief Spokesperson of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Salman Nizami today addressed the media and announced that the DPAP is contesting the upcoming assembly elections with full force. During his briefing, Nizami provided an update on the health of the party's Chairman, Ghulam Nabi Azad who was recently admitted to AIIMS hospital due to health concerns. He stated that Mr. Azad is now recovering well and is feeling much better. Nizami also assured that Mr. Azad will be joining the campaign for the candidates of Phase 1 in the



last days, demonstrating his commitment and leadership for the party's success. He further stated that, DPAP will strategically contest only in constituencies where the party is strong and has a high chance of winning. Due to the current health condition of the DPAP Chairman, he will not be able to campaign in all con-

stituencies. The spokesperson underscored the importance of preventing the division of secular votes, stating, "This is the time to keep away those forces who have snatched away our rights and have not delivered on progress and development." The party remains committed to safeguarding the rights and aspirations of the people. The people have strong faith in the leadership of Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is renowned for his focus on development. Nizami assured that if DPAP emerges victorious, the party will usher in a new era of development and work tirelessly to uplift the poor, ensuring inclusive growth and prosperity for all.



## Dramatic role reversal explored in 'Kissa Badal Gaya'

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

Natrang presented an Urdu play 'Kissa Badal Gaya' which has been written by Showkat Thanvi and ably directed by Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at its Studio Theatre.

The play 'Kissa Badal Gaya' presents story of a household where the owner of the house 'Zafar' and his wife 'Jameela' are shown scolding their servants 'Rahim' and 'Naseeban' over an issue of breaking crockery and also for not rendering their services properly. In the course of discussion, it was also disclosed that both of them imitate their masters and buy similar commodities like shoes, clothes and make-up etc.



One day, 'Zafar' purchases an expensive lottery ticket, 'Rahim' also purchased the same by selling his wife's ear-rings. 'Zafar' gets furious to know this but the story takes a turn when 'Rahim' wins the lottery and becomes a millionaire and thus the servants turned masters and masters became ser-

vants. But for 'Rahim' and 'Naseeban', it was very difficult to get out of their mentality. They can't resist their previous habits. Even 'Zafar' and 'Jameela' tell them that now when they are millionaires they have to maintain a status. But giving a deaf ear to their suggestions, they start

blaming the couple for one reason or the other as they both used to do when they were masters. Getting the taste of their own medicine, masters turned servants, 'Zafar' and 'Jameela' decided to leave the couple at the mercy of God, but both of them started begging before them to not leave them as they could not survive without them. On this, they decided to live happily together, giving due respect to each other.

The artists who acted in the play included Kananpreet Kaur, Mihir Gujral, Palshin Dutta, Kushal Bhat, Aadesh Dhar and Vrinda Gujral. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the sound was rendered by Kananpreet Kaur. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Baba Sidhgoria Dham Paloura prepares for Grand 55th Shat Chandi Mahayagya and Shrimad Bhagwat Katha

### Celebration to begin on Sept 05

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

Devotees can anticipate a spiritually enriching experience as Baba Sidhgoria Dham, Paloura, announces its preparations for the grand 55th Shat Chandi Mahayagya. The event, held under the esteemed supervision of Mahant Kuldeep Singh Ji Maharaj, will take place from September 05 to 15, 2024.

Further enhancing the spiritual atmosphere, a captivating discourse on the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha will be delivered by the revered Mahant Shri Dr. Satyanarayan Das Ji Maharaj. This enlightening journey will commence on September 09 and conclude on September 15, taking place daily from 2 pm to 5 pm within the serene Dham grounds. Mahant Shri Kuldeep



Singh Ji, alongside Team Jammu Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal, addressed a press conference to share details of the auspicious event. They expressed immense pleasure in organizing the 55th Mahayagya and extended a warm invitation to all devotees to partake in this deeply spiritual gathering.

Giving details Baba Kuldeep Manhas said that, Shat Chandi Mahayagya, Hawan Pujan, and Sant Samelan will be held from September 05 - 15, 2024; while Shrimad Bhagwat

Katha by Dr. Mahant Shri Sat Naryan Dass ji Maharaj will be held from September 09 - 15, 2024 (2 pm - 5 pm daily)

He said that a Daily Langar for all attendees has also been organised adding on September 05 (Thursday): Jal Yatra (8 am) will be taken out followed by Mandap Pujan and Yagya (8 am - 12 noon) at that Dham premises.

He said that on September 09 (Monday) the discourse on Shrimad Bhagwat Katha will be by Dr. Mahant Shri Sat Naryan

Dass ji Maharaj from 2 pm to 5 pm.

On September 15 (Sunday), a Prabhat Phiri will be taken out (8 am - 12 pm) from Mandir via Top Paloura, Patoli, Jaggi Darbar, Janipur, Muthi Camp and return from the same route to temple; Puran Ahuti, and Bhandara will be held at 2 pm.

Accommodation and meals will be provided for Pandits and Mahatmas at the Dham premises courtesy of Baba Sidhgoria Dham Paloura.

The event is made possible by the dedicated efforts of the Managing Committee: Ashok Chib, Satish Sharma, Atul Sood, Suresh Kumar, Ajay, Sonu Baba, Jyot Baba, Virender Singh, Ashok Singh Manhas Corporator, Rampaul, Sourabh, Vasu, Vishu, Chandan, Dinakar, Kuldeep, Vijay, Pawan, Vikram, Ajay, Vansh, Parveen and Rajinder chib.

## Living with obesity increases the risk of developing Cardiovascular diseases: Dr Sushil

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

With the impending pandemic of obesity and cardiac ailments Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health checkup camp at Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre Udhewala Jammu. The camp was inaugurated by Dr Sushil Sharma along with Executive Director, NHPC Shri Ram Swaroop, Swami Yajnadharananda and Swami Vijayeshananda amidst vedic chants by the monks. During the Camp people from all walks of life were educated to follow cardiac friendly lifestyle and adopt environmental friendly approach to decrease the morbidity and mortality and improve quality of life.

Swami Yajnadharananda, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, highlighted the organization's commitment to the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada, and Swami Vivekananda, when we help others, we are essentially serving a higher purpose. By extending a helping hand to those in need, we are embodying the values of compassion, kindness, and selflessness that are the essence of RamaKrishna Mission teachings. He said

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated



that Cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality and morbidity has been shown to be elevated in individuals who are overweight, particularly with central deposition of adipose tissues. Abdominal obesity has been shown to be a risk factor for CVD worldwide. Obesity may be associated with hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes, or insulin resistance, and elevated levels of fibrinogen and C-reactive protein, all of which increase the risk of CVD events. In addition to CVD, obesity has been shown to increase the risk of high blood pressure (HBP). Persistent hypertension is one of the risk factors for stroke, myocardial infarction (MI), heart failure, and arterial aneurysm, and is a leading cause of chronic kidney failure. Moderate elevation of arterial blood pressure leads to shortened life expectancy, which also increases the risk of heart diseases

He elaborated that the global obesity epidemic is well established, with increases in obesity prevalence for most countries since the 1980s. Obesity

contributes directly to incident cardiovascular risk factors, including dyslipidemia, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and sleep disorders. Obesity also leads to the development of cardiovascular disease mortality independently of other cardiovascular risk factors. More recent data highlight abdominal obesity, as determined by waist circumference, as a cardiovascular disease risk marker that is independent of body mass index. There have also been significant advances in imaging modalities for characterizing body composition, including visceral adiposity. Studies that quantify fat depots, including ectopic fat, support excess visceral adiposity as an independent indicator of poor cardiovascular outcomes.

He added that Obesity is recognized as a heterogeneous condition in which individuals with similar BMIs may have distinct metabolic and CVD risk profiles. With increasing prevalence of obesity in populations with a longer life span, there is a need

to evaluate mechanisms underlying obesity-related cardiac dysfunction and to improve the management of patients with obesity and CVD through future research. In addition, the dramatic increase in the proportion of young patients with severe obesity invokes the need for more upstream interventions for the primary prevention and better treatment of obesity as a chronic disease, He Said.

Swami Yajnadharananda, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, Swami Vijayeshananda, Ravinder Koul, Sunil Thusu, Balkrishna Raina and Manjit Singh appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health check up camp in their Centre and expressed their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Dhaneshwar Kapoor Dr B D Sharma, Dr Rakesh Raina, Dr Shivani Padha, Dr Arun Gupta, Dr Tanu Gandotra and Dr Payal Parihar. Paramedics and Volunteers includes Kamal Sharma, Raghav Rajput, Ranjeet Singh, Amnish Dutta, Rahul Sharma, Rohit Nayyar, Mukesh Sharma, Maninder Singh, Jatn Bhasin, Rahul Vaid, Makhan Sharma, Paramveer Singh, Rajinder Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Arun Singh, Gourav Sharma, Vikas Kumar and Nirvair Singh Bali.

## UCMAS: Malaysia based international organisation conducted 14th J&K UCMAS Abacus & Mental Arithmetic Competition 2024 in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

This prestigious event showcased the exceptional talents and skills of young students who have undergone the UCMAS Abacus & Mental Arithmetic program.

The theme for this year's competition, "The Journey of UCMAS Edu-Entrepreneurs: Empowering Women & Youth Through Education," highlighting the transformative power of education in fostering entrepreneurship and empowerment among women and youth. Attendees had the unique opportunity to interact with inspiring women who have become edu-entrepreneurs after receiving training from UCMAS. These women edu-entrepreneur shared their experiences and achievements, providing valuable insights into their journeys. Join us in celebrating the achievements of our young students and



the inspiring journeys of our UCMAS edu-entrepreneurs. Together, we can empower the next generation through education and entrepreneurship

Founder Director of One Global Foundation & Regional Director J&K of UCMAS Mr. Rupesh Masson while welcoming all guest said that "UCMAS a leading education franchise provider in UT of J&K, which has trained over 200+ people & appointing authorized franchisee in abacus education sector to educated youth, teachers & ladies who can avail this

opportunity to start education franchisee in J&Ks town & cities as UCMAS is widely recognized for abacus training & classes across India & popular in J&K too.

Over 400 students from different UCMAS authorised centres in Jammu viz Channi Himmat, Trikuta Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Greater Kailash, Talab Tillo, Bohri, New Plot, Patoli, Paloura, Pouni Chack, Patyali Chak, Jhiri, Janipur, Roop Nagar, Exchange Road, Kathua, Reasi, Jhiri, Akhnoor are participated in the com-

petition. Mr. Sohail Kazami was the Chief Guest of Function.

Also Present on the occasion were Academic Director J&K of UCMAS Mrs. Sonia Masson., Shifali Dabgotra, Sheetal Jamwal, Nure Mohamad, LaxmidEEP Gupta, Sonia Rekhi, Mamta Sharma, Jatinder Sharma, Anita Bhan, Arti Bedi, Mrs. Rashmi Aggarwal, Rajni Sharma, Ashu Sharma, Anju Bala, Pallavi Hans, Santosh Langeh, Rohini Gupta, Nishat Akhter, Veena Sangral, Ritika Kerni, Anuradha Singh, Sugandha Sharma, Asha Rani, Raveen Akhtar, Rimpay Sharma, Sumeksha Sharma, Ms. Sunita Devi, Waseem Khan, Tania Sharma, Asha Devi, Surja Koul, Gurmeet Kour, Rachna Spolia, Manjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh & Ojus Masson

Mr. Rupesh Masson Director UCMAS J&K presented the vote of thanks to all parents & guests.

## Students of Architecture of SMVD University interacted with DC Reasi and Common People on Urban Development Issues



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

The 9th semester students from the School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), recently embarked on an in-depth site visit to Reasi. The trip was organised and supported by Head SoALD, Ar. Abhiney Gupta and course coordinators, Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh and Ar. Vinod Kumar, and supported by student coordinators Aditya Agrawal and Vanshika Singh. This visit was a crucial part of their academic journey, aimed at understanding the complex dynamics of urban and architectural challenges in the region. In this project, five sites were identified for potential urban development which were distributed among five groups of stu-

dents, each site of significant importance within Reasi: Bhimgarh Fort, the District Hospital, the Chenab Riverfront, the Railway Station, and the DC Office. These sites were carefully chosen to represent a broad spectrum of the city's architectural and infrastructural landscape, allowing the students to engage with a diverse set of challenges and opportunities. Throughout their visit, the students actively engaged with the local communities, conducting detailed surveys to gather firsthand information on the issues faced by the residents. This direct interaction provided invaluable insights into the everyday lives of the people of Reasi, revealing both the visible and underlying challenges that the community grapples with. The students' approach was holistic, as they not only focused on

the specific sites but also studied the entire city to understand how these individual locations fit into the broader urban context. A pivotal moment of the visit was the students' meeting with the DC Reasi. During this discussion, the DC highlighted several pressing issues that the region faces, including significant water blockage problems and the ongoing challenges related to road infrastructure. These insights from the DC were instrumental in shaping the students' understanding of the region's needs and expectations. The interaction underscored the importance of their projects in addressing these real-world challenges. The visit served as a vital educational experience, equipping the students with a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between architecture, infrastruc-

ture, and community needs. By engaging with local residents, surveying the area, and studying the city's overall layout, the students were able to identify key areas where architectural interventions could have a meaningful impact. As they prepare to translate these insights into their final year projects, the students are now better positioned to develop site-specific proposals that not only address the immediate challenges identified but also contribute to long-term, sustainable solutions for the Reasi region. This collaborative effort between the students, their mentors, and the local community represents a significant step toward creating architectural solutions that are both innovative and deeply rooted in the needs of the people they are designed to serve.

## Hands on Workshop on Robot Programming with ROS Organizes at Central University Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 1 SEPT

The Department of Electronics and Communication at Central University of Jammu organized a full day hands-on workshop on Robot Programming using the Robot Operating System (ROS). The workshop was graced by Dr. Radhe Shayam Sharma, Assistant Professor from the School of Computing and Electrical Engineering at IIT Mandi, who, along with his team, delivered an insightful lecture along with practical training.

Dr. Sharma's session covered the diverse applications of robotics, emphasizing its crucial role in earthquake rescue scenarios and industrial tasks. He discussed advanced topics like detecting and removing task anomalies in 3D box packing, AI-based low-power, portable, radiation-safe devices, and a cutting-edge CSI signal concentrator. Additionally, he introduced a 3D imaging device for the autonomous detection and segmentation of internal impurities, highlighting its potential in improving safety and efficiency in vari-

ous industries. A significant portion of the workshop was dedicated to visual robot programming and programming for groups of robots. Dr. Sharma and his team provided hands-on training to the B.Tech students of the Electronics and Communication Department, spanning 1st to 3rd-year students. The interactive sessions allowed the students to gain practical experience and deepen their understanding of robotic programming. The event, which was well-received by the par-

ticipants, was organized by the Department of Electronics and Communication under the leadership of Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, Head DoECE. The workshop coordinated by Dr. Sunil Datt Sharma along with other faculty of the department. The anchoring of the workshop was handled by Dr. Misbah, who ensured that the event ran smoothly and efficiently. The workshop provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn from experts in the field and apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios.



Assembly Elections-2024

# CEO leads SVEEP Program in Pulwama

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 1

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) J&K, Pandurang K Pole, presided over a SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) program at Government Degree College (GDC) Boys in Pulwama today.

The event aimed to promote voter awareness and participation ahead of the upcoming Assembly Elections. SVEEP activities included a painting competition on "Right to Vote" and an essay competition on "India: A Democratic Nation."

Addressing on the occasion CEO said that SVEEP is a flagship initiative focused on voter education, raising voter awareness, and promoting voter literacy.

He also highlighted the importance of voting and inclusive elections, acknowledging the efforts of ASHA and Anganwadi workers in encouraging voter turnout.

He urged voters to come out in large number and every eligible voter to exercise their right to vote on September 18th, 2024.

Students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Aglar performed cultural acts, including the song "Sare Jahan Se Achcha," a skit titled "My Vote, My



Future," and a traditional Ladi Shah performance, all emphasizing voter participation.

CEO praised the students for their role in promoting electoral awareness.

District Election Officer (DEO) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, called for a historic voter turnout and urged active participation from the residents of Pulwama.

The program concluded with the CEO honoring students who excelled in the competitions.

SPPs of Pulwama and Awantipora, ADDC Pulwama, RO Pulwama, Nodal Officer SVEEP, and numerous students and residents, were also present on the occasion.

Assembly Elections-2024

# SVEEP: Awareness programme to boost Voter participation in Assembly Elections held at Janwara Sopore

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 01

In an effort to promote electoral awareness and ensure maximum participation in the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, a comprehensive awareness programme under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was conducted today at Model Public School, Janwara Sopore.

The event was held under the supervision of Shabir Ahmad Raina, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, who is also Returning Officer for the 7-Sopore Assembly Constituency.

The programme witnessed active participation of citizens from Janwara and surrounding areas, with a special focus on engaging the youth and first-time voters.

On the occasion, Returning Officer 7-Sopore Assem-



bly Constituency provided detailed information about the electoral process. He encouraged all eligible

voters to exercise their right to vote and emphasized the importance of active participation in the

democratic process.

In an effort to make voting accessible to all, attendees were informed about special provisions for senior citizens, as well as Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Additionally, a demonstration of the Saksham-ECI app was provided.

A significant highlight of the programme was the pledge taken by senior citizens and PwDs, who committed to spreading the message of electoral participation within their communities. This initiative aims to ensure a higher voter turnout in the upcoming elections, with a particular focus on marginalized and vulnerable groups.

The SVEEP programme continues to play a crucial role in voter education and empowerment, ensuring that every eligible citizen is informed and motivated to participate in the democratic process.

## DEO Kupwara inspects strong room, election arrangements at Handwara, Kupwara

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 1

The District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today inspected the strong room and Election Control room established at Handwara. The DEO conducted a thorough inspection of the Election Strong Room and meticulously reviewed every aspect of the strong room and security infrastructure for the Strong Room and other facilities. She emphasised the importance of the stringent security measures and efficient distribution plan for election material. The DEO inspected Election Control room established at Handwara and took first hand appraisal of its functioning. The DEO was accompanied by ADC Handwara/ RO Handwara, Aziz Ahmed Rather, RO Langate, Dr Mudasir, ARO Handwara etc. Ayushi later visited RO office AC- 3 Kupwara and took stock of arrangements there RO AC-3 Kupwara Pirzada Mumtaz briefed about the arrangements of the control room.

## Assembly Elections-2024: SVEEP Rally held at Shopian for enhancing voter awareness

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 01

A mega SVEEP Rally was held today at Shopian, to create electoral awareness and motivate people to exercise their franchise on September 18 for the Assembly elections, 2024.

District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid

Saleem Dar and SSP, Anayat Ali led the Rally from Government Boys' Higher Secondary School, Shopian which went through the Main market of the town and culminated at Clock Tower Chowk.

To enhance voter awareness and public engagement, the rally was attended by ADDC, Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone;

ADC, Zakir Hussain Faaz; Nodal Officers, AROs, large gathering of other staff, volunteers, and locals.

Speaking on the occasion, DEO emphasised on SVEEP Nodal Officer to organise diverse range of SVEEP activities in the district for promoting electoral awareness among the public.

Assembly Elections-2024

## EVM Training for Polling Staff Held at Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 01

In preparation for the upcoming Assembly elections, a thorough training session on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was conducted today at Dal Bungalow, here for polling staff in Anantnag.

This training was designed to ensure that staff are fully equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge for a seamless and efficient voting process.

The training programme, held under the guidance of District Election Officer, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, witnessed the participation of polling staff who will be stationed across various



constituencies. The training covered crucial aspects including EVM operation, troubleshooting common issues, and safeguarding

the integrity of the voting process.

Election officials underscored the significance of this training in upholding

the transparency and efficiency of the electoral process. They stressed that proficiently trained polling staff are vital for resolving any technical issues on election day, thereby ensuring accurate vote counting.

The training featured hands-on demonstrations and practical exercises to help staff become familiar with EVMs and related equipment.

With the election date approaching, officials are optimistic that this comprehensive training will support a smooth electoral process and reinforce the democratic values of fair and transparent voting.

## Historic Three-Day Sankri Devta Mela concludes

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 1

The three-day Historic Sankri Devta Mela, which commenced on August 30 in Block Panchari of District Udhampur, peacefully culminated with an overwhelming participation of visitors and devotees. People from different areas of the UT flocked to the mela site to pay obeisance at the temple and seek the blessings of the Devta. During the three-day mela, students from various educational institutions and folk artists from surrounding areas presented performances depicting the traditions of the area and theme-based skits, which were highly appreciated by the audience.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Battle lines drawn...

Kishtwar seat.

The saffron party is facing formidable challenge from NC leader and former minister Sajjad Kitchloo who had won the seat twice in 2002 and 2008 elections before losing to the BJP's Sunil Sharma in the last assembly polls held in 2014.

PDP leader and former MLC Firdous Tak is among the other prominent candidates vying to get support of the voters for his election to the assembly.

Sharma, a former minister, is fielded by the BJP from Padder-Nagseni where he is facing NC's Pooja Thakur, the sitting chairperson of District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar. BJP rebel candidate Rakesh Gosawani alias "Rocky" and PDP's Sandesh Kumar are the other prominent faces in the contest from the seat.

Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president and ex-minister Vikar Rasool Wani, who is eyeing a hat-trick from Banihal constituency, is facing a major challenge from NC's Sijad Shaheen and PDP's Imtiyaz Shan.

A multi-cornered contest is expected in Inderwal constituency where former minister and three-time MLA Ghulam Mohammad Saroori is fighting as an independent candidate after he was denied ticket by DPAP which he had joined after leaving Congress in support of Azad in September 2022.

Saroori, who had Inderwal seat for three consecutive terms in 2002, 2008 and 2014 elections, is facing National Conference rebel Pyare Lal Sharma, Sheikh Zafarullah of the Congress and BJP's Tariq Hussain Keen.

Former BJP minister Shakti Raj Parihar, who lost District Development Council elections from two Doda seats in 2020, is contesting from Doda West constituency, facing challenge from Pardeep Kumar of Congress, Tanveer Hussain of PDP and Abdul Ghani of DPAP. Meenakshi Kalra is fighting as an independent from the seat.

Former BJP MLA Daleep Singh Parihar is locked in a triangular contest with Congress leader Nadeem Sharief and former IAS officer Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal of the National Conference from Baderwah constituency of Doda.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is contesting Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time, has fielded Vikram Rathore, while the BSP is banking on woman candidate Meenakshi Bhagat from the seat. Parihar had wrested the seat from Congress in 2014

elections.

Two former ministers Khalid Najid Suhardwardy (NC) and Abdul Majid Wani (DPAP) are two prominent faces from Doda assembly segment. Suhardwardy had won the seat in 1997 by-elections, while Wani won the seat in 2002 and 2008. BJP's Shakti Parihar had won the seat in 2014.

BJP's Gajay Singh Rana, Congress nominee Riaz Ahmad, PDP's Mansoor Ahmad Batt and AAP's Mehraj Malik are among other contestants from the seat.

A keen contest among new faces is on cards in Ramban constituency where BJP's Rakesh Singh Thakur is fighting NC's Arjun Singh Raju and party's rebel candidate Suraj Singh Parihar. The seat was last won by BJP's Neelam Kumar Langhe who was denied mandate by the party this time.

In the last assembly elections held in 2014, the BJP had won four seats - Kishtwar, Ramban, Baderwah and Doda, while the Congress had got Banihal and Inderwal constituencies.

Two assembly constituencies were added to the region in 2022 after the delimitation exercise following reorganization of the erstwhile state.

### People of J&K...

Vice-President, as an "established confused leader," claiming that Omar is uncertain about a pre-poll alliance with Congress and the number of seats they plan to contest. "He (Omar) is confused whether to contest the assembly elections or not," Chug added.

Polling in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1, as announced by the Election Commission of India. The votes will be counted on October 8.

### J&K Assembly Polls...

front runners for the tickets in the Phase-2 and Phase-3 elections.

Sources said that though the decision on announcing names from Jammu South-R S Pura and Bahu assembly seats will be a challenging task the party is expected to bank on Raman Bhalla in one of these two seats.

As per the NC-Congress alliance, there is to be a friendly contest on Nagrota seat.

Party sources said that the National Conference as per the pact has already fielded its candidates from the Jammu North, Vijaypur, Nowshera, Kalakot-Sunderbani,

adding, "now the Congress party leaders are having all the eyes on the second list for which the names will be announced on September 2 or 3 and the names of the candidates for the Phase-3 will also be finalised."

"Two young faces from Jammu and Kashmir, who got berths in the All India Congress Committee namely Neeraj Kundan and Shahnawaz Choudhary, are also believed to be in the fray from Bishnah and Surankote constituencies respectively," sources added.

Earlier Rahul Gandhi had visited Jammu and Kashmir on August 21-22.

### Azad not contesting...

recent hospitalization at the All India Institute of Medical Science in Delhi.

"Azad will soon begin campaigning for his candidates, focusing on the party's manifesto of bringing peace, development, and progress to Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

On Friday, four candidates affiliated with DPAP withdrew their nominations from Assembly elections after Azad said he won't be able to campaign during the first phase due to some health issues.

"DPAP will contest polls independently in areas where their candidates are strong, without hindering secular forces," he said.

Nizami criticized the BJP for snatching statehood, powers, and job opportunities from Jammu and Kashmir's youth.

He pledged that DPAP will fight for the restoration of statehood, land rights, and job security, ensuring that outsiders cannot purchase land or seek employment in the region.

Nizami highlighted Azad's vocal opposition to the abrogation of Article 370 in parliament, contrasting it with the current silence on the issue.

### Congress, Farooq...

as announced by the Election Commission of India. The votes will be counted on October 8.

### Will dialogue with...

and the foreign minister.

"NC leaders should know that our former PM A B Vajpayee went to Pakistan in a bus to extend the hand of friendship but Pakistan backstabbed India by starting

Kargil war. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also went to Lahore on his return from Afghanistan but the terror attacks and killing of innocents continued," he said.

Asked about resentment within the party over ticket distribution, he said BJP is like a family and works together like a team.

"When you have 15 lakh registered members in J&K, political activists have their own aspirations but only one name is finalised for each segment.

"We are all together because our party believes in nation first, party second and self last," he said.

He said Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have turned around the fate of Jammu and Kashmir with restoration of peace, prosperity, and development.

On the launch of video vans, he said every assembly segment will be covered to highlight the achievements of the central government over the past 10 years, especially justice to the deprived sections of the society after abrogation of Article 370.

He assured that his party will resolve the issue of the daily wagers, ad hoc and need-based employees who are demanding their regularisation for decades together.

### EC has changed date...

Earlier, the courts would adjudicate in case of dispute, now a magistrate has been given the powers. The magistrate will do what he is told to," she said.

On the curtailing of two-hour Namaz break in the Assam Assembly, Mufti said that it was a "cheap act" to communalise the situation.

"The Muslim assembly members from Assam have not spoken about it and you expect us to make noise from here. Having said that, it is a cheap act to communalise the situation," she added.

### J&K Youth will...

"Despite the introduction of the New Industrial Policy in 2021, a mere 3% of investments have materialised on the ground. 40% of projects under the PM's Development Package, 2015, remain pending," Kharge said.

"On October 1, Youth of J&K will show the Exit Door to Modi & Company!" he said.

Elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1 and the results declared on October 8.



## PoJK Refugees demand Congress mandate from RS Pura Jammu South constituency: Badrinath

JNEWS SERVICE  
RS PURA, SEPT 2

Congress Working President District Jammu Rural Badrinath Sharma on Sunday assured that Congress will not leave any stone unturned to protect the interests of Jammu and Kashmir. He said, Congress has always worked for a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. "However, Congress Party needs full public support to ensure its people friendly agenda is implemented properly." This was stated by Sharma while addressing impressive public gathering called as preparation meeting at Kotli Shah Doula in RS Pura Jammu South constituency. Prominent speakers present on the occasion including Sub Janak Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma, S Jasbir Singh, Ajay Kumar Jasmeeth Singh, Panch Kuldeep Singh, Mohd Aslam besides others however demanded Congress Party High Command and Congress J&K Unit to give mandate to a PoJK Refugee Badrinath Sharma from RS Pura constituency having served RS Pura constituency for more than 30 years honestly and dedicatedly. They highlighted that the RS Pura Assembly constituency had been reserved for over 26 years, however, with the recent



delimitation; the seat has now been opened to the general category, where PoJK population is more than 42% and they have first right to be represented by a PoJK Refugees in J&K Legislative Assembly. They pointed out that PoJK Refugee community forms a substantial part of the RS Pura-Jammu South demographic, with assembly elections being held after a decade-long hiatus in Jammu and Kashmir, they emphasized the need for political parties to prioritize PoJK Refugee, who have remained politically disenfranchised for far too long. Sharma said that people should no longer fall prey to the deceptive politics of BJP and move towards a more inclusive and united future. He

appealed to the people to give Congress a chance to implement its vision for a better future in Jammu and Kashmir by granting the party an absolute majority in the upcoming assembly elections. Sharma speaking on the occasion maintained that whatever decision Congress High Command takes in RS Pura Jammu South constituency will be respected and honoured but claimed that if a candidate from any other constituency is forced into this constituency, prospectus of Congress party winning this seat will definitely be blurred especially when BJP has given mandate to PoJK Refugee. He said BJP has betrayed the people of Jammu even after ruling Jammu and Kashmir indi-

rectly through Lt Governor and Advisors from Delhi. He further said that "BJP do not respect the sentiments of the people. They want power and to serve their political purpose." Sharma said that they have witnessed the BJP Rule in which no development and instead unemployment has increased manifold with the cancellation of the selection lists. "Jammu remained the worst hit with the BJP's selective approach and appealed to the people to give a chance to their own Congress Party to form a majority Govt in Jammu and Kashmir. We are committed to provide equal opportunity for development, employment and other opportunities," he said. Under present Govt, he said one can find only outsiders as Govt officials in the Civil Secretariats and District Administration while the local Govt officials who work on merits have been sidelined. "If we come to power, we will replace the non-local Govt officials and the local Govt officials will get the preference to ensure justice with the local population of Jammu as well as Kashmir," he said. For this, he asked the people to vote for the candidates of Congress Party in the upcoming assembly elections as it would end their suffer-

ing and provide them an opportunity to get their issues resolved by their representatives. Sharma said that "We know the difficulties being faced by the people in J&K. He added, "Rather than providing job opportunities for the local population, outsiders are being given preference in the ongoing developmental projects. Ideally, locals should have been given priority for employment opportunities, but we observe that everyone from contractors to laborers is being brought in from outside, as if we have a shortage of manpower here in Jammu and Kashmir." "We have faith in the democratic values of our country, and we aspire to the same rights that are enjoyed by people in other regions of the country." He said, "We have a vision and a roadmap to ensure the economic empowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. I assure you that we will ensure impartial development of all regions and prosperity for all citizens, regardless of their regional, religious, or political affiliations." He urged the leaders and workers to enhance their political activities and public outreach program in their respective areas in order to remain in touch with the masses.

## JKNC promises regularization of temporary employees, safeguarding land laws and employment rights

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

In a significant move ahead of the 2024 elections, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has promised to formulate a policy for the regularization of temporary and contractual employees across various sectors; and also promised to safeguarding land laws and employment rights, emphasizing the need to review all decisions made without the approval of the people. Addressing a meeting, Former Minister and party's Central Zone (Jammu, Kathua & Samba) President, Babu Rampaul flanked by Dr Vikas Sharma, Secretary Central Zone, said, "The commitment is expected to resonate with thousands of workers who have been seeking job security and stability. Rampaul said that paramedical staff in associated hospitals and GMC, casual laborers, daily wage workers, CIC operators, contractual employees, home guards, and rehbar-khel (temporary sports



coaches or physical education teachers) would be regularized as soon as the NC was elected to power by the people of J&K. "This broad spectrum of workers has been a significant part of the state's workforce, often working under precarious conditions without the benefits and security that come with permanent employment," he said. He stated that by promising regularization, the JKNC is directly addressing the concerns of temporary employees and their families. The implications of such a policy are far-reaching. Babu Rampaul also emphasized safeguarding

land laws and employment rights, emphasizing the need to review all decisions made without the approval of the people. "By promising to protect land laws and employment rights, the JKNC is directly addressing the concerns of local residents, who have been feeling marginalized and disenfranchised," he added. He appealed to the voters of J&K to exercise their franchise in favour of the National Conference and its alliance partners so that the party could fulfill its poll promises and bring the State back on the path of peace and prosperity, and inclusive development.

## RMMC organizes Free Cardiac Awareness cum Health Checkup Camp

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre organised a free cardiac awareness cum health checkup camp here on Sunday. The camp, which took place at the Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre in Udheywala, Jammu, held from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM in which renowned cardiologist Dr. Sushil Sharma, Head of the Cardiology Department at Government Medical College Hospital & Super Speciality Hospital (GMCH & SSH), Jammu, examined the patients. This health initiative aims to promote greater awareness of cardiac health while providing free medical consultations and essential diagnostic

services to the local community. Dr. Sushil Sharma, with his vast expertise in cardiology, led the camp, offering expert consultation and guiding patients on heart health. Participants will benefit from various free diagnostic services, including Fibroscan, ECG, and blood sugar testing. In addition to cardiac health, the camp provided free consultations across several medical disciplines such as physicians from allopathy, dental surgeons, gynaecologists, eye specialists, and physiotherapists. Furthermore, the Department of Ayush, through the Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Jammu, offered free consultations with Ayurvedic doctors Dr. Arun Gupta and Dr. Shivani Padha, and



distributed free medicines to all, further reinforcing the holistic approach to healthcare. A total 243 of patients benefited from the expertise of 11 doctors at this camp. Distinguished guests including Mr. Ram Swaroop, Executive Director, NHPC and the administra-

tive team of NHPC graced the event with their presence. Mr. Ram Swaroop ji commended the Centre's efforts in alignment with Swami Vivekananda's vision and urged public support for such humanitarian initiatives. He also came forward to help us in any way possible.

The camp also facilitated 50 Fibroscan tests, 60 free blood sugar tests and distributed medicines free of charge. Swami Yajnadharananda, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, highlighted the organization's commitment to the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada, and Swami Vivekananda, emphasizing service to humanity as a form of divine worship. He also announced plans to organize such free camps monthly. For other information contact us on number 9596984032. Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu provides cultural, educational and medical services following the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda.

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

The names of candidates for the second and third phase in view of the assembly elections were discussed by Jai Mahabharat Party today at Jammu Press Club. A press conference was also held regarding this, in which the officials were given charge today. In which mainly the founder national president of Jai Mahabharat Party, Lord Anant Vishnu ji, through Jammu and Kashmir election in-charge Rajeev Khosla, made Manoj Gupta the president of Jammu and Kashmir state and M Sadiq Malik was made the working president, while Kuldeep Raj Ghai ji was made the general secretary. Secretary and Spokesperson, Deepak Kumar as General Secretary Shiv Kumar



Gupta ji as Treasurer, Ajay Sharma ji as Provincial President, Ghulam Jilani Khan District President Baramulla, Shaikat Ali Rishi Vice President Baramulla, Farooq Ahmed State President (ST), Satendra Singh Bali State President Minority, Abdul Khali District President Gandharwal, Abdul Rehman Lone. Vice President Ganderwal, Firdous Ahmed Shaikh District General Secretary Ganderwal, Abdul Rashid Pahari District President Bilwar, Women Vice Presi-

dent Sudarshan. General Secretary Sheetal Sharma, Secretary Bindu Ji, Sharda Gupta were appointed secretaries. During this it was said that nominations would also be made on the remaining assembly seats of Jammu and Kashmir. Present in the press conference today, Sandeep Sharma ji from Samba, Dr. Rakesh Sharma ji from Samba, Rajiv Gupta ji from Mata Vainsho Devi Katra, Rajkumar ji from Jammu, Vipin Gupta ji all assured to strengthen Jai Mahabharat Party.

## NC-Cong trying to create unrest in J&K, push it towards violence: Raman Suri

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

Condemning National Conference (NC) MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi for advocating dialogue and diplomatic ties with Pakistan to resolve what he called the "unsettled issue" of Kashmir, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri said that such irrelevant and illogical demands by NC are mere gimmicks to create an unrest in J&K and push it back to the era of violence and bloodshed. Still unfortunate was that Congress was in alliance with NC and maintaining a criminal silence on such rhetoric, he added. Raman Suri said, J&K Congress President Tariq Hamid Kara's statement that Congress forged an alliance with NC under 'national compulsion' is again a big lie. Nowhere in any state or UT of the nation people want two flags, return of Article 370, discrimination with women, or west Pakistani refugees and violence return to Kashmir. For Con-

gress and NC, it could be their personal compulsion but it cannot be national compulsion, said Raman Suri, advising Kara to stop dragging nation in Congress's dirty politics of division and hatred. Raman Suri also took NC MP Aga Mehdi head on saying that Kashmir was a settled issue, and whatever was remaining stands resolved after abrogation of Article 370. NC must digest this fact and stop befooling people in the name of Kashmir issue. The BJP leader said, Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar too has made it clear that the era of uninterrupted dialogue is over. Kashmir, Raman Suri said, has returned to normalcy where people are living peacefully without incidents of violence and bloodshed. This seems to be irking NC, PDP as well as Congress who are hell bent upon disturbing this atmosphere with their illogical and Pakistan-sponsored statements which are nothing but hollow and aimed at driving youngsters towards

an uncertain future. BJP, he said, will not allow such moves and ensure that Jammu and Kashmir prosper more under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has a special place for Jammu and Kashmir in his heart. The kind of development that is taking place in J&K was never done before, and terribly shaken with it Congress and NC joined by PDP are trying to create unrest amongst the youth for their vested interests. This is for the first time that assembly elections are being held in J&K in a decade after terrorism stands nailed, and former CM Mehbooba Mufti's PDP or NC advocating "diplomatic initiatives between India and Pakistan", is a well-established gimmick to lure the voters, which is not going to happen for the reason that people of Kashmir have understood the dynastic politics of these families who still are promoting their wards instead of common masses or workers.

## LJP (R) Parliamentary Board to decide contesting J&K Assembly elections: AK Bajpai

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 1

Arvind Kumar Bajpai National Senior Vice President LJP (R) accompanied by Kunwar Asim Khan National President Minority Cell, Nitin Bajpai National President Legal Cell Rafiq Malik State President JKUT, Shahbaz Malik State Youth President JKUT today in a press conference at Hotel Cantrine informed that LJP Parliamentary Board whose Chairman is Union Cabinet Minister Chirag Paswan has been mandated to decide contesting Assembly elections in J&K. Addressing Media persons, Bajpai said that today nearly forty potential candidates were interviewed Who are very much capable to contest Assembly elections in J&K but the final decision will be taken by Chirag Paswan after the discussion done here will be brought into his kind notice for further action in this regard. Bajpai further said that in a sched-



uled meeting with Chirag Paswan tomorrow, Parliamentary Board of party may announce the names of the candidates who will be contesting the Assembly elections to galvanize the party's supporters and strengthen its position ahead of the elections. He said Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ramvilas) remains committed to addressing the concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring that their voices are heard in the upcoming elections. Bajpai further said that said LJP is a party of the people and for the people who want to serve the nation in a transparent way and to strengthen the roots of our world famous democracy with a secular fabric. He added that it is

due to the credibility of the party that the youth, students and right thinking people want to work for the party under the most trusted and matured leadership of Chirag Paswan. He said LJP is committed to provide a vibrant platform to youths to play their designated role in the state polity and help in shaping its politico-economic destiny. Bajpai however said that Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) is prominent member of NDA and party will never ever do anything which hurts Party's stand in NDA Alliance and will abide by any direction by Party President Chirag Paswan regarding J&K Assembly elections and will accordingly take further course of action in J&K UT. Malik said that people

expecting an early restoration of Statehood ahead of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir but same was unnecessarily put on hold. He said that LJP believes in the service of people and has from day one pursued the issues that matter the most for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that LJP will never compromise on its socio-economic and political agenda and will ensure that whatever has been promised is delivered on the ground. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Bhanu Pratap State Sr. Vice President JKUT, Ravi Kumar Bali Chief Advisor Jkut, Varun Bali State Sr. Vice President Jkut, R.P Singh State General Secretary Jkut, Shakeel Ahmed State General Secretary Jkut, Daljit Singh Chief Co-Ordinator Jkut, Rashpal Singh Billoria State Secretary Jkut, Vikram Singh State General Secretary Jkut, Lakhwinder Paul State Secretary, Inder

Kumar Manhas Jammu Province President, Gurdev Singh State Secretary Sikh Minority Cell Jkut, Puran Chand Malhotra State Secretary Jkut, Davinder Pal Singh State Secretary, Kamaljeet State General Secretary Jkut, Inderjeet District President, Arbaz Malik State Youth Vice President Jkut, Qadir Malik State Youth General Secretary Jkut, Dr. Asif Rehman Choudhary State Secretary Jkut, Maharaj Krishan Bhat State President Migrant Cell jkut, Iqbal Singh State Youth Vice President Jkut, Rohit Sharma, Sumit Kangotra Jammu Province secretary Youth, Ashik Hussain Ganie, Maroof Ahmad Kalas, Tariq Ahmad Ganie, Mushtaq Ahmad Rathi, Bashir Ahmad Gilloo, Javaid Ahmad Tantry, Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie, Sushma Sharma State General Secretary Jkut Mahilla Wing, Nirmal State General Secretary Mahilla Wing Jkut, Nirmal Jyoti State General Secretary Mahilla Wing JKUT.



## EDITORIAL

## The 2024 Paralympic Games: A Celebration of Human Spirit and Resilience

As the world turns its attention to the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, we are reminded not just of the extraordinary athletic achievements that these Games showcase, but also of the incredible spirit, determination, and resilience of the athletes who compete. The Paralympics represent more than a global sporting event; they are a powerful testament to the human spirit's capacity to overcome adversity, challenge societal perceptions, and redefine the meaning of ability.

The Paralympic Games have historically served as a catalyst for change, challenging stereotypes and inspiring new perspectives on disability. Each athlete's story is a narrative of perseverance, reflecting the broader struggles and triumphs of individuals with disabilities worldwide. In 2024, we see this even more vividly, as the Games are set against a backdrop of increased awareness and advocacy for disability rights and inclusion.

These Games are not just a showcase of what athletes with disabilities can achieve; they are a stage for demonstrating what is possible when societies prioritize inclusion and accessibility. The Paralympics challenge us to think differently about ability and potential, inviting us to celebrate diversity in all its forms.

Representation matters, and the Paralympic Games provide a global platform for athletes with disabilities to demonstrate their strength, skill, and competitive spirit. This year's Games in Paris will feature over 4,400 athletes from around the world, competing in 22 sports. From wheelchair basketball to para-swimming, each event highlights the diverse ways in which athletes overcome physical challenges to excel at the highest levels.

For many, these athletes are role models, not just for their athletic prowess but for their courage and determination. They embody a message that transcends sport: that disability does not define an individual's worth or potential. In a world where people with disabilities often face systemic barriers and discrimination, the visibility and success of Paralympic athletes send a powerful message of empowerment and possibility.

Paris, the host city for the 2024 Games, has a unique opportunity and responsibility to set a new standard for accessibility and inclusivity. From transportation to accommodation, every aspect of the Games must be designed with the needs of athletes, officials, and spectators with disabilities in mind. The success of these Games will be measured not only by the records broken or the medals won but also by the legacy of inclusion and accessibility they leave behind.

The French capital, with its rich history and culture, has committed to making the 2024 Paralympics a transformative event. The city has undertaken significant efforts to improve accessibility, from retrofitting historic venues to implementing inclusive design principles in public spaces. These efforts are commendable and should serve as a model for future host cities.

While the Paralympic Games are a moment of celebration, they also highlight the ongoing challenges faced by people with disabilities around the world. Access to sports and recreation, healthcare, education, and employment remain significant issues. The Paralympics shine a light on what is possible, but they also remind us of the work still to be done to ensure equal opportunities for all.

As we celebrate the achievements of the athletes in Paris, let us also commit to creating a more inclusive world. A world where people with disabilities have the same opportunities to pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential. A world where the Paralympic values of determination, equality, inspiration, and courage are not just ideals for sport but are reflected in our societies every day.

The 2024 Paralympic Games are more than a sporting event; they are a call to action. Let us be inspired by the athletes who compete, and let their example drive us to build a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable world for all.

## The train whistle and romance in Indian cinema

GOPICHAND KATRAGADDA

The sound of a train whistle is unique in Indian cinema, often echoing through some iconic songs and scenes. From the haunting strains of Chalthe Chalthe in Pakeezah to the rhythmic energy of Chaiyya Chaiyya in Dil Se, the train whistle is more than just a background sound – it symbolises longing, love, and life's journey.

### Melancholy

The train whistle in Chalthe Chalthe in Pakeezah (1972) initially seems out of place but is, in fact, deliberate and deeply symbolic. The distant, melancholic sound of the whistle contrasts with Lata Mangeshkar's soulful voice, enhancing the protagonist Sahibjaan's yearning for freedom. The whistle also ties to the memory of an anonymous love note received on a train. The train's

whistle represents a world beyond her reach, a world she desires but cannot attain.

The cinematography amplifies this yearning with its nuanced play of light and shadow. Each frame reflects Sahibjaan's inner turmoil, with the train whistle punctuating the scene. Thus, Chalthe Chalthe is a reflection on unfulfilled dreams and the inexorable passage of time.

### The call of destiny

Gaadi Bula Rahi Hai, from the 1974 film Dost, uses the train whistle in a powerful yet different way. Sung by Kishore Kumar, the song metaphorically represents a train journey as life itself. The whistle symbolises the call of destiny, urging the protagonist to embrace life's uncertainties and challenges. The visuals, depicting a train moving through various landscapes, serve as a

metaphor for life's ups and downs. The whistle is a persistent reminder that life's journey is ongoing, with new destinations and challenges ever-present. This combination of evocative lyrics and the train's haunting sound renders the song a profound reflection on the human experience.

### Playfulness

The train whistle is playful and rhythmic in Dhanno Ki Aankhon Mein from Kitab (1977). The song, composed by R D Burman, captures the imagination of an engine driver having dalliances along his route. The whistle punctuates his fantasies, symbolising the excitement of a potential encounter.

The choreography and visual storytelling in this song are equally enchanting. The train represents the boundless possibilities of life's journey, and the whistle adds a whimsical, joyful touch to the narrative.

sical, joyful touch to the narrative.

### Energy

Chaiyya Chaiyya from Dil Se (1998) is one of the most visually iconic train songs in Indian cinema. Shot atop a moving train, the song is a vibrant mix of Sufi music, energetic choreography, and stunning cinematography. Here, the train symbolises the unstoppable force of love and passion.

Composed by A R Rahman, the song uses the train's motion and the rhythmic beat of the wheels to propel the music. The whistle, though subtle, contributes to the auditory landscape, heightening the sense of movement and urgency. The sweeping shots of the train cutting through rugged terrain capture love's raw energy and intensity, making it a perfect metaphor for its powerful and often uncontrollable nature.

### Silence

In the Telugu film Doctor Chakravarthy (1964), the song Ee Mounam Ee Bidiyam uses the train whistle in a subtle and introspective manner. The whistle starts off the song, a distant echo of unresolved emotions.

The song reflects hesitation and deep contemplation of love and relationships. The cinematography, in my view, does not necessarily match the song and could have benefited from using silence and subtle train sounds to convey the characters' emotional states. The whistle is a poignant reminder of unspoken desires and the complexities of human connection.

### Why the train?

What makes the train such an enduring symbol of romance in Indian cinema? Perhaps it's the inherent metaphor of

the train journey itself, mirroring the course of life, with its many destinations, fleeting encounters, and the ever-present hope of new beginnings. The train, always in motion, reflects the transient nature of life and love, where moments of joy and sorrow are but stops along the way.

Whether distant and melancholic or sharp and insistent, the whistle reminds us of fleeting moments and the dreams that lie ahead. It evokes nostalgia, longing, and the bittersweet nature of love, making it the perfect companion to the melodies of Indian cinema.

In the end, the train whistle is not just a sound but a powerful symbol in the tapestry of Indian film music, echoing through our most cherished cinematic memories and reminding us of the literal and metaphorical journeys that define our lives.

## The crisis of residential colonies in Punjab

SUKHDEV SINGH

In its meeting held on August 14, 2024, the Punjab cabinet decided to remove the requirement of PUDA NOC for the sale of plots in the unapproved residential colonies. But the stated objective "to save the buyers from their struggle for basic civic amenities in these colonies" is the same as used by the successive governments amending the PAPR Act 1995 from time to time while its hollowness is so obvious in the reality on the ground. Every time the law has been amended to make some of its provisions more stringent against the colonizers, it has served them more. For example, the PAPR Act 1995 was amended in 2014 to deal with the promoters or estate agents registered under the act but failing to comply with its provisions.

The amendment changed the punishment of imprisonment from up to three years to a minimum of three years extendable to seven years with a fine from ten thousand to a minimum of Rupees two lac extending to Rupees five lac. But it made the law ineffectual on the offending colonizers in the past. The cycle of stricter punishment and waiver of the offences in the past has been on since 1995 in the name of saving buyers from cheating and deceit.

The notifications, issued in the years 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2022, amending or adding to the law(s) of PAPRA instantiate the continuity in relief to the colonizers in the name of providing relief to the people.

The successive governments have been approving the schemes of instituting the need for a 'no objection certificate' NOC' by paying some fee as development charges that the individual plot holders are circumstantially compelled to pay but the real estate agents remain immune to it waiting for the next the cut-off date for the waiver. Given the increased demand for housing and the unregulated activities of "some private colonisers" working with the sole "motive of profits" disregarding "the interests and rights of buyers of plots and flats", the stated objective for repealing the Punjab Regulation of colonies Act, 1975 and the legislating Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act (PAPRA) 1995 was "to check, control and regulate effectively the activities of such private colonisers and protect the interest of the consumers".

The situation originated from the unpreparedness of the government to meet the rising need for housing and post-1990 privatisation policy without any regulating mechanisms.



In hindsight, the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act 1995 was legislated and the Punjab Urban Planning and Development Authority (PUDA) was established to register private colonizers and issue licenses to develop the housing colonies on the agricultural or other land after seeking change in land use (CLU) and approved plans as per rules in PAPR Act 1995.

With a huge financial burden on salaries and infrastructure PUDA and its subsequent regional authorities were tasked to enforce 'obligations on promoters and estate agents' to create all civic amenities within a specified timeframe requiring them to hand over the colony to the respective urban local body after NOCs from all the concerned departments. The stated objective of the act (PAPAR) and the authority (PUDA) since then has been to check the growth of unauthorised colonies and enforce the development in the authorised colonies as per rules.

But unfortunately, it has miserably failed in its two-pronged objective: since 1995 the number of unauthorised colonies has risen to more than 15000 while the number of authorised colonies in comparison is much less.

Yet in the authorised colonies, the enforcement of time-bound assured development is too weak to act for anyone as a motivation to build houses there. The colonisers have sold all the plots in the name of legal colonies plotting a chunk of land on its sidelines without necessary approvals and without developing the approved section to the standards of seeking NOCs from the concerned departments to hand over the colonies to the local body; the irony is that the development authorities prefer not to take any suo moto notice of it. Neither the developer nor any government agency including PUDA undertakes the development responsibility although the rules prescribe stringent action against the coloniser and for PUDA to undertake

development by confiscating the mortgaged properties and bank guarantees etc. But PUDA continues to grant extensions year after year while the plot buyer is not able to build the house on the 'legal' plot in a 'legal' colony because the PSPCL does not provide a power supply connection in the absence of NOC.

The officials appointed in PUDA and urban local body (ULB) to enforce and ensure time-bound development in the legal colonies by the licensed private developer finish off by saying that the public facilities in an authorised colony are the responsibility of the colonizer who doesn't give a damn to this responsibility because he understands that the enforcement agencies enforce the law on those who approach the law not on those who violate the law.

The plot buyers feel legally duped. The unauthorised colonies without change in land use or any approved plan continued to mushroom where the colonisers created very little infrastructure and sold the plots leaving the plot holders to act as the vote bank approaching the political class for relief. Hence the need for NOCs and their waiver becomes a game of politics rather than a policy. Now that the cycle is complete by the Punjab cabinet decision

to waive off the need for NOCs in the unauthorised colonies while the cabinet itself had legislated for the NOCs. It doesn't matter to the common man which cabinet it was or is; what matters to them is a legal and easy-to-build house policy for them.

Therefore while the government notifies the waiver of NOCs in the unauthorised colonies, it should direct PUDA to confiscate mortgaged properties and bank guarantees to develop all more-than-ten-years colonies and ensure time-bound development of electricity LD systems, sewerage, water supply and roads before selling any plot in the authorised colonies to encourage the planned and legal development and strictly control the unauthorised development in future rather than approve policies to legalise the illegal. The onus for ensured development should be on the regulator rather than on the buyer of a plot.

Let the 2024 notification waiving off the condition of NOCs by the buyers be the last one! Let the common man experience the fundamental right to live a respectable life!

(The writer is a retired professor from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and a Member, of the Governing Council, INTACH; views are personal)

## Relationships and spirituality

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Yes, spirituality can help in maintaining good relationships. I will cite several examples, where solutions are available in spirituality. Beginning with the common fault of seeing fault in others, don't we have faults? Therefore, others must have too. How should we deal with this problem? Lord Krishna guides in the Bhagavad-Geeta, "We should not cause confusion in the minds of ignorant persons, rather should pacify." (3.26) Let us assume that our assessment of other person is right.

Then, accept it and somehow manage the situation. We should be able to do so if we indeed are wise. Another common flaw is to get angry with someone and maintain anger. What benefit is there in doing so? All we will do is to cause harm to ourselves.

The Geeta illuminates, "From anger, foolishness results; from foolishness, bewilderment results; from bewilderment, loss of intelligence occurs; and by the loss of intelligence, a person is doomed." (2.63) This sequence is repeated in the lives of all those who harbour anger. How does spirituality help? Forgive and be done with it. What benefit will be derived by harbouring anger?

Rather one can be a happy person. (5.23) Thoughts of illicit acts are another common problem. Who can claim that he or she doesn't get them: The only exceptions are highly advanced devotees like Swami Vivekananda. What is the spiritual solution? Lord Krishna has drawn the line when He stated, "I am passion in beings, according to religious principles." (7.11) Otherwise, get ready to burn as warned in this verse, "By this insatiable



fire in the form of lust, which is the eternal enemy of a knowledgeable person knowledge is covered." (3.39) Close relationships like marriage require special attention. In spiritual terms, we are packages with both good and bad. Our natures are parts of these. When we are born we bring them into our present lives. These are parts of our fate and don't change much in our lifetime, mainly the major

factors. This is the solution for marriage partners. We must accept them as they are. Disliking would not help; acceptance will, as long as there is no violation of dharma like maintaining illicit relationships. From the Geeta we learn that even a man of knowledge endeavours according to his nature; persons follow nature. What will repression do? (3.33) God can help if we are determined, but it is a

very slow process. Another major deterrent to good relationships is a clash of egos. Everyone is trying to prove his or her superiority, whereas there is only one superior, i.e. God. We are all small, ignorant and quite helpless really.

This is what ego means. Sooner we give up the false sense of superiority and become humble better we will be served. Humility is a great quality to achieve relationships. One will begin appreciating instead, which endears us to one and all. One will have no dearth of friends, which all egoists lack. Just like everyone has faults, everyone has some good qualities also. Look for them and you will find plenty.

Make a habit of thanking whenever some favour is done to us; this habit entitles us to more favours. Lord Krishna has asked us to see all others as souls just like us. (5.18) There

must be basic regard for all human beings. We are judgemental, and, unfortunately, suffer due to our very limited knowledge. How much do we know about anything in its totality - the Big Picture? Only God knows. Therefore, our expectations are very high from others and, inevitably, very little from ourselves. If we are not so judgemental our relations with others will be conducive to dealing. We will appreciate that the circumstances of others may not be so favourable to them. We will be better served in dealing with others if we embrace spirituality. We will not step in the three doors to hell, which are lust, anger and greed. And if we can control our hateful tendencies, we will endear ourselves to others greatly.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views expressed are personal)



## Digitalisation can boost treatment outcomes for heart failure patients: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

Digitalisation can help boost the treatment outcomes of patients with heart failure, a condition that affects over 60 million people worldwide, a new study shows.

Researchers from five Dutch hospitals discovered that digital consultations enhanced care while preserving patient satisfaction.

Almost all patients became digital consults during the Covid-19 pandemic, which while functioning well also raised some difficulties.

The team split 150 patients into two groups.



One used the digital consultation approach, while the other took a more conventional approach to care.

The number of patients who had achieved the ideal drug combination was then determined by the researchers after 12

weeks. In the end, only 7 per cent of participants in the traditional care package obtained the ideal mix, compared to 28 per cent of those undergoing digital consults.

Mark Schuurings, a cardiologist at Medical Spectrum Twente, Netherlands

said the study assessed the quality of care by contrasting the physician's method during the online consultation with the most recent recommendations.

They looked into how patients and physicians exchange digital data and gave them both more information.

Such programmes, which encourage medical professionals to treat patients under the most recent worldwide criteria, are widely utilised in the corporate sector, but are not yet typical in the care industry, Schurring said.

In addition, the researchers also examined a number of the frequent-

ly voiced issues with the usage of digital consultations and discovered no variations in the amount of time spent, the satisfaction levels, or most importantly, the patient's quality of life.

This study demonstrates that digital consultations are beneficial to both parties, the patient's care was enhanced and their experience was not negatively impacted in any manner. It may also have applications well beyond heart failure.

The findings were concurrently presented at the European Society of Cardiology's annual conference and published in Nature Medicine.

## 10 new Ayush institutes to be opened in next 5 years: Minister

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

The government on Saturday said that 10 new Ayush institutes will be opened in the next five years to expand the traditional medical system, allowing every citizen in the country to benefit from it.

The announcement came as Union Minister of State for Ayush (Independent Charge) and Health Minister, Prataprao Jadhav, visited the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), where he reviewed the facilities and the treatments being provided to the patients.

The minister emphasised that the government is committed to fulfilling



the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's effort to bring Ayurveda to every household. "Ayurveda and our traditional medical system suffered significant damage during the colonial period and foreign invasions but today, there has been a global shift in perception towards Yoga and Ayurveda, and their acceptance

is rapidly increasing," said Jadhav.

Professor Tanuja Nesari, AIIA Director, said Minister Jadhav has played a significant role in promoting Ayurveda, and "his guidance and support will continue to help in taking Ayurveda to the masses and establishing it on the global stage."

## Comprehensive campaign to be launched in Rajasthan for cancer prevention: Official

AGENCIES  
JAIPUR, SEPT 1

Additional Chief Secretary of Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan, Shubhra Singh on Saturday said that facilities for cancer screening at the primary level in the state will be further strengthened.

"The work of cancer prevention will be conducted as a campaign in villages which will be taken to ground via Asha and Anganwadi workers and other health officials. A district-wise plan will also be made for screening. Also, it is proposed to conduct a cancer awareness campaign on a large scale in the state from the month of October. Through this cam-

paign, the general public will be given information about the symptoms, investigation and treatment of cancer disease," she said.

Singh, while chairing the first meeting of the State Integrated Cancer Task Force held at the State Cancer Institute on Saturday, said that cancer has emerged as the third leading cause of death in the world. "Deaths caused by cancer are a matter of concern. The state government is taking steps with commitment to prevent this disease. In the coming time, along with strengthening the cancer screening and treatment system at the lower level, the availability of state-of-the-art facilities will be ensured.

## Chronic diseases, lifestyle factors can raise inflammation, up cognitive decline risk

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

Chronic diseases like diabetes, heart diseases, and obesity, coupled with lifestyle factors such as low exercise and unhealthy diet can raise your body's inflammation levels, and contribute to the risk of cognitive decline, said health experts on Sunday.

Inflammation is the body's natural response to infections, injury, pathogens, irritants, or oxidative stress. It can play a significant role in cognitive decline or a decrease in mental functioning.

During inflammation, the body's cells fight and contain the infection. As a result, certain mediators or chemicals are released, which trigger reactions in the surrounding areas causing localised inflam-

mation, often accompanied by pain or swelling.

"Inflammation of the brain tissue caused by an overactive immune response or a long-standing infection and can lead to neuronal and cognitive decline," Dr Vinus Taneja, Consultant at the Department of Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, told IANS.

Chronic inflammation can disrupt the blood-brain barrier and also affects inflammatory markers, such as the interleukins, and the C reactive proteins.

"The elderly population is more vulnerable to these conditions. People with chronic conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and obesity, are also at higher risk of cognitive decline," Taneja said.

"Inflammation has been



increasingly recognised as a major factor in cognitive decline in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementias," he added.

Inflammatory profiles, genetics can also play a major role, both in inflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases.

"Lifestyle factors can also contribute to chronic inflammation. Low physical activity levels, chronic

stress, obesity, unhealthy eating habits such as consuming oily, junk, or processed foods, sleep disturbances, exposure to toxins and air pollution, smoking, and alcohol consumption are all potential contributors," Dr. Vipul Gupta - Group Director - Neurointervention Paras Hospital, Gurugram, told IANS.

Inflammation can be either acute or chronic. Acute inflammation occurs

when someone has a fever or an infection that comes and goes.

However, certain conditions can lead to chronic inflammation, which can be seen in diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune disorders like spondylitis, and even mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression.

Gupta said that studies have shown that patients with conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, especially those who are obese, have a higher risk of cognitive decline or a decrease in mental functioning due to long-term chronic inflammation.

So how do we prevent it?

"Prevention involves incorporating regular physical activity and exercise into your daily routine, avoiding smoking and

alcohol, and eating fresh, non-processed fruits and vegetables, focussing on a Mediterranean diet," Gupta said.

Chronic stress can also cause inflammation, Taneja said, suggesting mindfulness, meditation, relaxation management.

One should also control the underlying chronic illness, like diabetes, hypertension, which indirectly will help in the long-term in the reduction of inflammation, he said.

The experts also called for maintaining a healthy weight. If one notices symptoms of chronic inflammation, it is recommended to undergo a complete medical check-up to identify any underlying issues or diseases that may be causing the inflammation, so that appropriate treatment can be administered.

## Study explains why treatments for autoimmune, inflammatory diseases raise TB risk

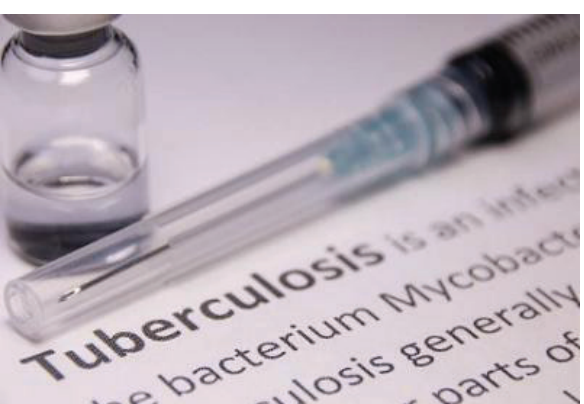
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

Researchers have found how a protein produced by immune cells and used to treat autoimmune and inflammatory diseases raises the risk of tuberculosis (TB).

While TB is the leading cause of mortality from infectious disease in the world, the deaths represent just 5 per cent of infections with Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb). Mtb spreads through the air and usually infects the lungs.

Researchers have long known that an acquired deficiency of "tumour necrosis factor" (TNF) can raise the risk of developing TB.

Upending long-held assumptions about the immune system, the study, published in the journal



Nature, revealed that a lack of TNF incapacitates a specific immune process in the lungs, leading to severe illness.

Jean-Laurent Casanova, from Rockefeller University in the US, said that TNF protects the lungs against TB. But otherwise, it plays "a limited role in inflammation and immunity."

The study focussed on recurring TB infections experienced by two

people in Colombia -- a 28-year-old woman and her 32-year-old cousin. Both were repeatedly hospitalised with significant lung conditions.

Both initially responded well to anti-TB antibiotics. Yet even though their immune systems functioned normally they became sick again within a year.

The team conducted a whole-exome sequenc-

ing on the two, as well as a genetic analysis of their respective parents and relatives to probe their recurring TB infections.

The two were found to be the only members of their extended family with a mutation in the TNF gene, which failed to function. As a result, the patient's alveolar macrophages, located in their lungs, were overrun with Mtb.

The team noted that the lack of TNF in alveolar macrophages makes people susceptible to airborne TB (Mtb).

The discovery solves a long-standing mystery about why TNF inhibitors, which are used to treat autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, raise the chances of contracting TB. Without TNF, a key part of the defence against it is defunct, said the team.

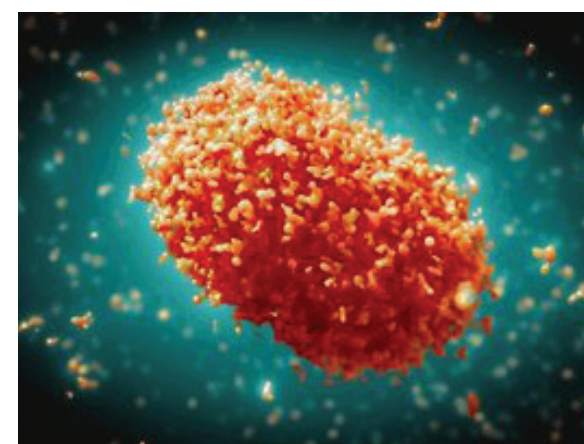
## Prioritising needs of children not only necessary but urgent: Unicef on Mpox

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

As the World Health Organisation (WHO) asks countries to step up vigil against Monkeypox (Mpox), the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has also sounded an alert, saying that in the fight against the outbreak, prioritising the needs of children is not only necessary but urgent.

A new variant of the mpox virus (clade Ib) is causing concern due to its potential for wider transmission across age groups, including young children. Mpox is affecting thousands of children across Africa.

According to the global humanitarian body, children who are malnourished or affected by other illnesses are also vulner-



able to complications from mpox.

The virus can spread through contact with lesions on the skin or infectious bodily fluids; contact with contaminated materials such as clothing, linen or sharps injuries in healthcare settings; contact with respiratory droplets, from an infected

person's mouth or throat contact with infected animals; pregnant women can pass the virus on to their unborn baby.

According to Unicef, children can be exposed at home or in the community through close contact with people who are symptomatic with mpox including parents, caregivers, or

other family members.

Mpox causes symptoms that are similar to smallpox, though less severe, like skin rash, fever, sore throat, headache, body aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, children under 15 represent more than half of the cases. Across the most impacted countries, wide-spread malnutrition, crowded living conditions, the presence of other infectious diseases, and limited access to healthcare make the spread of mpox a perilous situation for children.

Unicef said it is working with Africa CDC and WHO, as well as other partners such as USAID and FCDO, to support national governments.

## Simple blood test can predict 30-year heart disease risks for women

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, SEP 1

Scientists on Saturday said they have developed a simple blood test that can predict 30-year cardiovascular disease risks for women.

Research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the US found that measuring two types of fat in the bloodstream, along with C-reactive protein (CRP), a marker of inflammation, can predict a woman's risk for cardiovascular disease decades later.

"We can't treat what we don't measure, and we hope these findings



move the field closer to identifying even earlier ways to detect and prevent heart disease," said Paul M Ridker, director of the Center for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston.

For the study, published

in the New England Journal of Medicine, the team collected blood samples and medical information from 27,939 healthcare providers living in the US who participated in the Women's Health Study.

Women, who started the study between 1992-

1995 at an average age of 55, were followed for 30 years.

During this period, 3,662 study participants experienced a heart attack, stroke, surgery to restore circulation, or a cardiovascular-related death.

Researchers assessed how high-sensitivity CRP, along with low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol and lipoprotein(a) -- a lipid partly made of LDL -- singularly and collectively predicted these events.

When all three measures were assessed together, participants with the highest levels had more than a 1.5-times

increased associated risk for stroke and more than a 3-times increased associated risk for coronary heart disease compared to women with the lowest levels. While only women were assessed in this study, they would expect to find similar results in men. "In recent years, we've learned more about how increased levels of inflammation can interact with lipids to compound cardiovascular disease risks," said Ahmed AK Hasan, programme director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). "This helps explain why lower levels are often better."

## Daily pill with 3 low-dose drugs more effective in lowering BP, finds study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, AUG 31

For those suffering from uncontrolled hypertension, here comes good news. New research on Saturday showed that a single pill with low doses of three anti-hypertensive drugs, once a day, significantly lowered blood pressure than other standard care methods.

It is estimated that over a billion adults live with hypertension worldwide, with two-thirds living in low- and middle-income countries. The treatment based on novel combination of low doses of three anti-hypertensive drugs in a single pill - known as 'GMRx2' - was found to be superior to a high-quality standard care treatment plan at lowering blood pressure in patients, according to the study

published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). The 'GMRx2' treatment plan involved a once daily pill containing telmisartan, amlodipine and indapamide at a quarter, half or standard doses. The standard care treatment plan was recommended by the Nigerian Ministry of Health began with monotherapy, followed by dual and triple combination therapy, and was typical of hypertension guidelines for many countries. Results of the trial was led by The George Institute for Global Health and presented at the 'European Society of Cardiology Congress 2024'. After six-month treatment, home systolic blood pressure was 31 mm Hg lower in the 'GMRx2' group compared to 26 mm Hg lower with standard care. The 5.8 mm Hg difference was highly clinically and statistically significant.



## Air Marshal Dixit takes over new Central Air Command chief

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, SEP 1

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, who was at the forefront of various projects for the adoption of future technologies, force modernisation, and increased focus on 'Atmanirbharta' as the IAF's Deputy Chief, on Sunday took over the new chief of the Central Air Command.

Commissioned into the Indian Air Force's fighter stream on December 6, 1986, he is an Experimental Test Pilot and a Qualified Flying Instructor with more than 3300 hours of flying experience on a variety of aircraft in the IAF inventory. Air Marshal Dixit, an alumnus of the prestigious National Defence Academy, the Defence Services Staff College (Bangladesh) and the National Defence College, has actively participated in numerous operations and exercises such as Operations 'Safed Sagar' (Kargil was) and 'Rakshak' (J&K anti-insurgency opera-



tions, a defence statement said.

During his illustrious career spanning more than 37 years, the Air Marshal has held several significant field and staff appointments.

Commanding officer of a Mirage fighter squadron, a front-line fighter air base in the Western Sector and a premier fighter training base in the Southern Sector, he has also served

as a Directing Staff at the Air Force Test Pilots School and, Principal Director, Air Staff Requirement, at the Air Headquarters.

Air Marshal Dixit has also served as Air Defence Commander at the Southern Air Command and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, Projects, and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, Plans, at Air Headquarters.

Prior to taking over the

Bamrauli-headquartered Central Air Command, he was Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

Air Marshal Dixit has highlighted that operational readiness of the Central Air Command in all scenarios will top his agenda.

He is the recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vayu Sena Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal for meritorious service.

## Excise policy scam: SC to hear Vijay Nair's bail plea on Sep 2

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEP 1

The Supreme Court (SC) will hear a plea filed by former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) communications incharge Vijay Nair, seeking bail, in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam on Monday.

As per the causerlist, a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti will resume hearing the case on September 2.

In the previous hearing, the top court "reluctantly" deferred the proceedings after the counsel appearing for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) sought week's time to file a reply to Nair's bail plea.

Deprecating the central agency's request to adjourn the hearing, the SC noted that the ED's counsel already entered an appearance quite some time back but a counter affidavit has not been filed.

On August 12, the Supreme Court issued a notice to the ED on Nair's



plea and asked the federal anti-money laundering agency to file its reply within two weeks.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Nair, cited the judgment of the apex court, which had allowed bail pleas of senior AAP leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the excise policy case on the ground of delay in commencement of trial.

Singhvi said that Nair, who has been granted bail in a corruption case but remains in custody in an ED case, suffered incarceration

of nearly two years and completion of the trial would take more time.

In July last year, a Bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma of the Delhi High Court denied bail to Nair. He had moved the Delhi HC challenging a trial court order rejecting his bail application.

Observing that the "allegations are quite serious", Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court had denied bail to Nair and four others - Sameer Mahendru, Abhishek Boinpally, Sarath Chandra Reddy, and Benoy Babu.

The trial court held that

there was enough incriminating evidence to show the entire "modus operandi" adopted by the accused persons for the commission of offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

On the allegations and the role of Nair, it said: "Though he was only the media and communication incharge of AAP, it has been revealed during the investigation that he was actually representing the AAP and GNCTD in different meetings that took place with the stakeholders of liquor business at different places.

"His participation in the meetings in this capacity is to be viewed in light of the facts that he was residing in the official accommodation allotted to a senior Minister of AAP, and once he was even alleged to have represented himself as an OSD in the Excise Department of GNCTD. Further, none from the government or AAP officially participated in these meetings."

## Shivaji statue collapse: MVA holds 'Jodo Maro' protest

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, SEP 1

The Maha Vikas Aghadi on Sunday held a 'Jodo Maro' protest against the collapse of a statue of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders, including Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray, Nana Patole, Supriya Sule, Sanjay Raut, accompanied by a large number of functionaries of NCP(SP), Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress slammed the MahaYuti government alleging that the statue collapsed as its construction work was carried out by bypassing the statutory norms and due to corruption.

They took out the protest march from Hutatma



Chowk to the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Gateway of India where homage was paid to the revered king.

They shouted slogans like 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Ki Jai' and 'Jai Bhavani, Jai Shivaji'.

Kolhapur MP Chhatra-

pati Shahu Maharaj said that the collapse of Shivaji Maharaj's statue has angered the public.

"This is an insult to both Maharaj and Maharashtra, and those responsible must not be forgiven. Action must be taken against those found guilty,

and steps must be taken to ensure that the honour of Shivaji Maharaj is upheld," he said.

NCP President Sharad Pawar said, "The incident of the collapse of the statue is a clear example of corruption. It has insulted Chhatrapati Shivaji's devotees across the country, and today's protest was held to condemn those responsible for this incident."

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said, "Although Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologised, there was a hint of arrogance on his face, which is unacceptable."

In front of the Gateway of India, Uddhav Thackeray exhorted people "not to rest until Chhatrapati

Shivaji Maharaj's traitors are expelled from India".

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee President Nana Patole alleged that the BJP government has insulted Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj by indulging in corruption and taking commissions even for a project in his name.

"In Malvan, not only did Shivaji Maharaj's statue collapsed, but Maharashtra dharma was trampled upon. Shivaji Maharaj is our deity, and this 'Kholke Sarkar' has insulted our deity.

As the Assembly elections are approaching, the Prime Minister and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde have apologised, but this sin is unforgivable," he said.

## Plea in SC challenges constitutional amendments relating to GST, hearing on Monday

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEP 1

A plea has been filed before the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of certain amendments introduced in the Constitution for implementing Goods and Services Tax (GST), which will be heard by a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday.

Earlier in April this year, the Patna High Court had dismissed a writ petition challenging the constitutionality of Sections 2, 9, 12 and 18 of the Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016.

In its impugned decision, the high court ruled that the petitioner being an advocate did not have

the locus standi to challenge the amendments as he was not involved in any commercial activities and no legal injury had been caused to him.

The special leave petition filed before the apex court said that the high court has failed to appreciate the settled principle of law that if the issue raised is of fundamental importance involving the larger public interest, the rule of locus standi can be relaxed.

"If any amendment to any provision in the constitution abrogates its basic feature, every citizen irrespective of his position has the right to challenge the vires of the said provision before the Constitutional Courts," it added.

Further, it said that the Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016 brings about a sea change in the manner and power of levy of indirect taxation in the country, the incidence of which is indeed passed on to common people and every citizen at large are affected by such provision whether directly or indirectly.

The plea, filed through advocate Chandan Kumar, said that the GST Council, an executive body, is empowered to create a new levy in respect of petroleum crude, high-speed diesel, motor spirit, etc., and de facto amend the VII Schedule of the Indian Constitution from the date of its recommendation.

## TN Chief Minister signs Rs 400 crore contract with Ohmium in San Francisco

AGENCIES

CHENNAI, SEP 1

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who is on a 17-day trip to the United States to garner investment, has signed a Rs 400 crore contract with Ohmium in San Francisco, which will generate 500 jobs.

In a social media post on X, Stalin said, "Another successful day in San Francisco! We've secured a Rs 400 crore investment from Ohmium in Chengalpattu district, creating 500 jobs. This marks a significant step in nurturing the eco-

system for green energy production and fuelling a sustainable future!"

Stalin has also visited the headquarters of Google, Apple and Microsoft and has entered into MoUs with these tech giants for investments in Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister has also signed several MoUs with major companies in San Francisco.

A statement from the Chief Minister's Office said that the CM signed an MoU with Nokia for a New Nokia R&D centre which will be their largest Fixed Network test bed in the world

for innovation in 10G, 25G, 50G and 100G PON.

This centre as per the MoU will be set up at SIPCOT, Siruseri, Chengalpattu with an investment cost of Rs 450 crore. This project will generate 100 jobs.

Stalin also signed a MoU with the PayPal group for an Advanced Development Centre focussed on Artificial Intelligence which will be set up in Chennai and will provide 1000 jobs.

Another MoU was signed with Yield Engineering Systems for a product development &



manufacturing facility for semiconductor equipment to be set up at Sullur, Coimbatore. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 150 crore and will generate

around 300 jobs.

The Chief Minister also signed an MoU with Microchip for an R&D centre in Semiconductor technology to be set up at Semman-

cherry, Chennai which is expected to generate 1500 jobs at an estimated cost of Rs 250 crore.

The statement said that an agreement is also signed with Applied Materials for an Advanced AI-enabled Technology Development Centre for Semiconductor manufacturing & equipment to be set up at Tharamani, Chennai, which is expected to generate 500 jobs.

Stalin also signed an agreement with Infnix for a Technology and Global Delivery Centre to be set up at ELCOT in Vadapalanji, Madurai district at a cost

of Rs 50 crore, which will generate 700 jobs.

The Chief Minister also signed an MoU with Ohmium for a manufacturing facility of components for electro-user manufacturing and hydrogen solutions systems which is to be set up at Chengalpattu at a cost of Rs 400 crore. The project is expected to generate 500 jobs.

He has also entered into an agreement with GeakMinds for an IT&Analytics Services Centre to be set up in Chennai for generating 500 jobs.

Chief Minister Stalin is accompanied by his wife

Durga Stalin, Tamil Nadu industries minister T.R.B. Raaja and a horde of senior officials, during his trip to the United States.

The Chief Minister is visiting San Francisco and Chicago during his 17-day trip that commenced on August 27 and will continue till September 14 when he will be back in Chennai.

The Chief Minister is travelling to the United States eight months after the Tamil Nadu government signed MoUs worth over Rs 6 lakh crore during the third edition of the Global Investors Meet.

## After UP & MP, Assam govt donates Rs 5 cr for flood relief to Tripura

AGENCIES

AGARTALA, SEP 1

After Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the Assam government on Sunday donated Rs 5 crore to Tripura, which has recently witnessed catastrophic floods for the first time in over three decades, killing at least 32 persons and affecting 17 lakh people.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha expressed gratitude to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for donating Rs 5 crore to assist the flood victims of the state.

The donation was presented by Assam's Tourism

and Public Health Engineering Minister Jayanta Mallabarua, to the Chief Minister at his official residence in Agartala.

Saha in a post on the X said: "Deeply grateful to the people of Assam and Hon'ble CM Himanta Biswa Ji for extending a helping hand to Tripura in its time of need!"

"A cheque of Rs 5 Cr was handed over by Hon'ble Minister Jayanta Malla Ji today, symbolising the solidarity and support from the people of Assam. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and compassion! Your contribution will go a long way in helping us overcome the



challenges posed by the floods," he added.

Mallabarua in a separate post on the X said: "On behalf of Hon'ble CM Dr Himanta Biswa sir, I had the honour of presenting a cheque of Rs 5 crore to Hon'ble CM of Tripura, Prof Dr Manik Saha."

"This gesture reflects

our solidarity with the people of Tripura during the recent floods. The contribution from the Assam Government is intended to support the ongoing relief efforts in these challenging times," he added.

Earlier, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh

governments donated Rs 20 crore, Rs 10 crore and Rs 5 crore respectively for the flood relief of Tripura.

Tripura Chief Minister earlier said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each of those who lost their lives in the recent flood in the state.

The Prime Minister also approved Rs 50,000 each from the PMNRF for those who got injured in the flood.

Food and Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury, on Saturday, had said that as per the preliminary

assessment, the damage to properties, crops and infrastructure amounted to over Rs 18,000 crore, which could rise further after field assessment.

A six-member inter-ministerial Central team (IMCT) visited the worst-hit Gomati, Sepahijala, Khowai and South Tripura districts for three days last week and assessed the flood damage and losses.

The IMCT, led by B. C. Joshi, Joint Secretary (Foreigners Division) in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), also held several meetings with all the senior officials here to discuss the damage and loss of properties and crops.

## Five more trainee SIs arrested in 2021 recruitment paper leak case

AGENCIES

JAIPUR, SEP 1

Rajasthan Police arrested five more Sub Inspectors (SI) in the 2021 SI recruitment paper leak case on Sunday.

An official said that they were called for questioning on Saturday and following further investigation they were subsequently arrested on Sunday.

"All the accused have been produced in court and put on a six-day police remand.

A total of 47 SI trainees have been arrested so far, including these five relat-

ed to the case," the official said.

He identified the five accused as Shobha Raeka, Devesh Raeka, Manju Devi, Avinash and Bijendra.

Shobha and Devesh are children of former Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) member Ramu Ram Raeka.

"My children have followed all norms and are innocent. They earlier appeared for the RAS Entrance Exam in 2016, however, they were unable to crack it. They then appeared for SI Exam 2021 and followed all norms," Raeka said.



# The Third Eye: Conflict-ridden Middle East is putting global peace at risk

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

The steady spread of radicalisation in the Muslim world, the deepening Sunni-Shia conflict in the Middle East and the growing impact of the historical religious divides on the current geopolitics, are the ongoing trends that should cause concern to the democratic world.

The attack on July 16 at Muscat, the capital of the Sultanate of Oman -- a moderate Islamic country with friendly ties with the US, by a 'suicide' team of ISIS which along with Al Qaeda represents the leading forces of Islamic radicals, confirms that radicalisation was pushing ahead in this region.

The attackers targeted a Shia congregation worshipping on Ashura eve at Imam Ali Mosque -- the event marked the first terrorist offensive in the Gulf in recent times -- thereby demonstrating also the extreme hostility harboured by Sunni extremists against Shiites for historical reasons.

The fundamentalist Shiism is anti-US because of its ideological opposition to a capitalist economy and it is no surprise that Iran under the Ayatollah's rule is getting politically aligned with Russia and China in the Cold War kind of divide that was evidently reappear-

ing between the US on the one hand and the axis of these two countries, on the other.

What is being witnessed here is the fact that the divisions of 'faith' involving a fundamentalist Iran, a Salafi Saudi Arabia, a Zionist Israel and the Wahhabi forces of ISIS and Al Qaeda were influencing the political agenda of international relations.

The 'war on terror' launched by the US in the wake of 9/11 -- first in Afghanistan and then in Iraq -- led to a consolidation of Islamic radical forces in these two theatres. While the Taliban-Al Qaeda axis managed to dig in heels in the Afghanistan-Pak belt, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) arose in 2004 as an affiliate of Al Qaeda in the Iraq-Syria region.

Osama bin Laden founder leader of Al Qaeda was killed at Abbottabad in Pakistan in May 2011 in a midnight operation of US Navy SEALs and subsequently, Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi who had formed ISIS, was also killed in a raid by American troops in North Western Syria in October 2019.

The US policy of demolishing the leadership of Islamic radical outfits has not prevented the latter from advancing their indoctrination drive for Jihad and striking roots in new territories.



The historical memory of the 19th century Wahhabi revolt against the Western colonisers has kept the radical forces going after the US-led West -- regarding the latter as their first enemy -- and also targeting a country like Saudi Arabia considered to be the closest ally of the US in the Arab world.

The Saudis run a puritanical Salafi state but the Wahhabis while endorsing the 'revivalist' call of return to the golden period of Islam of the first four Caliphs, stand in total opposition to the US politically.

In Pakistan, the Tehrike Taliban Pakistan (TTP) attacks the establishment because of its leanings towards the US whereas

in the Iraq-Syria region, ISIS directly confronts the American presence. Both TTP and ISIS have also targeted Shiites because the more extremist a Sunni outfit was, the greater its hostility towards Shiism for historical reasons. That radical Sunni-Shia antagonism is going to be a prime source of violent friction in the Muslim world in the coming times is indicated by the reports that Iran had decided to erect a 300-km boundary wall separating the country from Afghanistan-IRGC being made responsible for it showed that the project was of military importance.

What is impacting the current geopolitical scene is the series of attacks car-

ried out by ISIS in Syria, Iran and Russia in recent times. In a lethal offensive ISIS-K, a branch of ISIS-attacked a Moscow concert hall on March 22, 2024, killing 130 people and injuring hundreds more. The event was attributed to many reasons. Russian intervention in Syria in 2015 in support of the Assad regime was crucial for the survival of the latter against the onslaught of ISIS on the one hand and the Western-supported Islamic militants trying to oust him, on the other. Russia has continued to firmly back Bashar Al Assad -- a Shia -- which makes the former a target of ISIS -- the radical force seeking to destroy the Syrian regime.

Also, since Russia has, from the times of the Chechen wars, maintained a repressive approach towards its large Muslim population in the region, this added to the antipathy of ISIS towards Moscow.

Further, both Russia and Iran are now politically on the same side of the fence -- facing US sanctions -- and this paved the way for a gradual strengthening of the Iran-Russia-China axis. Significantly, Syrian President Bashar Al Assad visited Moscow and met Vladimir Putin on July 24 -- they discussed the situation in the Middle East and the prospects of enhancing economic and trade relations between the two countries. Interestingly, on the same day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a joint meeting of the US Congress and appealed for help to keep up the fight against Hamas.

Meanwhile, the NATO summit at Washington held on July 10 adopted a new action plan for enhancing engagement in the Middle East and North Africa -- which is predominantly Muslim -- by establishing NATO's first liaison office in Amman, Jordan, for creating the framework of emergency planning and crisis management. Both the US and Russia are thus making moves to strength-

en their hold in the region in line with the trend of a new Cold War appearing on the horizon. India has to handle this situation in a way that best serves its interests.

The Israel-Hamas confrontation precipitated by the terrorist attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7 last year, is showing no signs of moderation with the US being firmly aligned with Israel and China working to unite all Palestinian groups. China convened a meeting of these groups including the bitter rivals Hamas and Fatah, in Beijing on July 23 and got them to sign a 'national unity' agreement.

It may be mentioned that Israel's Parliament, the Knesset, had on July 18 voted overwhelmingly to reject the establishment of a Palestinian State on the ground that it posed an 'existential danger' for Israel. Israel has caused extensive destruction and loss of civilian lives in Gaza and there is pressure on Israel to halt its military operations to allow for the release of hostages on both sides but there is no progress in this direction.

Israel has made a large contribution towards UN-sponsored assistance for the distressed Palestinians and joined the call for a ceasefire in Gaza -- Israel's continued military action in pursuit of Hamas has led

to protest demonstrations in favour of Palestinians in the US, Europe and elsewhere.

Iran's support for Hamas has hardened the earlier hostility between Iran and Israel, the two biggest powers in the Middle East -- the geopolitical divide between them was getting aggravated by the religious contradiction between Zionism and fundamentalist Islam.

The targeted killing of Ismail Haniyeh, the political chief of Hamas in Tehran in an Israeli operation on July 31 -- he had gone there to attend the swearing-in of the new Iranian President following the death of his predecessor in a helicopter crash, has aggravated tensions in the Middle East with Iran pledging revenge against Israel by way of a planned attack of Lebanon-based Hezbollah, its known proxy, at a time of Iran's choosing.

In the midst of uncertainties in our neighbourhood, India has to strategise for dealing with South Asia and the Middle East in a manner that helps it to retain its image as an advocate of global peace, constructively use bilateral and multilateral relationships to this country's best advantage and build its own strengths and capabilities to emerge as a world power in a multipolar setting.

## S.Korea to bolster cybersecurity measures against hacking, disinformation

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, SEP 1

South Korea will conduct offensive cyber defence operations to protect critical national infrastructure from hacking attacks and counter disinformation, the presidential office said on Sunday.

The National Security Council (NSC) unveiled the National Cybersecurity Basic Plan jointly drawn up with 14 government agencies, including the spy agency, police as well as Ministries of Foreign Affairs, National Defence, and Science and ICT, following the announcement of the cybersecurity strategy in February, Yonhap news agency reported.

"We will secure deterrence against cyber activities and threat actors that undermine national security and interests through



proactive and active defence measures," NSC Adviser Shin Won-Sik said in a briefing.

"We will establish a foundation for responding to disinformation that divides public opinion and causes social unrest in cyberspace," he added.

The NSC Adviser said in the briefing at the Yongsan presidential office in

central Seoul that the plan could help better defend cyberspace against so-called "hostile forces" using the latest technologies, such as deepfakes.

The latest plan sets up 100 action tasks meant to expand on the National Cybersecurity Strategy announced at the beginning of February. Not all of the action tasks have been

made public.

According to the NSO, the plan will enhance the cyber resilience of national critical infrastructure, such as major information and communication facilities and social infrastructure, as well as important information and communication systems widely used by the public. It also calls for adopting policies compatible with Artificial Intelligence and digital platform environments.

It will also establish an information security industry ecosystem based on industry-academia research collaboration and pursue global competitiveness as it builds the foundation for its national cybersecurity capabilities.

To achieve the goal, South Korea will work together with countries "sharing liberal democratic values" to cooperate and

coordinate cybersecurity responses and join international efforts to build norms to create a safe and peaceful cyber domain, Shin said.

The plan also outlines measures to enhance the cyber resilience of the critical infrastructure and major communication systems, including applying artificial intelligence and separation of national and public networks from the internet and other less sensitive networks to build a "multi-layered security" system.

South Korea has sought to beef up its cybersecurity amid concerns over North Korea's alleged cryptocurrency theft to fund its nuclear and missile programs and hacking of local defence contractors to steal military technology essential for major weapons systems.

## Russia conducts fresh air raid on Ukraine

AGENCIES  
KIEV, SEP 1

Russia conducted another major aerial strike on Ukraine overnight, using an Iskander-M ballistic missile, four S-300 guided missiles, and 52 combat drones, the Ukrainian Air Force said in a statement on Saturday.

No casualties were reported in the air strike, as the air defence forces shot down 24 Shahed-131 and Shahed-136 drones, according to the statement. The air defence was active in eight regions in central, southern and northern Ukraine, including the Kiev region, Xinhua news agency reported.

The strike marked the fourth attack on the Ukraine capital this week, said the Kiev City Military Administration.

Earlier on Saturday, five people were reportedly killed and 37 others injured after Ukrainian forces attacked Russia's Belgorod region.



Belgorod Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on his Telegram channel that Ukrainian armed forces used cluster munitions from a Vampire multiple rocket launcher system to shell the city of Belgorod and its surrounding areas, causing significant casualties and damage, Xinhua news agency reported.

"One woman and four men died on the spot from their injuries before the ambulance arrived," the Governor said.

A total of 37 civilians, including six children, were injured in the attack,

adding that all the wounded persons have been transported to medical facilities in Belgorod for treatment, among whom seven adults and three children were in critical condition.

Last Sunday, at least five people were killed and 12 others injured in an attack by Ukrainian armed forces on the village of Raketnoye in Belgorod. The attack also caused severe damage to local infrastructure, destroying 10 private homes, two commercial buildings, and four passenger vehicles, the Governor informed.

## Bangladesh: 49 minority teachers forced to resign

AGENCIES  
DHAKA, SEP 1

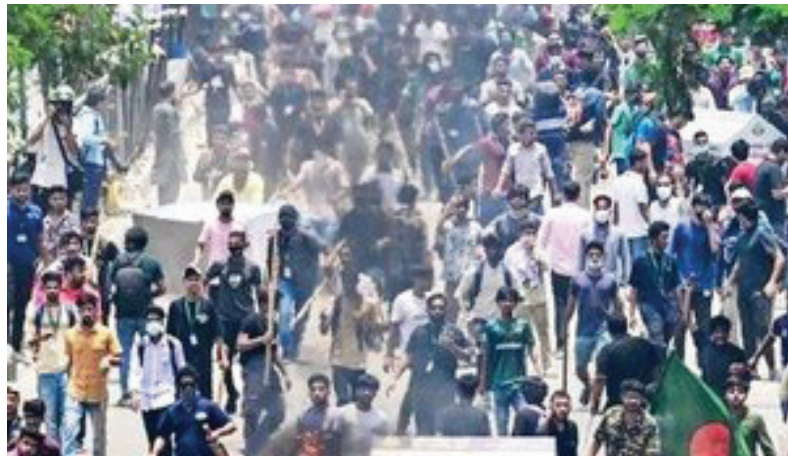
In the weeks following the resignation of Sheikh Hasina as Prime Minister of Bangladesh, at least 49 teachers from minority communities were forced to resign, according to local media reports.

The Bangladesh Chhatra Oikya Parishad, the student wing of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, disclosed this information during a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club on Saturday, as reported by The Daily Star.

Sajib Sarkar, the coordinator of the organisation, stated that since the fall of the Hasina-led government, religious and ethnic minorities have been subjected to a wave of violence.

This has included attacks, looting, assaults on women, the vandalism of temples, arson attacks on homes and businesses, and even killings, he said.

Sarkar further revealed that minority teachers across the country have faced physical assaults, leading to the forced resignation of at least 49 teachers by August 30. However, 19 of those teachers have



since been reinstated, he added.

Sheikh Hasina's government was forced to step down last month after violent student-led anti-quota protests resulted in the deaths of over 400 people.

Last month, while Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Advisor of the interim government in Bangladesh, after taking the oath, said that he would "uphold, support and protect the constitution and will perform duties sincerely", there was a massive outbreak of violence in the country after Hasina left Dhaka with goons creating huge unrest and targeting Hindus, their homes and

places of worship.

The Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajot (BJHM), a grand national alliance of 23 religious organisations in the country, said that Hindu families have faced violence and vandalism as many as 278 locations across 48 districts of the nation since August 5.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also reiterated India's support for Bangladesh's stability and development. He said, "In the coming days, we will always wish well for Bangladesh's 'Vikas Yatra' (journey of development) because we are the well-wishers of humankind."

## Australia: Major flood warning issued for island state of Tasmania

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY, SEP 1

Residents of the Australian island state of Tasmania have been told to prepare to evacuate their homes and businesses amid heavy rainfall and severe winds.

Authorities on Sunday issued a major flood warning for the town of New Norfolk on the banks of the River Derwent in Tasmania's southeast and told people in the region to prepare to leave, Xinhua news agency reported.

Mick Lowe, executive director of the Tasmanian State Emergency Service (SES), said properties could become inundated, major roads closed due to flooding and some towns in the area could become isolated for several days.

Wind damage and fallen



trees have caused widespread blackouts in the state, with 32,000 properties left without power as of 9:30 a.m. local time on Sunday.

Telstra, Australia's largest telecommunications company, reported that 38 network sites in Tasmania were without power, causing mobile network

outages.

On Sunday, residents of the Huon Valley region on the south coast were asked to conserve water after a major water treatment plant was affected by the power outages.

It comes as winds exceeding 100 km per hour and heavy rains battered Tasmania, the small-

est of Australia's six states by population and area.

Sarah Scully, a senior meteorologist from Australia's Bureau of Meteorology, told Australian Broadcasting Corporation television that winds recorded in southern Tasmania on Saturday night were the equivalent strength of a category 3 tropical cyclone.

She said the River Derwent is expected to peak at major flood levels on Sunday evening.

The Spirit of Tasmania, a ferry between Tasmania and the state of Victoria on the Australian mainland, cancelled a trip on Saturday night due to the powerful winds.

As of Sunday morning, flights were still operating from the airport in Hobart, Tasmania's capital and largest city, and were not expected to be impacted.



## After residents, NGOs come out in support of Dharavi redevelopment survey

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, SEP 1

After the massive support of Dharavi residents for an ongoing state government survey for the \$3 billion redevelopment project, several NGOs working in the world's largest slum have also pledged their support.

At least eight NGOs and citizen welfare associations met Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) CEO S.V.R. Srinivas, and extended their support to the state-government-led survey currently being conducted in the area.

The NGOs also wrote to the Dharavi Redevelopment Authority (DRP/SRA), overseeing the redevelopment project being executed by the Adani Group, extending their support for the survey.

In their letters, NGOs like Global Giving Foundation and All India Police Jan Seva Sangathna asked



questions like the period of free maintenance for flats to rehabilitate the Dharavi citizens. The Enlighten Foundation said in its letter that the residents and the commercial premises owners are not against the project or the survey and the survey is "opposed only by a handful of people who

are against redevelopment and have vested interests".

The aim of the survey is to collect data from lakhs of residents to help the state government determine their eligibility criteria to aid rehabilitation under the proposed redevelopment project.

The survey, which began on March 18, has

completed over 11,000 tenements via door-to-door visits. The Thevar Samajam, which represents the largest Tamil community in Dharavi, said: "We reiterate our support to you and DRP and would like to state that we are a part of the project, redevelopment and would like to be part of the history."

The survey is being spearheaded by the DRP/SRA of the state government along with the Dharavi Redevelopment Project Private Ltd (DRPPL), a joint venture between the Government of Maharashtra and the Adani Group.

Dharavi's geographical area is just over 2.39 square km in size. According to the Adani Group, the redevelopment project in Dharavi will not only provide dignity of living to its over one million residents but, at the same time, will build an unmatched ecosystem of sustainable living and innovation in the heart of Mumbai. The government launched the redevelopment of Asia's largest slum to help improve the standard of living of its residents. Under the redevelopment project, the tenement holders will be provided a house of 350 square feet, which is 17 per cent more than any other SRA scheme in Mumbai.

## IndiGo starts daily direct flights to culturally-rich Jaffna from India

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

Leading budget carrier IndiGo on Sunday commenced daily direct operations to Jaffna, a city located in the northern province of Sri Lanka, which is its second destination in the neighbouring country after Colombo.

This marks the 34th international and 122nd overall destination in the airlines' rapidly expanding 6E network. The aviation major said that this strategic route will strengthen the cultural and trade ties between India and Sri Lanka that have been marked by cooperation in the fields of commerce, infrastructure development and air connectivity.

"This short but a significant flight is a strategic addition, which is poised to further enhance trade and tourism between India and Sri Lanka. The new daily direct flights from Chennai to Jaffna promises a shorter travel



time of just 75 minutes," said Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales at IndiGo.

The demand for travel between Chennai and Jaffna is evident, with over 21,000 passengers flying the route in just nine months last year.

The Chennai-Jaffna daily flight will depart at 13:55 pm, with a scheduled arrival at 15:10 pm.

The Jaffna-Chennai daily flight will take off at 15:55 pm, with a scheduled arrival at 17:10 pm.

IndiGo said its new direct flight will provide a timely boost to this resurgence, offering seamless

connectivity and tapping into a key market for Sri Lanka's tourism revival.

Jaffna boasts a rich history and cultural significance. Its vibrant Tamil heritage is reflected in its traditions, festivals, and historical landmarks, showcasing the resilience and diversity of its people.

Visitors can explore iconic sites such as the Jaffna Fort, which serves as an architectural testament to the region's colonial past, and the Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil, a revered Hindu temple that holds both religious and cultural importance.

## Mumbai's real estate thriving due to stable interest rates, strong economic outlook

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, SEP 1

The real estate sector in the financial capital is witnessing a significant increase in demand thanks to stable interest rates and a pipeline of new projects, industry experts said on Sunday.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) region is experiencing significant investment, driven by increasing property values and improved connectivity.

"The demand for luxury properties is particularly strong in emerging areas like Andheri, Santacruz, Mulund, Goregaon and Borivali," said Amit Jain, CMD, Arkade Group.

According to a new Knight Frank India report, Mumbai city (area under BMC jurisdiction) recorded approximately 11,735 property registrations in



August, contributing over Rs 1,072 crore to the state exchequer.

Property registrations went up 8 per cent year-on-year and revenues from these registrations increased by 32 per cent YoY.

Sustained buyer confidence has resulted in consistent sales, exceeding 10,000 units for the first eight months of the year, marking eleven consecutive months of annual

growth since August 2023, according to the report.

From January to August, the city recorded 96,601 property registrations, marking a 16 per cent increase from 83,615 registrations in the same period in 2023 - generating Rs 8,010 crore in revenue, up by 10 per cent from Rs 7,262 crore last year.

According to Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, Mumbai's res-

idential market has maintained strong momentum in 2024, with monthly sales showing consistent YoY growth.

"The strong economic outlook and stable interest rates have kept home-buyer sentiments positive, fuelling steady sales," he mentioned.

In August, there was a noticeable increase in the registration of apartments measuring between 500 square feet to 1,000 square feet, accounting for 49 per cent of all property registrations.

The share of property registrations in the western suburbs dropped from 57 per cent in August 2023 to 55 per cent in August this year.

Meanwhile, the central suburbs maintained a stable share at 28 per cent, with a slight dip from 29 per cent in August 2023, said the report.

## AePS-based transactions touch 100 million in August, IMPS sees 12 pc growth

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

The Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) based financial transactions touched 100 million in the month of August, with transaction amount stood at Rs 24,676 crore, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data showed on Sunday. According to the data, average daily transaction count was 3.21 million, with Rs 796 crore as average daily transaction count.

In July, the AePS-based interoperable financial transactions were 97 million, at Rs 24,218 crore. While the average daily transaction count was 3.12 million, Rs 781 crore was average daily transaction count.

AePS was also up by 11 per cent in volume to 100 million in June as against 90 million in May and 95 million in April.

Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)-based fund transfers reached 5.78 lakh crore in August, a 12 per cent YoY growth. Average daily transaction count was 15 million, at Rs 18,642 crore as daily transaction amount.



According to the NPCI data, NETC FASTag saw 329 million transactions in August, a 7 per cent growth, with Rs 5,611 crore collected - an 8 per cent YoY growth. Average daily volumes were 10.61 million, at Rs 181 crore as daily collection.

The AePS system is enabling financial inclusion for those at the bottom of the income pyramid. More than 1,100 government schemes, programmes and initiatives in the country run by both Centre and states

have been notified to use Aadhaar. The digital ID is helping various ministries and departments in the centre and at states in improving efficiency, transparency and delivery of welfare services to the targeted beneficiaries.

AePS is a bank-led model which allows online interoperable financial inclusion transaction at PoS (MicroATM) through the Aadhaar authentication. AePS allows people to do six types of transactions.

## UPI transactions rise 41 pc to touch record 14.96 billion in August: NPCI

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) saw 41 per cent growth (year-on-year) at record 14.96 billion transactions in the month of August, as total transaction amount touched Rs 20.61 lakh crore - a 31 per cent YoY growth, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data showed on Sunday.

The average daily transaction amount stood at 483 million last month, as average daily transaction amount reached Rs 66,475 crore.

The value of UPI transactions processed has remained above Rs 20 lakh crore for four consecutive months.

In July, the UPI-based transactions clocked Rs 20.64 lakh crore and the total UPI transaction count was 14.44 billion. The average daily transaction volume stood at 466 million, as average daily transaction amount stood at Rs 66,590 crore, according to the NPCI data.

UPI is now adding up to 60 lakh new users every month, fuelled by the RuPay credit card on UPI and its launch in foreign



countries.

The NPCI has also set an ambitious target of achieving 1 billion UPI transactions per day in the coming years.

UPI processed nearly Rs 81 lakh crore transactions in the April-July period this year, which is a staggering 37 per cent increase (year-on-year), surpassing the world's leading digital payments platforms.

The homegrown digital payments solution processed 3,729.1 transactions per second - a 58 per cent surge over the 2,348 transactions every second registered in 2022 - surpassing China's Alipay, PayPal and Brazil's PIX in the number of transactions, according to latest data by global payments hub Paysecure.

India leads the world in digital transactions, with over 40 per cent of payments being made digitally, and UPI being used for a majority of them.

According to Dilip Asbe, CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI has the potential to touch 100 billion transactions in the next 10-15 years backed by credit growth.

Credit has already been launched on UPI and the commercials would be released within in a couple of weeks.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said recently that based on the encouraging response received from several jurisdictions, the central bank is now focusing on making "UPI and RuPay truly global".

## At least 2.2 crore women among 10 crore NSE investors

AGENCIES  
AHMEDABAD, SEP 1

Retail investors are leading the Indian stock market and at least 2.2 crore of over 10 crore investors on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) are now women.

There are approximately 10 crore registered investors on the NSE and out of that, around 22 per cent are female investors, said Tirthankar Patnaik, chief economist at the NSE.

"Since 2015, the number of female investors in the Indian stock market has increased by 6.8 times. About 69 per cent of investors are below the age of 40 years, so more young people have started investing, he said during an event here organised by the NSE and the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI).

The strength of retail investors has increased over the years and due to that, despite heavy selling by the foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and geo-political stress, Nifty is continuously registering growth.

"Indian households have a share of 35 per cent in total trading. Monthly SIP inflow has crossed the Rs 23,000-crore level, which

is significant for markets," said Patnaik.

The NSE now has more than 10 crore unique registered investor base. The total number of client codes (accounts) registered with the leading exchange stands at 19 crore.

According to Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer, NSE, following the achievement of the nine-crore mark in late February, it is commendable that the number of investors onboarded on the exchange has increased by an additional crore within just over five months.

This growth can be attributed to several key factors, including the streamlined Know Your Customer (KYC) process, enhanced financial literacy facilitated by stakeholder-led investor awareness programmes, and enduring positive market sentiment.

The registered investor base hit the one crore mark 14 years after commencement of operations. The investor base has seen more than a three-time jump in the last five years, facilitated by rapid growth in digitisation, rising investor awareness, financial inclusion, and sustained market performance.

## Union Minister Hardeep Puri acknowledges 'extraordinary contributions' of Indian Oil on its 65th anniversary

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

On the 65th anniversary of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri acknowledged the "extraordinary contributions" of the company and wished the organisation "continued success in its journey of excellence".

The Union minister also commended the company's role in protecting Indian citizens from soaring global fuel prices over the past three years.

"Pehle Indian, Phir Oil! Even as the entire world suffered 40-70 per cent fuel inflation during the last 3 years, this spirit of IndianOil kept Indian citizens insulated from soaring global fuel prices, especially the vulnerable ones, to suffer from crises of fuel availability, affordability and sustainability," Hardeep Puri said in a post on micro-blogging site X.

"On the momentous

occasion of 65th IndianOil Day, I acknowledge the extraordinary contributions of IndianOil and wish the organisation continued success in its journey of excellence," he added.

"As we march together towards Viksit Bharat under the leadership of PM@narendramodi ji, @IndianOil stands tall as a beacon of nationalistic spirit, efficiency and cutting-edge innovation, leading the global energy sector with pioneering solutions," the Union minister stated.

"This remarkable journey is a testament to the enduring legacy of India's Oil & Gas industry & to the relentless dedication of nearly 30,000 IOCIans and the six lakh-strong extended workforce who, through their indomitable spirit, ensure that India continues to march ahead towards becoming the 3rd largest economy!" he further said.

Later, the company reacted to the Union minister's post on X.

"Thank you, @HardeepSPuri ji, for your inspiring words on this

#IndianOilDay. As we proudly march towards the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', #IndianOil remains steadfast in its resolve to fuelling India's ascendance with dedication. With the spirit of #NationFirst, Team IndianOil will continue to serve billion-plus Indians and steer India's energy mandate," it said.

On the occasion, IOCL Chairman Satish Kumar Vaduguri also wrote a post on X. He said, "As we celebrate the 65th anniversary of IndianOil, I am filled with immense pride in the incredible journey we've travelled together. More than an energy provider, IndianOil has been a true partner in India's progress, touching lives and empowering dreams across the nation."

"Our legacy is built on the sweat and blood of generation of IOCIans and the trust of millions of Indians. As we step into the future, we remain committed to fuelling India with the same passion and purpose that has defined us for over six decades," he added.



## Gavaskar predicts 3-1 win for India over Australia in this year's Border-Gavaskar Trophy

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

Legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar has predicted a 3-1 win for India over Australia in this year's highly-awaited Border-Gavaskar Trophy. India have won the last two editions of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy held in Australia in 2018/19 and 2020/21 respectively.

The 2024/25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy will see India and Australia squaring off in the all-important five-match series at Perth, Adelaide (pink-ball game), Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, respectively.

"It's going to be an exciting series for sure with the talent that is there on both sides and it will also show why Test match cricket is the ultimate format of our beloved game. Oh, and my prediction is a 3-1 win



for India," wrote Gavaskar in his column for Sunday Mid-day.

He also feels Australia will miss the services of left-handed opener David Warner, who retired from international cricket earlier this year. Since then, Steve Smith and Usman

Khawaja have opened the innings for Australia in Tests, but they have averaged just 21.3 in seven innings.

"With their opening batting problems exacerbated after the retirement of David Warner and the middle-order also a bit dodgy,

the Aussies are ripe for the taking once again. India being usual slow starters in an overseas series in SENA countries the first Test will be crucial."

"That they aren't playing proper first class games before that as well as in the week long gaps between some Test matches could work against them.

That said, it is how schedules are nowadays for most touring sides," added Gavaskar.

With a few already predicting Australia as early favourites to win the trophy, Gavaskar offered some advice on the mind games played ahead of the series starting on November 22, which will also be the first five-match Test series between the two teams since 1991/92.

"The five Test matches that India play (at home) before they go to Australia

will be good for the mental tuning that is required for a tough tour like that. Already the mind games have begun with Australian players, both current and former, airing their views about what the result would be."

"While they (Australia) are not making Glenn McGrath-like statements of a clean sweep they are still suggesting that Australia will prevail.

Sadly, apart from Ravi Shastri, no other former or current player has seen to counter the mind games which the Aussies are so good at."

"Maybe Ravichandran Ashwin should start telling us about a special delivery that he is developing for Steve Smith, that is, of course, if he continues to open the batting and can survive Jasprit Bumrah," he concluded.

## Mohun Bagan, East Bengal ready for maiden Kolkata Derby in Lucknow

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal FC have clashed against each other 340 times in 22 cities spread all over the country since their classical rivalry began in Kolkata in 1925. But never in Lucknow. Football fans in the capital of Uttar Pradesh didn't get the opportunity to watch the "Derby of the East," despite the city boasting a rich sporting culture.

On Monday, September 2, a new chapter will be added to Lucknow's sporting history when the two Kolkata giants take the pitch at the KD Singh Babu Stadium.

The match will kick off at 6.30 pm IST.

The promotional match is organised by the All India Football Federation in association with



the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Uttar Pradesh Football Sangh, and Krida Bharti. The aim is to help develop and promote football across the state.

Mohun Bagan coach Deggie Cardoza says the match would be played with all seriousness, though it is a promotional match.

"A Derby always excites the fans, whenever and wherever it is played," said Cardoza. "We want to prepare well, play the match

seriously, and return home as the winners.

"The AIFF President Shri Kalyan Chaubey has taken a great initiative to organise the game. The match we are going to play tomorrow will certainly promote the game in UP. I am sure this will inspire more youngsters in the state to play and excel in the game. In the future, Indian football will get lots of good players from the state," added the Mohun Bagan coach.

## HI to provide Rs 2 lakh grant for unemployed players in senior core probable groups

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW, SEP 1

In a bid to financially help players sustain their career in sport, Hockey India has taken an instrumental decision to provide a grant of Rs 2 lakh for members of the Indian men's and women's core probable group who have not yet landed a job in Government departments or Public Sector Units (PSU).

The decision was taken during the Annual General Meeting held in Lucknow today.

"While most of the hockey players get recognised for their performances in domestic and international meets by PSUs and Government Departments who provide jobs, it has been brought to our attention that some of the new comers in the senior core group, particularly among the women are unemployed. To aide those who are unemployed with financial assistance so they or



their families don't have to struggle to make ends meet, this decision of providing Rs 2 lakh grant each year has been taken by Hockey India Executive Board during the AGM in Lucknow," expressed Dilip Tirkey, president of Hockey India.

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, hosted representatives from 31 State Member Units of Hockey India and Hockey India Executive Board Members including president Tirkey, secretary general Bhola Nath Singh, and treasurer Sekar J Manoharan, for high tea at his residence in Lucknow. Sports Minister

Girish Chandra Yadav was also present. The gathering focussed on discussions to advance hockey in Uttar Pradesh, marking a significant step towards elevating the sport in the state.

Following this event held on Saturday, the Hockey India AGM was held in Lucknow for the first time.

During the meeting, key decisions on Hockey India League were also taken. Apart from this, the officials also discussed the progress made by Indian National Teams in Senior and Junior Men and Women, upcoming events in India and development

programmes at the grass-root level. The AGM also focussed on Coaches Education Pathway and deploying former hockey stars in various roles to further boost the sport.

"Hockey India is deeply grateful to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath for hosting the members of State Member Units and Executive Board at his residency.

We had fruitful discussions on further developing hockey in Uttar Pradesh, which has produced legendary hockey players in the past and present.

We also held the AGM in Lucknow on Sunday where we took some instrumental decisions pertaining to help national players.

We also discussed upcoming Hockey India League and we will be making some exciting announcements in the coming weeks; I assure there is a lot of exciting news for hockey fans," stated Bhola Nath Singh,

## Deepti, Jemimah, Shikha, Yastika, Hemalatha find teams in WBBL overseas draft

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shikha Pandey, Yastika Bhatia and Dayalan Hemalatha have found teams in the second WBBL overseas draft held on Sunday.

The five players join Smriti Mandhana, who already signed a pre-draft deal with Adelaide Strikers, as the Indian players to participate in tenth season of the WBBL. Overall, six Indian players will feature in the WBBL, the most for an edition of the tournament. Jemimah and Deepti were amongst the major picks in the first round of the draft. Entering as seventh pick in first round, Jemimah was picked by Brisbane Heat, marking her reunion with her WPL and WCPL team-mate Jess Jonassen.

On the other hand, Deepti, coming in as fourth player of the first round, was drafted in by Melbourne Stars, where she will play alongside Meg Lanning. The duo recently turned out for London Spirit in the title-winning women's Hundred last month.

Laura Wolvaardt (Strikers), Heather Knight (Sydney Thunder) and Sophie Ecclestone (Sydney Sixers) were retentions from first round, while Sophie Devine was a pre-draft signing made by Perth Scorchers. Danni Wyatt (Hobart Hurricanes)

and Deandra Dottin (Melbourne Renegades) were other picks from round one. Shikha was the third Indian player to be selected in the draft, signed by Brisbane Heat in the second round, and marking her reunion with Jemimah and Jess. Yastika was roped in by Stars as their third pick of the draft and reunites with Deepti there, while Hemalatha was the first pick in the third round of the draft and went to Scorchers, where she reunites with her Gujarat Giants skipper Beth Mooney. England all-rounder Alice Capsey was taken in by the Renegades, while her team-mate, wicket-keeper-batter Amy Jones was roped in by Scorchers, and country-mates Hollie Armitage and Georgia Adams picked by Sixers and Thunder respectively. The 2024 WBBL season will be held from October 27 to December 1.

2024 WBBL overseas draft results:  
Sophie Ecclestone (Sydney Sixers, Platinum, Retention Pick)  
Heather Knight (Sydney Thunder, Platinum, Retention Pick)  
Laura Wolvaardt (Adelaide Strikers, Platinum, Retention Pick)  
Danni Wyatt (Hobart Hurricanes, Platinum)  
Deandra Dottin (Melbourne Renegades, Platinum)  
Deepti Sharma (Melbourne Stars, Platinum)  
Jemimah Rodrigues (Brisbane

Heat, Platinum)  
Sophie Devine (Perth Scorchers, Platinum, Pre-Signed Player)  
Chloe Tryon (Hobart Hurricanes, Gold)  
Amelia Kerr (Sydney Sixers, Platinum, Pre-Signed Player)  
Hayley Matthews (Melbourne Renegades, Platinum, Pre-Signed Player)  
Marizanne Kapp (Melbourne Stars, Platinum, Pre-Signed Player)  
Shabnim Ismail (Sydney Thunder, Platinum)  
Shikha Pandey (Brisbane Heat, Gold)  
Amy Jones (Perth Scorchers, Gold)  
Hemalatha Dayalan (Perth Scorchers, Silver)  
Alice Capsey (Melbourne Renegades, Gold)  
Chamari Athapaththu (Sydney Thunder, Gold, Pre-Signed Player)  
Yastika Bhatia (Melbourne Stars, Silver)  
Smriti Mandhana (Adelaide Strikers, Silver, Pre-Signed Player)  
Lizelle Lee (Hobart Hurricanes, Gold, Pre-Signed Player)  
Hollie Armitage (Sydney Sixers, Bronze)  
Orla Prendergast (Adelaide Strikers, Bronze)  
Georgia Adams (Sydney Thunder, Bronze)  
Nadine De Klerk (Brisbane Heat, Bronze, Pre-Signed Player)

## Odisha FC secure AFC Women's Champions League Group Stage berth

AGENCIES  
JORDAN, SEP 1

With a perfect record of two wins in two, Odisha FC shone on the continental stage by topping their preliminary stage group in the 2024-25 AFC Women's Champions League at the Prince Mohammed Stadium.

The Juggernauts, marking their international debut, won 4-1 against Lion City Sailors FC (Singapore) before notching a hard-fought 2-1 win against hosts Etihad Club (Jordan) on Saturday to qualify for

the Group Stage of Asia's elite women's club competition.

The reigning Indian Women's League champions made the perfect start against their Singaporean counterparts with a dominating 4-1 conquest, powered by a brace from 19-year-old Lynda Kom Serto and two own goals.

The Indian youth international striker first scored before converting Pyari Xaxa's pass with a first-time finish. The recently-named AIFF Emerging Women's

Player of the Year, Neha Sillay, impressed on her Odisha FC debut, with her surging runs down the left wing and accurate crosses causing plenty of trouble for the opponents.

With Etihad Club winning 5-0 against Lion City Sailors in the next match, Odisha FC required nothing less than three points against the Jordanian champions to qualify from the group. Expectedly, it started as a close contest but the Juggernauts managed to take a 1-0 lead at half-time thanks to Jennifer Kankam Yeboah's 27th-



minute goal after she was released in space by Neha.

However, Etihad Club found the equaliser in the 57th minute via Jordan's

all-time top-scorer Maysa Jbarah, who scored with a left-footed strike into the bottom corner. But Odisha FC were not to be denied.

They found their second goal in the 70th minute, with Lynda picking out Yeboah, who took advantage of an error in judgement by the Etihad goalkeeper, before slotting it into the back of an empty net.

The Juggernauts defended in numbers for the remaining 20 minutes. Indian international custodian Shreya Hooda also made a couple of remarkable saves in the dying minutes to see off the win and cap off a historic night in Indian women's football.

In the Group Stage of the AFC Women's Champions League, Odisha FC will travel to Vietnam to face Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies (Japan), Taichung Blue Whale Women's Football Team (Chinese Taipei), and hosts Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC (Vietnam).

The Group Stage comprises three groups of four teams and will also be contested in a centralised league format from October 6 to 12.

The top two finishers of each group and the two best third-placed sides will progress to the quar-

terfinals, to be played on March 22 and 23, 2025. A knockout Stage draw will be conducted prior to the quarterfinals to determine the four pairings, which will be contested in a single-leg format, with the higher-ranked team of each tie to serve as the home side.

This will be followed by a centralised Finals, which will see the Semi-finals and Final - all single-leg ties - being played out from May 21 to 24, 2025, to determine the first ever champions of the AFC Women's Champions League.

## India's backup pacers face crucial test in Duleep Trophy without Bumrah, Shami & Siraj

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

This month, India will return to red-ball action with the Duleep Trophy in Bengaluru and Anantapur. The Rohit Sharma-led side will then mark the start of their home international season with five Tests on home soil - two against Bangladesh and three against New Zealand.

However, the biggest challenge they face in their quest for entering their third straight World Test Championship final is holding on to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, during their upcoming trip to Australia. Unsurprisingly, all eyes will be on India's fast bowlers, who have played a significant

role in the historic back-to-back series victories in Australia.

The lack of depth in India's fast-bowling reserves has become a talking point with the Australia tour less than 100 days away. Apart from Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, and Mohammed Siraj, no other Indian player has emerged as a dependable fourth or even fifth fast bowler in the past few years.

"According to me, we need at least half a dozen bowlers in Australia to play five Test matches. You already have three. Four is really good for you. It's not fair on my part to name just a few bowlers, but all I can tell you is there are enough bowlers who have promised quite a bit and who

are capable of playing for India in the longer format. But the biggest challenge is to bowl enough number of overs in the Duleep Trophy and in the competitions leading up to the Test matches for them to be match fit and ready," said Bharat Arun, former India men's bowling coach, to IANS.

The upcoming Duleep Trophy, starting on September 5, will test the depth of India's fast-bowling options in the absence of Bumrah (rested), Shami (ankle injury rehab), and Siraj (illness). Indian cricket's decision makers will closely watch proceedings in Bengaluru and Anantapur to identify standout fast-bowlers who can strengthen the Test team's dominance in overseas

conditions. "Everybody has not played much of cricket in the last two-three months except for some (state-based) T20 tournaments. Then India is going to Australia later this year, and next year, they will go to England.

So, if they do well in the Duleep Trophy, they can stake a claim in the Test team. India has got a good bunch of fast bowlers, if one is looking at T20."

"But Test match cricket is a different ball game altogether, because you have to bowl at least 15-18 overs in a day. For that, your fitness, stamina and aerobic capacity should be good. But we have to wait and see how the Duleep Trophy turns out, as

a lot of people will play this time because they are all free, and it is not clashing with any international matches. So, those who want to play Test cricket, they will definitely come and play," said TA Sekar, a former India pacer and fast-bowling coach, to IANS.

Since 2023, India handed Test debuts to Mukesh Kumar, Prashidh Krishna and Akash Deep. Someone like Avesh Khan gained overseas conditions exposure through 'A' team series, while Arshdeep Singh is also eagerly waiting for an opportunity to play Test cricket. Arun believes India has enough fast-bowling options but stressed on pacers bowling enough red-ball overs before going to Australia.

## Leipzig end Leverkusen's unbeaten run in Bundesliga

AGENCIES  
LEIPZIG, SEP 1

Lois Openda's brace helped Leipzig end Bayer Leverkusen's 35-match unbeaten run in the Bundesliga as they came from two goals down to claim a 3-2 victory in the second round. Leverkusen started brightly and created the first clear chance on six minutes when Edmond Tapsoba's header forced Leipzig goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi into action. The Werkself gained momentum but lacked

precision in the final third, with Piero Hincapie hitting the woodwork with a close-range header and Granit Xhaka firing just wide, reports Xinhua. Leipzig almost scored against the run of play, but Benjamin Sesko shot wide from a promising position on the half-hour mark. But it was Leverkusen who broke the deadlock on 39 minutes when Jeremie Frimpong raced through the Leipzig area before drilling the ball past Gulacsi and into the near post.



## 2-Day Program on POCSO, POSH Acts concludes, focusing on SAMVAD's Training Manual and Gender Stereotype Combating

J1NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 01

The two-day program, titled "POCSO Act and POSH Act with Special Reference to SAMVAD's Training Manual and Combating Gender Stereotypes" concluded today at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The program was organized by J&K Judicial Academy for Judicial Officers, PPs /Addl. PPs/ Assistant PPs, Medical Officers, officers of Forensic Science laboratory, officers of Police Department, members of Sexual Harassment Probe Committees, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and members of Gender Sensitization Internal Committees from all the districts of Kashmir province.

On the second day, the first session was chaired by Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh with R.A. Jan, Sr. Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh as speaker. Justice Oswal gave a detailed overview of Framing of Charges in POCSO Trials and recording and appreciation of evidence of victims in cases of Child Sexual Abuse.

Justice Oswal discussed the technical nitty gritty of the POCSO Act highlight-



ing the underlying object of securing the physical and emotional well-being of the children.

Justice Oswal emphasized that the recording and appreciation of evidence in POCSO trials require adherence to specific procedures to ensure that the child's testimony is handled sensitively and effectively. He cited various judgements of the Apex Court suggesting that charges should be framed based on the evidence gathered during the investigation.

R.A. Jan, Sr. Advocate remarked that only a man has dual instincts; the Human as well as the animal because of which he behaves as a savage at time.

He observed that it was in 2012 that the POCSO Act was promulgated in India and the data which was collected was shocking to find that the number of incidents had only

streaming helps to create a more just and equitable society for everyone.

Justice Moksha Kazmi emphasized that role of the Committees to create awareness about sexual harassment at work place and to deal with and recommend punishment for non-consensual acts of sexual harassment. Gulafroze Jan delved the role of both Internal Complaints Committee and Local Complaints Committee to achieve the three objectives of the Act, i.e. Prohibition, Prevention and Redressal of the menace of sexual harassment and so that women work with dignity in a comfortable environment in consonance with the constitutional spirit.

All the sessions were interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics.

They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the worthy resource persons.

The programme was concluded by Yash Paul Bourne, Director, J&K Judicial Academy by thanking one and all for making the programme a great success.

## CEO reviews Assembly Election Preparedness in Pulwama

J1NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 01

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) J&K, Pandurang K Pole, today visited Pulwama to review the preparedness ahead of the upcoming Assembly Elections in the district.

The meeting was attended by District Election Officer (DEO) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom; SSP Pulwama, P.D. Nitya; SSP Awantipora Aijaz Ahmad, Returning Officers (ROs), Deputy District Election Officers, District and Assembly Nodal Officers. DEO Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom briefed the CEO on the various processes of election viz completion of the nomination process, security arrangements and training provided to polling staff.

During the briefing, Dr Qayoom presented a detailed overview through a presentation, covering key aspects of the election process across the district's four Assembly Constituencies (ACs). He also briefed the CEO about the establishment of 481 polling stations across 340 locations, serving a total of 407,692 electorates.

It was also given out that 16 special polling stations and 2 unique polling stations have been established, with a focus on ensuring accessible voting



for all. It was informed that sufficient EVMs and VVPATs, along with adequate buffer stock have been arranged, besides a detailed transport plan and human resource deployment are in place.

On the occasion, SSP Pulwama and SSP Awantipora presented the law and order arrangements, man-power distribution and the security grid for the district. Special Security

Teams and Flying Squads will operate round the clock.

The DEO outlined the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at polling stations, including seating arrangements considering weather conditions and additional rooms for voters.

CEO directed all ROs to ensure the availability of potable water, sanitation facilities and the completion of a plantation drive

at polling stations. A special emphasis was placed on the training of control room staff, videographers and micro observers, including training on home voting processes.

PK Pole emphasized transparency and inclusivity, highlighting measures like home voting for the elderly and differently-abled, extensive Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities and the setting up of special women-only polling stations.

The CEO later, visited the counting halls and strong room at Government Degree College for Women, Pulwama to review arrangements.

He also participated in a Mega SVEEP program at Government Degree College Boys, Pulwama, where he engaged with students and citizens, stressing the importance of voter turnout and democratic participation.

In his address, Pandurang K Pole emphasized the importance of the upcoming elections, urging all citizens to exercise their right to vote. The CEO reiterated the commitment to ensuring free, fair and transparent elections in Pulwama, fostering a peaceful and conducive atmosphere for maximum voter participation.

## Assembly Elections-2024: DEO Poonch reviews Election preparedness in district

J1NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 01

To ensure meticulous preparation for the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, Vikas Kundal convened a review meeting in the conference hall of the DC Office complex regarding Assured Minimum Facilities in polling stations across Poonch District.

The meeting was attended by the senior district officers including the Superintendent Engineer of PWD Circle Poonch, Returning

Officers for constituencies 88-Surankote, 89-Haveli, and 90-Mendhar, the Assistant Commissioner Development Poonch, Chief Education Officer Poonch, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Divisions of Poonch, Surankote and Mendhar as well as all Tehsildars and Block Development Officers of Poonch District. During the meeting, the District Election Officer thoroughly reviewed the assured minimum facilities to be provided at all the polling stations in the district ensuring the availability of

Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in accordance with the Election Commission of India's guidelines.

The key areas of discussion included voter-friendly accessibility, ramps for voters with disabilities, adequate sanitation facilities, availability of drinking water, reliable electricity supply, and other necessary provisions for both polling staff and voters.

He instructed the attending officers to ensure that safe drinking water facilities with sufficient capacity are mandatorily provided on the day of poll while



emphasizing the need for adequate shade arrangements in waiting areas at each polling station with sufficient chairs/benches preferably for ladies, senior citizens, nursing mothers, differently abled voters and children accompanying them. The polling stations will also have signage that will allow voters and pedestrians at the stations to identify the area where they will cast their votes. Significantly, the polling booths will also have ramps to avoid any snags during the movement of wheelchairs so that those above

the age of 85 or with any kind of disability can vote without any obstacles.

With the motto "No voter to be left behind," the DEO affirmed his commitment in promoting an equitable and efficient electoral process. He directed that inspection visits be conducted regularly to verify that all polling stations are equipped with the requisite facilities thereby upholding the administration's dedication to democratic principles and ensuring a conducive environment for free, fair and transparent elections

## Assembly Elections-2024 DEO Doda holds training for micro-observers ahead of Assembly Elections

J1NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, SEPTEMBER 01

The District Election Office Doda, under the supervision of District Election Officer Harvinder Singh, organized a comprehensive training session for micro-observers assigned to election duties for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir General Assembly Elections 2024. The session aimed to equip the micro-observers with the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure a fair and smooth election process.

The training was conducted at both the Community Hall and Town Hall in Doda, under the guidance of District level Nodal Officer Anil Gupta. During the session, micro-observers received detailed instructions on their roles and responsibilities, with a strong emphasis on vigilance and neutrality in executing their duties. They were also briefed on election protocols and procedures for reporting any irregularities or issues that may arise on the day of poll-

ing. Dr. Akhter Hussain Akhoo, District Nodal Officer for Trainings and Human Resources, provided an in-depth presentation on the technical aspects of election monitoring. This included the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), voter identification procedures, and the legal framework governing the election process. He stressed the importance of maintaining accuracy in documenting the voting process and ensuring transparency and accountability at each polling station.

The session also covered discussions on specific scenarios that micro-observers might encounter during the elections, such as managing crowd control, handling disputes, and addressing any attempts at electoral malpractice. The micro-observers were encouraged to familiarize themselves with the geography and demographics of their assigned polling areas to better understand voting patterns and potential challenges.

KNOW DENGUE FOR NO DENGUE Dengue can be Prevented		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DENGUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dengue is a viral disease.</li> <li>• It is transmitted by the bite of <b>Aedes mosquito</b>.</li> <li>• Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness.</li> <li>• Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) &amp; Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may even cause death if left untreated.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High fever.</li> <li>• Frontal headache.</li> <li>• Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement.</li> <li>• Muscle and joint pains.</li> <li>• Rashes on the body.</li> <li>• Pain abdomen.</li> <li>• Nausea and vomiting.</li> <li>• Bleeding &amp; low B.P in severe cases.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PREVENTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid water stagnation in &amp; around the house.</li> <li>• Empty water reservoirs regularly like storage utensils, air coolers, plant pots, drums, flower pots and bird baths etc.</li> <li>• Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.</li> <li>• Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams.</li> <li>• Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.</li> <li>• Use mosquito nets while sleeping.</li> <li>• Use netted screens for doors &amp; windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person suspected of having Dengue should visit nearby Health Facility.</li> <li>• The tests and treatment are available free of cost at Govt. Health Institutions.</li> <li>• Don't take pain killer and any other medicine without consultation of Doctor.</li> </ul>		
		<p><b>ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY STATE MALARIOLOGIST/SPO NVBDCP, J&amp;K, DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU</b></p>