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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:

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Steady rise in pulse or blood pressure
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Cloudburst strikes Banihal, one killed; Gusty winds sweep Kulgam

J I NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, SEP 2

A person was killed in a cloud burst incident in Banihal while as several residential houses, vehicles were damaged due to gusty winds in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday as rains lashed plains in the Union Territory.

Official sources told news agency, that a cloud burst was reported near the sports stadium in Banihal area of Jammu result in the death of a person identified as Zahid Ahmed son of Ab Qayoom and resident of Manjoos Srachi Khari.

Srinagar-Leh highway was closed for vehicular movement after fresh mudslides, officials told the news agency.

Gusty winds, accompanied by heavy rain, caused huge damage to several residential houses, buildings and several vehicles in south Kashmir's Kulgam village, officials said.



An official said that a government building in Pombay area and several vehicles that were parked there were damaged after trees were uprooted due to strong winds. The uprooting of trees also affected the power supply in some areas as several lines and transformers got damaged.

He said that rooftops of several residential houses were also damaged, while crops and apple orchards also suffered damage.

The damage to the crops have been reported from Tazipora, Mohanpo-

ra and Arreh area in the district.

Director Horticulture, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat said a massive damage has occurred due to gusty winds today, adding that a visit will be made to the spots tomorrow along with SKUAST-K team to assess the damage.

According to an independent weather forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, "this afternoon, Kulgam was hit by powerful wind gusts that reached speeds of up to 81 km/h, as recorded by an Automatic Weather Station in the area."

"Such wind speeds fall within the range associated with a Cyclonic Storm, which is characterized by 3-minute sustained wind speeds between 63 and 87 km/h. There is also a possibility that wind gusts in certain parts of Kulgam may have even exceeded 90 km/h, near a Severe Cyclonic Storm category, which is defined by 3-minute sustained wind speeds between 89 and 117 km/h," he said, adding that although the sustained winds may not have reached cyclone levels, the wind gusts highlight their intensity.

The rains however, lashed several areas of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing down the mercury in the Union Territory.

As per the data shared by Meteorological department (MeT), Pahalgam has received the highest rainfall in Kashmir division with 10.8 mm followed by 7.4 mm in Gulmarg till 05:30 PM.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Two women pilgrims dead, one girl injured in landslide on Mata Vaishno Devi track

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 2

Two women pilgrims from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh died while a five-year-old girl was grievously injured in a landslide on the new track to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday, officials said.

Movement of pilgrims on the Himkoti track was halted following the landslide but the pilgrimage to the shrine atop Trikuta hills continued through the traditional Sanjichatt route, they said.

Describing the incident as "unfortunate", Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives and sanctioned an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the bereaved families.

The deceased have been identified as Sapna (27) of Dhanpur village in Punjab's Gurdaspur,



and Neha (23) of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

In a condolence message, Sinha said, "Extremely pained to learn about the loss of precious lives of pilgrims due to the unfortunate incident of shooting stones on Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine track today. My deepest condolences to bereaved families in this hour of grief."

"Praying for the early recovery of the injured. I have directed the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Board and the district administration, Reasi, to provide all necessary assistance, as provided in the rule, to the affected families and ensure best care for the injured," he said.

Officials told news agency, that the landslide hit the route near Panchi, three kilometres ahead of Bhawan, around 2.15 pm. A portion of an overhead iron structure was also damaged, they said. The pilgrims were heading

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG grieved over loss of lives in shooting stones

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 2

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday expressed grief over the loss of lives of the pilgrims due to the unfortunate incident of shooting stones on Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine track.

The Lt Governor has also approved an ex-gratia of Rs.5 lakh to be given to each of the next of kin of the deceased and other assistance, as provided in the rule, to the affected families.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor said: "Extremely pained to learn about the loss of precious lives of pilgrims due to the unfortunate incident of shooting stones on Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine track, today. My deepest condolences to bereaved families in this

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Drone dropped weapons seized in Samba: BSF

J I NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEP 2

Border Security Force (BSF), Police Component Jammu and Samba Police recovered three pistols believed to have been air-dropped by a drone from across the border in Ramgarh Sector of district Samba, an official statement said as per news agency Monday.

"On credible input regarding the drone activity in Mallu Chack area, a joint ambush by BSF, PC Jammu and Samba Police was laid in the area. On hearing the humming sound of the drone coming from the Pak side, security personnel fired some rounds towards the direction of the humming sound

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CONSTITUENCY PROFILE: DODA-52 AC

Five-way contest brews up as seat remains 'bone of contention between NC-Congress'

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 2

The bone of contention between alliance partners, National Conference (NC) and Congress party, the 52-Doda Assembly constituency is brewing up for a tight contest where the pendulum could swing to any side.

Apart from Congress and NC, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Bharatiya Janta Party (AAP) candidates are also trying hard to stay in the fight.

As per the news agency, a five-way contest on this seat is what people are looking for as every candidate is working hard to get the people on his side. This constituency is one of

the largest constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir in terms of area and electorates and reaching to every panchayat of seven rural blocks is not possible in 16 days.

The constituency begins from Doda town towards south-east and ends up in Chilly Pingal area of Bhalessa. One has to travel more than 75 kilometers from one extreme to another and being in a hilly area commuting is difficult. Before delimitation of Assembly constituencies, Doda town was central place of this constituency with areas like Marmat, Dessa, Bhagwah and Jodhpur were its pat but now it has got a new shape and Thathri, Kahra, Jakyas and Chilly Pingal areas have been added

to it. This constituency comprises seven rural blocks including Ghat, Dali-Udyanpur, Gundna, Thathri, Kahra, Jakyas and Chilly Pingal whereas two municipal committees Doda and Thathri are also part of it.

According to the official data revealed by Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Jammu and Kashmir, 98582 electorates including 50546 male, 48034 female and two third gender voters are eligible to vote in this elections, polling for which will be held on September 18, 2024 in the first phase of Assembly elections. At present nine candidates are in the fray which include six from different political parties and three independents.

In the 2014 Assembly elections the seat was captured by BJP leader Shakti Raj Parihar who defeated his nearest rival and the then Congress candidate Abdul Majid Wani whereas NC leaders Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy remained at the third position. Before that Wani remained MLA from this seat in 2002 and 2008.

Since 2018 after the fall of PDP-BJP coalition government followed by Governor's rule and abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, no political activity was taking part in this constituency and every leader remained in the oblivion. When elections for the District Development Council (DDC) were held in

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Soldier killed at Sunjwan post Jammu, Army says 'No Terror Attack'

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 2

Amid intensified election atmosphere, an army soldier was killed in a fatal bullet injury at a military station here on Monday, sparked an alert and a massive house-to-house search in the area. However, army ruled out any terror angle and launched investigation into the incident

Officials told news agency, Naik Kuldeep Singh of Punjab was on guard duty when he was hit by a bullet in the head at Sunjawan Military Station on the outskirts of Jammu and was evacuated to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

"Initial investigations by the Indian Army suggest that the incident in



which a soldier lost his life in the morning is not a terror attack. The incident is being investigated," a defence spokesman said.

Earlier in the day, the spokesperson said a few rounds were fired at the military station at around 10.50 am, resulting in critical injuries to a soldier.

Situated on Pathankot-Jammu-Srinagar high-

way in the city outskirts, the military station is surrounded by civilian population and just a few meters away from BJP's election war room.

An operation had been launched and further details were being ascertained, he said.

A Special Operation Group of local police

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PDP gov't's performance much better than NC's despite fewer MLAs: Mehbooba Mufti

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 2

Former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday criticised the National Conference, asserting that the PDP government's performance was superior despite having fewer MLAs.

Speaking to reporters in south Kashmir's Pulwama, Mufti, according to the news agency, compared the governance of her party with the decades-long rule of the NC, which had often governed with an absolute majority.

"Even with significantly fewer MLAs and a shorter period in power, the PDP's performance was notably better than that of the NC, which has governed Jammu and Kashmir for about 50 of the last 70



years," Mehbooba said.

She said that the NC Vice President and former chief minister Omar Abdullah, during his tenure as a minister in the BJP-led government, did not bring about substantial change.

The PDP chief criticised the NC for its past decisions, such as implementing the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA),

banning Shahtoosh (a type of shawl made from the wool of the Tibetan antelope) and advocating for aggressive actions against Pakistan.

She said the PDP's efforts included withdrawing FIRs against around 12,000 youths, initiating dialogue with the Hurriyat Conference through a delegation from Delhi and implementing a ceasefire during her tenure.

Mufti also mentioned the infamous Shopian rape and murder case that occurred under Omar Abdullah's government. "During my administration, two ministers were dismissed in connection with the Rasana rape case," she said.

Meanwhile, PDP saw a boost in Pulwama as Er Nazir Ahmad Dar,

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PM Modi launches BJP nationwide membership drive

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched the BJP nationwide membership drive "Sanghatan Parva, Sadasyata Abhiyan 2024" at party headquarters here.

Modi renewed his membership, in the presence of BJP President JP Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other senior leaders.

The two phases of the membership campaign have started today and will continue till September 25 and the second phase from October 1 to 15.

Along with this, an active membership campaign will begin from October 16 to 31.

Addressing the party works, Modi said, "BJP is trying to bring new dimensions in the political system in the country



since the inspection of Jan Sangh".

He added, "BJP is the only party which is expanding its work by strictly following the democratic process as per the constitution of its party and it is continuously making itself capable to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the common people".

The Prime Minister said, this very membership drive isn't just a ritual. It's an expansion of our

family.

"It isn't a game of numbers. It doesn't matter the numbers we achieve. This membership drive is an ideological and emotional movement" Modi added.

He remembered several workers of the party and said, "Several generations have invested their lives into this party, and today the party has made its place in the hearts of the people."

The PM recalled

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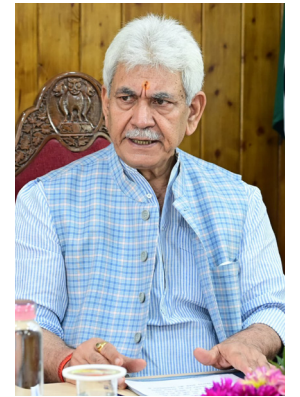
LG attends flag-in ceremony of JIM&WS Pahalgam's Mountain Expedition

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 2

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday attended the flag-in ceremony of the triumphant mountaineering expedition, accomplished by Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports, Pahalgam and interacted with the Expedition team at Raj Bhawan.

The Mountaineering Expedition team has successfully completed the expedition to Nine peaks including Six peaks (Mount Kang Yatse-I, Mount Kang Yatse-II, Mount Dzo Jongo-I, Mount Dzo Jongo-II, Mount Lungser Kangri and Mount Chamser Kangri) above 20,000 feet.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated and expressed his deep appreciation to the team



led by Col Hem Chandra Singh for the historic achievement.

"This is an exceptional feat by our mountaineers, manifesting courage, determination and dedication to goals," the Lt Governor said.

He lauded the sheer perseverance, dedication, courage and organizational cohesion displayed by the team during the difficult mission which

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Assembly Elections-2024 Mega SVEEP Awareness programme held at Tangmarg to promote voter education & electoral participation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 2

In a continued effort to promote voter education and electoral participation, a mega awareness program under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was successfully conducted at Tangmarg, even as heavy rain persisted.

The event was presided over by the District Election Officer (DEO) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, with enthusiastic participation from new voters, students, and local residents. The program included several engaging activities aimed at encouraging voter awareness for the upcoming Assembly Elections, 2024.

As part of the program, the DEO flagged-off a SVEEP rally, which was attended by the new voters and local community members marching together to spread the message of electoral participation. The rally echoed the commitment of the people of Tangmarg to the democratic process and the importance of high voter



turnout. During the event, DEO also distributed Election Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) to new voters, marking their first-ever participation in the elections and symbolizing their formal entry into the democratic process.

In his address, Minga Sherpa urged all participants, particularly first-time voters, to actively engage in the electoral process. He further stressed the importance of such

awareness programs in ensuring that every eligible voter understands their responsibility and the power of their vote.

Later, the DEO led an exhilarating ATV rally in Gulmarg, joined by the CEO Gulmarg Development Authority, SDM Gulmarg and Nodal Officer SVEEP Baramulla, promoting voter awareness and encouraging greater participation in the upcoming 2024 Assembly Elections.

Assembly Elections-2024 General Observer Brajesh Narain Singh visits Joint Control Room in Pulwama

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 02

As part of the ongoing preparations for the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly 2024, General Observer, Brajesh Narain Singh today visited the Joint Control Room (JCR) in Pulwama.

The visit was aimed at reviewing the operational readiness and coordination mechanisms in place to ensure the smooth conduct of elections, particularly in Assembly Constituency 29-Tral.

During the visit, General Observer was briefed by the district officials on the functioning of the Joint Control Room, which serves as the nerve centre for all election-related activities in the district. The JCR is equipped with advanced communication systems



and real-time monitoring tools to ensure seamless coordination between various election authorities and law enforcement agencies.

Singh inspected the facilities and reviewed the preparedness measures being undertaken to address any exigencies that may arise during the election period. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a high level of vigilance and responsiveness in the days leading up to the elections. He also interacted with the officers on duty, stressing the need

for prompt reporting and resolution of any issues related to the electoral process.

The General Observer gave his valuable suggestions with regard to the arrangements made at the Joint Control Room and appreciated the efforts of the district administration.

He reiterated the commitment of the Election Commission of India to conducting free, fair and transparent elections, and assured that all necessary steps would be taken to uphold the integrity of the electoral process.

Assembly Election 2024: 2nd round of EVM-VVPAT Randomization conducted in Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 2

The 2nd round of randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) for the General Election to the Legislative Assembly 2024 was successfully carried out today in Ramban district.

The process was conducted under the supervision of General Observer Himanshu Kumar Rai; Expenditure Observer, Sulekh Chand Jain; and District Election Officer (DEO) Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary. The randomization process was attended by representatives of the political parties and senior district officials.

This phase of randomization involved the allocation of Ballot Units, Control Units, and VVPATs to polling stations across the two assembly



segments in the district—AC-54 Ramban and AC-55 Banihal. This is a critical step to ensure the smooth conduct of polling in these segments.

Speaking at the event, DEO Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, emphasized the importance of randomization in ensuring free and fair elections. He noted that the process is carried out using specialized software to eliminate any human intervention, thereby enhancing the credibility of the election

process. Earlier, the DEO briefed political representatives on the randomization process, assuring them that all necessary measures have been taken to guarantee a fair and transparent electoral process.

The event was attended by key officials, including Dy. DEO Abdul Jabar, Returning Officer for AC-54 Ramban, S. Harpal Singh, Returning Officer for AC-55 Banihal, Rizwan Asgar, and Assistant Returning Officers Ramban, Deep

Kumar, Assistant Returning Officers Banihal, Imtiaz Ahmed and other officers. The randomization was conducted transparently by DIO NIC Ramban, Parshant Kumar.

Following the randomization, both the Observers and the DEO inspected the arrangements at the strong room AC-55 Ramban and issued necessary directions to the concerned officers to ensure the security and integrity of the electoral process.

Assembly Elections-2024: SVEEP events held across Kathua to foster electoral awareness

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 2

To spread voter awareness for the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections, a series of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) events were held across Assembly segments of the Kathua district today.

At 68-Hiranagar AC, the programmes were held at Ayushman Arogya Kendra, Bannu Chak, and the Handicraft Training Centre, Sallan. The campaign was spearheaded by Nodal Officer AC-68 Hiranagar Priya Lakshmi who emphasized the importance of voter participation.

The medical staff at the Ayushman Arogya Kendra, led by the attending doctors, pledged their commitment to inform every visitor about the importance of casting their vote on October 1, 2024. The initiative marked a crucial step in ensuring that the message of civic duty reaches every corner of the community.

Furthering the SVEEP



role in amplifying the SVEEP campaign by conducting various voter awareness activities at their respective polling stations, ensuring maximum reach and impact.

In 67-Kathua AC, a slogan writing competition was held under the SVEEP program at Government Higher Secondary School Nagri Parole. The event engaged students and the community in creating impactful slogans aimed at raising voter awareness. This initiative was designed to foster a sense of civic responsibility and deepen the understanding of the vital role voting plays in a democratic society.

The SVEEP campaign across Kathua district continues to gain momentum as the Legislative Assembly elections approach, with the goal of achieving a substantial increase in voter turnout and fostering a strong culture of electoral participation.

campaign, activities were conducted across several educational institutions including GDC Hiranagar, GHSS Sallan, GHSS Chakra, GHSS Hiranagar, GHS Kadyala, Mela, and at several middle schools. These activities included Voter's Pledge, signature campaign, awareness rallies, poem recitation, and lectures focusing on

the theme "My Vote is My Right." In a unique demonstration of voter engagement, women at Sallan expressed their commitment to voting by applying henna on their hands with messages promoting the right to vote.

Block Level Officers (BLOs) of AC-68 Hiranagar also played a pivotal

role in amplifying the SVEEP campaign by conducting various voter awareness activities at their respective polling stations, ensuring maximum reach and impact.

This operation underscores the commitment of the Excise Department to curb the illegal production and distribution of illicit liquor in the region. Further actions will continue to be taken to ensure compliance with the law and to protect public health and safety.

Excise Department conducts raids on brick kilns at Nowbugh, Budgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 02

On the directions of the Excise Commissioner, Subash Chander Chibber, and under the supervision of Dy. Excise Commissioner Executive Kashmir, Tazayun Mukhtar, officials headed by the Inspector from the Excise Range Central Kashmir conducted a series of raids at brick kilns located in Nowbugh, Tehsil Chadoora, Budgam.

During the raid, the team uncovered 17 liters of Lahan adjacent to one of the brick kilns. The illicit substance was immediately destroyed on the spot. The owners of the brick kilns were duly informed about the severe legal repercussions associated with illicit distillation.

In addition to the enforcement action, the senior citizens of the locality were sensitized regarding the social and health hazards of illicit liquor. They were urged to report any such illegal activities to the officials of the Excise Department promptly.

This operation underscores the commitment of the Excise Department to curb the illegal production and distribution of illicit liquor in the region. Further actions will continue to be taken to ensure compliance with the law and to protect public health and safety.

SVEEP: Voter Awareness program held at Shallabugh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 2

In an effort to promote electoral awareness and ensure maximum participation in the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, a significant voter awareness program was organized today at Boys High School Shallabugh Ganderbal under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

The event saw active participation from the local community and students with a focus on the importance of electoral participation in the upcoming elections. The Nodal Officer SVEEP, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the critical role of each vote in shaping the future of the Shallabugh region.

Stressing the importance of voter turnout and democratic participation, she urged the residents to exercise their democratic right with responsibility and to participate actively in the forthcoming election. The program concluded with a collective pledge by the attendees to cast their votes and encourage others to do the same, reinforcing the spirit of responsible and informed voting.

Assembly Elections-2024 DEO Samba reviews preparation for smooth conduct of Assembly Elections 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 2

The District Election Officer (DEO) Samba, Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a pivotal meeting on the preparation for the upcoming J&K Assembly Elections scheduled for 2024. The meeting was attended by SSP, Vinay Kumar, ADC, Jagdish Singh, CPO, AROs besides all the nodal officers.

Key issues discussed and actions planned during the meeting included ensuring Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all polling stations, with Returning Officers and the Nodal Officer for AMF directed to ensure that all necessary facilities are in place well before polling day. Additionally, special polling stations will be set up, including Women, PwD, Youth Manned, Green,



Unique and Model Polling Stations, each manned and supervised by designated officers. Arrangements for polling stations near border areas were also discussed, ensuring safety with contingency plans in place for any unforeseen circumstances such as cross-border firing. The meeting also covered the process of Home Voting for PwD and Senior Citizens (85+).

Furthermore, the Chief Agriculture Officer, Samba, was tasked with ensuring all necessary arrangements at Voter Facilitation Centers,

including assisting voters with postal ballot voting. Security and manpower were another focus, with the Sr. Superintendent of Police, Samba, in coordination with the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Samba, ensuring adequate security and manpower, particularly on the day of Home Voting and polling day.

The DEO directed all concerned officers to adhere strictly to the Election Commission of India's guidelines and ensure the smooth and fair conduct of the elections.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 2

Chief Electoral Office J&K today organised a Nukkad Natak at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College For Women, Gandhi Nagar here under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal officer of SVEEP and Sapna Kotwal, Nodal Officer for Media were present at the program. Both the officers imparted awareness to students which aims to strengthen the visibility, outreach, and effectiveness of SVEEP activities across the J&K Union Territory. The program also focused around the critical importance of voter participation, especially the First Time Voters among the students.

Both the officer expressed confidence that this initiative would significantly improve the voter awareness, particularly among the First



Time Voters, which will foster greater inclusivity and positively contributing to the democratic process.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof S.P Sarawat, Principal Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Gov-

ernment PG College For Women, also encouraged the students to actively participate in the electoral exercise and encouraged their near and dear ones to cast their votes on the polling day in their respective Assembly Con-

stituencies. Prof Sarawat also assured that the College will continue such activities till the conclusion of Assembly Elections.

Other staff members of the college were also present at the program.

Assembly Elections-2024

Poll Staff imparted training at Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 2

A comprehensive training and orientation programme was hosted today for polling staff here at three separate locations in Poonch, Surankote and Mendhar assembly constituencies. The programme aimed to prepare the officers for their crucial role in the upcoming 2024 Assembly elections. During the sessions, officers were thoroughly briefed on their pivotal responsibilities in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. District-level and Assembly Level master Trainers conducted detailed sessions on vulnerability mapping, providing the officers with essential skills and insights specific to the unique challenges of Poonch district, particularly in border areas. The officials and poll-



ing parties underwent intensive training on the operation and handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) systems. The training sessions, organized by the district election authority, were aimed at ensuring smooth, transparent, and error-free elections. The training program was conducted under the supervision of senior electoral officers who provided detailed demonstrations on the setup, operation, and trouble-

shooting of EVMs and VVPATs. Participants include presiding officers, polling officers, and other key personnel who will be directly involved in the election process. Vikas Kundal, DEO Poonch, emphasized the importance of training, stating, "The accuracy and integrity of the electoral process are paramount. Through these training sessions, we are equipping our officials with the necessary skills and knowledge to handle the EVMs and VVPATs effectively. This will

ensure that the voting process is conducted smoothly and that voters' confidence in the electoral system is upheld." The training also covered crucial aspects such as the proper sealing of EVMs after polling, handling of VVPAT slips, and measures to be taken in case of technical issues during the voting process. Mock polling exercises were conducted to give participants hands-on experience in operating the machines and managing real-time scenarios.

Assembly Elections-2024: Gal Baat: Mega Interactive Session under SVEEP held at Bandipora

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 02

The District Administration Bandipora on Monday organized a one-day special interactive session on Electoral Awareness with the theme "Gal Baat/ Katha Batha/ Vichar Vimarsh" as part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative at N. M Higher Secondary School Kaloosa, Bandipora. The programme aimed to foster a deeper understanding of the democratic process and promote active participation among the participants, besides creating awareness and instilling a sense of belief in the democratic process. The event featured a diverse group of participants, including representatives from GDC Bandipora, GDC Ajas, GDC Hajin, GDC Sumbal, ITI Bandipora, NM BHSS Bandipora,



and GHSS Bandipora, who engaged in discussions on various aspects of the electoral process and active civic engagement. The programme also witnessed the participation of Brand Ambassador SVEEP activities, Padmashree Faisal Ali Dar. Speaking on the occasion, District Election

Officer (DEO), Manzoor Ahmad Qadri highlighted the value of the vote in a democratic setup. He also emphasized the significance of the participation of every eligible citizen in taking an active role in the democratic process. He stated that today's programme, 'Gal Baat,' an interactive session, was

aimed at encouraging civic participation and ensuring an engaged and empowered electorate. He added that youth are ambassadors of democratic awareness and participation, and efforts are being made to ensure that every eligible voter understands their role in the democratic process and feels empowered to make their voice heard. The DEO said that SVEEP programmes in Bandipora continue to work towards increasing voter engagement, ensuring a transparent and accessible electoral process for all, and helping participants understand the essence of the poll process and active participation. Among others, the programme was attended by CEO, Kishore Kumar; DIO, Aadil Manzoor Wani; DyCEO, Dr. G. M. Pujoo, BLOs, first-time voters, students, and others concerned.

Assembly Election 2024

Media Persons briefed about MCC Guidelines

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 2

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kishtwar, Ghulam Rasool - the Nodal Officer for Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for Assembly Election 2024 on Monday chaired a meeting with media persons to discuss the MCC guidelines for media coverage during the election period. The ADCD urged media personnel to strictly adhere to the established guidelines, which includes ensuring that all information is thoroughly verified before publishing or broadcasting. This includes cross-checking data with official sources and reputable references to prevent the dissemination of unverified or speculative reports. Media personnel were reminded to maintain impartiality, uphold the integrity of the electoral



process by avoiding bias in their reporting. He also highlighted the need to use credible sources and accurately attribute information to avoid spreading misinformation. The Media was advised to avoid sensational or

provocative headlines that could potentially influence voter opinion, thus ensuring an unbiased and informed electorate. The meeting also addressed the responsible use of social media, emphasizing that all posts should

be tagged with the MCC to ensure transparency and accountability. The meeting was attended by DIO Kuldeep Kumar, Nodal Officer Training Riyaz Ahmed Butt besides representatives of media houses.

Assembly Elections-2024

Second randomization of EVMs & VVPATs successfully conducted at Kulgam

JINNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 2

Second Randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) & VVPATs for the General Assembly Elections 2024 took place in Kulgam today in accordance with the Election Commission of India guidelines. The process was conducted in the presence of General Observers Nagarchoje Madan Bibhishan, M V Venkatesh deployed by ECI and District Election Officer (DEO), Athar Aamir Khan, ROs and the representatives of the National and recognized Political Parties and Contesting Candidates. The Representatives of Political Parties who were present during the 2nd Randomization process include Bhartiya Janata Party, Communist Party of India Marxist, Indian National Congress, Jammu Kashmir National Conference, and Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Demo-



cratic Party. The Randomisation was done on the EMS Software/Portal of ECI, to the satisfaction of the representatives of all the Political Parties and Contesting Candidates of all the three Assembly Constituencies of District Kulgam in the meeting. All the representatives of political parties and contesting candidates of all the three Assembly Constituencies of District Kulgam expressed their satisfaction over the entire randomisation process. The copies of lists of

randomized CUs/BUS and VVPATs were handed over to the representatives of the political parties and contesting candidates of all the three constituencies of District Kulgam present in the meeting during the randomization. Entire process was video-recorded as per guidelines. The randomization process focused on allocating 557 Ballot Units, 557 Control Units, and 557 Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units for all polling stations across three assembly constituencies of district Kulgam.

Vibrant SVEEP Rally for greater participation in Assembly Elections held at Sopore

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 2

The streets of Sopore came alive today with the sound of dol (drum) beats as Returning Officer 07-Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina, accompanied by Nodal Officer SVEEP, Baramulla, Shabir Ahmad Khan, led a vibrant Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) rally. This blend of culture where the local artists performed Band Paether, aimed at promoting greater voter participation in the upcoming Assembly Elections, witnessed an enthusiastic turnout from the community. The rally was marked by the participation of hundreds of first-time voters, students, and community leaders, all of whom marched through the streets of Sopore with energy, showcasing their commitment to exercising their democratic rights and encouraging others to do the same. Throughout the event, participants carried banners, chanted slogans, and engaged in discussions about the significance of their vote. The rally besides serving as a reminder of the critical role that voters play in shaping the future also called all eligible voters in the region to participate in the upcoming elections. Speaking at the rally, Shabir Ahmad Raina emphasized the vital role that new voters play in the democratic process highlighting the collective responsibility to exercise this right with care and accountability. He further emphasized the profound impact that each vote can have in shaping the future of the region, noting that every individual's participation is not just a right but a crucial contribution to the democratic process.

Assembly Elections-2024: General Observer Shopian AC reviews preparedness with Nodal officers

JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 2

General Observer for Shopian Assembly Constituency, Roohi Khan today chaired a meeting with Nodal Officers at Mini Secretariat, here to review and assess the preparations for the upcoming Assembly elections in the 37-Shopian Assembly Constituency. The meeting was attended by various constituency nodal officers and district nodal officers responsible for different election-related activities. During the meeting, the Police Nodal Officer apprised the Observer about the arms deposition, status of NDPS, PSA and UAPA cases. It was intimated that out of 12 arms licenses in the Shopian AC, 12 arms have been deposited with concerned police stations and 02 arms impounded. The police officials accompanying the FSTs need to be sensitised more on removal of campaign materials like banners, flags etc from government properties, General Observer stressed, while also asking for observance of guidelines on displaying campaign permissions by candidates in their vehicles and sought compliance from Flying



Squads. The Observer was informed that three Flying Squads are working in the Shopian AC to keep watch on the movement of large amounts of cash, arms and ammunition, items of bribe and illegal liquor. Returning Officer, Shopian was asked to share daily reports of complaints registered on C-vigil and offline mode whereas BDOs and EO MC were tasked to conduct sanitation drives on pre-poll and poll day and ensure sanitation around the polling stations. The Observer called

upon MC Shopian to ensure compliance of MCC in the town, instructing to keep watch on usage of government properties for campaigning and publicity through media, rented out spaces/ locations identified for campaign/ advertising with rates for the awareness of candidates. Since BLOs remain busy with election related activities on the poll day, BDOs, CMO, CDPOs, CEO were asked to depute their field functionaries like PS, GRS, NYCs, ASHAs and AWWs to help BLOs and manage the Help Desks along with queue. Roohi Khan called

upon ROs to watch over the pace of voting on poll day and to take call to deploy extra staff from reserve parties for gearing up polling, in case of slow polling in order to facilitate appreciable voter turnouts and also emphasized on making medical arrangements in place across the Polling Stations of the Assembly Constituency. The meeting concluded with directives from the Observer to all officers to ensure meticulous planning and execution to facilitate the smooth conduct of the elections.

Assembly Elections-2024: 2nd Randomization of EVMs held at Doda

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, SEPTEMBER 2

The second randomization of EVMs for the upcoming General Elections to Assembly Elections 2024 for Assembly Constituencies (AC) 52-Doda and AC 53-Doda West. The General Observer for the twin ACs Aditya Negi chaired the randomization meeting, which was attended by key officials and political representatives from both constituencies. The randomization process is a crucial step in ensuring the fairness and transparency of the election process. It involves the allocation of polling staff and the random selection of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to be used in different polling stations across the district. This process helps maintain the integrity of the elections by ensuring that the assignment of election duties and machines is free from any bias. The second randomization process concluded successfully, and all stake-



holders expressed their commitment to ensuring a smooth and fair electoral process. The General Observer provided detailed information regarding all parameters of the randomization process to the representatives of political parties. He informed them that the EVMs brought from the warehouse to the constituencies are sent to the polling stations after several formalities. During the randomization process, a detailed report after

random selection was distributed among the representatives of the political parties. The EVMs, ballot units, and VVPATs were checked, and the pairing of election voting machines was conducted to ensure proper functioning. The randomization process was attended by RO AC 52-Doda, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, RO AC 53-Doda West, Ashok Kumar Katoch, representatives of political parties, and officials of both constituencies.

Godrej Appliances unveils fully automated manufacturing line for AI powered Front Load Washing Machines

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 2

The Appliances business of Godrej & Boyce, part of Godrej Enterprises Group, has further expanded its manufacturing capabilities by adding production facility for its new range of fully automatic front-load washing machines powered by AI Technology. Spread over 1 Lakh sq.ft. at Shirwal near Pune, this new facility marks a strategic investment of close to INR 100 crores in capital expenditure dedicated to machinery, tools, infrastructure and backward integration.

The fully automated facility at Shirwal will strengthen Godrej Appliances' market presence by adding a capacity of 3 Lakh units of front-load washing machines per annum, that will almost double the production



of automatic washing machine portfolio for the brand. This Greenco Platinum Plus certified factory also manufactures other appliances like refrigerators, air conditioners, semi and top-load washing machines, medical refrigerators, InsuliCool and Qube. Commenting on the new assembly line, Kamal Nandi, Business Head & Executive Vice President of Godrej Appliances, said, "The new AI enabled product range underscores our commitment to innovation to meet the unique needs

of Indian consumers. Currently, we are one of the fastest-growing brands in the washing machine category, and with this new investment of INR 100 cr., we're poised to further strengthen our position and achieve our target of 2X growth in the Washing Machines segment this year."

Speaking on the new product range, Shashank Sinha, Product Group Head- Washing Machines, Godrej Appliances, added, "Our new range of fully automatic front load

washing machines have been conceptualised and designed especially for Indian consumers keeping in mind their preferences based on various geographic and climatic conditions, family sizes and washing habits. Along with superior aesthetics, these advanced machines of 7-10 kg capacities are powered by AI Technology that intelligently optimizes the wash and rinse, delivers optimal clothes care by smart load detection and water level adjustment, also saves precious water

and energy, thereby redefining the washing experience for consumers."

As a part of the brands commitment to things made thoughtfully, several advanced features make the front load washing machine range stand out. For example, the Steam wash program deep cleanses clothes and washes off 100+ different kinds of stains up to 2 days old*, Refresh program deodorizes them, and FabriSafe™ Drum helps to maintain the quality of varied fabrics. Further, these machines can also dry clothes 30 minutes faster**. The entire range of front load washing machines offer convenience with auto drum clean reminders, come with an anti-rust cabinet, overflow protection, 2-years comprehensive and 10-year motor warranty.

Excise Department conducts raids on brick kilns at Nowbugh, Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 02

On the directions of the Excise Commissioner, Subash Chander Chibber, and under the supervision of Dy. Excise Commissioner Executive Kashmir, Tazayun Mukhtar, officials headed by Inspector from the Excise Range Central Kashmir conducted a series of raids at brick kilns located in Nowbugh, Tehsil Chadoora, Budgam.

During the raid, the team uncovered 17 liters of Lahan adjacent to one of the brick kilns. The illicit substance was immediately destroyed on the spot. The owners of the brick kilns were duly informed about the severe legal repercussions associated with illicit distillation. In addition to the enforcement action, the senior citizens of the locality were sensitized regarding the social and health hazards of illicit liquor. They were urged to report any such illegal activities to the officials of the Excise Department promptly.

This operation underscores the commitment of the Excise Department to curb the illegal production and distribution of illicit liquor in the region. Further actions will continue to be taken to ensure compliance with the law and to protect public health and safety.

Assembly Election 2024 General Observer Malikarjuna A inspects election facilities at AC-51 Bhadarwah



JI NEWS SERVICE
BHADARWAH, SEPTEMBER 2

General Observer, Malikarjuna A for Assembly Constituency (AC) 51- Bhadarwah conducted an inspection of R. O office, Election Cell, Media Cell and Ongoing Training of Election Staff here in the local Community Hall today. The General Observer was accompanied by Liaison officers - Tehsildar Bhalla and EXEN PWD & R&B Bhadarwah along with a team of election officials. The inspection aimed to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for the smooth conduct of the upcoming elections.

During the visit, the team reviewed the facilities

available at these centres focusing on accessibility, security, and the overall preparedness to handle the Election process efficiently. The General Observer also interacted with the staff to discuss and address challenges and ensure that all protocols are followed to facilitate a free and fair election.

While Inspecting Training centre, he interacted with the trainees at Mock Poll organised to assess the functioning of polling officials designated as P1, P2 and P3. The staff was instructed to strive for a transparent and fair election process, urging all Officers and officials to prioritize voter safety and accessibility.

Assembly Elections-2024

Second randomisation of EVM/ VVPAT held at Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 2

As per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI), second randomisation of EVM/ VVPAT was conducted today at Mini Secretariat, Shopian in presence of contesting candidates and recognised agents of political parties.

The exercise was supervised by the General Observer, 36- Zainapora, Jeevan Babu K and General Observer, 37-Shopian, Roohi Khan.

All EVMs available in the district were allotted AC wise in the first round of randomisation, the candidates and agents of political parties were appraised on the occasion and during the second round held today, 129 EVM/ VVPATs were



allotted to equal number of polling stations of Zainapora AC with reserve EVM/ VVPATs kept at 50% of the total number of polling stations.

For Shopian AC, 122 EVM/VVPATs were allotted to 122 polling stations, with 61 EVMs kept reserve, constituting 50% of the total.

They were further informed, in case, any EVM constituting the

Ballot Unit (BU), Control Unit (CU) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) mal-functions during commissioning, mock and actual polling, EVMs shall be replaced from reserve stock.

The agents were informed that the commissioning of the EVMs shall start from 4th September and were requested to be available during the process and be pro-

active for sharing apprehensions, grievances and worry lists, advised the General Observer, Shopian.

The General Observer for Shopian further asked them to train their party agents for polling and counting day activities for the purpose of fair and transparent electoral process.

The printed copies of the list of randomised EVMs, polling station wise, were handed over to political parties agents and contesting candidates, belonging to JKNC, JKDPD, JKAP, JKNPP (B) and other independents of both the ACs.

DEO, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, RO Zainapora, Shopian, Dy DEO, Nodal Officers and other concerned were also present.

ECI appoints General Observer for 33-Tral AC of Pulwama

JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 2

The Election Commission of India has appointed Brajesh Narain Singh (IAS) as the General Observer for 33-Tral Assembly Constituency (AC) in Pulwama district for the Legislative Assembly Elections, 2024.

In case the public/ candidates as well as political parties' representatives want to contact the General Observer for any issues related to the General Elections to the J&K Assembly constituency TRAL-33, he shall remain available on cell phone number -9103222423.

Further, the General Observer shall also be physically available between 9:30 am - 10:30 am on all the working days at Town Hall, Tral Payeen, near bus stand Tral to meet the public/ candidates as well as political parties representatives in case they want to share their worry list related to forthcoming election in Tral-33.

Spl Secy Industries & Commerce visits JKI's Wool manufacturing Unit at Bemina

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 2

Special Secretary Industries and Commerce Department, Mufti Mohammad Farid ud Din, visited the wool based manufacturing unit of Jammu Kashmir Industries Limited (JKI) and its factory outlet located at Bemina.

During his visit, the

Special Secretary was accompanied by Vikram K Gupta, Managing Director JKI; Deputy General Manager (P&A), Manager (P&A) and other senior officers from JKI.

During his visit, he was briefed about the efforts being made by the organization for increasing its marketing outreach by various methods.

Further to cater to the

government market, it was informed that the wool related products manufactured by JKI are also being made available on GeM portal to enhance the sales. While reviewing the working of the unit and its factory outlet, Farid ud Din appreciated the efforts being put by JKI management for running the unit on commercial lines.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Cloudburst strikes...

Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K has recorded a precipitation of 1.2 mm while Katra in Jammu division received a rainfall of 11.6 mm.

Moreover, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather would remain generally cloudy with possibility of light to moderate rain and thundershower at most places tomorrow.

On September 04 & 05, generally dry weather is expected while on September 06 & 07, a brief spell of rain is expected at isolated to scattered places.

However, from September 08 to 13, generally dry weather with possibility of brief showers expected at isolated places.

In its advisory, the MeT has said that there is a possibility of heavy rain till tomorrow at isolated places with possibility of flash floods, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones over few vulnerable places.

"Rise in water level in Local Nallas & flood channels and Water logging in few Low lying areas and possibility of light snowfall over few higher reaches are expected," it said, adding that the trekkers and tourists are advised to plan accordingly.

Meanwhile, the Srinagar-Leh highway was closed for vehicular movement after fresh mudslides, triggered by rain, occurred at Kullan Gund area in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

Officials said that the highway was closed immediately after mudslides occurred at Kullan Gund area this evening

He said that the highway has got completely blocked due to mudslides, while men and machinery have been pressed into service to restore the highway

However, SSG road has been blocked near Shah Mohalla Kullan and the traffic has been diverted through another link Road. KNO

Two women pilgrims...

for the shrine when they got trapped under the iron structure following the landslide, officials said.

According to them, the landslide was caused by shooting stones in the wake of rainfall over the past few days.

Deputy Commissioner of Reasi Vishesh Paul Mahajan said senior police and civil administration officers have rushed to the spot.

Officials said disaster management teams of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) immediately reached the spot of the incident and launched a rescue operation.

The injured girl -- Sanvi, a resident of Kanpur -- was admitted to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital for treatment.

Her grandfather L Prasad said they were taking a break from trekking to the shrine when police started clearing the track due to a monkey scare.

"Suddenly, there was a landslide and the debris fell on the tin shed which collapsed," he said. On New Year's Day in 2022, a stampede at the shrine left 12 pilgrims dead and 16 injured. KNO

LG grieved over...

hour of grief. Praying for the early recovery of the injured. I have directed the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and the District Administration Reasi to provide all necessary assistance, as provided in rule, to the affected families and ensure best care for the injured". KNO

Drone dropped...

and pushed the drone back to the Pak side," the BSF spokesman said, adding that after spotting suspected drone movement, thorough search operation was launched in the general area of Mallu Chack and three pistols were recovered suspected to be dropped by the drone.

"In this regard, a Case FIR No. 81/2024 u/s 113(3)/149 BNS and 7/25 Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Ramgarh and further investigation is going on," the statement said. KNO

Five-way contest brews...

December 2020, Congress leader Sheikh Riaz Ahmed, whose wife won the election

from Ghat constituency, started reaching out to people in every nook and corner of the constituency.

He developed good relationships with people on the ground and it was this relationship which forced the Congress party to go for a friendly contest with NC on this seat despite the fact that NC claimed they had got this seat in the pre-poll seat sharing formula.

NC's Khalid Najib Suharwardy is a cleric who has held on Jamia Masjid of district headquarters Doda and has won bi-elections in 1997 after his father Maulana Ataullah Suharwardy's death, who had won Assembly elections in 1996. He remained Minister of State (MoS) for home in Farooq Abdullah's council of ministers but lost every election after that.

The DPAP candidate Abdul Majid Wani won his first election as an independent candidate in 2002 by defeating NC's Suharwardy. He joined Congress party after that and even remained MoS in Mufti Muhammad Sayeed's council of ministers during PDP-Congress coalition government. In 2008 he again won Doda seat and became part of Oomarr Abdulla's cabinet but lost to BJP's Shakti Parihar in 2014.

For the first time in the history of Doda Assembly constituency, BJP won this seat in 2014 during the Modi wave and he remained MoS in Mehbooba Mufti's council of ministers for a few months before JP withdrew support to Mehbooba. Now, BJP has given mandate to Gajay Singh Rana after Parihar decided to contest from the newly carved Doda West constituency.

Another candidate Mehraj Malik of AAP, who is also DDC from Kahra, is gaining good momentum but it will be interesting to see how many votes he can fetch. He is the only candidate who strikes an emotional chord with people. KNO

Soldier killed at...

along with other teams rushed to the scene to join the army in a massive search operation as a terror attack was suspected. However, nothing suspicious was found during day long the search operation which continued for hours together with all

entry and exit points to the adjoining areas plugged. Drones and sniffer dogs were also used during the thorough search of the area.

In February 2018, the terrorists attacked the Sunjawan Military Station resulting in the killing of six soldiers, a civilian and three terrorists. Talking to reporters at the site earlier on Monday, Superintendent of Police (South) Ajay Sharma said that two gunshots were heard at a post, resulting in injuries to a soldier. "The probe is on (to ascertain the cause of the firing. Senior officers are on the spot," he said. KNO

PDP gov't performance...

the son of former minister for Industries and Commerce Sonaullah Dar, joined the party along with his supporters. KNO

PM Modi launches...

his early days in the party and said that 'he painted Lotus on the walls, but always had faith that Lotus will bloom in people's hearts'.

"We painted Lotus on the walls but we did it with such devotion that we had faith that painted Lotus on walls will be painted someday on the hearts of people," he said.

Welcoming PM Modi, Party's President JP Nadda said "the former being the Pradhan Sevak of the country, maintains a busy schedule to monitor the nuances of governance. He is an inspiration and a role model for all of us".

"Modi has always prioritised Sangathan. Whenever Sangathan needed him, the Prime Minister made sure to take time out of his busy schedule and be there for the Sangathan" he added.

BJP, the world's biggest party, has also unveiled a phone number -- 8800002024. A missed call on this number would enable the leaders, workers and volunteers to become party members. NaMo App is another route via which leaders and workers can attain a party's membership and renew their association with the party.

LG attends flag-in...

was faced with challenges posed by the extreme weather conditions and rough terrain.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the important role of Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports in promotion of adventure sports, skiing and mountaineering in the region. KNO

U T OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Superintendent Govt. Industrial
Training Institute Bhaddu/Billawar
Email:-itibhaddu8847@gmail.com Contact:-01921266648

COUNSELING NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the candidates who have already applied online for admission in the Institute for the academic session 2024-25-26 that the counseling to fill the vacant seats in different trades will be held on 06-09-2024 at 10.00 Am. The interest candidates are advised to attend the counseling on said date and time along with original documents.

No:-ITI/BB/2024-25/212-15
Dated:- 02-09-2023

Sd/-
Superintendent
Govt. ITI Bhaddu/Billawar

DIP/J-4838/24
Date: 2-9-24

Dr. Subhash Chander joins National Conference Party, strengthening voice for POJK displaced community



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 2

In a significant political development, Dr. Subhash Chander, a University Professor, POJK Displaced People Activist, and a well-regarded figure among the marginalized sections of society in Jammu, officially joined the National Conference (NC) Party of Jammu & Kashmir yesterday. The ceremony, attended by a large gathering of his supporters, was held in the presence of Shri Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President (JKNC), Jammu province. Shri Gupta warmly welcomed Dr. Subhash Chander into the party, affirming the NC's commitment

to working for the upliftment and betterment of the POJK community. He emphasized that Dr. Chander's joining would significantly bolster the party's efforts to address the issues faced by this marginalized group. During his address, Dr. Subhash Chander highlighted the subtle political tactics employed by the current regime, which he believes have reduced his community to a mere vote bank. He strongly advocated for political representation for the POJK displaced community, which numbers approximately 7 lakh in Jammu & Kashmir and around 13 lakh across the country. He emphasized that only through

adequate representation in legislative bodies can this wounded community find the healing and support it desperately needs. Dr. Chander also noted the strategic importance of the assembly segments R.S Pura South and Suchetgarh, which he represents. These segments alone have approximately 62,000 POJK displaced individuals, constituting a significant voter base. The joining ceremony was also graced by the presence of Janab Sheikh Bashir Ahmed provincial Secretary JKNC Jammu province and several other prominent leaders of the party, further underscoring the importance of this political move.

Assembly Elections-2024 SVEEP Awareness programme organized at Pink Polling Station, Yaripora

JNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 2

As part of the ongoing efforts to promote voter awareness and encourage greater participation in the electoral process, a special awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) was organized today at the Pink Polling Station in Yaripora. Nodal officer SVEEP, Nazia Hassan said that the programme aimed to educate and sensitize voters, particularly women, about the importance of exercising their democratic right to vote.

During the programme, emphasis was placed on the significance of voting in a democracy and the impact every vote can have in shaping the future of the nation.

Participants were also informed about the various initiatives and facilities provided to make the voting process more



accessible, such as the establishment of Pink Polling Stations designed to offer a more comfortable voting environment for women. Multiple cultural activities and a mehandi competition also marked the

event. The SVEEP initiative aims to create a more inclusive and participatory electoral process by ensuring that every eligible voter is informed and empowered to cast their vote.

Assembly Elections-2024 General, Police & Expenditure Observers hold meeting with Political Party Representatives

JNEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 2

A comprehensive meeting was convened today at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the preparedness for the upcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assembly 2024.

The meeting was attended by General Observers; Manoj Kumar, Vadarevu Vinay Chand, Brajesh Narain Singh, Khartade Sudama Rao, Police Observer, Akhlesh Kumar and Expenditure Observer, appointed by the Election Commission of India.

The meeting focused on ensuring a free, fair and transparent election process in the district.

General Observers briefed the political parties

on the role of observers in monitoring the electoral process. They assured the representatives that all complaints and concerns raised by political parties would be addressed with utmost priority. The observers emphasized the need for strict adherence to election guidelines and urged political parties to maintain decorum during the election campaign.

The political representatives appreciated the efforts of the district administration and election observers in ensuring a level playing field for all contestants. They also brought forward certain issues and suggestions regarding the polling arrangements, which were noted by the Deputy Commissioner for immediate

action. Earlier, the District Election Officer (DEO), Dr. Basharat Qayoom highlighted the administrative arrangements made to facilitate smooth polling across all constituencies in Pulwama. He emphasized the importance of cooperation from all political stakeholders in adhering to the Model Code of Conduct and ensuring peaceful conduct during the election period. The meeting concluded with a consensus on maintaining transparency, fairness and peace throughout the election process, ensuring that the democratic exercise is conducted smoothly in the district. Among others the meeting was attended by Returning Officers, Nodal Officers besides concerned.

Assembly Elections-2024

Election Expenditure monitoring reviewed at Doda

JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, SEPTEMBER 2

A meeting to review Election expenditure monitoring mechanism for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024 was held here today in the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Office Complex.

The meeting was chaired by Expenditure Observer Arshdeep Singh and attended by the Deputy District Election Officer Om Prakash Bhagat, accounts officers, accounting team, and representatives of various political parties.

During the meeting, the Expenditure Observer provided a comprehensive overview of the rules and regulations governing election expenditure as outlined by the Election Commission of India and the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) guidelines. Singh emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in election spending and highlighted the need for all political parties to strictly adhere



to these regulations to ensure a fair electoral process.

Representatives of political parties raised several questions about permissible expenses during the election period, seeking clarification on various aspects of the expenditure guidelines. In response, the Expenditure Observer instructed all political parties to maintain detailed records of their daily expenditures. He stressed that these records should be meticulously documented and submitted for review as required by the Election Commission's guidelines.

Expenditure experts were also present to address queries and provide

further clarification on specific expenditure-related issues raised by the representatives. They explained the procedures for maintaining accurate expenditure records, the types of expenses that are permissible, and the documentation required for each expense. The experts emphasized the consequences of failing to comply with these guidelines, which could result in penalties or disqualification from the election process.

The meeting concluded with a directive from the Expenditure Observer, urging political parties to ensure that all expenditures are within the limits set by the Election

Commission of India. He reminded the attendees that strict adherence to these norms is essential for maintaining the integrity of the electoral process. All participating parties agreed to comply with the directives and assured their commitment to transparent and lawful election campaigns.

The Expenditure Observer also announced that inspections of the expenditures made by political parties would take place on September 5, 10, and 16. Additionally, he informed the attendees that the maximum limit of expenditure during the election is Rs 40 lakh, as suggested by the Election Commission of India.

It was also decided that regular training sessions would be conducted for the political parties and their accounting teams to further educate them on the best practices for maintaining transparency in election expenditure. The Expenditure Observer emphasized the role of these sessions in fostering a culture of compliance and accountability among all stakeholders in the electoral process.

Election Observers for district Kishtwar ACs available for public hearing daily

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 2

General Observer, Doda Vantaka Swamy, (49-Kishtwar & 50-Paddar Nag-seni Assembly Constituency) and A. Rahul Nadh (48-Inderwal) besides Police Observer for Kishtwar, Ranjeet Kumar Misra and Expenditure Observer Sameer Kumar Jha will be available for public hearing here in the Offices established in Chenab Bhawan and Dul Hasti Bhawan, Semina Kishtwar between 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM daily.

The Observer would listen to election related matters of the stakeholders, including general public and political representatives. The stakeholders can meet the Observers for any query or complaint related to elections during the scheduled time. They can also approach the Observer on their mobile phone number.

Citizens can contact General Observer, Doda Vantaka Swamy on 8082861305; A. Rahul Nadh on 914971791; Police Observer, Ranjeet Kumar Misra on 9103968348 and Expenditure Observer, Sameer Jha on 8082091426.

Assembly Elections-2024

DEO Baramulla reviews AMFs at polling stations in 11-Gulmarg AC, plants saplings at Green PS

JNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 2

As part of the preparations for the Assembly Elections 2024, District Election Officer (DEO) Baramulla, accompanied by the Returning Officer (RO) of 11-Gulmarg Assembly Constituency and other officers, visited several polling stations to ensure Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) are in place.

The visit was aimed at ensuring that voters have a smooth and hassle-free voting experience.

During the visit, a plantation drive was organized at the Green Polling Station located at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Chandilora, Tangmarg.

The DEO, along with the RO and other officials, planted saplings to promote an eco-friendly and welcoming environment for voters. This Green Polling Station



initiative reflects the district's dedication to environmental sustainability while encouraging voter participation.

Speaking at the event, DEO stated that by creating these Green Polling Stations, we aim to provide an eco-friendly atmosphere that fosters voter engagement, promot-

ing both environmental responsibility and democratic participation.

In addition to the plantation drive, the DEO reviewed the readiness of the polling stations to ensure all required facilities, such as drinking water, proper accessibility, and adequate signage, are available to voters.

Assembly Elections-2024

Voting awareness campaign organised at GDC Pouni under SVEEP

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, SEPTEMBER 2

An awareness program for young voters was held today here on Government Degree College Pouni Campus Pouni as part of the "Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation" (SVEEP) initiative.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and professors alike, reflecting the commitment to fostering an informed and active electorate. The SVEEP team led by Nodal Officer Sachin Sharma provided comprehensive insights into the electoral process, encouraging all attendees to participate in the democratic process and cast their votes on 25 September 2024.

A series of activities, including speeches by students, a symposium, poster-making competi-



tions, Signature Campaign and a large mass rally, were organized to further engage participants and spread awareness about the importance of voting. A special focus was placed on informing the Nodal Officers about the availability of home voting for senior citizens aged 85 and above, ensuring inclusivity in the voting process.

Additionally, Persons with Disabilities (PwD) were introduced to the Saksham-ECI app, which features a range of acces-

sibility options to assist in voter registration, locating polling stations, and casting votes.

The program culminated with a pledge by the students and staff of GDC Pouni to actively promote voter participation within their communities, aiming for a higher voter turnout in the upcoming elections. This initiative highlights the importance of voter education and the role of youth and educators in fostering a vibrant and inclusive electoral process.

Assembly Elections-2024

Voter Awareness programme under SVEEP held at Pahalgam

JNEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 2

To ensure active participation in the upcoming General Election Legislative Assembly (GELA-2024), a successful voter awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was held today at famous tourist destination Pahalgam.

The event was organized by the Nodal Officer SVEEP for Assembly Constituency 47-AC Pahalgam, under the guidance and direction of the District Election Officer (DEO) Anantnag, SF.Hamid and Returning Officer 47-AC Pahalgam.

The programme saw an enthusiastic turnout from Panchayat Halqa Nowgam-A, Nowgam-B, and adjoining areas.

During the event, the Nodal Officer SVEEP emphasized the impor-

tance of voting. He highlighted the critical role each vote plays in shaping the future and ensuring a representative government. The programme particularly focused on educating first-time voters about their crucial role in the democratic process and the significance of their participation.

He also elaborated on various SVEEP interventions aimed at enhancing voter education, promoting informed and ethical voting practices, and ensuring that every eligible voter exercises their right to vote.

The event culminated in a mega rally, where participants, motivated by the programme, marched to encourage the general public to actively participate in the upcoming elections, reinforcing the message of the importance of every single vote.

Assembly Elections-2024: DEO Udhampur releases Dogri SVEEP Song to promote voter awareness



JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 2

To promote voter awareness and participation in the upcoming General Election to the Legislative Assembly, District Election Officer Udhampur Saloni Rai, released an inspiring Dogri SVEEP song here today at Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Deputy District Election Officer Dr. Anirudh Rai; ACR Dr. Umesh Shan; SDM Basantgarh, and other officers attended the program.

The motivational song, produced by RO 62-Rangnagar, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, aims to encourage the electorate to actively par-

ticipate in the electoral process. DEO appreciated the initiative, extending her best wishes to the entire team for their valuable contribution towards the electoral awareness campaign. She also commended the tireless efforts of Subash Brahamnu and his team. DEO highlighted that the primary objective of releasing this SVEEP song is to increase voter turnout in the upcoming General Assembly Election 2024 in the district. She emphasized that the song is a significant step towards encouraging every eligible voter to cast her/his vote in the forthcoming elections. The song has been made available on YouTube and various social media platforms to maximize its reach and impact.

EDITORIAL

Govt should fix accountability

The Monday tragedy at the Vaishno Devi Shrine, where two women lost their lives and a young girl was grievously injured in a landslide, is a stark reminder of the persistent risks faced by pilgrims. This incident not only underscores the vulnerability of the pilgrimage route but also raises critical questions about the efficacy of safety measures that have been implemented over the years. The Vaishno Devi Shrine, perched atop the Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir, is one of the most visited religious sites in India. Each year, millions make the arduous trek to seek blessings at this sacred site. Given the heavy influx of pilgrims, ensuring their safety should be a paramount concern for the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and other relevant authorities. However, the recurrence of such tragic incidents suggests that there are systemic failures in the safety mechanisms intended to protect these devotees. The landslide on the Himkoti track, which resulted in the death of Sapna (27) from Punjab and Neha (23) from Uttar Pradesh, and severely injured five-year-old Sanvi from Kanpur, was reportedly caused by shooting stones following recent rains. The landslide struck near Panchi, causing a portion of an iron structure to collapse on the pilgrims. This horrifying event raises several important issues. First, the recurrent nature of such incidents demands a thorough investigation into why existing safety measures have failed. Despite significant investments in the name of pilgrimage safety, including infrastructure improvements and disaster management systems, incidents like these continue to occur. It begs the question: Are the funds allocated for safety being effectively utilized, or is there a gap between expenditure and practical safety measures? Second, the specific conditions leading to the landslide—rainfall-triggered shooting stones—suggest that natural factors are not being adequately accounted for in the safety planning. If the Himkoti track is prone to such events, why was it still in use when alternative routes were available? The decision-making process regarding the use of this track needs scrutiny to ensure that it aligns with safety protocols that adapt to environmental conditions. Third, the incident highlights a broader issue of accountability. The tragic loss of lives should compel the SMVDSB to provide a clear explanation regarding the measures in place to prevent such disasters and how they will address the identified shortcomings. The public deserves transparency about how safety audits are conducted, the effectiveness of current safety infrastructure, and what additional steps will be taken to prevent future tragedies. In light of these considerations, it is imperative that the authorities take immediate and decisive action. This includes conducting a comprehensive review of safety measures, increasing vigilance in monitoring the pilgrimage routes, and ensuring that disaster management teams are equipped and prepared to handle such emergencies efficiently. Furthermore, there must be a concerted effort to improve communication with pilgrims about safety protocols and potential hazards. The tragic deaths are not merely isolated incidents but a reflection of deeper systemic issues that need urgent attention. It is the responsibility of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and other stakeholders to address these issues with the seriousness they deserve. Only through genuine reform and enhanced safety measures can the authorities hope to restore trust and ensure the safety of all who undertake the sacred pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The saying parliament is the temple of democracy has become a cliché phrase. Still, it is heard across the world where democracy is in vogue. In India, even the Communists, Dravidians and even Maoists use this term despite their nationalist views. The functioning of a nation's parliament symbolizes its civility. No doubt, the names of Benjamin Disraeli, who served twice as Prime Minister of Britain and William Gladstone, who had a 12-year term as Prime Minister (spread over four non-consecutive terms) are two names students of political science would never forget.

Disraeli was premier during 1868 and 1874-1880 and served as leader of the opposition. Gladstone was his contemporary and both were known for their tongue-in-the-cheek retorts. Though the verbal duels at times crossed all levels of parliamentary decorum, both the parties they headed (Conser-

vatives and Labor Party) never had any issues with their style of exchange of words.

"If Gladstone fell into the Thames, that would be a misfortune. But if anyone pulled him out, that I suppose would be a calamity," Disraeli reportedly told the Parliament once.

Similarly, Gladstone was named as GOM (Grand Old Man) of British politics and Disraeli said that GOM stood for God's Only Mistake.

India, described as the world's biggest democracy has its colourful past. The likes of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Mahavir Tyagi and Pilloo Modi are some of the names that come to mind while thinking of the Indian parliament.

The debates and discussions featuring them remain eternal classics in the annals of the country's parliamentary democracy. Those were the days when Television and live telecasting of proceedings of the House were unheard of. Not any more.

The proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are being aired live by the LSTV and RSTV.

After watching the Lok Sabha debate on the motion of thanks to the President's address to the joint session of the Houses, what struck my mind was the scarcity of good leaders or speakers in the Opposition benches. K C Venugopal, as of date, the strongest leader in the Congress after the Gandhi clan, made a "bloomer" when he charged that the last ten years of Modi rule saw 2.5 lakh persons getting killed in train accidents across the country. Though Jagadambika Pal, a Congress turncoat occupying the chair asked him to check the facts, the Kerala Chanakya (as KC is addressed by his followers) stood his ground and reiterated that more than 2.5 lakh had perished in train mishaps during the last ten years. A senior railway official had a hearty laugh when asked about the charge made by the Congress leader.

Many members of the Lok Sabha are not competent to occupy the treasury or opposition benches. Thol Thirumavalavan, of the VCK, a Dalit outfit, blamed the Center for the recent hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi which claimed 63 innocent lives.

Had Thirumavalavan spent at least 15 minutes of his time reading the Constitution of India presented to him by Rahul Gandhi, he would not have made this blunder. The manufacture, distribution and sale of liquor is the exclusive prerogative of the State governments under the seventh schedule of the Constitution. When one comes to the House to deliver an important speech like thanking the president for the address to the joint session of both Houses, one has to do some homework.

Gumma Tanuja Rani, a tribal leader representing Araku constituency in Andhra Pradesh was a major relief. She spoke from the bottom of her

heart about the inadequacies in the education system for tribals in her constituency. The absence of good teachers costs the tribal students quality education. India, which has dozens of communication satellites of its own could dedicate one or two transponders for educating the tribal teachers making use of the quality teachers available in the country.

The words of representatives like Tanuja Rani should not be confined in the records of the House. The ministers of science and technology and human resources development should sit with the ISRO chairman and work out an action program to launch tribal schools through our satellites. Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, a Congress MP from Punjab, spoke about the eternal pain of farmers in his State as well as the rest of the country.

This is proof of how our ministers in charge of agriculture failed to resolve the hardship faced by the farming community.

Wherever one goes in India, the farmers walk over their difficulties in getting water for irrigation, bank loans and of course the lack of marketing facilities.

A research scholar may be able to get a PhD for his thesis on how the politicians succeed in keeping the farmers in perpetual poverty and how they are forced to resort to extreme steps. Period.

Discussing an inconsequential comment made by the Leader of the Opposition about Sanatan Dharma is a waste of time. The ruling party should understand that he has to make some statements to stay relevant. There are three kinds of people in the world, according to Shiv Khera, a management guru. Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder what happened. Our LOP does not belong to the first two categories!

(The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)

Transforming the India Islamic Cultural Centre: A vision for progress and reform

TARIQ ASHRAF

While showcasing the rich heritage of Islamic literature, culture, art, and traditions, the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC) must also foster a culture of debate, discussion, and dialogue. This can be achieved by organizing conferences and seminars on crucial issues such as democracy, human rights, justice, peace, and global affairs.

The Centre should present a gentle and progressive face of Islam to our fellow citizens, countering media-generated stereotypes through engagement and cross-cultural interactions. This can be facilitated by hosting lectures and seminars led by renowned Islamic scholars.

In this context, I offer a few suggestions for the consideration of the new IICC leadership. While maintaining an apolitical stance, the IICC could engage in research and documentation on contemporary issues through fellowships. Additionally, it should enhance its modest library into a comprehensive resource center for

reference, research, and documentation.

The IICC must also regularly publish reports and monographs on current issues affecting the community. There is an urgent need to add a small academic block to the building, providing a co-working space for authors and writers to interact.

A significant issue within the Muslim community has been the breakdown of communication with other communities. The Centre should actively engage with civil society groups and the media to cultivate healthy relationships and dispel misconceptions. Special emphasis should be placed on involving women from the community in the Centre's activities, exposing them to an open, liberal, and progressive environment.

The Centre can also advocate for much-needed reforms in Muslim society through dialogue and discussion, involving the Muslim clergy. By doing so, the IICC can become a serious hub for advocacy, reform, and the promotion of moderation and cultural exchange. It should broad-



en its scope by involving a larger section of the community, not relying solely on financially resourceful members.

The IICC is not intended to be a center for coaching and career counseling, but rather a space for intellectual discussions, cultural and artistic events, akin to its neighboring institutions like the India International Centre (IIC) and the India Habitat Centre (IHC).

There is no better person than Mr. Salman Khursheed to lay the foundation for this transformation during his tenure. With his visionary leadership and persuasive skills, he is expected to leave a lasting impact by establishing a strong visionary and regulatory institutional framework for future generations.

There will undoubtedly be resistance from

influential members who have treated the IICC as a social club for networking. However, Mr. Khursheed, a charismatic and widely respected figure, has the capacity to lead effectively and develop the Centre into a progressive, representative, and responsible space that showcases the rich and ever-evolving Islamic culture—especially in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment,

both locally and globally. We will see how things unfold for the Centre in the coming days.

In conclusion, the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC) stands at a pivotal juncture, poised to redefine its role as a beacon of intellectual discourse, cultural exchange, and societal reform. Under the leadership of Mr. Salman Khursheed, the Centre has the potential to transform into a progressive and inclusive institution that not only preserves the rich heritage of Islamic culture but also fosters a spirit of dialogue and engagement. As the IICC embraces this visionary path, it could become a model for moderation, diversity, and meaningful community interaction, impacting both the Muslim community and the broader society positively.

(The author is an alumnus of Hindu College, Delhi University and has been associated with the Centre for Policy Research, IIM Lucknow, University of Delhi South Campus, and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; views are personal)

Cultivating Inner Strength

RAVI VALLURI

Aeons ago a neophyte Zen student was an apprentice at a temple of knowledge. Regrettably, his mind was not robust enough and kept vacillating; so much so his mind and soul were not satisfied with "mere" breathing practices and meditation techniques imparted at the monastery. Petals of knowledge revealed in a state of haughtiness, the Zen student arrived at another temple of knowledge where he remarked, rather dramatically that, "The human mind, Sakya Muni Buddha and other sentient beings, in reality do not exist."

The pontiff of the monastery was silently listening to the outburst but uttered nothing for a while.

And then abruptly and quite unexpectedly he whacked the tutee with his

prized bamboo pipe which angered the student. The Zen Master compassionately inquired of the tutee that if nothing existed, from where did his bout of anger and arrogance emerge? The mentee was momentarily nonplussed and then fell at the feet of the Zen Master, begging for forgiveness.

A hollow and empty mind

The perceptive Master agreed to admit the whipper-snapper but with a few stipulations. It was incumbent upon the greenhorn to remember the cardinal principle of trying to keep the mind hollow and empty. Lord Krishna's flute is an interesting parable about Lord Krishna and his flute. It is believed that he used to visit a garden and whisper, "I love you" to all the flora and fauna. In unison, the flora and fauna reciprocated their unalloyed and unadulterated affection



towards Lord Krishna. It so transpired that one day, an animated Lord Krishna approached a bamboo tree in the garden. The Lord broke the cataclysmic news that he would have to snuff out the life of the bamboo plant. The entire garden was aghast as the news spread; several plants and trees were however secretly joyous

that they were spared of the torture. The bamboo mulled upon the news for a while and then languidly responded, "Lord, you and I have no choice."

At the altar of the Master of the Universe, I am willing to sacrifice my life." Hearing this, Lord Krishna beamed. With surgical precision, he struck the bamboo plant. Soon the

bamboo was fashioned into a flute for Lord Krishna himself. The flora and fauna, all the gopis and gopikas were now covetous of the bamboo, that in its new avatar it would always be inseparable, constantly in the hands of Lord Krishna.

The exultant bamboo flute was to become a triumphant possession of Lord Krishna. "What was so noteworthy about you, that you were the chosen one?" was an incessant refrain faced by the flute. "Nothing but my singular capitulation to will of the Master; willing to be an instrument of the Lord," was the refrain of the flute. The classical epic Mahabharata is populated with numerous valorous characters. But the ace archer Arjuna stands out prominently. Why is that so?

Arjuna is the Sakha, the Nara through whom Narayana revealed the divine celestial song - The

Bhagavad Gita. It was Arjuna's unflinching devotion to the Lord that made the character so robust and aerobicized. He faithfully carried out all the commandments of the Lord. Only inner strength and a mature mind transfigure an individual to establish contact with the source of our inner energy. This is possible through the process of authentic surrender. Breathing techniques like Sudarshan Kriya help to make the mind hollow and empty. "A mature mind is one who understands the impossibility of knowing the ultimate, and with this understanding there is a new dimension, the dimension of the being," said the philosopher, Osho.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

CAN FISH POWDER HELP MEET PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS IN CHILDREN?

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

Fish powder, or fish protein powder, is a dietary supplement made from dried and powdered fish that can help manage the protein gap in children, said health experts as part of National Nutrition Week on Monday.

National Nutrition Week is observed annually from September 1 to September 7. The theme this year is 'Nutritious Diets for Everyone'.

Data shows more than 50 per cent of children, under the age of 5, suffer from chronic malnutrition in India. In June, 17 per cent of children under six were underweight, 36 per cent were stunted, and 6 per cent were wasted, Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi informed the Lok Sabha.

Fish powder is a high-quality protein source, it contains essential amino



acids, providing excellent nutritional support. It is also rich in micronutrients, including vitamins, minerals, and omega-3 fatty acids.

"Fish powder offers numerous benefits, particularly in addressing protein deficiency and supporting overall health, making it a valuable supplement," Soumita Biswas, Chief Clinical Nutritionist, Aster RV Hospital, Bengaluru, told IANS.

The expert noted it can help enhance the

nutritional value of food products, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly. It is also affordable and easily accessible, making it an ideal solution for addressing protein deficiency in the country.

Recently, health officials in Assam's Kamrup district used fish powder in meals as part of a pilot project in 2022-23 under the Prime Minister's Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), to combat malnutrition in

the state.

Lauding the infusion of fish powder in meals Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma noted that it "reduced malnutrition among children under 10 years of age significantly".

"Fish powder and other marine sources of protein can be more widely used to meet the protein gap in children," said Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist at the World Health Organisation, in a recent post on X.com. "It plays a vital role in

meeting the protein gap by addressing protein deficiency, particularly in regions with limited access to quality protein sources. It can be used for food fortification, adding protein to products like cereals, soups, and snacks," Biswas added.

It can also be used as a protein-rich feed supplement for poultry, livestock, and aquaculture, promoting healthy growth and development.

Jyoti Khanioj, Nutrition And Dietetics, Max Super Speciality Hospital Patparganj said: "Fish powder supports children's growth, cognitive function, and immune health while being easy to digest and hypoallergenic (relatively unlikely to cause an allergic reaction)".

"By seamlessly integrating into various foods, it helps bridge protein gaps in picky eaters and those with dietary restrictions," Khanioj told.

Why water should replace sugar filled beverages

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

The increased consumption of sugar-filled beverages is surging health problems such as Type 2 diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and tooth decay worldwide. Switching sugary drinks with water can be a way to prevent these problems, suggests a study.

Researchers from Virginia Tech, US, examined the comprehensiveness and comprehensibility of healthy beverage guidelines for nations that implemented tax laws on sugar-filled beverages between 2000 and 2023. They examined the textual and visual suggestions found in national dietary guidelines from different nations to determine how they promote the substitution of water for sugary drinks like soda.

By choosing healthy drinks like water over sugary ones, one can lower their risk of obe-



sity and other health issues. Governments can use this information that the researchers gleaned meticulously to rate recommendations for good hydration and discourage the consumption of sugary drinks by improving the message's rationale, actionability, specificity, and visual content.

About 58 of the 93 nations that aimed to impose tariffs on sugar-filled beverages in 2023 have dietary standards based on food. Subsequent analysis of the data revealed that 48 of the

nations had complementary messaging that promoted water consumption and discouraged sugar-filled beverages.

Using a score ranging from 0 to 12, the researchers ranked the nations based on recommendations for healthy hydration. The evaluation took into account the guidelines' visual content, activities, reasoning, accessibility, specificity, and clarity of message.

The US received a medium score of 7, while Bolivia, Peru, and Brunei received the highest scores.

Patients with existing lung problems are more susceptible to lung cancer, warns study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 1

People with lung problems like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma, may experience delays in receiving a lung cancer diagnosis, according to a recent study.

The study, led by researchers at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), examined hospital and general practitioner data from 11,870 patients in England who were diagnosed with lung cancer between 1990 and 2019.

A study by Dr Imogen Roger from the BSMS found that patients with "alternative explanations" for lung cancer symptoms experienced significant delays in diagnosis. Patients with one condition, like COPD or asthma, were diagnosed 31 days



later, while those with two or more conditions experienced an even longer delay, 74 days on average in that case.

The study also discovered that once age, sex, and smoking history were taken into account, diseases like diabetes or arthritis that put "competing demands" on a general practitioner's time did not significantly affect the time to lung cancer diagnosis.

The factor that was found to cause the largest delay in the identifica-

tion of lung cancer was COPD; patients with the condition were diagnosed 59 days later than those without it.

Updated clinical recommendations are especially important for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the study emphasises. According to the research, COPD may conceal early signs of lung cancer, delaying identification and treatment. The study team notes how critical it is to increase healthcare work-

ers' awareness in order to shorten diagnostic turnaround times and enhance patient outcomes.

This research underscores the need for heightened vigilance in patients with chronic respiratory conditions. It is important to understand that lung cancer symptoms can be mislabeled as COPD in order to expedite detection and treatment.

The research aims to enhance early identification and treatment of lung cancer in individuals with COPD by revising clinical standards and raising awareness, which will ultimately result in better health outcomes.

The conclusions highlight the importance of quick thinking and attentive monitoring, with significant ramifications for both patients and healthcare providers.

Study shows kidney drug can boost treatment outcomes for heart attack patients

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

An international team of researchers, led by one of Indian origin, has demonstrated that a drug used to treat kidney diseases can be safely administered to patients who are hospitalised for acute myocardial infarction -- heart attack.

The team led by Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital demonstrated that the drug empagliflozin can reliably lower heart failure episodes in individuals who have had a heart attack, regardless of the patient's pre-existing renal function.

Acute heart attack patients are particularly vulnerable to acute renal injury because of prolonged exposure to kidney stressors, such as diuretics or contrast agents used during cardiac catheterisa-



tion.

Because of this danger, doctors are hesitant to start empagliflozin soon after a heart attack because there is little data regarding this class of drug's safety in this particular clinical setting. The drug can block the sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 protein that aids in the kidneys' ability to reabsorb glucose from the blood.

Deepak L. Bhatt, Direc-

tor of the Hospital said the finding will contribute to closing a significant knowledge gap on the clinical application of Empagliflozin in heart attack survivors.

The trial randomised 6,522 patients with acute heart attack and increased heart failure risk to empagliflozin or placebo. Empagliflozin reduced hospitalisation and adverse events of heart failure, with con-

sistent risk reductions across baseline kidney function.

Adverse event rates were similar in both groups within 30 days after drug intake, regardless of baseline kidney function, systolic blood pressure, or other medical therapies.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death globally, and heart attacks are a major contributor to this.

The team noted that the study has significant implications for treating a very vulnerable population of patients with cardiovascular disease globally by reassuring doctors of the safety and effectiveness of empagliflozin early after a heart attack.

The results were presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress in London.

Expo to mark World Sexual Health day, stem cell awareness in Chennai from Sep 4

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, SEP 2

The city-based Akash Infertility Treatment Center, and Dr. Kamaraj Men's Speciality Hospital will be jointly organizing a 5-day medical exhibition to mark the World Sexual Health Day and Stem Cell Awareness Day from September 4 to 8.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday to announce the line up events to be organised to mark the occasion, Hospital Founders Dr Kamaraj and Dr Jeyarani Kamaraj, who were offering quality treatment to infertility couples to enable them to become proud parents, said the hospital has been regularly conducting

sexual awareness fairs and international seminars.

"Our aim is to bring medical science, modern treatment methods, discoveries and correct lifestyle to people from all walks of life", Dr Kamaraj said.

Pointing out that food, clothing and shelter are the three basic human necessities for a sustained living, he said fourthly, complete health including sexual health too a basic human need.

Stating that September 4 will be celebrated as World Sexual Health Day, Dr Kamaraj said to mark the occasion, a sexual health and stem cell awareness exhibition will be held to create awareness among the public on various treat-

ment procedures available for sexual disorders and to lead a happy life, including IVF procedures for infertility couples.

The exhibition, to be held at Dr. Kamaraj Hospital campus in Vadapalani in the city, will be inaugurated by South Chennai Lok Sabha MP Ms. Tamila-chi Thangapandian.

Along with awareness exhibition related to sexual health, infertility problems, impotency, an expo on stem cell therapy awareness will also be held.

Dr Kamaraj said India has become the diabetes capital of the world as 50% of diabetic patients were not keeping their sugar level under control and 60% of diabetics faced

problems of impotency.

The advent of technology also contributed to this as Sperm production among men is also affected due to excessive use of cell phone, laptop etc.

Although modern medicine has introduced new drugs and treatment methods to a large extent, there is a compulsion to follow them. Stem cell therapy is a good option for people who have longed for an alternative way to get rid of it.

This stem cell treatment offers major solution and saves people from incurable diseases.

It is celebrated worldwide as a miraculous invention that provides complete health as necessary changes could

be made in our genes to increase the human life span.

Using stem cell therapy, even after menopause, women could continue to produce eggs and conceive and also helps those who have failed in artificial insemination to attain motherhood naturally.

Everything from Alzheimer's to Autism has a better cure. Apart from these, stem cell provides a simple solution to all diseases including wear and tear in joints, spinal cord and sports injuries, chronic ulcer, hair loss, mental retardation, alcohol addiction, breast enlargement, immune deficiency diseases, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer and heart disease treatment.

Dr Kamaraj said the hospital conducted a survey to study about the problems faced by the people, especially We have surveyed people's doubts, problems, issues and needs from the perspective of medical science and research.

Pandiarajan, an actor and film director who has won twice won national awards and 4 times state award, released the results of the sex survey conducted in Tamil Nadu recently.

Admission to the exhibition is free. It will be held from 8 am to 7 pm. On the days of the exhibition, free consultation is also arranged and offer counselling to the needy patients.

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New wearable heart monitor to boost irregular heart rhythm diagnosis

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

US researchers on Monday announced a new wearable, long-term continuous heart monitor that is likely to identify more cases of irregular heart rhythm -- also known as atrial fibrillation linked to the risk of stroke and heart failure -- compared to usual care.

However, the heart monitors did not lead to a reduction in hospitalisations due to stroke, said the team at the Duke Clinical Research Institute in North Carolina, US.

"Atrial fibrillation is often undiagnosed and can increase the risk of ischemic stroke, which is largely reversible by oral

anticoagulation," said lead author Renato Lopes, Professor of Medicine at the Institute.

"We still need definitive evidence that diagnosis of atrial fibrillation through systematic screening can lead to subsequent treatment with oral anticoagulation and therefore, lower stroke risk," Lopes said.

The study, published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, enrolled approximately 12,000 patients in the US who were at least 70 years old with no history of atrial fibrillation.

About half the patients were randomly assigned to receive 14 days continuous monitoring device, and the other half usual care.

3-DAY 7TH INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO CONCLUDED

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 1

The three-day 7th International Health and Wellness Expo, organised by the Namo Gange Trust from August 29 to August 31 at Pragati Maidan, concluded here on Sunday.

Union Minister of State S.P. Singh Baghel graced the closing ceremony as the chief guest and toured

the exhibition. On this occasion, Namo Gange Trust Chairman Vijay Sharma, Pankaj Tripathi, and all trustees were present.

Addressing the gathering, S.P. Singh Baghel emphasised the need to prioritise health through lifestyle management.

He remarked that it is more important to focus on prevention rather

than spending on treatment after falling ill. He said, "A healthy body fosters a healthy mind, and a healthy mind builds a healthy nation." Ayurveda plays a vital role in ensuring a healthy life for everyone. Ayurveda and Ayush are the most ancient systems of medicine, and the current government is working extensively on them, paving the way for

a bright future. He encouraged people to adopt Ayurveda to stay disease-free.

Dr. Manoj Nesari, Advisor (Ayurveda) to the Ministry of Ayush, and Prof. Dr. Tanuja Manoj Nesari, Director of the All-India Institute of Ayurveda, addressed the Arogya Seminar at the closing of the Expo.

At the conclusion of the

7th International Health and Wellness Expo, Prof. Dr. Tanuja Manoj Nesari emphasised the need to integrate Ayurveda with science, technology, and traditional medicine. She said, "The future of medicine is no medicine." The future of healthcare lies in understanding basic science before developing applications. She highlighted the importance of

researching the mechanisms behind practices to create standardised protocols that complement traditional medicine. This integrated approach is aligned with the All-India Institute of Ayurveda's vision of moving from illness to wellness and ultimately towards happiness. Dr. Manoj Nesari stressed the need for more expos like the Inter-

national Health and Wellness Expo to promote lifestyle changes, raise health awareness, and encourage professionals and entrepreneurs in these fields. He commended the Namo Gange Trust for their outstanding work. Dr. Nesari credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the significant transformations in the health sector, noting the progress and innova-

tion happening today. The 2017 National Health Policy and increased investment in the Ayush sector are prime examples of this. The COVID-19 pandemic provided a unique opportunity for Ayush to collaborate with allopathic medicine. Ayush has also partnered with IIT, CSIR, DST, and DBT to work on various health-related aspects.

SC sets up panel to resolve grievances of protesting farmers at Punjab-Haryana border

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 22

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered formation of a committee to amicably resolve the grievances of the farmers protesting at the Punjab-Haryana border.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant suggested the panel headed by Justice Nawab Singh, a former judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court, hold negotiations with the protesting farmers for removal of their tractors, trolleys, etc from the National Highway for the ease of the general public.

The Bench, also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, granted liberty to farmers to shift their peaceful protests to an alternative site. The apex court asked the high-powered committee to convene its first meeting within a week.

Apart from Justice Nawab Singh, the panel will have former Haryana DGP and retired IPS BS Sandhu, agricultural analyst Devender Sharma, Professor Ranjit Singh Ghuman, agricultural economist Dr Sukh-



pal Singh, and Professor Baldev Raj Kamboj as a special invitee.

Stressing that the protests should not be politicised, it asked farmers to not insist on demands that are not feasible.

The Supreme Court was considering the pleas moved by the Haryana government against the decision of the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordering the removal of barricades at the Shambhu border. In an earlier hear-

ing, the top court asked the states of Haryana and Punjab to suggest the terms of reference which the expert panel should deal with.

It mulled the formation of an independent committee to reach out to the agitating farmers to find out "some viable solution of the issues to the extent they are found to be just, fair, feasible and most importantly in the interest of one and all".

The SC had asked the

Union and state governments to take some steps to reach out to the farmers and suggested sending a neutral umpire.

Observing that there exists a trust deficit between the stakeholders, the apex court had sought suggestions for names of individuals who can be included in the expert panel.

On July 10, the Punjab and Haryana High Court had directed to "at least" open the Shambhu border

between Punjab and Haryana within a week.

In its order, a Division Bench of Justices GS Sandhawalia and Vikas Bahl asked the Punjab as well as the Haryana governments to ensure that the highway was restored to its original glory and open to one and all for the convenience of the public.

"The State of Punjab shall also ensure that the demonstrators gathered in their territory are also duly controlled as and when the situation so requires," ordered the High Court, asking all the kisan unions to maintain law and order.

It noted that the diversion which has been made to avoid the blockage was causing great inconvenience to the general public.

The decision came on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) against the barricading amid increasing concerns over the disruption of traffic and its impact on daily commuters and the transportation of goods.

The interstate border was sealed to prevent protesting farmers from entering Haryana.

Cabinet approves 7 agriculture schemes, new Mumbai-Indore Rly line, semi-conductor unit

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

The Union Cabinet on Monday cleared a slew of projects including new railway line connecting two commercial hubs - Mumbai and Indore costing about Rs 18,036 crore, setting up another semi-conductor unit with an investment of Rs 3,300 crore, Rs 13,966 crore worth various agriculture related schemes.

In a media briefing after the meeting, Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Cabinet took seven major decisions including one to increase farmers' income and improve their lives and livelihoods with total outlay of Rs 13,966 Crore in the agriculture sector apart from other major decisions.

These seven agriculture related decisions are - setting up Digital Agriculture Mission with a total outlay of Rs 2,817 crores; Crop science for food and nutritional security with a total outlay of Rs 3,979 crore; Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management and Social Sciences with a total outlay of Rs



2,291 Crore; Sustainable livestock health and production with a total outlay of Rs 1,702 crore; Sustainable development of Horticulture with a total outlay of Rs 860 crore; Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra with an outlay of Rs 1,202 crore and Natural Resource Management with an outlay of Rs 1,115 crore. Digital Agriculture Mission will use technology for improving farmers' lives. Crop science for food and nutritional security will prepare farmers for climate resilience and provide for food security by 2047. Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management and Social Sciences will prepare agriculture students and researchers for current and future challenges, an official statement said.

The Cabinet also approved the proposal of

Kaynes Semicon to set up a semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat. The proposed unit will be set up with an investment of Rs 3,300 crore. The capacity of this unit will be 60 lakh chips per day.

The chips produced in this unit will cater to a wide variety of applications which include segments such as industrial, automotive, electric vehicles, consumer electronics, telecom and mobile phones among others.

The new 309 kms long railway line between Mumbai and Indore will also connect the unconnected areas of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh passing through 2 Districts of Maharashtra and 4 Districts of Madhya Pradesh, the Minister said, adding the total cost of project is Rs 18,036 crore and will be completed by 2028-29.

Rahul Gandhi raises plight of DTC workers, bats for 'equal work and equal pay'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 2

The Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi on Monday sought to draw the nation's attention to the plight of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) employees, including the Home Guards and lamented over their "job of great responsibility" being reduced to "a state of compulsion."

The Congress MP took to X on Monday and highlighted their fears of job insecurity and economic hardships.

"No social security, no stable income and no permanent job - contractual labour has reduced a job of great responsibility to a state of compulsion," the LoP said.

Rahul's concerns over the state of affairs for DTC workers come days after



he undertook a bus ride, where he interacted with bus drivers, conductors and marshals and also saw their 'travails' from close quarters.

He claimed that drivers and conductors are living in the darkness of uncertainty while Home Guards have gone unpaid for the past six months.

"While drivers and conductors are forced to live in the darkness of uncertainty, the Home Guards who are continuously deployed for the safety of passengers are without salary for the last 6 months," Rahul wrote on X.

Training guns at the government, he said that DTC workers are much like other government employees across the country, but they are constantly living under the fear of privatisation.

"These are the people who run India, who facilitate the travel of millions of commuters every day - but all they have got in return for their dedication is injustice. The demands are clear - equal work, equal pay, complete justice," he demanded.

Rahul Gandhi undertook a DTC bus ride near the Sarojini Nagar Bus depot last week, where

he met with many bus drivers and conductors, as well as marshals, to discuss their issues. The DTC employees interacted with the Congress MP and also informed him about their daily problems and struggles.

He had also shared these pictures on social media, drawing applause from Congress leaders, including sister Priyanka Gandhi.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, in an X post, wrote that the DTC are running the corporation with their hard work but were finding it hard to run their households due to economic hardships.

"It is important to listen to their Mann Ki Baat. Rahul Gandhi is constantly listening to them and raising his voice for their justice," she had remarked.

PM Modi to launch BJP's mega membership drive, to become party's first member

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to launch the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) colossal membership drive on Monday. He will receive the certificate of the party's first member from BJP President JP Nadda, this evening. The party's massive organisational exercise has been named "Sangathan Parv - Sadasyata Abhiyaan 2004". Out of multiple available modes for gaining party membership, PM Modi is likely to opt for the missed call option. Many senior party leaders will subsequently take the party's membership, thereby kick-starting the massive organisational exercise to be carried out for the next two months.

BJP, the world's biggest party, has also unveiled a phone number - 8800002024. A missed call on this number would enable the leaders, workers and volunteers to become a party member. NaMo App is another route via which leaders and workers can attain a party's membership and renew their association with the

party.

Notably, BJP National Secretary Vinod Tawre, days ago in a Press conference explained the rationale behind BJP's membership drive that is undertaken after every five-six years.

"As part of the drive, all existing members of the party also have to renew their membership," the senior BJP leader had informed.

Sharing details of the phase-wise drive, Vinod Tawre had told the Press that the first phase would run from September 2 to September 25 while the second phase would begin after a week-long gap and end on October 15.

He also gave the low-down on how the BJP became the world's largest party in 2014 after surpassing China's Communist Party and mentioned about Covid constraints which reportedly was the reason behind the truncated drive in 2019.

As per the BJP, the party had crossed a whopping figure of 11 crore mark, during the tenure of Amit Shah as party president. In 2019, the truncated drive saw more than 7 crore

people taking part in the party's membership.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has called upon the BJP workers to make the mega drive a huge success. He said that it was a movement to bind the citizens with one common spirit of 'Nation First'.

CM Yogi taking to X wrote, "The Bharatiya Janata Party's membership drive starting today is a movement to connect the individual with the spirit of Nation First, the resolve to serve the people, the vow of Antyodaya and the vision of 'Developed India - Self-reliant India'."

He also appealed to BJP workers to ensure that the drive reaches every household and every family, ensuring that no one is left out.

"Come, let all of us workers of BJP make this national task successful with full energy and commitment by assimilating the mantra of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' given by the respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Be careful that no house, no person, no class is left out. Long live Mother India!" he wrote further on X.

Baba Keenaram used his powers for state's welfare, not for personal gains: CM Yogi

AGENCIES
CHANDAULI, SEP 1

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that Baba Keenaram used his powers for the welfare of the state and not for his personal gains, asserting, that no saint, mahatma or yogi can ever be power-hungry rather he inspires the society to follow in his footsteps.

"Baba Keenaram had presented the same ideas to everyone through divine meditation 425 years ago. The country became a slave because foreign invaders succeeded in dividing the country and society. At the same time, all the achievements and sadhana (meditation) of saints and sanyasis lie in the national interest, social interest and human welfare," the Chief Minister said while speaking at the 425th incarnation ceremony organised at the birthplace of Aghoracharya Baba Keenaram.

He paid tribute to Baba



Keenaram, expressing that although his program was initially scheduled for Sonbhadra, he felt privileged to be present at Baba Keenaram's birthplace due to divine grace.

He spoke of Baba Keenaram as a divine figure from birth, born into an aristocratic family, who attained spiritual enlightenment through intense practice and meditation. "Despite his elevated status and spiritual accomplishments, Baba Keenaram used his powers not for personal gain, but for the welfare of the nation and its people,"

the Chief Minister said.

He emphasised that Baba Keenaram played a crucial role in uniting Dalits, tribals, and various other sections of society, fostering a spirit of equality and non-discrimination - a feat possible only by a saint, Aghoracharya, or Yogi.

Reflecting on Baba Keenaram's life, the Chief Minister highlighted that despite his aristocratic lineage, Baba Keenaram initiated numerous programs aimed at improving the lives of the tribal communities and local residents. He also stood up

against the Mughal rulers, particularly Shah Jahan, asserting his strength and independence from political power.

"These actions demonstrate that a true saint or yogi can never be a slave to authority. Baba Keenaram's legacy includes numerous miracles and the establishment of Kriin Kund in Kashi, where he integrated various spiritual practices from across India. The purity and power of his spirit remain evident to this day," he added.

He also mentioned that when a medical college was being planned in Chandauli, party MPs and MLAs suggested naming it after Baba Keenaram. He agreed, recognising the college as a fitting tribute to Baba's legacy, one that would contribute to the health and well-being of the people.

He stated that any achievements were made possible only through Baba's inspiration and expressed his joy at visit-

ing a place that welcomes people from all sections of society.

The social reform initiatives started by Baba Keenaram continue to this day through the Aghor Peeth, including efforts such as promoting widow remarriage, women's education, caring for leprosy patients, and supporting the poor and oppressed.

The Chief Minister also urged that all actions should be in service of the nation, with the spirit of "nation first" guiding their work. The event was graced by Aghoracharya Baba Siddharth Gautam Ram, former Union Minister and former MP of Chandauli Mahendra Nath Pandey, Rajya Sabha MP Darshna Singh, Sadhna Singh, MLA Sushil Singh, Kailash Kharwar, Ramesh Jaiswal, Surya Mani Tripathi, District Panchayat President Bhimanand Sharma, BJP District President Kashinath Singh, along with devotees associated with Baba Keenaram's Aghorpeeth.

Flood situation: 86 trains cancelled in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, SEP 2

South Central Railway has cancelled 86 trains and diverted 70 other trains due to heavy rain and flooding in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

With the railway track damaged at different places in Telangana yet to be restored, the South Central Railway (SCR) cancelled the trains for a second day on Monday. The cancelled trains include superfast and express trains.

The authorities have partially cancelled some trains and diverted 70 trains. Cancelled, partially cancelled and diverted trains include those which pass through the two Telugu states.

The trains had to be cancelled as the track was either submerged or damaged at a few places in Mahabubabad district of Telangana on Sunday. Concrete under the track was washed away in a few places, said the authorities.

Meanwhile, the railway



officials said work was in full swing to restore the damaged track. The staff was repairing the track between Kesamudram and Intikanne stations. Officials expect that one line will be restored by Monday afternoon. Senior officials of SCR were supervising restoration works.

Trains between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Visakhapatnam, Rayagada and Guntur, and Vijayawada and Rajahmundry have been cancelled. Trains from Vijayawada to various destinations, including Guntur, Bitragunta, Tenali, Guduru, Kakinada Port, Machilipatnam,

Ongole and Narsapur were also cancelled.

Long-distance trains, which have been cancelled, include Puri-MGR Chennai Central, Puri-Tirupati, Ahmedabad-MGR Chennai Central, Tirupati-Visakhapatnam, Visakhapatnam-Tirupati, MGR Chennai Central-Shalimar, Shalimar-MGR Chennai Central, Mysuru-Howrah, Howrah-Mysuru, Hyderabad-Tambaram, Mahabubnagar-Visakhapatnam, Secunderabad-Tirupati, Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad-Bhadrachalam Road.

US-led negotiators push for Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal after murder of six hostages

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV, SEP 2

The US, Qatar and Egypt, which are part of the several rounds of indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas, are now pushing for a final ceasefire deal.

This is following the brutal murder of six of the hostages in Gaza by Hamas militants by firing from close range. Autopsy of the deceased hostages -- whose bodies were recovered by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in Gaza -- have revealed that they were shot multiple times from a close range.

According to Israeli



media, the US negotiators have communicated to both Qatar and Egyptian negotiators that the ceasefire deal has to be reached quickly.

The media has also reported that a final proposal is being drafted for a ceasefire and a hostage

return deal between Israel and Hamas.

It is to be noted that the US side has a renewed urgency for the mediatory talks as among the six hostages killed one is an Israeli American -- Hersh Goldberg-Pollin.

The Director of the Cen-

tral Intelligence Agency (CIA), William Burns who had led the American side during the last peace talks at Doha and Cairo has already communicated to the Israeli government for an immediate round of talks and to finalise the proposal.

Pressure is mounting on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to agree to a ceasefire deal for the release of hostages in the custody of Hamas.

Massive protests erupted across Israel after the bodies of the six hostages were found and the Israeli government couldn't strike a ceasefire deal with Hamas to set the hostages free.

Crowds demonstrated in the capital Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and other cities against the administration to bring back the remaining hostages and demanded that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu do more in the matter.

The Hostages and Missing Persons families have been conducting a series of protests across the country for bringing the hostages back.

It may be recalled that on October 7, 2023, Hamas militants swarmed into Southern Israel, brutally murdered 1,200 people and took 251 people as hostages. Of these, Israel has confirmed that only 66 are alive.

Protests across Israel mounts pressure on Netanyahu to reach hostage deal

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, SEP 2

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis rallied across the country on Sunday, demanding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu negotiate a ceasefire with Hamas to secure the return of hostages held in Gaza. Around 700,000 people participated in demonstrations on main roads and at junctions nationwide, with 550,000 attending the central rally in Tel Aviv, Xinhua news agency reported, citing Israel's Ynet news site.

The protests began in the morning after the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced the recovery of six hostages' bodies and continued through



the night.

In Tel Aviv, an emotional demonstration took place outside the Kirya military base, the IDF's headquarters. Protesters waved Israeli flags and chanted "A deal -- Now!" Many carried posters featuring the hostages. There are still 101 hostages in Gaza, with about half presumed

dead due to either Hamas attacks or Israeli bombings. Einav Zangauker, mother of hostage Matan Zangauker, addressed the crowd, claiming that there is "a deal proposal on the table" but that Netanyahu refuses to accept it to avoid losing support from his coalition of pro-settler leaders.

ADB approves 93.6 million USD for Cambodia's rural water supply, sanitation

AGENCIES
PHNOM PENH, SEP 2

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), on Monday, approved \$93.6 million in loans and grants to improve and expand climate-resilient and inclusive rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in Cambodia.

The Rural Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Improvement sector development programme is expected to benefit approximately 88,000 households in 400 villages in 50 communes across nine provinces in the Southeast Asian country.

The programme will support government efforts to provide universal access to safely managed water supply services



and basic hygiene facilities in rural areas and improve access to safely managed sanitation facilities while also addressing affordability, Xinhua news agency reported.

"The programme supports 'WASH for all' by prioritising rural populations in remote areas," said ADB Country Director for Cambodia Jyotsana Varma.

"It proposes reforms to strengthen governance in the management of com-

munity-managed WASH facilities and scale up government planning for sustainability and climate resilience," she added.

The programme, including a grant of \$3 million and technical assistance of 600,000 dollars, will be carried out in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Speu, Kampot, Kratie, Oddar Meanchey, Pailin, Preah Vihear, and Stung Treng provinces, according to the news

release.

In 2022, access to the safely managed water supply was at 29 per cent for the country and even lower at 20 per cent in rural areas while access to safely managed sanitation was 37 per cent nationally and 34 per cent in rural areas, the news release said.

Open defecation was practised by about two million rural residents, which exposes land and water resources to contamination and contributes to water-borne infections, it added.

According to the news release, since 2005, more than one million people, particularly the residents of the provinces along the Tonle Sap Lake, have already benefited from ADB-supported WASH services.

Merchant vessel struck by unknown projectiles off Yemeni coast

AGENCIES
ADEN, SEP 2

A merchant vessel came under attack approximately 70 nautical miles (about 130 km) northwest of Saleef, Yemen, reported the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) on Monday.

According to the agency, the master of the affected vessel said that the ship was struck by two unknown projectiles, prompting immediate damage control measures.

It added that a third explosion was heard close to the vessel, further escalating the emergency, Xinhua news agency reported.

Despite the attack, there were no reported casualties among the crew.

In response to the attack, the UKMTO has



issued an advisory to all vessels transiting the area, urging them to proceed with caution and report any suspicious activity.

The attack occurred amid rising tensions in

the region, particularly in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, where Houthi rebels from Yemen have been targeting commercial ships in recent months. While no group has yet claimed

responsibility for the latest incident, it bears similarities to previous Houthi attacks on maritime traffic, according to Yemeni officials.

The Houthi-launched maritime attacks are part of a series of assaults by Houthi forces on ships in the Red Sea.

The group claims these actions are in solidarity with Palestinians amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

In response to the Houthi maritime attacks, the US-led naval coalition operating in the region has stepped up strikes on Houthi military sites. However, this has only spurred the tit-for-tat exchanges, with the Houthis vowing to continue targeting vessels they claim are linked to Israel.

Heavy rains to continue through Tuesday in Japan



AGENCIES
TOKYO, SEP 2

Japan's weather agency warned that extremely heavy rain could continue through Tuesday in northern and eastern Japan, noting localised downpours are hitting parts of northern to western Japan on Monday.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), atmospheric conditions are extremely unstable from northern through western Japan due to warm and damp air flowing into a rain front extending across the northern part of the coun-

try from the Sea of Japan.

The front is forecast to move southward and may bring extremely heavy localised downpours accompanied by thunder to northern and eastern Japan, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting JMA.

In the one hour through 10:40 a.m. local time on Monday, Kazuno City in Akita Prefecture saw 50 mm of rainfall.

In the 24 hours through Tuesday morning, rainfall could reach 120 mm in the Tohoku region and 80 mm in the Hokkaido, Kanto-Koshin, Hokuriku and Tokai regions.

Pakistan struggles to combat spread of monkeypox, fifth case reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

AGENCIES
PESHAWAR, SEP 2

Pakistan is struggling to tackle and contain the spread of monkeypox (mpox) in the country as Peshawar, capital of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, reported its fifth case, prompting provincial health authorities to intensify its battle against the virus.

The latest case surfaced among patients who have recently returned from the Gulf region.

The 47-year-old man has been isolated by the Border Health Services staff and shifted to the Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH).

The resurgence of mpox in KP and its provincial capital Peshawar has become a serious concern for the local government and the health authorities.

Shabana Saleem, the Federal Director General



of Health with the World Health Organization, which had earlier declared mpox as a global health emergency, has warned that the resurgence of the virus in Peshawar is a serious concern and needs urgent and immediate action to prevent further transmission.

"This is the fifth mpox case reported in Pakistan this year and the fourth since WHO declared mpox a global health emergency. There is an immediate need for vigilance, particularly among travellers from the Gulf considering that Saudi Arabia has been identified as a potential

point of exposure," said Saleem.

Health agencies are also taking urgent steps to do thorough screenings and apply screening protocols at airports across Pakistan.

"We are working in collaboration with the federal and provincial health officials in a coordinated

effort to contain the virus. Authorities are working round the clock to ensure preventive measures and are ready to respond to any developments," said a federal government official.

However, a KTH health official stated that no locally transmitted cases have been recorded thus far.

"The Health Department has established a coordinated surveillance and response system to deal with the virus. An isolation ward has been established in all districts, and Rapid Response Teams have been formed in district health offices," said an official from the provincial health ministry.

According to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department, 20,901 people have been screened at the Bacha Khan International Airport in Peshawar while another

21,040 people checked at the Torkham Crossing with Afghanistan.

At the same time, the movement of locals working in the Gulf region, including Saudi Arabia, remains consistent in the province as they visit home during holidays.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has proved to be a massive challenge for the government and health authorities for decades as majority of the locals refuse to accept vaccinations, including polio doses, from health workers and avoid immunization campaigns. The province is one of the world's few remaining places which still reports polio cases.

KP province, severely hit by terrorism, has also seen targeted attacks on health workers in the past, thus nullifying efforts to counter the spread of various viruses.

Australia says deeply concerned by China's 'aggressive actions' against Philippines

AGENCIES
CANBERRA, SEP 2

The Australian Government on Monday said that it remains "deeply concerned" by a series of "dangerous and aggressive actions" by China against the Philippines, including on August 19, 25 and 31, near Sabina Shoal in the South China Sea.

"Australia shares the Philippines' condemnation of this destabilising and unacceptable conduct. It poses serious risks

of harm to crew, and undermines recent commitments to de-escalate tensions in the South China Sea," read a statement issued by the Australian Foreign Ministry.

On August 31, the Philippines had accused a Chinese Coast Guard vessel of "deliberately" ramming and colliding with the BRP Teresa Magbanua - the Philippine Coast Guard's largest and most modern vessel - deployed to Escoda Shoal in the South China Sea. This included the repeated and

intentional ramming of Philippine vessels, causing structural damage, and the use of water cannons.

"The Australian Government urges China to cease these actions, resolve disputes peacefully and adhere to international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and conventions on the prevention of collisions at sea. Australia calls for restraint and reiterates that the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award is

final and legally binding on the parties," the Australian Foreign Ministry's statement added.

State-owned Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported Saturday that a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel 5205 repeatedly rammed into BRP-Teresa Magbanua, the biggest ship of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) deployed in April to Escoda Shoal, which is about 75 nautical miles from Palawan.

It mentioned that due to the collision, BRP Teresa Mag-

banua sustained damage in its bridge wing and freeboard though no injuries to the crew were reported and the ship remained anchored inside the Sabina Shoal.

PNA quoted Commodore Jay Tarriela, the Philippine Coast Guard's spokesperson for the West Philippine Sea, as saying that the Chinese Coast Guard vessel carried out "dangerous manoeuvre resulting in its direct ramming" into the port bow of BRP Teresa Magbanua.

"The Chinese ship turned

around, then rammed the PCG vessel anew, hitting the starboard quarter. After this, it went around and then did another ramming to the PCG vessel. On the port beam of MRRV-9701, the CCG vessel 5205 once again directly and intentionally rammed the PCG vessel," said Tarriela.

The PCG spokesperson had also presented a drone shot before the media, showing that BRP Teresa Magbanua was originally surrounded by People's Liberation Army Navy

tugboats, vessels and "Chinese maritime militias".

The latest incident drew sharp criticism from various countries. "The US condemns the multiple dangerous violations of international law by the PRC, including today's intentional ramming of the BRP Teresa Magbanua while it was conducting lawful operations within the Philippine EEZ. We stand with the Philippines in upholding international law," US Ambassador MaryKay Loss Carlson posted on X.

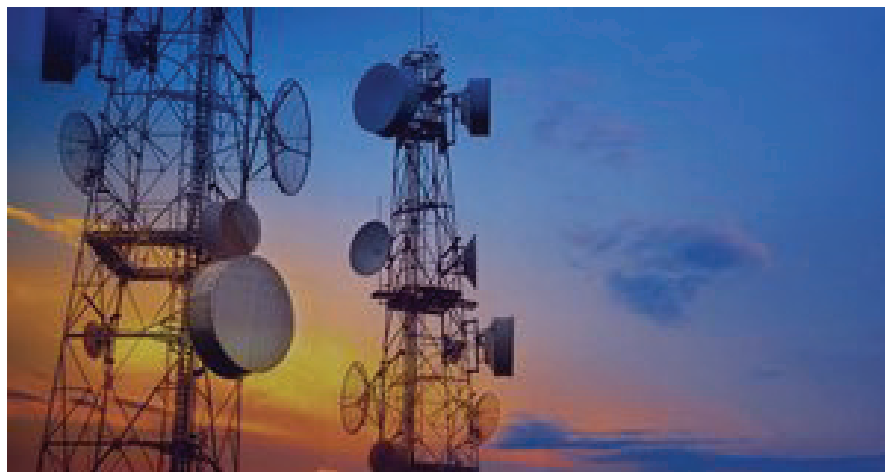
Aim to democratise telecom services under 'Digital Bharat Nidhi' initiative: Centre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

In an effort to advance digital connectivity and ensure equitable access to telecommunications services across all segments of society, the Centre on Monday said the first rules of the Telecom Act 2023, 'Digital Bharat Nidhi', have now come into effect.

Union Minister of Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia, said that new rules are a reflection of the government's commitment to ensure equal access to telecom services and, in turn, strengthen India's mission of becoming 'Viksit Bharat@2047'.

The Universal Service Obligation Fund created under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has now been rechristened as 'Digital Bharat Nidhi', that addresses new areas in changing technological



times.

The rules provide for powers and functions of administrator, who will be responsible for overseeing the implementation and administration of the 'Digital Bharat Nidhi'.

The rules also provide for criteria for undertaking schemes and projects under 'Digital Bharat Nidhi' and selection process for implementers.

According to new rules, the funds from the 'Digital Bharat Nidhi' will be allocated to projects aimed at improving telecommunication services in underserved and remote areas and for underserved groups of the society, such as, women, persons with disabilities and economically and socially weaker sections.

The schemes and projects

funded under the 'Digital Bharat Nidhi' need to meet one or more of criteria stipulated in the rules.

These include projects for provision of telecommunication services, including mobile and broadband services and telecommunication equipment required for delivery of telecommunication services, and enhancing tele-

com security; improving access and affordability of telecom services and introduction of next generation telecommunication technologies in underserved rural, remote and urban areas, said the ministry.

The criteria for undertaking schemes and project under 'Digital Bharat Nidhi' also include promoting innovation, research and development and commercialisation of indigenous technology development and associated intellectual property including creation of regulatory sandboxes, where necessary.

These also include developing and establishing relevant standards to meet national requirements and their standardisation international standardisation bodies and encourage startups in telecommunications sector.

Centre to track 100 toll plazas with GIS-based software to ease traffic

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

The Centre on Monday announced to track around 100 toll plazas with GIS-based software for seamless movement of traffic at national highways.

The live monitoring and tracking system at the toll plazas will help to ensure free flow of traffic and a hassle-free tolling experience for the national highway users at the fee plazas across the country.

These toll plazas have been identified based on congestion feedback received through 1033 National Highway helpline, according to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said that the live monitoring and tracking system will provide congestion alerts and lane distribution recommendations when the queue of vehi-



cles at a toll plaza is more than the prescribed limit. The GIS-based software has been developed by the Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMC), a company promoted by NHAI.

Initially, NHAI has identified around 100 toll plazas for live monitoring on the web-based software. The monitoring service will be extended to more toll plazas in a phased manner.

Apart from providing the name and location of the toll plaza, the software will share details related to the live status of queue length in meters, total waiting time and vehicle speed at Toll Plaza.

According to the NHAI, it will also provide congestion alert and lane distribution recommendation, if the queue of vehicles at a toll plaza is more than the prescribed limit.

The software will help NHAI officials to gain insights by providing comparative traffic condition analysis on hourly, daily, weekly and monthly basis for the traffic queue and congestion.

Meanwhile, the toll fee collection on national highways under the NHAI reached Rs 54,811.13 crore in the fiscal 2023-24. The ministry spent Rs 6,523 crore towards maintenance of national highways during the last year.

Indian commercial vehicle industry reverses decline, to see modest growth in FY25

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

The domestic commercial vehicle industry is projected to grow at a modest 0-3 per cent in FY25, against the earlier estimated decline of 4-7 per cent, a report showed on Monday.

The current fiscal will be the second consecutive year of growth for the industry after a 1 per cent and 3 per cent YoY growth in wholesale and retail sales, respectively, in FY24, according to credit rating agency ICRA.

This follows a better-than-expected volume growth in four months in current fiscal and expectations of a marginal uptick in demand in the second half.

"Looking ahead, we expect a recovery in volumes in H2 FY25 aided by a back-ended government capex, some pick-up in private capex across manufacturing sectors, and an improvement in rural



demand, following visibility around the Kharif crop output and farm cash flows," said Kinjal Shah, senior vice president and co-group head, corporate ratings, ICRA.

The replacement demand would also remain healthy (primarily due to the ageing fleet) and is expected to support

the industry volumes in the medium term, Shah added.

The long-term growth drivers for the domestic CV industry remain intact, like the sustained push in infrastructure development (evidenced by retaining the higher infrastructure capital outlay in the July 2024 budgetary allo-

cation), a steady increase in mining activities, and the improvement in roads/highway connectivity.

The medium and heavy commercial vehicles volumes in FY25 are expected to report a nominal growth of 0-3 per cent YoY, given the high base effect and the impact of the general elections on infrastructure activities in the first few months of the fiscal.

Domestic light commercial vehicles (LCV) wholesale volumes are expected to show a tepid YoY growth in FY25 due to factors such as a high base effect, sustained slowdown in e-commerce and cannibalisation from electric three-wheelers (e3Ws).

The scrapping of older government vehicles is expected to drive replacement demand for the bus segment from state road transport undertakings (SRTUs) in FY25, supporting a YoY growth of 8-11 per cent, said the report.

Ola Electric's market share drops to 31 pc in August, share extends losses

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

Bhavish Aggarwal-run Ola Electric clocked its lowest monthly sales this year, dropping 34 per cent sequentially to 27,506 units in August, as its market share nosedived further to 31 per cent.

As per vehicle registration data available on the central government's Vahan portal, Ola Electric had a market share of 31 per cent in India's electric two-wheeler (2W) market in August as its closest rivals TVS and Bajaj Auto logged 20 per cent and 19 per cent market share, respectively.

The company's retail sales of 27,506 units are lowest in the calendar year to date, down by 34 per cent compared to 41,711 units it sold in July.

According to VAHAN data, 88,451 electric two-wheelers were registered in August 2024, as against 62,767 units in the year-ago period - a growth of 41% year-on-year. Sequentially, however, the industry shrank 41.5 per cent.

The surge in volumes of the TVS iQube and Bajaj Chetak models can be attributed to the newer, cheaper models introduced by the incum-



bents.

The share of Ola Electric dropped again on Monday, and was hovering around Rs 114 apiece during intraday trade.

The company's retail sales of 27,506 units are its lowest in the calendar year to date. While the August 2024 numbers are up 47 per cent YoY, these are down by 34 per cent compared to 41,711 units in July.

Ola Electric's shares have tumbled over 27 per cent from its record peak of Rs 157.53 a piece, leaving investors jittery amid profit book-

ing and broader market volatility. Ola Electric's stock made a muted market debut on August 9 but saw a strong buying after the listing. At present, the scrip has been under selling pressure after scaling lifetime high.

According to market analysts, the stock value is inflated and will further correct itself and investors with high-risk appetite should only go for it. The experts mentioned that the company's stock is not looking good and can slip further towards Rs 110 level over the near term.

World's 1st batch of Dimensity D7300 Energy to feature turbo performance in realme NARZO 70 Turbo 5G

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

In the fast-paced world of mobile technology, processors are the beating heart of our smartphones, constantly evolving to meet our growing digital needs.

Today's advanced chipsets integrate multicore designs, AI accelerators, and sophisticated power management systems, pushing the boundaries of mobile computing to new heights.

These cutting-edge processors deliver impressive speed, efficiency, and functionality,

elevating user experiences across gaming, multitasking, and content creation. As they continue to advance, high-end capabilities are becoming increasingly accessible to a wider range of devices, transforming the smartphone landscape. At the forefront of this revolution is realme's new NARZO 70 Turbo 5G. Featuring the pioneering Dimensity 7300 Energy chipset, this device brings exceptional turbo performance to its segment. As one of the first smartphones globally to harness this processor's power, the NARZO 70 Turbo 5G aims to set new stan-

dards in its class, particularly for mobile gaming enthusiasts.

The Dimensity 7300 Energy chipset in the NARZO 70 Turbo 5G represents a significant leap forward in mobile processing technology. As part of the world's first batch of D7300 Energy chipsets, it brings cutting-edge performance to the mid-range segment, solidifying realme's position as an innovator in the smartphone industry. Performance is where this chipset truly shines.

It boasts the segment's most powerful performance, achieving an impressive AnTuTu benchmark score of 750,000

-- the highest in its class. This remarkable score translates to seamless multitasking, faster app launches, and smoother overall user experience.

Despite its high performance, the D7300E Energy doesn't compromise on efficiency. Built on the latest generation 4nm process, it offers the segment's lowest power consumption, allowing for better heat management and improved battery life.

Enhancing the user experience further, the chipset introduces the latest platform functions, improving connectivity and data transmis-

sion speeds. With support for advanced Wi-Fi and 5G capabilities, users can expect faster downloads, reduced latency in online gaming, and improved streaming quality. Complementing this powerful chipset, the NARZO 70 Turbo 5G boasts the segment's largest RAM and ROM configuration.

With an impressive 12GB of RAM, expandable up to 26GB through dynamic RAM expansion technology, and a spacious 256GB of internal storage, this device sets a new standard for memory and storage in its price range. This generous allocation not only

enhances the device's multitasking capabilities but also provides ample space for apps, games, and media files.

The powerful RAM configuration allows users to keep up to 32 apps or 7 games active in the background, ensuring seamless switching between tasks. Users can effortlessly navigate multiple applications, store large game files, and maintain an extensive media library without worrying about running out of space or experiencing slowdowns.

By leveraging the trailblazing Dimensity 7300E Energy chipset, realme has created

a device that blurs the lines between mid-range and flagship performance. This innovative approach not only enhances user experience but also democratises access to cutting-edge mobile technology.

As the smartphone market evolves, the NARZO 70 Turbo 5G stands as a testament to realme's commitment to innovation and value, promising to redefine expectations in the segment for gamers, multitaskers, and tech enthusiasts alike. Be on the lookout -- NARZO 70 Turbo 5G will be yours only on September 9.

Air India introduces new Airbus A350 aircraft on Delhi-London Heathrow route

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

Tata Group-owned Air India on Monday introduced new Airbus A350-900 aircraft on the Delhi-London Heathrow route which will be a twice-daily service. The A350 aircraft offer 28 private suites with full-flat beds in Business, 24 seats in a dedicated Premium Economy cabin offering extra legroom and 264 spacious seats in Economy, said the nation's flagship carrier.

The A350-900 will replace the currently



deployed Boeing 777-300ER and Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner on 14 of 17 weekly flights.

As a result, an addition-

al 336 seats will be available on the Delhi-London Heathrow route each week, said the aviation major.

"The deployment of the flagship A350s on the Delhi-London Heathrow route marks a significant milestone for Air India. It demonstrates Air India's commitment to elevating the travel experience of our guests to truly world-class standards," said Campbell Wilson, CEO and Managing Director, Air India.

All guests will have access to latest-generation inflight entertainment system, offering more than 3,000 hours of entertainment content, which will shortly be complemented by on-board Wi-Fi.

India's manufacturing growth eases in August, stays above long-run average

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

The country's manufacturing activity eased to three-month low at 57.5 in the month of August, which is below July's reading of 58.1 but above the long-run average of 54, the HSBC India survey showed on Monday.

The 'India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) compiled by S&P Global, stood at 57.5 in August, and the figure signalled a substantial improvement in operating conditions.

The index has been above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction since July 2021 which is the longest expansionary phase in the last 11 years.

According to the report, Indian manufacturers registered softer increases in new business and output during August, albeit with rates of expansion remaining elevated by historical standards. Business confidence retreated, but firms scaled up buying levels in a bid to safeguard against input shortages.

"The latest upturn in pre-production inventories was one of the strongest seen in 19-and-a-half years of data collection. One factor that supported the rise in purchasing activity was a moderation in cost pressures," the report stated.

The rate of input price inflation softened to the slowest in five months. "Concurrently, demand resilience meant that firms were comfortably

able to share additional cost burdens with their clients by lifting selling prices," it mentioned.

According to Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, the Indian manufacturing sector continued to expand in August, although the pace of expansion moderated slightly.

"New orders and output also mirrored the headline trend, with some panellists citing fierce competition as a reason for slowdown. Nevertheless, all three indicators remain well above their historical averages," Bhandari added.

The pace of output price inflation decelerated but to a much smaller extent. Business outlook moderated slightly in August, driven by competitive pressures and inflation concerns.

'ISL has become one of the most important tournaments in my lifetime', says Sunil Chhetri

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, SEP 2

Bengaluru FC skipper Sunil Chhetri has hailed the Indian Super League (ISL) as one of the most important tournaments he has participated in, ahead of the commencement of the 2024-25 campaign. Chhetri admitted that back in 2014, he wouldn't have predicted the growth that the ISL has seen over the years, producing umpire young talents and becoming bigger with the entrance of new clubs.

"It has been outstanding. 10 years back if I was asked where ISL would reach, or the position that it would hold in Indian football, I probably wouldn't have guessed where we are. It has grown outstandingly well from an eight-club two-month-long league to now running for the whole year, with the talents that it has produced," Chhetri said while



speaking to the ISL.

"It has single-handedly become one of the most important tournaments in my lifetime. In the coming future, as I am an Indian football fan, I hope it grows exponentially and I hope the coming 10 years are far better than what we have seen in the last 10 years," he added.

This year, the ISL will see the Kolkata-based Mohammedan SC join the league, securing a promotion following their trium-

phant run in the I-League 2023-24. Chhetri began his senior career with Mohun Bagan in 2002 and even had a brief stint with East Bengal FC from 2008-09. He is well aware of the popularity that the Kolkata clubs possess and is hence optimistic about the positive impact of Mohammedan SC's presence in the ISL.

"They will be amazing, Mohammedan SC. When they play, it doesn't matter where they play. I

am talking about when I was in Kolkata and playing against Mohammedan SC week in, and week out. They used to go to the Ambedkar Stadium in Delhi, Cooperage Stadium in Mumbai, and the stadiums used to be jam-packed everywhere. Trust me, wherever they travel, they will have fans. I am really thrilled that Mohammedan SC have earned this spot in the ISL," Chhetri said.

The ISL 2024-25 season will begin with Mumbai City FC taking on Mohun Bagan Super Giant at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) on September 13.

The Chhetri-led Bengaluru FC will get into action the following day, on September 14, against East Bengal FC at their home ground, the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

Chhetri retired from international football this

year after an illustrious 19-year-long stint for India. At 40, he has now completed over two decades of professional football but fondly recollects both domestic and international veterans who inspired him to become a better footballer.

"Bhaichung (Bhutia) bhai has been a huge influence in my life. In my generation, domestically, Bhaichung bhai, IM Vijayan, and Renedy Singh have all been big names. Internationally, we couldn't watch much television initially, the phenomenal Ronaldo, Thierry Henry, and Ruud van Nistelrooy were huge influences on me. I tried to learn something or the other from all these players and I used to enjoy watching them," Chhetri said.

ISL 2024-25 matches will be live-streamed on the JioCinema application and it will be telecast on the Sports18 network.

Intercontinental cup is a platform to prepare for Asia Cup: Manolo Marquez

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, SEP 2

The 2024 Intercontinental Cup will be new custodian Manolo Marquez's first challenge as the Indian Football Team face the hurdles of Syria and Mauritius. According to the Spaniard, the importance of the tri-nation tournament is to prepare for India's Asia Cup qualifiers set to take place in March 2025.

"The main target of playing these games in September, October and November is to prepare for the more important thing - the Asian Cup qualifiers, the first game of which is in March. The first FIFA window now is a little tricky because we are still in pre-season. Some clubs played with their reserve team in the Durand Cup. We don't exactly know



the physical situation of all the players. That won't happen in the next FIFA windows because the ISL will be ongoing. But again, I think this is not an excuse. We are ready for tomorrow," said Manolo to AIFF media team.

India held their first training session on a rainy Sunday evening at the Hyderabad FC training ground. They will have one more session together on Monday before lacing

up their boots for the Mauritius clash. However, for Marquez, there's nothing to complain about.

"We'll have only two training sessions before the first game. But I feel that when there's a new coach and new staff, the predisposition is good. It's about the attitude of the players and I'm convinced that will be very good. These are the fixtures and we can't control them. It's not about excuses.

2025 SA20: Sunrisers Eastern Cape, MI Cape Town to begin Season 3, final at Wanderers

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

Two-time defending champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape and MI Cape Town will kick-start season three of SA20 at St. George's Park in Gqeberha on January 9, 2025. The tournament will end with the final to be played on February 8 at the iconic Wanderers in Johannesburg.

The fixtures for SA20 season three were unveiled in Johannesburg on Monday in the presence of League Commissioner, Graeme Smith and players from the six franchise teams. The season opener will see Aiden Markram and Marco Jansen from the Sunrisers Eastern Cape (SEC) start their unprecedented bid for a hat-trick of titles by hosting MI Cape Town (MICT), who have Ben Stokes and Trent Boult in their ranks.

Last season's runners-up Durban's Super Giants (DSG) will play against Pretoria Capitals (PC) at Kingsmead on January 10. The match will see New Zealand batter Kane Williamson in action for DSG,



while PC will welcome speedster Anrich Nortje, who missed Season Two due to a back injury.

Paarl Royals (PR), who boast of young Kwena Maphaka and veteran Dinesh Karthik, begin their campaign against SEC at the picturesque Boland Park before Joburg Super Kings (JSK), witnessing the reunion of Faf du Plessis and Devon Conway in yellow jersey, take on MICT under lights at Bullring on January 11.

It will be followed by PC taking on DSG at Centurion on January 12. As the season progresses, it

will eventually lead into the Play-off stages. SA20 season three retains the same Play-off structure from Season 2, but this time, the Play-offs will be played at three venues.

The top two teams will play each other in Qualifier 1, followed by the Eliminator between the third and fourth-placed teams. The loser of Qualifier 1 and the winner of the Eliminator will battle it out in Qualifier 2, for a chance to book their place in the Final, against the winner of Qualifier 1.

St. George's Park in Gqeberha will host Qualifier 1, while Centurion

will stage both the Eliminator and Qualifier 2, followed by the Wanderers hosting the title clash on February 8. "Season 3 is set to be bigger and better, with a fantastic lineup of matches that will captivate our fans."

"We're thrilled to start the season in Gqeberha with our defending champions and look forward to an action-packed summer of cricket.

As we welcome international talent to the roaring pool of local stars, we aim to deliver an unforgettable experience for both players and fans alike," concluded Smith.

Adani Women's DPL T20: East Delhi Riders edge past South Delhi Superstarz by 11 runs

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 2

Pratika Rawal's 41 off 38 and a disciplined bowling performance led East Delhi Riders Women to an 11-run win over South Delhi Superstarz Women in the opening match of the inaugural edition of the Adani Women's Delhi Premier League T20 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday.

Pratika Rawal and Saachi's 50-run partnership stand helped South East Delhi Riders Women to post 114/8 in their allotted 20 overs. Madhu and Saachi then picked two wickets each to restrict South Delhi Superstarz to 103/6 in their 20 overs to win the match by 11 runs.

Chasing the target of 115 runs, South Delhi Superstarz Women faced an early setback with Nishika Singh (6) losing her wicket in the second over. South Delhi Superstarz Women were able to put only 29 runs on the board by the end of the powerplay.

Tanisha Singh (13) and Shweta Sehrawat (25) built a partnership of 30 runs, but both were dismissed in quick succession by Saachi. Nihi Mahto (1) was the next one to follow as South Delhi Superstarz Women were reduced to 61/4 after 13 overs. While Ekta Bhadana (5) fell cheaply in the 17th over, Riya Soni showcased urgency as she reduced the equation to 31 needed in 18 balls with her timely boundaries.

Kashish Sethi bowled a tight



penultimate over, giving away just four runs as South Delhi Superstarz needed 22 runs to win off the last over. Madhu then scalped Soni's (32) wicket in the last over, ensuring East Delhi Riders open their campaign with a clinical win.

Earlier in the day, the East Delhi elected to bat first. They also got off to a slow start, with skipper Priya Punia getting dismissed in the fifth over after scoring 12. Her partner Rawal then combined with Saachi to build a partnership of 50 runs off 49 balls, taking the side to 79/1 after 13 overs.

Tanisha Singh struck twice in the 14th over, removing Saachi (20) and

Pragya Rawat (0). Rawal followed in the next over, with the East Delhi reduced to 80/4 after 15 overs.

South Delhi Superstarz continued to take timely wickets as they restricted East Delhi to 114/8 in their 20 overs. Medhavi Bidhuri took three wickets, while Anshu and Tanisha Singh each claimed two for the South Delhi Superstarz.

Brief scores: East Delhi Riders Women 114/8 in 20 overs (Pratika Rawal 41, Saachi 20; Medhavi Bidhuri 3-20) beat South Delhi Superstarz Women 103/6 in 20 overs (Riya Soni 32, Shweta Sehrawat 25; Madhu 2-19) by 11 runs.

Madhwal, Tare, Ekta headline Uttarakhand Premier League player draft

AGENCIES
DEHRADUN, SEP 2

Aditya Tare, Akash Madhwal and Ekta Bisht headlined the player draft of the inaugural season of the Uttarakhand Premier League (UPL) that was successfully held on Sunday in Dehradun.

Pithoragarh Hurricanes have secured the services of Akash Madhwal as their captain and icon player. Madhwal, a vital cog in Mumbai Indians' IPL campaigns, has consistently delivered with the ball, showcasing his exceptional pace and control. With a stellar record in domestic cricket, including standout performances in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, Madhwal brings experience and leadership to the Hurricanes.

USN Indians have chosen Kunal Chandela as their leader. Chandela, known for his solid technique and temperament, has been a key player for Uttarakhand in the Ranji Trophy, where he has amassed crucial runs

at the top of the order. His experience in leading the state's cricket team makes him an ideal choice to guide the USN Indians.

Dehradun Warriors have entrusted Aditya Tare as their icon player and captain. Tare, a seasoned campaigner in the IPL with Mumbai Indians, brings a wealth of experience behind the stumps and with the bat. A former Ranji Trophy winner with Mumbai, Tare's leadership and cricketing acumen will be instrumental in the Warriors' campaign.

Haridwar Spring Elmas have named Samarth Ravikumar as their captain and icon player. Ravikumar, a consistent performer in domestic cricket, particularly in the Ranji Trophy, has been a reliable middle-order batsman. His ability to anchor innings and lead by example will be crucial for the Elmas.

Nainital SG Pipers have chosen Rajan Kumar as their icon player and captain. Kumar, known for his all-round abilities, has been



a standout performer for Uttarakhand in domestic circuits. His versatility with both bat and ball makes him a valuable asset to the Pipers.

Meanwhile, in the women's competition, Nainital SG Pipers have secured Ekta Bisht as their icon player and captain. A seasoned international cricketer who created history by becoming the first cricketer from Uttarakhand to represent India, Bisht has represented the nation with distinction, especially in the T20 format. Known for her accurate left-arm spin and experience on the international stage, she will be a key player for the Pipers.

Pithoragarh Hurricane have named Neelam Bisht

as their captain and icon player. Neelam has been a consistent performer in domestic cricket, with her all-round abilities providing a strong foundation for the Hurricanes. Her leadership and cricketing experience will be vital in steering the team to success.

Mussoorie Thunders have chosen Mansi Joshi as their icon player and captain. Joshi, who has donned the India jersey, is known for her pace and ability to swing the ball. Her experience in international cricket, combined with her leadership skills, will make her an invaluable asset to the Thunders.

The draft also saw a mix of emerging and established players, all eager to showcase their talent in the UPL. Each team now boasts a balanced squad, blending youth and experience, setting the stage for a competitive and entertaining tournament.

UPL 2024 - Men's squads: Pithoragarh Hurricanes: Akash Madhwal (Captain & Icon), Vijay Sharma, Rohit

Dangwal, Sunny Kashyap, Neeraj Rathour, Ashish Joshi, Vishal Kashyap, Parmender Chadda, Aryan Choudhary, Hitesh Naula, Aditya Naithani, Anmol Shah, Harsh Vikram Singh, Shivam Gupta, Shashank Wadhwa, Nikhil Harsh.

USN Indians: Kunal Chandela (Captain & Icon), Yuvraj Chaudhary, Aryan Sharma, Akhil Singh Rawat, Devendra Bora, Agrim Tiwari, Prashant Chauhan, Aarav Mahajan, Manish Gaur, Anay Basant Chhetri, Shashank Shekhar Pant, Rahul Negi, Abhinav Sharma, Ajay Dimri, Abhishek Roshan, Tejender Singh.

Dehradun Warriors: Aditya Tare (Captain & Icon), Dikshanshu Negi, Himanshu Bisht, Abhay Negi, Vaibhav Bhatt, Satyam Baaliyan, Harjeet Singh, Sanskar Rawat, Sagar Rawat, Rakshit Rohi, Poorvansh Dhruv, Ashar Khan, Mohit Kumar, Aanjaneya Suryavansh, Deepak Kumar, Anshul Singh.

Haridwar Spring Elmas: Samarth Ravikumar (Cap-

tain & Icon), Girish Raturi, Saurabh Rawat, Prashant Kumar Bhati, Harman Singh, Saurav Chauhan, Shashwat Dangwal, Pramod Rawat, Sparsh Joshi, Kunal Veer Singh, Rajya Vardhan Singh, Aditya Rawat, Krishna Garg, Himanshu Sony, Prajiwal Rawat, Daksh Awana.

Nainital SG Pipers: Rajan Kumar (Captain & Icon), Avneesh Sudha, Mayank Mishra, Aditya Sethi, Praatek Pandey, Priyanshu Khanduri, Nikhil Pundir, Harsh Rana, Kartik Bhatt, Bhanu Pratap Singh, Abhyuday Bhatnagar, Arush Melkani, Aniket S Rahal, Naveen Kumar Singh, Sachin Bhati, Devansh Sharma.

UPL 2024 - Women's squads: Nainital SG Pipers: Ekta Bisht (Captain & Icon), Kanchan Parihar, Megha Saini, Sweta Verma, Amisha Bahukhandi, Gunjan Bhandari, Radha Chand, Kanak Tapraniya, Vaishali Tulera, Dipika Chand, Pramila Rawat, Tanya Kanaujia, Manisha Kunwar, KM Aarti, Priya.

Paris Paralympics: Yogesh Kathuniya bags silver in men's discus throw F56

AGENCIES
PARIS, SEP 2

India's Yogesh Kathuniya won the silver medal in the Men's Discus Throw - F56 event at the Paris Paralympics, here on Monday.

Kathuniya, who won the silver medal in the F56 category at the World Para-Athletics Championships in May, recorded the season's best throw of 42.22m to take the silver behind Brazil's Claudiney Batista dos Santos, who clinched gold a Paralympic record throw of 46.86m.

Konstantinos Tzounis of Greece took the bronze with a best throw of 41.32m.

Kathuniya marked his silver winning throw in his very first attempt and followed it up with throws of 41.50m, 41.55m, 40.33m, 40.89m and 39.68m respectively.

Interestingly, the 27-year-old Indian had won the silver in Tokyo 2020 with a best effort of 44.38m while also finishing behind Santos back then. At the Paris 2023 Para Athletics World Championships, he again took silver behind the Brazilian to add a world medal to his Paralympic success.

Kathuniya, who developed a rare neurological condition called Guillain-Barre syndrome when he was 9, took up Para sports in 2017 during his college days. While he tried several disciplines, he fell in love with the discus throw.

Kathuniya's silver is India's eighth medal at the Para Games in Paris and fourth in athletics. Earlier, Nishad won silver in the men's high jump T47 and Preeti Pal won bronze medals in the 100m and 200m T35 class events.

CS reviews Youth Skill and Entrepreneurship App

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 2

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the Youth Skill and Entrepreneurship App. Besides, Additional Chief Secretary Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Vice Chancellors of Jammu/Kashmir University, Central University Jammu/Srinagar, SKAUST Jammu/Srinagar, IUST Kashmir/SMVDU Jammu, BGSBU Rajouri, Cluster University Jammu/ Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, IT Department, Director, IIM Jammu, Mission Director, Skill Development and other officers. Senior officers from BISAG also attended the meeting through video conferencing. During the meeting various features of Youth Skill and Entrepreneurship App were highlighted and detailed discussions were held about its development and improvement. While chairing the meeting, Chief Secretary laid stress on enhancing the features of the App and said that it has to be way better than what is available to match the present day needs.

He said that the App should be able to assess various aspects related to the skills possessed by youth, including technical skills, soft skills, and other competencies relevant to their personal and professional development.

Maintaining that career counselling plays a critical role in development of youth, CS said that there should be adequate number of counsellors available to provide guidance to the youth. He said that universities, colleges



CS chairs 8th executive council meeting of JKRLM

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 2

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired 8th Executive Council meeting of Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM).

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Principal Secretary Finance Department, Secretary Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Secretary Health and Medical Education, Mission Director JKRLM and other officers.

During the meeting, various important issues pertaining to the implementation and operation of the scheme viz Institutional building

and capacity building, financial inclusion of Self Help Groups, farm and non-farm livelihoods and others were discussed in detail. The Chief Secretary emphasized on engaging the SHGs into gainful livelihoods interventions to ensure appreciable improvement in their income on a sustainable basis. He said that JKRLM has a readymade support base in the form of SHGs and has a potential of generating entrepreneurs. He said that it is a big platform and the Mission should capitalise on its resources to derive maximum benefits.

He stressed to focus on convergence with the line departments for availing benefits from all existing government schemes. During the meeting,

assessment of existing manpower working in the Mission came up for discussion and various suggestions was put forth for rationalization of human resource for their optimum utilization.

Mission Director gave a brief about the action plan and activities being undertaken by the JKRLM.

She said that JKRLM is a significant initiative in the region focused on enhancing rural livelihoods and empowering women. She added that JKRLM's impact is significant with over 7.13 lakh households having been mobilized into 90864 SHGs. She further added that the Mission has expanded its reach across all 285 blocks, bringing together rural women into a network.

and other departments should identify resource persons who can provide quality guidance and handholding to students.

CS further said that the App should provide knowledge about the opportunities available in the ecosystem to match the prospective people.

In order to promote skill development and vocational education, Dulloo said that the aim of

the mobile application is to mobilise large number of youths across the UT for various skill development programmes, courses offered, details of admissions, employment opportunities, course advisors, knowledge management.

The "Youth Skill and Entrepreneurship APP" is a data collection Mobile Application designed to gather information on the skills and demographics of

young people.

The said mechanism is going to take help of AI and others for career counselling, job opportunities in private and public sector, self employment besides imparting skills and incubation to aspiring entrepreneurs. The App will be integrated with job fairs, Government notifications, job postings, National career service, employment schemes.

Assembly Elections-2024: CEO visits Shopian, reviews Election preparedness

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 2

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, Pandurang K Pole today visited Shopian, wherein he chaired a meeting with nodal officers at Mini-Secretariat here to review the preparations for upcoming Assembly elections for Zainapora and Shopian ACs of the district.

District Election Officer (DEO), Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar; SSP, Anayat Ali Chaudhary; Nodal officers, RO Shopian, Zainapora and Deputy DEO were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on key aspects of election management, including manpower deployment, EVM randomisation and transportation, polling staff arrangements, strong room, security protocols, functioning of Control Room and other arrangements for smooth conduct of elections.

The DEO provided an overview of the districts election management through a PowerPoint presentation. ROs briefed the chair about preparations in their Assembly Constituencies and Nodal



officers appraised about their areas of responsibility.

The CEO was also informed that SVEEP activities are going on as per devised calendar, to aware people about the importance of exercising their franchise.

Addressing the officers in meeting, the CEO said that aim of the visit is to see that there is no deficiency of any kind and to redress deficits at an earliest to make the electoral process successful.

He emphasized on the continuation of SVEEP initiatives to educate and engage voters effectively and urged all stakeholders to maximize voter turnout through door-to-door campaigns under SVEEP initiative.

Additionally, he instructed for widespread publicity to all SVEEP programs to ensure Maximum Voter Awareness.

The CEO stressed on the importance of providing adequate facilities at polling stations like clean washrooms, drinking water, first aid and proper electricity supply for polling staff, security personnel and voters.

The CEO also stressed for distribution of voter slips among the voters by using the services of BLOs so that everyone is able to cast his/her vote to increase the voter turnout in the district.

The CEO also emphasized on transparency measures for home voting for the elderly and disabled. He also asked all

stakeholders that plantation drives shall be organised at all polling stations of the district, expressing the significance of environmental responsibility.

The meeting was informed that sufficient EVMs and VVPATs along with adequate buffer stock are available in the district.

Security arrangements were also reviewed during the meeting with the SSP presented the law and order arrangements, manpower distribution and the security grid for the district.

During the visit, the CEO also inspected MCMC, receipt and dispatch sections, Counting Centres and Strong Rooms at the district headquarters.

ECI lays down guidelines for print, electronic, social media for J&K

Steps in interest of transparency in electoral process: ECI

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 2

In order to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has laid down various guidelines for the print, electronic and social media ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024. These guidelines have been issued in the interest of transparency, the Commission said.

The ECI reiterated the guidelines laid down in the Section 126(1)(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 that prohibits displaying any election matter by means, inter alia, of television, cinematograph or similar apparatus, in any polling area during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in the polling area.

No person shall display to the public any election matter intended or circulated to influence or affect the result of an election, it said.

"Violation of the aforesaid provisions of Sec-

tion 126 is punishable with imprisonment up to a period of two years, or with fine or both," the ECI said.

The Commission asserted that the TV/Radio channels and cable networks should ensure that the contents of the programmes telecast/broadcast/ displayed by them during the period of 48 hours referred to in Section 126 do not contain any material, including views/appeals by panelists/participants that may be construed as promoting/ prejudicing the prospect of any particular party or candidate(s) or influencing/ affecting the result of the election. This shall, among other things include display of any opinion poll and of standard debates, analysis, visuals and sound-bites.

Political advertisements on any election matter in TV, cable networks, radio, cinema halls, use of bulk SMS/voice messages, audio-visual displays in any polling area during this 48 hours long period would also be prohibited, it said, adding that the prohibition also extends

to political advertisements disguised in another form, like ads masquerading as news items/headlines.

The Commission also reiterated the ban on conduct of Exit Poll and dissemination of its results from the beginning of hours fixed for poll on the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after the closing of the poll in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

On internet websites and social media platforms, the Commission said that the provisions of The Information Technology Act, 2000, Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, and ECI guidelines No-491/SM/2013/Communication, dated 25 October, 2013 for all political content on their platform, even as the political advertisements on electronic media needs pre-certification by the Committees set up at UT-level and District-level.

The Commission also announced that 'Voluntary Code of Ethics' formulated by IAMAI during Lok Sabha election 2019,

will be applicable in the forthcoming J&K Assembly Election, and thus asked all 'all social media intermediaries under the umbrella of IAMAI' to follow the voluntary code.

The Commission also informed that no political party or candidate or any other organisation or person would publish any advertisement in the print media on poll day or one day prior to poll day, unless the contents of political advertisements are pre-certified by them from the MCMC committee at UT-level and District-level, as the case may be.

"There should be explicit restrictions on advertisements predicting the victory of a particular party and any form of speculative content related to election outcomes should be avoided," the ECI said, adding that an editor would be responsible for all matters, including advertisements in the newspapers.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections are scheduled to commence from 18 September 2024 in 3 Phases across the Union Territory.

Lt Governor interacts with the students visiting J&K under Kashmir Samvad Yatra initiative

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 2

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the group of students from various States and UTs who are on their visit to Jammu Kashmir as a part of Kashmir Samvad Yatra, a Cultural Exchange Study Tour.

Interacting with the students at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor highlighted the significance of exchange programmes in promoting the spirit of unity in diversity and



values of brotherhood and leadership.

The Lt Governor called upon the students to

embrace every opportunity to learn through experience and contribute to nation building.

The students also shared the insightful experiences of their visit to the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

Assembly Elections-2024

DEO Poonch assesses preparations in polling stations located on Line of Control

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 2

District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, Vikas Kundal on Monday conducted an extensive tour of the Polling Stations located near the Line of Control as part of the preparations for the upcoming Assembly elections 2024.

Accompanied by senior officials from the district administration and education department, the DEO inspected several schools where polling stations have been set up for the upcoming assembly elections. The team visited Government High School Mangnar, Government Middle School Jhullas, GHSS Jhullas and Government Middle School Salotri.

The DEO assessed the infrastructure and facilities available at polling stations. He examined the accessibility for differently-abled voters, availability of basic amenities such as electricity, water supply, and provision of sanitation. Special attention was



given to ensuring proper seating arrangements and separate queues for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

The DEO interacted with school staff to get feedback on any specific requirements or concerns related to the polling process in these border areas. He emphasized the importance of creating a conducive environment for voters to exercise their democratic right freely and fairly.

The DEO also reviewed

the security arrangements at these locations and the condition of bunkers, where alternative arrangements for the polling has been done in case of any urgency or cross border firing. He discussed contingency plans with security officials to ensure the safety of voters and polling staff.

Expressing satisfaction with the overall preparedness, the DEO directed the officials to address any remaining issues promptly.

Nodal Officer MCMC Srinagar interacts with Constituency level Nodal Officers, briefs them about their role, responsibility

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 2

The Nodal Officer, Media Certification & Monitoring Committee (MCMC) of Srinagar district today interacted with the MCMC Nodal Officers of various Assembly constituencies in the district.

During the meeting, he briefed the Nodal Officers on their assigned role and responsibilities. He also briefed them about various aspects of content monitoring in various media like electronic, print, social and digital forms.

The meeting threadbare discussed issues like paid news, misinformation and disinformation besides hate news often witnessed during elections. MCMC Nodal Officers of all the eight Assembly constituencies of Srinagar district attended the meeting.

Besides, officers and officials of MCMC and Media Centre were also present in the meeting.