

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Steady low pulse or no heart at all
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Who will be JK's Next Chief Minister?

**PDP, NC, BJP and Congress keep cards close to chest, prefer to withhold candidates for top post**

**JI NEWS SERVICE/KNO**  
SRINAGAR, SEP 7

With the ground set for the much-hyped and much awaited Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, political parties are entering the fray without naming a chief ministerial candidate.

Even traditional powerhouses like the National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP), whose leaders have held the chief minister's office in the past, have

chosen to withhold their candidates for the top post.

According to the news agency, the hesitation stems from the prevailing uncertainty over securing a clear mandate. Political experts suggest that no single party is confident enough to stake a claim on forming the government independently. The fear of internal discontent is also playing a role, as the prospect of post-election alliances looms large. With the current fractured polit-

ical landscape, it appears inevitable that any future government will require coalition support—just as in the last two elections.

In the 2014 elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) formed a government in alliance with the PDP, while in 2008, the National Conference came to power with Congress support. Similarly, the 2002 government was a Congress-PDP coalition. The PDP is once again positioning itself to play kingmaker, with a history of backing

both the Congress and BJP at different times.

Iltija Mufti, party's candidate from Bijbehara assembly segment last week echoed the similar statement, claiming that the PDP will emerge as the kingmaker in Jammu and Kashmir as no party will get a majority on its own in the upcoming assembly polls. "I am very confident that the PDP will be the kingmaker in whatever situation we are. One thing is clear that no party will get a majority," Iltija had told the media on

August 29, this year.

Political parties are therefore focusing more on their campaign strength rather than on individual candidates for the chief minister's office. The BJP is seeking votes in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress is campaigning with Rahul Gandhi as its key figure, while the NC and PDP are leveraging the legacies of Farooq Abdullah and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, respectively. Smaller parties are also eyeing the

opportunity to win a few seats and position themselves as key players in government formation.

The BJP, consistent with its national strategy, is not contesting the elections with a clear CM candidate. Despite several strong leaders in its ranks, such as former Deputy Chief Ministers Kavinder Gupta and Nirmal Singh, and longtime state president Ravindra Raina, the party is largely banking on the popularity of PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

BJP's campaign material prominently features these national leaders, and local faces have taken a backseat, possibly to avoid backlash over internal dissatisfaction caused by ticket distribution.

For the PDP, this election is a significant turning point as it is the first assembly election without its founder, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. The party is facing internal challenges, with many prominent leaders leaving its fold, and Mehbooba Mufti opting

not to contest. Despite these setbacks, the party is campaigning on the legacy of Mufti Sayeed, with Mehbooba's daughter, Iltija Mufti, assuming a more active role. However, Iltija has made it clear she is not in the race for the chief minister's post. "My priority right now is my campaign. I want to convince the people about why I am the right representative for them. For me, becoming CM is not important at all. I am very young, it

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### Police nab Chattisgarh resident with narcotics in Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 7 (UNI)

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday nabbed a man from Chattisgarh along with nine kilograms of a narcotics substance in Rajouri district.

Police here said that during a routine check, a team of police was conducting frisking of vehicles and pedestrians when a man tried to escape from the spot after noticing the team.

Upon his suspicious movement, cops intercepted him, and

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### Er Rasheed's brother to contest from Langate as AIP releases another list

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEP 7

Awami Itihaad Party on Saturday announced list of candidates for remaining seats for the upcoming assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the list, a copy of which lies with news agency, Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh, brother of jailed AIP supremo Er Rasheed, to contest from Langate seat. Per list, advocate Mursaleen will contest from Sopore, Er Muneer Khan from Uri, Mohammad

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### NC's Pooja Thakur up against BJP's Sunil Sharma

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEP 7

The Brahmin-Rajput battle on Padder-Nagseni Assembly constituency of Kishtwar district will be the most watched battles for Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

This is because one of the most influential and trusted leader of Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) Sunil Sharma is up against National Conference's (NC) Poonja Thakur.

As per the news agency, Pooja Thakur, the chairperson of District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar, has been chosen by NC

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## Congress, NC, PDP turned a blind eye to terrorism: Amit Shah

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEP 7

Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation and senior BJP leader Shri Amit Shah addressed Karyakarta Sammelan in Palaura, Jammu, on Saturday and criticized the Congress and National Conference for their corruption, anti-development stance, and support for terrorism. He highlighted the achievements of the NDA government and stated that no matter how hard Rahul Gandhi tries, the Bharatiya Janata Party will not allow anyone to take away the rights and reservations granted to the people of the state and women. During the event, BJP's Jammu and Kashmir Assembly candidates, Jammu and Kashmir election in-charge Shri G Kishan Reddy, Shri Tarun Chugh, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, MP Shri Jugal Kishore and other



senior BJP leaders were present on stage. Shah stated that all BJP candidates have placed their trust in the people of

their constituencies and are contesting the elections under the 'Lotus' symbol. The opposition should not only be defeat-

ed but that people should ensure they lose their deposits as well. Revere Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who sacrificed his life for

Kashmir, is deeply respected. The movement Praja Parishad, which was led by Pandit Premnath Dogra, eventually culminated in the abrogation of Article 370 by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji on August 5, 2019. It is a coincidence that BJP's first election conference is being held on Ganesh Chaturthi. We all believe that Lord Ganesh removes obstacles from the journey, making it an auspicious start.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation remarked that BJP's immense strength is clearly visible and beyond words. Karyakartas from just 13 assembly seats filled the venue, with a massive crowd gathered outside as well. This upcoming election is truly historic. For the first time since India's independence, voters in Jammu and Kashmir

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## Independents no different from BJP: Omar Abdullah in Gbl



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEP 7

National Conference (NC) Vice President and former chief minister of erstwhile J&K state Omar Abdullah on Saturday said that the independent candidates contesting the assembly elections are no different from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing the party workers at Shalbugh area of Ganderbal, Omar as per the news agency, said

that the Union Minister has clearly hinted at forging post-poll alliance with Apni Party, Peoples Conference, Awami Ittehad Party by not mentioning their names in Jammu over the possibility of alliance in Jammu and Kashmir to form the next government.

"The Union Home Minister has revealed the names of parties with whom BJP is not going to forge any alliance to

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### ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

## SC voters will play key factor in deciding fate of candidates in Jammu Province

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 7

All Political parties are trying to woo the SC voters as the reserved constituencies having the highest percentage of Scheduled Caste (SC) voters will play a 'key factor' in deciding the fate of the candidates of various political parties in forming the next government in Jammu and Kashmir, political experts said.

Polling in Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to be conducted in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1 and the results will be declared on October 8.

As per the official data, seven Assembly constituencies are reserved for the Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates and nine for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates across Jammu and Kashmir.

Political experts think that on seven reserved seats, voters will play a 'key factor' for SC candi-

dates representing different political parties; seven reserved seats of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and Udhampur districts have 32 to 42 percent of scheduled caste voters.

"The manifesto of the BJP released by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Jammu on Friday focussed on reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes within government services," they said the BJP focussing on open seats, is eyeing victory from the reserved seats to form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir.

The constituencies including Marh, Bishnah, Suchetgarh and Akhnour in Jammu district, Ramnagar in Udhampur district, Kathua in Kathua district, and Ramgarh in Samba district are reserved for the SC candidates and all these constituencies have healthy percentage of voters from the community,

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## 10 female candidates in fray for phase-II

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEP 7

A total of ten female candidates are in the electoral fray in the second phase of assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, slated to be held on September 25, 2024.

As per the details available with the news agency,

out of ten female candidates in fray, eight are contesting from Kashmir division while two others are from Jammu division.

Candidates fighting elections from Kashmir division include an independent candidate Bismah Nabi from Budgam, Nilofar Sajad Gandru an independent candidate from

Chadoora Assembly Segment, Aafiaq Ali a candidate of Rashtriya Samaj Dal from Chadoora Assembly constituency, Rubina Akhter of National Loktantrik Party from Habba Kadal, Khatija Zareen an independent candidate from Lal Chowk, Fancy Ashraf an

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## Srinagar gears up for polls; 932 polling stations set up for 7.74 lakh voters

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEP 7

Srinagar district is all geared up for polls in the second phase on September 25.

The district comprises eight Assembly Constituencies of 19-Hazratbal, 20-Khanyar, 21-Habbakadal, 22-LalChowk, 23-Chanapora, 24-Zadibal, 25-Eidgah and 26-Central Shalteng with a total of 7,74,462 electorate, among

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## Over 44% candidates contesting in 1st, 2nd phases are independents

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEP 7

As Jammu and Kashmir heads into the first two phases of its highly anticipated assembly elections, a remarkable surge in independent candidates has emerged in Jammu and Kashmir. With 44% of the total candidates running as independents, they are all set to play a crucial role as potential kingmakers in a post-poll scenario.

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## SVEEP awareness event held at BHSS Nachyan Karnah

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 7

SVEEP programme was organized at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Nachyan Karnah today under the guidance of District Election Officer Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan and District Nodal Officer SVEEP Abdul Majeed.

Speaking on the occasion, Nodal officer SVEEP and AMF AC -Karnah, Rana Shah Mohammad highlighted the importance of SVEEP activities in creating awareness about electoral participation.

During the programme, students were educated about the importance of voting and their role in the democratic process. They were also informed about the various initiatives taken by the Election Commission of India (ECI)



to increase voter turnout and ensure free and fair elections. The students actively participated in the programme and asked several questions about the electoral process. They also pledged to become

active voters and encourage others to do the same. The programme was a success and helped in creating awareness about the importance of electoral participation among the students.

## SVEEP Cell steps up voter awareness in AC 68 Hiranagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 07

In continuation of voter awareness activities under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, AC 68 Hiranagar witnessed a series of impactful programs today, engaging citizens and promoting voter participation in the upcoming assembly elections.

Young ambassadors from Government High School (GHS) Gurah Satura took the lead by organizing an election quiz, an awareness rally, and a skit highlighting the importance of voting. These creative activities sought to encourage voter engagement and remind the public of their civic duty in sustaining democracy.

At Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Sallan, students applied henna tattoos as a unique way to spread awareness



about the upcoming elections, inspiring all eligible voters to exercise their right to vote.

Meanwhile, students at GHS Mela showcased their artistic talents by participating in painting and poster-making activities aimed at sensitizing the

community about voter participation.

In a symbolic gesture, GHS Chadwal introduced a "Tree of Democracy" in their school premises, symbolizing the deep-rooted values of democracy and the importance of nurturing these principles

in the younger generation. Later in the day, the Booth Awareness Group (BAG) teams from Satura and Gurah displayed voting day messages on walls throughout the community to remind residents about the election scheduled for 1st October 2024.

A SVEEP walk was organized in the wards of Satura Panchayat, where team members knocked on doors to personally deliver messages about Election Day. Special efforts were made to engage women voters, ensuring that everyone is informed and prepared for the upcoming elections.

These programs being carried out under AC Nodal Officer SVEEP Priya Lakshmi (CDPO Hiranagar) reflect the ongoing commitment to foster informed and active voter participation across all segments of society, ensuring a stronger democratic process.

## 2nd phase polling staff training begins in Bhandarwah



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 07

The second phase of Election Training for polling staff commenced in various aspects of the election, including the handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), and emphasized adherence to the Election Commission of India's guidelines.

The training was imparted to Presiding Officers (P.O.) and officials designated as P1, P2, and P3. The training aims to ensure smooth polling for Assembly Constituency 51,

ARO Sunil Kumar. He provided guidance to participants on various aspects of the election, including the handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), and emphasized adherence to the Election Commission of India's guidelines.

The training was imparted to Presiding Officers (P.O.) and officials designated as P1, P2, and P3. The training aims to ensure smooth polling for Assembly Constituency 51,

Bhandarwah, scheduled for the 18th of this month.

Master Trainer, Dr. Akhter Hussain, Nodal Officer Doda and Dr. Nazir Ahmed, Assembly Bhandarwah Nodal officer, led the session with a detailed presentation on the election process, highlighting the importance of accurate voter identification and careful handling of EVMs.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, allowing participants to clarify any doubts.

## Volleyball Match Organized to Promote Electoral Awareness at GDC Women Pulwama



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 07

In consonance with the series of activities being held under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, the Electoral Literacy Club, in collaboration with the Physical Education Department and NSS Unit of Government Degree College (Women), Pulwama, organized a volleyball match on the col-

lege campus.

The event was held under the patronage of the Principal, GDC, Pulwama Dr. Huda Galzai.

The event was aimed to raise awareness about the importance of voting in the upcoming Assembly Elections in Jammu & Kashmir. A large number of students participated in the program, contributing to the efforts of increasing informed and active voter participation, particularly among the youth.

## SVEEP Mega Rally, Election Quiz Promote Voter Awareness in Assar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, SEPTEMBER 7

A Mega Rally was held today at GHSS Assar under the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) initiative to promote voter awareness.

The rally saw enthusiastic participation from around 390 students, highlighting the importance of voting and active civic engagement.

Meanwhile, an Election Quiz was organised among the houses, involv-

ing 970 students and 200 officials from AC 53 Doda West. The interactive session helped educate students on the electoral process and spread voter literacy among the youth, who will soon be the nation's future voters.

The program was a major success, fostering awareness and participation in the democratic process. The event was supervised by District Election Officer Harvinder Singh and guided by Nodal Officer AC 53-Doda West, Dr. Kailash Kumar.

## Election Observer inspects Critical Polling Stations across border Fence in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 7

To ensure 100 per cent voter turnout at critical polling stations located 'Across the Fence' along the Line of Control in Poonch district, General Election Observer for the 89-Haveli Assembly constituency, Solai Bharathi Dasan. Police Observer Rohan Kanay and District Election Officer (DEO) Vikas Kundal conducted a thorough inspection of these sensitive areas, today. This was the first-ever visit of any Election Observer to ensure necessary arrangements for the highly sensitive polling stations across the fence along the LOC in district Poonch.

The General Election Observer and the team visited Government High School Degwar Terwan, Government Middle School Bagyal Dara, Government PS Noorkote and some other polling stations located across the Fence along the LOC in Haveli Constituency. The district election authorities have created 12 polling stations across the fence in the district, classifying them as highly critical, and have made specialized alternative arrangements for voting



in bunkers under sensitive conditions on Election Day.

The Observers visit aimed to ensure that all necessary arrangements were in place to facilitate a secure, transparent, and hassle-free voting process. Due to the sensitive nature of these polling stations, alternate arrangements have been made in secure bunkers to address any emergencies and prevent disruptions to the electoral process.

During the inspection, the Observer reviewed security protocols in collaboration with local law enforcement and security forces, stressing the

importance of a robust security presence to protect both voters and polling staff. The facilities were checked for accessibility to ensure that Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and elderly voters can cast their votes without barriers.

The Observers also focused on voter facilitation, inspecting the placement of clear signage and information boards intended to guide voters efficiently and minimize confusion.

During the visit, the Election Observers interacted with residents, educating them about the power and significance of

their right to vote in shaping the nation's future. He emphasized the importance of participating in the electoral process, especially in border areas, and urged the villagers to come out in large numbers to cast their votes on Election Day.

The Election Observer Solai Bharathi Dasan, was accompanied by ADC Poonch Tahir Mustafa Malik, RO Haveli Assembly Constituency, Qadeer Ul Rehman, Dy. DEO Saleem Ahmed, DSP Mohammad Ajaz Choudhary, ARO Haveli Azhar Majeed and other officials from the district election authorities.

## Rajouri promotes Voter Awareness through Cultural, Educational Initiatives under SVEEP



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 07

Rajouri District witnessed a series of voter awareness programs across multiple constituencies as part of the Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

In Assembly Constituency 86-Budhal, a Mushaira titled "Jashn-e-Jamhooriyat Rajouri" was organized at ZEO Office, Koteranka.

The event, led by Returning Officer Dil Mir (ADC Koteranka) and Nodal Officer SVEEP Prof. Tahir Nadeem, featured speeches by students from GHSS Budhal and poetic recitations by renowned local poets, highlighting

the importance of voting in a democracy. The Mushaira concluded with a collective pledge to participate in the upcoming elections.

Similarly, GHSS Samote staff and students took a pledge to uphold democratic traditions and vote without fear or influence, while Booth Level Awareness Groups launched a door-to-door campaign to encourage uninfluenced voter participation in Dr.

A vibrant "Jashn-e-Jamhooriyat" celebration was held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Assembly Constituency 84-Nowshera. The event, supervised by Nodal Officer SVEEP J.P. Singh, included poetic recitations and speeches by notable

district figures, including PwD icon Vinod Sharma. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, reinforcing the significance of electoral participation.

GHSS Soulki, in Assembly Constituency 83-Kalakote, hosted another Mushaira to emphasize the importance of voting. Prominent poets, staff, and students participated, strengthening the democratic values in the constituency.

Similar voter awareness programs were organized in Assembly Constituencies 85-Rajouri and 87-Thannamandi, featuring rallies, pledges, and community engagement to mobilize voters for the upcoming J&K Legislative Assembly elections.

## SMC marks 5th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 7

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) celebrated the 5th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on Saturday here.

The event was attended by Ghulam Jeelani, Joint Commissioner SMC, Divisional Forest Officer, Chief Sanitation Officer, Range Officer along with other officials of SMC and Forest Department.

This year's theme, "Invest in Clean Air Now," highlights the urgent need for effective measures to improve air quality, SMC distributed 500 plants to Ward Officers, encouraging them to plant these throughout Srinagar as a symbol of commitment to a greener, healthier environment.

The plant distribution is part of a broader initiative aimed at promoting biodiversity and encouraging community involvement in environmental conservation. By creating more green spaces, SMC seeks to improve air quality and enhance overall living conditions for its citizens.

Ghulam Jeelani stressed the importance of collective action in combating air pollution, stating, "As we observe this day, let's remember that clean air is a fundamental right for all. We have a responsibility to invest in sustainable practices for the health of future generations."

## Voter Awareness campaign organized under SVEEP in AC Kathua

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 07

In an effort to promote voter awareness and underscore the importance of active participation in the democratic process, a series of activities were organized here today under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

One of the key highlights of the event was the formation of a human chain, symbolizing the collective responsibility of citizens to sustain and nurture democracy through voting. This powerful visual statement aimed to remind individuals of their crucial role in the electoral process.

The event also featured a solemn voter pledge where participants expressed their commitment to exercising their right to vote and encouraging others to do the same. This symbolic gesture reinforced the message of the day: the importance of every vote in shaping the future of the nation.

Adding a vibrant cultural dimension to the program, an impressive performance was held at Government High School Logate. The students presented a captivating dance performance that creatively emphasized the significance of voting in a democracy. Anita Pangotra delivered a thought-provoking speech on the importance of voting, inspiring the audiences to recognize their responsibility as citizens of a democratic country like India.



## Mega SVEEP awareness event hosted for Senior Citizens, PwD Voters at Udhampur

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 07

A mega voter awareness programme aimed to encourage Senior Citizens and PwD Voters was organized today by the District Election Cell Udhampur under the guidance of District Election Officer Saloni Rai.

The event took place at the Senior Citizens Club Udhampur as part of the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation campaign.

The programme was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh, Dr. Preeti Sharma, SVEEP Nodal Officer, DSWO Kanika Gupta and other officers/ Official attended. The event saw enthusiastic participation from PwD voters, newly registered voters and local residents.

While addressing the participants, the ADC



encouraged all participants, especially senior citizens, PwD voters and first-time voters, to engage actively in the electoral process. He emphasized the vital role such awareness programs play in ensuring that every eli-

gible voter is informed of their responsibilities and the power of their vote.

The event served as an important platform to reinforce the significance of inclusive electoral participation, ensuring no voter is left behind.

## Police Observer Rajpora constituency reviews Election preparedness

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 07

Police Observer for Pulwama, Akhilesh Kumar, visited various locations within the Rajpora constituency as part of ongoing efforts to ensure a free and fair election.

Kumar visited polling stations at the Government Upper Primary School, Rehmo, Government Higher Secondary School, Rehmo and Government Upper Primary School, Kaddipora, where he interacted with voters and assured robust arrangements for a secure and transparent electoral process.

Akhilesh Kumar also reviewed security arrangements at several checkpoints (nakkas) in the area and held discussions with personnel from the Border Security Force (BSF) on area domination and other security mea-



asures. These efforts are part of the comprehensive security framework being implemented ahead of the upcoming Assembly Elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

## District Election cell intensifies SVEEP Activities in Ramban

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 07

In an ongoing effort to reach every voter across the district, the District Election cell, led by District Election Officer (DEO), Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, continue its Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities.

These initiatives are aimed to encourage citizens to cast their votes in the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, ensuring a free, fair, and transparent electoral process.

As part of these efforts, the SVEEP team today conducted an outreach program in the remote village of Thatharka, Sangaldan. The event was led by the Nodal Officer, SVEEP for Banihal Assembly Constituency, Jamsheed Ahmed Khan. He engaged with the students of Government Model Higher Secondary School, Thatharka. The



students were encouraged to motivate their family members and neighbors to participate in the voting process on September 18.

The students were also educated on the use and benefits of the c-Vigil mobile app, 'Home Polling' options, and the National Voters' Service Portal (NSVP). To further emphasize the importance of voting, students expressed their views through drawings and speeches, demonstrating their commitment to the electoral process.

Another SVEEP awareness program was orga-

nized by Nodal Officer SVEEP for Women Welfare/Awareness for AC-54, Shailni Chandel, at Government Higher Secondary School Gandhri and High School Bhatni. The program focused on inspiring students to encourage their peers, families, and neighbors, with a particular emphasis on increasing voter turnout among women.

The events saw the active participation of a large number of voters, teachers, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and students.

## District SVEEP action plan discussed at Ganderbal

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 07

In a bid to boost electoral participation in the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, District Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal, Shyambir, chaired a meeting today to review the ongoing activities under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.

During the meeting, the DEO emphasized the crucial role of voting in strengthening democracy, urging every voter to exercise their right to choose the right candidate. He called upon officers to adopt a multipronged strategy, organizing various mobilization events to engage the target audience effectively.

Shyambir stressed the importance of leveraging technology and media like print, digital, electronic, folk, and inter-personal platform to ensure no voter is left behind.

He further directed



the Chief Education Officer to organize special events and theme-based programs in schools to raise awareness about the significance of voting, empowering students to further spread this message in society.

The meeting also discussed plans for mega awareness programs at popular tourist destinations Sonamarg and Manasbal in the coming days. The concerned CEOs were instructed to finalize the arrangements and coordinate activities with the District Election Office. Additionally, Tehsildars, BDOS, and Return-

ing Officers (ROs) of both Assembly constituencies were directed to organize similar outreach events in their respective jurisdictions to promote voter participation.

The DEO urged all officers and stakeholders to work diligently towards ensuring a high voter turnout and smooth conduct of the upcoming elections in Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Commissioner Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, RO Kangan, RO Ganderbal, CEO SDA, CEO MDA, Deputy DEO, CEO, and other officials.

## General Observer inspects Strong Rooms in AC 52-Doda, AC 53-Doda West



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, SEPTEMBER 07

General Observer for Assembly Constituencies AC 52-Doda and AC 53-Doda West, Aditya Negi conducted an inspection of the strong rooms here today.

The inspection coincided with Mock Poll exercises conducted ahead of the Assembly Election-2024. The inspection focused on the security of the strong room, the integ-

egrity of the EVMs, and the proper execution of the mock poll process.

Aditya Negi expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and emphasized the importance of strict adherence to election protocols to ensure a free, fair, and transparent election process. He also interacted with officials and staff involved in the election duties, offering guidance and addressing any concerns related to the preparations.

Accompanying the General Observer during the visit were District Election Officer (DEO) Harvinder Singh, as well as Returning Officers Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and Ashok Kumar along with Assistant Returning Officers (AROs).

The Mock Poll is a critical step in ensuring the readiness and functionality of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and other election materials.

## Election Expenditure Observer Reviews Enforcement Activities in Bandipora

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 07

The Election Expenditure Observer for Bandipora District, Sudeep Dabas, on Saturday conducted a comprehensive review of enforcement activities in a meeting held at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The meeting aimed to ensure that all electoral regulations and financial protocols are being adhered to during the ongoing election process.

During the meeting, the observer took stock of several key measures, including banking activities, excise processes, GST compliance, seizure procedures, and other related activities.

He conducted a detailed assessment of banking operations to ensure transparency and compliance with election-related financial regulations. He also reviewed excise processes and Goods and Services Tax (GST) compliance to confirm that all procedures are being followed correctly and that there are no violations.

Sudeep Dabas conduct-



ed a detailed evaluation of the seizure process to ensure that any confiscated materials are handled in accordance with legal requirements and election guidelines. He emphasized the importance of rigorous enforcement and compliance with election laws and stressed enhancing enforcement activities.

Sudeep Dabas said, "Our primary objective is to ensure a transparent and fair election process

by closely monitoring financial activities, excise processes, and seizure operations to uphold the integrity of the electoral system and prevent any potential misuse of resources."

Among others, the meeting was attended by STO Mehraj Wani, DTO Sheikh Aabid, DIO Aadil Manzoor Wani, DySP Ahmad Shafee, LDM, ETO Danishwar Shaffi, and other concerned officials.

## Observers review election preparations in Reasi



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, SEPTEMBER 07

Saroj Kumar Sethi, General Observers for AC-56 Gulabgarh (ST), and Avi Prasad for AC-57 Reasi & AC-58 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, along with Police Observer, Pradeep Kumar Yadav reviewed the preparations for Assembly Elections in the district.

The Observers emphasised on conducting free, fair, peaceful and transparent elections.

District Election Officer Vishesh Mahajan gave a detailed presentation on District Election Management Plan (DEMP).

The Observers enquired about critical aspects of the Election plan going into the details of the arrangements made by the District Election Authority. They also held an extensive interaction with Nodal Officers and issued important instructions to ensure strict implementa-

tion of the MCC and.

Furthermore, they emphasised on the importance of training of the Polling Staff, Sector Magistrates and the Zonal Magistrates for smooth conduct of elections. The DEO and SSP were asked to carry out a detailed risk analysis of movement of the polling parties to far off areas and be ready with an emergency response plan.

The Observers were further briefed by SSP Gaurav Sikarwar regarding the security plan and deployment of security personnel for Pre Poll and Poll day.

The Observers highlighted the importance of maintaining utmost professionalism and transparency in conduct during the elections. The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Samyal, Nodal officer MCC Kulbushan Khajuria and other Nodal Officers of the district.

## SVEEP prog held at GHSS Gund Hasi Bhat to increase Voters Participation



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 07

To boost the voters participation in the forthcoming Assembly Election in the district a Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) awareness program was today organised at GHSS Gund Hasi Bhat.

Besides, Chief Education Officer Srinagar who was Chief Guest on the occasion, the SVEEP Programme was overwhelmingly attended by Students & Teachers.

During the event par-

ticipants were educated regarding the importance of voting in a democracy in which every eligible individual can exercise his franchise in a free, fair & transparent manner to choose a representative.

In his address, CEO Srinagar appealed voters to make the election process successful by active participation in electoral process.

Nodal Officer, SVEEP 26-Shaltang Constituency asked all the participants to cast their vote while underscoring Vote is Power and Vote is Voice.

## General Observer inspects Assured Minimum Facilities in polling stations across AC 48-Inderwal



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 07

General Observer Dr. A Arun Thamburaj conducted a comprehensive review of polling stations in Assembly Constituency 48-Inderwal, today.

Inspecting each facil-

ity, he assessed the polling arrangements and inquired about the availability of Assured Minimum Facilities with a particular focus on the convenience of elderly voters, women, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

On-the-spot instructions were issued to the concerned officers to address any deficiencies and ensure a voter-friendly environment. The Observer was accompanied by election officials during the inspection.



**Who will be JK's...**

sounds so ridiculous. My priority is to win these elections and be the true representative of the people," she said.

The Congress, meanwhile, has entered into an alliance with the NC, but with just 31 seats to contest and a majority mark of 44, the party appears to be aiming for a deputy chief minister's role rather than the top post. The party recently replaced its state president Vikar Rasool with Hamid Karra, a move seen as part of its broader strategy to fight under the national leadership of Rahul Gandhi. However, with the NC leading the alliance, Congress seems to be playing a secondary role in the campaign.

Although Omar Abdullah, a former chief minister, remains a potential contender from NC, the party has refrained from officially naming him as its CM candidate. The alliance with Congress and the defeat in the recent Lok Sabha elections have complicated NC's campaign dynamics. Nevertheless, the party is still relying on the senior leadership of Farooq Abdullah, now over 80, who remains a prominent face in party rallies. KNO

**Congress, NC, PDP...**

will cast their votes under one flag, with one constitution drafted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, and one Prime Minister elected by the entire nation—our beloved Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

Shri Shah stated that this election is taking place for the first time without the shadow of Article 370, and we've already seen its impact during the Lok Sabha elections. In the past, even a 10% voter turnout in Lok Sabha elections in the valley was seen as an achievement. This time without hesitation or hindrance, a record 58.47% voter turnout was registered in the recent Lok Sabha elections, marking a significant victory for democracy. There are many speculations in the media, but let it be clear that the BJP will contest this election with full might and will emerge victorious, without a doubt. The Modi government has done significant developmental work in the past 10 years. The BJP's basic unit is its karyakartas, and the party's biggest strength is its Booth Presidents, not any leader. When booth workers start chanting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai,' many opponents have left their grounds. This time, Jammu's booth workers must go door to door and spread the word about the positive changes in Jammu.

Union Home Minister stated that for 70 years, people had to fight for their development and rights, pleading and struggling through agitations, including for months for the Baba Amarnath Yatra. But now, the day has come when the people of Jammu no longer need to ask or hold any agitations. Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji is fulfilling every wish of the people. Record numbers of pilgrims have visited Jammu and Kashmir for Baba Amarnath Yatra without fear. This influx has significantly transformed and boosted the region's tourism. Every BJP worker must ensure that every vote is cast at the voting booth by 7 PM on election day, leaving no vote unaccounted for. Every BJP worker should bring their family and three additional families to the polling booth before 11:30 AM and ensure they vote for the "Lotus" symbol. If every BJP worker ensures this, no one can defeat the BJP in this election.

Shah stated that the decision of who will form the next government will now be made by the people of Jammu. We have to go door-to-door to raise awareness about the divisive agendas of the National Conference and Congress. I held a press conference to expose their tactics. But today, I stand before you because I trust you more than the media. I share your community, and I have also served as a booth president. National Conference and Congress are attempting to reintroduce Article 370 and undermine the reservations for Gujars, Bakarwals, Paharis, OBCs, and Dalits. Rahul Gandhi must understand that these reservations are protected and cannot be altered. Since the abrogation of Article 370, women in Jammu and Kashmir have gained rights they were denied for 70 years, yet the National Conference and Congress seek to take those rights away. They also aim to release individuals involved in stone-pelting and terrorism, threatening the peace that the Jammu region now enjoys.

Amit Shah highlighted that, when Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's government took office, those who funded terrorism were sent to jail. In contrast, National Conference and Congress are discussing restarting LOC trade, which would directly benefit terrorism. They talk about negotiations with Pakistan, but let it be clear: there will be no talks until there is peace. They also want to rename Shankaracharya Hill as 'Takh-e-Suleman'. Congress, NC's Abdullah family, and PDP's Mufti family have looted crores of rupees. They claim they will restore the old system. Autonomy talks have devastated Jammu and Kashmir, with 40,000 lives lost in the valley. Today, I say that no one has the power to discuss autonomy.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation questioned Rahul Gandhi and Farooq Abdullah on how they plan to restore Jammu and Kashmir's state status. Only the central government can grant statehood, why are they deceiving the people of Jammu and Kashmir? This responsibility can only be fulfilled by the central government and the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. The central government will restore Jammu and Kashmir's status as a state, as announced in Parliament after the elections. Congress and the National Conference are demanding something that the BJP has already pledged in Parliament.

Shah stated that the Modi government has addressed the long-standing reservation demands of the Gurjars, Paharis, and backward communities. The NC, Congress, and PDP seek to revoke this reservation, and only the Bharatiya Janata Party can safeguard it. Kashmir suffered from terrorism for many years. There were governments in Kashmir that ignored the issue of terrorism, and some individuals would take on the role of Chief Minister during peaceful times but go back to Delhi when terrorism escalated. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji during his ten-year tenure, terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir have been reduced by up to 70 percent.

Union Home Minister highlighted that after many years, the Amarnath Yatra was conducted safely, with 5 lakhs people visiting the shrine. Late-night theater began in the valley, processions like the Tajiya were held, and many other pilgrimages in Jammu and Kashmir concluded peacefully. If a government formed by Congress, PDP, or NC comes to power, terrorism would also resurface. The people of Jammu and Kashmir need to decide whether they want to continue facing terrorism or embrace peace, stability, and development. If the NC comes to power, terrorism will return; however, under the BJP, no one will be able to spread terrorism in the region.

Shah emphasized that the BJP successfully conducted the Panchayat elections, which had been blocked by three families. Furthermore, the BJP has launched development projects in Jammu with an investment exceeding 32,000 crore. It is also under the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji that Jammu and Kashmir has been granted AIIMS, IITs and

IIMS. Numerous colleges have been established and with an investment of Rs 25,200 crore, hydropower projects generating over 3,000 megawatts will be implemented. This will generate revenue for the development of Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has improved the electricity infrastructure in Jammu and undertaken numerous development projects.

Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation stated that these three families want to plunge Jammu and Kashmir into the fires of terrorism again. If BJP workers in Jammu can surpass the formula of 'Ek Karyakarta, Char Parivar,' the Bharatiya Janata Party will work to protect Jammu from terrorism permanently. Rumors are circulating that an NC government is about to form in Jammu and Kashmir, but neither an NC nor a Congress government will ever come to power there. These are the same people who, after the merger of Jammu and Kashmir, expelled Maharaja Hari Singh from Jammu and prevented his return. For years, they did not observe a holiday for Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary. In contrast, the Bharatiya Janata Party has honored Hari Singh, who was instrumental in Jammu and Kashmir's merger with India, by declaring it a holiday.

**Independents no...**

form the next government. But, it has not mentioned the names of AP, PC and AIP," Omar said.

Furthermore, Omar said that the people behind the bars are being fielded against him during the elections, adding that the process started from Baramulla Lok Sabha elections and it continued in assembly polls, which he has finally exposed by choosing Budgam instead of Beerwah.

Moreover, without naming the former party leader Ishfaq Jabbar, Omar said he has never met him with regard to the sufferings of people in Ganderbal since 2019 and was pushing him to talk to the agencies and New Delhi to make the relations better with them.

He appealed to the people to give him a chance to serve them.

"Those who are raising fingers and claim that I don't belong to the constituency should reveal whether they have worked more than him for the constituency. I am ready to quit from the seat if they prove their work is better than mine," Omar said.

Pertinently, Omar held a series of meetings in different areas including Kachan, Chadoona, Wakura, Batawina and Safapora. He also chaired workers meeting at Beehma Public Park. KNO

**DG BSF visits LoC...**

to ensure the safety and security of the people," the spokesman said.

"The officers highlighted the crucial importance of intelligence sharing and enhanced collaboration between the BSF and J&K Police in addressing security challenges," he added. Meanwhile, DG Chawdhary on Saturday visited the forward locations of the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir valley to see the operational preparedness of the troops.

The DG BSF visited the forward locations of the LoC in north Kashmir's Kupwara district to see the counter-infiltration measures and operational preparedness of the units deployed there.

The DG was briefed on the security situation and operational preparedness of the troops deployed on the LoC by the officials.

The DG commended all ranks for the professionalism and steadfastness in executing their duties on the LoC in Kashmir.

**SC voters will play...**

experts said.

"Earlier, all these seats were open but after the delimitation, they were reserved and had made prominent leaders from the BJP and the Congress emerge victorious," they said. Since these seats are reserved now the political parties are making effort to field suitable candidates capable of winning for their respective political parties.

"Some of the political parties are also fielding candidates from outside the constituencies to win the seat but such parties may face the anger of the people for ignoring their favorite leaders from the hometown constituencies," they expressed.

As per the official data (2011 census), Marh Constituency has the highest 42.55 percent of SC Voters with a population of 45656 against a total 107288 voters.

Similarly, in Bishnah, the total voters are 141205 with 59241 from the SC community (41.95 percent), in Ramnagar, 43025 (36.73 percent) are from the SC community against total 117132 voters, in Suchetgarh, out of total 128368 voters, 47127 (36.71 percent) are from the SC community, in Akhnoor, out of total 127385 voters, 39860 (31.29 percent) are from the SC community, in Kathua, out of total 138382 voters, 43280 (31.28 percent) are from the SC community and in Ramgarh, 30890 (30.48 percent) voters are from the SC community against the total 101332 voters.

However, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) reserved seats including Rajouri, Gulabgrh, Budhal, Mendhar, Surankote, Thanamandi (Jammu Region), Gurez, Kokernag, Kangan (Kashmir Region) will also be the key players in forming the next government in Jammu and Kashmir.

These Assembly constituencies have a very minimal percentage of Scheduled caste voters.

Jammu and Kashmir has 90 assembly constituencies, with 7 seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and nine for Scheduled Tribes (STs).

There are 20 seats in Jammu province which have an SC population ranging from 19 to 26 percent and this substantial population can decide the fate of unreserved candidates in these constituencies and can help any political party in the formation of the next government in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the previous Assembly elections, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) won 28 seats, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured 25, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) won 15, and the Congress won 12.

Congress this time has allied with the National Conference to contest the polls.

**10 female...**

independent from Eidgah, Asiae Naqash of PDP from Hazratbal and Shameema Firdous of NC from Habba Kadal.

Two candidates from Jammu division include Diksha Kaluria an independent candidate from Reasi and Pinty Devi an independent candidate from Kalakote-Sunderbani in Rajouri.

Speaking to KNO, the female candidates said that they will work for the welfare, protection and education of women if elected to power

Aafqa Ali said that she has been fighting elections for the first time but if she is elected, she will work to ensure better education and job opportunities for women folk.

"I have worked as a social worker for the last several years and I know what kind of problems women folk have been facing and once elected, these issues will be sorted out," she said.

She added that there is a need for starting skill development programmes for women so as to make them financially independent besides that there is a need to upgrade education facilities to such a level that every student may get better education facilities than private schools.

Nilofar Sajad Gandru told KNO that she is fighting elections for the first time and will work for women empowerment and creating employment opportunities.

Diksha Kaluria, an independent candidate from Reasi told KNO that she has worked as a social activist in the area for the last several years and managed to develop heritage sites in the area.

She said that if she is elected, she will work for the better education, empowerment and safety of the women folk.

Other women candidates while echoing the similar voices said that women folk are still behind in many things and they will fight for women empowerment at every front.

They said that inflated electricity bills, water issues and unemployment are the major issues in J&K that need to be redressed immediately.

The constituencies going to polls in the second phase of J&K Assembly elections include Kangan (ST), Ganderbal, Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Channapora, Zaidibal, Eidgah, Central Shalteng, Budgam, Beerwah, Khansahib, Chrar-I-Sharief, Chadoora, Gulabgarh (ST), Reasi, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Kalakote-Sunderbani, Nowshera, Rajouri (ST), Budhal (ST), Thanamandi (ST), Surankote (ST). KNO

**Srinagar gears up...**

which 3,86,654 are male voters, 3,87,778 are female voters while 30 belong to the third gender.

To facilitate the voters for smooth and hassle free electoral participation, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 932 polling stations, of which 885 are urban polling stations while 47 are rural polling stations.

Among all the eight Assembly Constituencies of the district, 24-Zaidibal Assembly Constituency has the highest number of 1,12,864 registered electorate, comprising 56408 males and 56451 females and 05 transgender voters in Srinagar District.

The constituency also houses the highest number of polling stations in the district-143 to facilitate a smooth and inclusive voting experience for all registered voters.

In order to boost voter turnout and ensure that every voter can exercise their franchise with ease, specialized polling stations have been established in the constituency including an all women Pink polling station at 87-Gazidoori, PwD manned polling station at 50- Kalla Mohalla Behrar, Youth manned polling station at 56-Kandi Mohalla Mir Behri Bud Dal, while Unique polling stations have been set up at 67- Nehrupark Abikarpura, 68- Mir Mohalla Abikarpura A, 69- Mir Mohalla Abikarpura B, 70- Khar Mohalla Abikarpura and 71- Kabotarkhana besides, a Green Polling Station has been established at 98- DD Bagh.

19-Hazratbal Assembly Constituency comes next with a voter population of 112541, among which 56,175 are males and 56366 are females and notably, no voters are registered under the third gender category in this constituency.

To facilitate the voters to exercise their franchise, 118 polling stations have been established in this constituency among which 107 are urban polling stations and 11 are rural polling stations.

The special polling stations that have been set up in the constituency include an all women Pink polling station at 34-Daggapora Anchar, PwD manned polling station at 105 New Colony Nigeen, Youth-manned polling station at 62-Gasoo and a Green Polling Station at 67-Check Dara.

The 26-Central Shalteng Assembly Constituency comes next with 1,07,770 total registered voters, of which 5185 are males and 53576 are females whereas 09 are third gender voters. To ensure thorough voter access, 114 polling stations have been established across the constituency, of which 110 are urban and 04 are rural polling stations.

The special polling stations that have been set up in the constituency include an all women Pink polling station at 44-Bemina-I (ITI), PwD manned polling station at 6- Ranbirgarh, Pratapgarh (Sericulture Building), Youth-manned polling station at 5- Ranbirgarh, Pratapgarh B (Boys Middle School Ranbirgarh, Pratapgarh) and a Green Polling Station at 93- Batmaloo B Govt. Girls High School Batamaloo east side.

Similarly, 22-Lal Chowk Assembly Constituency has registered 1,07,199 electorate, among which 53,425 are males and 53,773 are females, besides 01 transgender.

A total of 137 polling stations have been set up in the constituency among which 115 polling stations have been established in urban areas while 22 are in rural areas to ensure smooth and hassle free voting process.

Among special polling stations established in this Assembly Constituency include an all women Pink polling station at 19- Chinar Bagh, PwD manned polling station at 6-Guru Bagh, Youth-manned polling station at 99- Kursu Padshahi Bagh and a Green Polling Station at 127- Balhama.

Likewise, 21-Habbakadal Assembly Constituency has 95,546 electorate among which 47,404 are males and 48,133 are females while 09 are third gender voters. To facilitate the voters of this constituency, 128 polling stations have been set up.

For accessible and inclusive elections, special polling stations have been established which include an all women Pink polling station at 38- Patipora, PwD manned polling station at 59- Khankahi Moulla B, Youth-manned polling station at 116- Bagwanpora and a Green Polling Station at 119- Sathuballa B.

20- Khanyar Assembly Constituency has a total of 91,226 voters, of which 45,407 are males and 45,816 are females besides 03 third gender voters are also registered here. In order to ensure participatory voting process, 126 polling stations have been established in the constituency among which 122 are in urban areas while 04 are in rural areas.

In a bid to enhance voter inclusivity, special polling stations established include an all women Pink polling station at 52- Bandedbagh, PwD manned polling station at 27- Brane D, Youth-manned polling station at 31- Brane G and a Green Polling Station at 32- Brane H.

Likewise, 23- Channapora Assembly Constituency has registered 85,431 voter population, of which 42,556 are males and 42,874 are females besides one transgender voter. For a smooth voting process, the ECI has established a network of 91 polling stations, 85 are urban polling stations while 06 are rural polling stations.

For easy and accessible voting the specialized polling stations established in constituency include an all women Pink polling station at 53- Channapora E, PwD manned polling station at 4- Baghat Barzulla B, Youth-manned polling station at 5- Baghat Barzulla C and a Green Polling Station at 39- Rawalpura B.

25- Eidgah Assembly Constituency has a 61,885 voter population. Among these, 31,094 are males and 30,789 are females besides 02 third gender voters. 75 polling stations have been set up in the constituency, all falling in urban areas.

In order to ensure fair voting chance, among special polling stations a Pink polling station has been set up at 2- Takenwari-pora B, PwD manned polling station at 8- Sangam C, Youth-manned polling station at 15- Pallapora B and a Green Polling Station at 04- Bakshipora A.

Meanwhile, all arrangements are being put in place for a smooth and peaceful polling in the district where voting is taking place in the second phase of General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024 on September 25. Currently, a number of voter education programmes are underway in the various parts of the district to generate awareness among the electorate regarding importance of exercising the franchise, and maximise voter turnout. KNO

**Over 44% candidates...**

According to the details gathered by the news agency, a total of 214 independent candidates have opted to fight from different assembly segments across Jammu and Kashmir in phase-I and phase-II. The independent candidates include those associated with the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) led by jailed Member of Parliament Engineer Abdul Rashid Sheikh.

Notably, AIP has fielded 26 candidates in the first two phases of assembly elections from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The details gathered from the official website of Election Commission of India (ECI) has revealed a surge in the number of candidates fighting the upcoming polls from different constituencies as independent candidates.

In the first phase of elections, at least 24 assembly segments are scheduled to go to polls while 92 contestants are vying as independent candidates.

In Pampora constituency, seven candidates are contesting as independents, six in Tral constituency, seven in Pulwama, two in Rajpora, four in Zainapora, six in Shopian, two in D H Pora, four in Kulgam, three in Devsar, four in Dooru, six from Kokernag (ST), three in Anantnag West, five in Anantnag, six from Shangu Anantnag-East, two from Pahalgam, four from Inderwal, three from Kishtwar, three from Padder-Nagseni, three from Bhaderwah, three from Doda, two from Doda-West, five from Ramban and two Independent candidates are contesting from Banihal assembly segment.

However, Srigufwara-Bijbehara going to polls in the phase-I is having no independent candidate in the electoral fray where only three candidates are vying for the seat including PDP's Iltija Mehbooba Mufti, NC's Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri and BJP's Sofi Yusuf.

From the 26 constituencies going to polls in the second phase of elections, a total of 122 independent candidates are vying for different seats.

Seven candidates are contesting from Ganderbal assembly constituency, five from Hazratbal, six from Khanyar, seven from Habba Kadal, five from Lal Chowk, three from Channapora, seven from Zaidibal, eight from Eidgah, eight from Central Shalteng, five from Budgam, seven from Beerwah, four from Khansahib, five from Char-e-Shareef, two from Chadoora, two from Gulabgarh (ST), four from Reasi, four from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, five from Kalakote-Sunderbani, one from Nowshera, seven from Rajouri (ST), one from Budhal (ST), two from Thanamandi (ST), six from Surankote (ST), four from Poonch Haveli and seven independents are contesting assembly elections from Mendhar (ST) segment.

The highest independent candidates whose nominations have been accepted are vying from Central-Shalteng and Eidgah constituencies with eight candidates each.

Furthermore, from Kangan (ST), no independent candidate is contesting the polls.

It is notable to mention here that 19 independent candidates have withdrew their nomination papers from different assembly constituencies. KNO

**Police nab Chattisgarh...**

subsequently, he was detained. During frisking, a consignment of narcotics, nine kilograms and likely Ganja (cannabis), was recovered and has been seized subsequently.

Police said that an accused identified as Umesh Kumar Sahu of Chattisgarh has been arrested, and a case under relevant sections was registered.

SSP Rajouri Randeep Kumar said that tightening the noose against drugs and narcotics peddlers is among the top priorities of police, and a number of FIRs have been registered in this contest in the recent past.

He further appealed to people to share information about people involved in this crime and said that people can approach the District Police Office (DPO) directly to share information, further assuring that their identity will be kept completely secret.

**Er Rasheed's brother...**

Muzaffar Dar from Rafiaband, Adil Nazir Khan from Gulmarg, Peerzada Firdous from Kupwara, Er Jahangeer Khan for Khansahib, Abdul Majid Banday for Handwara and Ashok Kumar Raina for Chamb. KNO

**NC's Pooja Thakur...**

to fight against BJP Sunil Sharma on a seat which is mostly dominated by Hindu population.

Padder-Nagseni seat was carved out of Kishtwar Assembly constituency and as per the data given by chief electoral officer Jammu and Kashmir, only 40732 electorates including 20866 male, 19865 female and one transgender voters are eligible to vote on September 18 in the first phase.

This constituency is also abode to one of the revered Hindu shrines of Jammu and Kashmir Machail Mata and Sunil has got the mandate from BJP for this seat on demand. This will be a litmus test for him to win this seat whereas NC is putting all its efforts to make Thakur win.

While Sunil Sharma hails from Kishtwar town, Thakur is from Dachan and this area is part of Padder-Nagseni constituency whereas Kishtwar town is part of Kishtwar constituency. A total of six candidates are in the fray for this seat which include candidates from BJP, NC and PDP, and three are independents and all belong to Hindu community. PDP has fielded Sandesh Kumar whereas the independent candidates are Rakesh Goswami, Shri Kant and Anil Kumar.

After winning the 2014 Assembly elections from Kishtwar by defeating NC's Sajad Kichloo, Sunil Sharma remained in council of ministers during PDP-BJP coalition government whereas Pooja Thakur was awarded with DDC chairperson by NC. With this investment on Thakur, NC came in a position to field her against one of the top BJP leaders of J&K. KNO



## DEO Shopian participates in SVEEP awareness programmes at Zainapora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 07

District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today participated in a major awareness programme held at Zainapora, Shopian, organized under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, which focused on raising awareness about the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, with an emphasis on increased voter participation.

The event also featured Nukkad Natak, presented by local artists emphasizing the electoral theme.

In his address, DC highlighted the importance of voting and the various initiatives being taken to ensure maximum voter participation, especially for the elderly and Persons with Disabilities (PwD).

He urged citizens to actively participate in the democratic process, stressing the availability of home voting process and the enhanced accessibility for vulnerable groups.

Across the district,



other SVEEP activities were held at various other places as well, including a Cycle Rally, organized by the Electoral Literacy Clubs of HSS Vehil, where students and youth from the area actively participated, promoting the message of voter awareness. Public announcements were made throughout the rally to encourage electoral participation.

A symposium was

also held at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Shopian, where students and local residents engaged in discussions about the importance of voting and the facilities available to ensure a smooth electoral process for all.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, furthering the goal of making every vote count in the upcoming elections.

## YSS Ganderbal Organizes Badminton Competition under SVEEP Initiative



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 07

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Ganderbal today held an Inter-school Zonal Level Badminton competition for boys in the AAG category at Qamaria Higher Secondary School, Saloora.

This event was organized as part of the ongoing SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and

Electoral Participation) 2024 campaign.

In addition to the sporting competition, participants were educated about the significance of voting and how each vote plays a vital role in strengthening the country's democracy.

The initiative aims to raise awareness among youth about their civic duties and the power of their vote in shaping the nation's future.

## General Observer Visits Polling Stations in AC 87-Thannamandi to review Compliance to ECI Guidelines



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 7

In continuation to the ongoing inspection exercise, General Observer 87-Thannamandi Assembly Constituency (AC), Tikam Chand Bohra visited to several polling stations to ensure that all facilities meet the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) criteria as mandated by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The General Observer inspected Polling Station Ujhan D, GHSS Dhandkote, GHSS Nadian, Girls Hr. Sec School Darhal, and Govt. Middle School Darhal. His visit aimed to ensure that each polling station is well-equipped with essential facilities,

including proper accessibility, water, electricity, ramps, and other necessary amenities to guarantee a smooth voting process for the upcoming Assembly Election 2024.

Later, Bohra visited the Flying Squad Team (FST) Naka at Iqbal Gate Darhal to review its functioning and preparedness. He emphasized the importance of strict enforcement of election laws and monitoring of election-related activities to ensure free and fair elections in the constituency.

The inspection exercise will continue to ensure that all polling stations across the 87-Thannamandi AC are fully prepared and meet the required standards.

## Election preparedness reviewed in Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 07

Measures to maintain Law & Order during Assembly Election were today reviewed here at a meeting convened on the directions of the District Election Officer Abhishek Sharma

The meeting was attended by Zonal and Sectoral Officers and chaired by Nodal Officer Rajiv Khajuria.

Key points discussed included the identification of routes for polling parties, compliance with Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines, and the importance of conducting mock polls to ensure readiness.

Officers were instructed to submit 02-hourly reports on Election Day and ensure thorough checking of Polling Officer (PO) diaries and necessary formats. They were also tasked with preparing and submitting detailed road maps and sketches of polling arrangements.

A wide publicity of



the voter helpline was stressed to assist the public and identify shadow areas for effective election monitoring.

Additional instructions included the physical verification of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), proper guidance for polling teams, and the strict enforcement of a no-campaigning zone within 200 metres of polling stations, particularly with regard to the distribution of

voter slips. Furthermore, officers were directed to organize EVM demonstrations to raise public awareness and conduct frequent visits to polling stations to ensure preparedness.

The meeting was attended by Deputy DEO Shakeel Malik, Nodal Officer Control Room Sandeep Sharma, Nodal Officer MCMC Ashiq Rafiq Malik as well as other district and sectoral officers.

## GHS Plakh organizes cultural program to promote Voter Awareness among students



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 07

A vibrant cultural program and a Nukkad Natak were organized today at Government High School (GHS) Plakh to promote voter participation under the aegis of SVEEP initiative. The program was designed to educate, motivate, and encourage all eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote. The event also highlighted outreach to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and other vulnerable sections to ensure their full and inclusive participation in the electoral process.

The program was organized with the cooperation of Kamla Devi, Head of the Institution, and featured key speakers including, Nodal Officer

of SVEEP 65-Basohli Dr. Roshan Lal, and Ashwani Kumar, Lecturer and member of SVEEP Cell 65-Basohli.

They provided detailed information on how new voters can register, how existing voters can correct their details on the electoral roll, and the process for removing the names of deceased or shifted family members. Attendees were also encouraged to use the Voter Helpline Number (1950) and the Voter Helpline App to gather information on candidates and political parties to make informed voting decisions.

The program concluded with a joint pledge-taking ceremony, where all attendees committed to participating responsibly in the electoral process.

## Border Marathon organised to spread voter awareness in Samba

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 07

Around 1,500 people, including students, teachers, BSF personnel, JK Police personnel, district officials and local residents participated in a Border Marathon organised here today from border village Dab to Baba Chamliyal Shrine in Ramgarh sector.

District Election Officer (DEO) Rajesh Sharma, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Vinay Kumar, led the mega voter awareness event as part of the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

In the presence of Election Expenditure Observer Karthik Manickam M, the marathon was flagged off from Government Middle School Dag to Baba Chamliyal Shrine, located near the International Border (IB) in Ramgarh .

## SHGs, Local Communities Participate in the SVEEP Prog in Pulwama



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 07

In an ongoing effort to strengthen voter awareness and promote community engagement in the democratic process, members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and local communities from Aripal Cluster Level Federation (CLF) and Shaheen CLF actively participated in the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) program in Pulwama, today.

The program focused on fostering a deeper understanding of the electoral

process among the local populace, with a special emphasis on encouraging every eligible citizen to participate in the upcoming elections.

The active involvement of these groups highlights the significant role of community-based organizations in supporting voter education initiatives and promoting inclusive participation. This initiative endeavours to educate the masses of Pulwama regarding the electoral process thus empowering every segment of society to contribute to the democratic process.

## SVEEP Awareness Rally organised at GHSS Lowang in AC 63-Bani

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 7

In a spirited initiative to promote voter awareness, a rally and a pledge ceremony were successfully organized under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Lowang, today. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students and staff, with the entire school community coming together to support the cause of ethical and responsible voting.

A pledge was taken by all participants, committing themselves to uphold the principles of free and fair elections, without any inducement. The event culminated in a rally through the Lowang market, where students and staff raised awareness



with slogans such as "My Vote, My Right," "My Vote, My Voice," and "Voting is Power."

The active participation of the stakeholders contributed greatly to the success of the program, ensuring that the message of the importance of voting was effectively conveyed to all present.

Earlier, Principal of

the host school Sangeeta Anand extended a warm welcome to the AC Nodal Officer SVEEP, Prof. Naseeb Kr Bhagat, and Zonal Officer (Zone 1), Dr. Narinder Kumar from Bani.

Senior Lecturer, Subhash Chand conducted the proceedings of the event, ensuring its smooth execution.

## First Randomization of Polling Staff conducted in Samba

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 07

District Election Officer (DEO), Rajesh Sharma conducted the first randomization of polling staff today for all three Assembly Constituencies (ACs) 69-Ramgarh,

70-Samba, 71-Vijaypur in the district, marking an important step in the preparations for the 2024 Assembly Elections. The randomization process ensures impartial and fair assignment of polling staff to various locations using advanced software

developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The process was presented in detail by District Informatics Officer Manish Kumar Sharma and closely monitored by DEO Rajesh Sharma, ADC Jagdish Singh and other officials.

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SAMBA NANDINI HILLS, SAMBA

Phone No (O): 01923-241143  
District Tele Medicine:-60065-00528

Email:-samba@nic.in  
dcofficesamba@gmail.com  
website:-https://samba.gov.in

#### NOTICE TO THE PRINTERS/PRINTING PRESS

In view of upcoming Assembly Elections-2024, it is hereby informed through the medium of this notice to all the Printers/Publishers/Printing Presses operating in District Samba that Election Commission of India has issued guidelines and norms for the publication of election publicity material like posters, pamphlets and leaflets etc. as mandated under sec 127A of the RP Act 1951.

Therefore, it is enjoined upon all the printers/printing press owners to furnish the printing rates of printing press to the Nodal officer for Media and Member Secretary MCMC (District Information Officer, Samba) within two days from the publication of this notice. The below stated points must be strictly adhered to by the printers/publishers operating in the District.

- Mentioning of Name and Address of the Printer and Publisher on each and every copy of Election related Printing material like posters, pamphlets, leaflets or other printed material meant for advertisement of political nature.
- A declaration is to be taken on Appendix A by the printer from intending publisher for his identity signed by him and attested by two persons to whom he/she is personally known.
- Printers/Printing press must send four copies of printed material to the District Election Officer along with declaration obtained from the publisher three days prior to printing.
- The Printer shall give information regarding number of copies of documents printed and price to be charged for such printing on Appendix B.

In case of any query, printer may contact Nodal officer for Media and Member Secretary MCMC on 01923246915.  
Encls: 2 Appendix  
No: ENT/DCS/2024-25/5144-46  
Date: 06/09/2024

Sd/-  
Deputy Commissioner Samba  
(District Election Officer)

#### APPENDIX-A

Performa for declaration to be submitted by the Publisher of Election Posters, Pamphlets, etc. (See Section 127-A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951)

1. ....son/daughter/wife of .....  
(Name) resident of ..... (village/town).....  
(District)..... (State), hereby declare that I as the (give brief particulars of publisher of..... election poster, pamphlet, etc.)  
Being printed by..... (Name of the printing press)

(Signature of Publishers)

Place.....  
Date.....  
Full Address.....  
Attested by (person personally known to publisher)

Signature (name and address) Countersigned by  
Signature (Name and address of printer)

#### APPENDIX - B

PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION REGARDING PRINTING OF ELECTION POSTERS, PAMPHLETS, ETC.

- Name and address of printer .....
- Name and Address of publisher .....
- Date of Printing order of the Publisher.....
- Date of declaration of the publisher.....
- Brief Particulars of election poster, pamphlet, etc.....
- Number of copies of the above document printed.....
- Date of printing.....
- Printing charges (including cost of paper) being charged from the publisher in respect of the above document.....

(Signature of Printer)  
Seal of the printer

Place.....  
Date.....  
DIP/J-4910/24  
Date: 8-9-24



## EDITORIAL

## BJP's 25-Point manifesto for J&K – A Vision for Stability and Integration

As the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Assembly elections loom on the horizon, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has unveiled an ambitious 25-point election manifesto aimed at reshaping the future of the region. Since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, J&K has been at the heart of political, social, and security debates in India. The BJP, having played a central role in that historic move, is now positioning itself as the party that can deliver long-term stability, development, and integration of J&K with the rest of India.

The manifesto reflects the BJP's core objectives: development, security, and integration. It is a carefully crafted document designed to appeal to a wide demographic, from the region's urban youth to rural populations, while seeking to address long-standing grievances. Yet, it also represents a high-stakes political gamble as the party aims to win an electoral mandate in a region that has been historically volatile and complex.

At the heart of the BJP's manifesto is the promise of economic growth. The party has pledged significant investments in infrastructure, including new highways, rail networks, and digital connectivity, aiming to transform the region into a modern economic hub. A key proposal is the development of "smart cities" in Jammu and Srinagar, which would boost urban development and attract investment. Additionally, the BJP has promised employment opportunities for youth, including recruitment drives for local jobs and incentives for entrepreneurship.

For a region that has been marred by conflict and economic stagnation, the promise of development resonates strongly. The emphasis on tourism, agriculture, and industrial growth reflects the party's understanding of the local economy's potential. However, the challenge remains in delivering on these promises, as security issues and bureaucratic hurdles often hamper economic projects in the region.

Security is a major pillar of the manifesto, reflecting the BJP's commitment to maintaining law and order in a region with a history of militancy and unrest. The party has reiterated its zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism and separatism, promising stronger measures to curb insurgency and ensure the safety of civilians. This includes the augmentation of security forces, greater intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and enhanced border security to prevent cross-border terrorism.

The BJP's strong stance on security is likely to find support among voters who have grown weary of decades of conflict. Yet, critics argue that an over-reliance on security measures may risk alienating sections of the population, particularly in the Kashmir Valley, where political alienation has been a persistent concern. The party's challenge will be to strike a balance between security and reconciliation, ensuring that its policies are inclusive.

Perhaps the most significant section of the manifesto is the BJP's pledge to fully integrate J&K into the Indian Union. Since the abrogation of Article 370, the region has been governed by the Centre, and the manifesto promises the restoration of full statehood, though with no fixed timeline. This issue will likely be a key point of debate, as political autonomy remains a sensitive topic for many in J&K.

The BJP also emphasizes its commitment to safeguarding the rights of refugees and displaced communities, promising to ensure full citizenship and property rights for groups like the West Pakistani refugees. Additionally, the party has proposed the delimitation of constituencies to ensure fair political representation for Jammu, where the BJP traditionally enjoys strong support. This move is seen as an attempt to alter the political landscape, ensuring that Jammu's electoral influence is increased in proportion to its population.

The BJP has always positioned itself as the party of nationalism, and this manifesto continues that narrative. By emphasizing the need for full integration, the party seeks to consolidate its image as the defender of India's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The promises of reviving Hindu shrines, restoring Kashmiri Pandit settlements, and fostering cultural unity play directly into this identity-driven narrative.

For many voters in Jammu and among displaced communities, this will resonate strongly. However, in the Kashmir Valley, where political sentiment often leans toward greater autonomy or even separatism, the BJP's nationalist rhetoric may deepen political divides. The party will need to navigate this delicate terrain carefully to avoid exacerbating tensions.

The BJP's manifesto is undoubtedly bold, but it is also fraught with challenges. The region's complex socio-political landscape, security concerns, and the deeply entrenched skepticism among certain communities toward the BJP will make it difficult to deliver on all these promises. Yet, the manifesto represents an opportunity for the party to consolidate its gains in the post-Article 370 era and present itself as the harbinger of a new future for J&K.

If the BJP can successfully translate its vision into action, it could mark a historic turning point for J&K, bringing long-needed stability and development. However, the stakes are high, and the party must ensure that its approach is inclusive, ensuring that all communities feel part of the region's future. The BJP's vision for J&K as laid out in this manifesto is not just a political document but a test of its leadership, not only in J&K but across India.

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Several developments in Bangladesh since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina raise the question: Is that country set to become a fundamentalist Islamist state and a cradle and exporter of Islamist terrorism? As of now, none of what the students who led the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement (ADSM) have said indicates that they support fundamentalist Islam or terrorism. It is, however, not clear what they stand for. A report in the Dhaka Tribune (datelined August 16, 2024) quoted Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the ADSM and an advisor in the interim government, as saying, "The spirit of the movement was to create a new Bangladesh, one where no fascist or autocrat can return." The same reported quoted him as saying that structural reforms were needed to achieve this aim, and that would require time.

One does not know what structural reforms they have in mind and the policies they intend to pursue. The Tribune report in question quotes Tahmid Chowdhury, another student leader, as saying that they were still working out their programme, which would be rooted in secularism and free speech.

Reuters reported on August 16, 2024, that the students were contemplating forming their own party to carry their movement forward and bring a closure on the history of the last three decades when Bangladesh was governed either by the Awami League or the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Not much has been heard about the matter since then.

The question is whether the overwhelming majority of them share their leader's views. One needs to ask this as fundamentalist Islamist and terrorist

organisations have been increasingly spreading their tentacles inside Bangladesh's colleges and universities. Consider the case of North South University (NSU), one of that country's best-known private universities. Professor Gias Uddin Ahsan, Dean of the School of Health and Life Sciences, and acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, was arrested on July 16, 2016, along with two of his associates, for renting out his flat, and not informing the police about the fact of its being rented out and details of the tenants which he was required to do. The flat was subsequently used by the perpetrators of the terror attack at Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant in Dhaka on July 1, 2016. The University has suspended Professor Ahsan after his arrest. Earlier, it had dismissed four teachers for their links with the terrorist outfit, Hizb-ut Tahrir.

Nibras Islam, one of the six identified as those attacking the Holey Artisan Bakery and killed by the police in the encounter that followed, was one of its students. Abir Rahman, one of those who attacked a police post guarding Bangladesh's largely eid prayer congregation at Sholakia in Kishoreganj on July 7, 2016, and was killed, was a student of NSU. The attack, which was repelled, led to three deaths. Quazi Mohammad Rezwanaul Ahsan Nafis, who, in 2012, was convicted on the charge of attempting to blow up the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and of coming to the United States for waging jihad, had also been a student of NSU. Besides, all the young men-Sadman Yasir Mamun, Faisal Bin Nayeem Dwip, Ehsan Reza Rummam, Maksudul Hasan Anik, Nayeem Irad and Nafiz Imtiaz- arrested for killing the blogger and Ganajagan Mancha activist, Ahmed Rajib Haider, in 2013, were its students.



There has been large-scale irregular inundation of educational institutions by fundamentalist elements. A report by Ekramul Huq Bulbul and Masud Milad in the Bengali daily Pratham Alo of August 12, 2004. States, "The allegation has been levelled of the Chittagong University by violating all rules. Most applicants were not appointed as teachers despite getting four first classes in their educational life. Yet there has been the unprecedented occurrence of appointment of the supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami, a partner in the present four-party coalition government headed by Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) despite their being without a single first class." The report further stated that investigations by Pratham Alo revealed that of the 122 teachers appointed during this period, 57 had been appointed by ignoring the recommendations of the Departmental Planning Committee and the number of posts advertised.

Whether all this has caused a significant section of students to be influenced by militant fundamentalist Islam need to be seen, given the continued operations of terrorist organisations. A

number of Bangladeshis had fought the Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan. The Soviet Union's defeat at the hands of the Mujaheddin and withdrawal from the country in February, 1989, had boosted their morale as also that of militant Islamists the world over. Osama bin-Laden, who had been involved in the jihad and who harboured the vision of establishing sharia rule worldwide, helped the establishment of the Harkat-ul-Jihad-Islami Bangladesh (HUJIB) in 1992. The formation of Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), followed.

Pressure from the United States and other Western countries following the large-scale violence unleashed by these organisations, compelled the Khaleda Zia government to act against them. More resolute action followed the ascent to power of the second Awami League-led government, with Sheikh Hasina as prime minister, in 2009. Nine Islamist terrorist groups were banned during her prime ministership. These included the JMB, Shahadat-e-al-Hikma, Hizb ut-Tahrir, HuJI-B, Ansarullah Bangla Team and the last-named's subsequent reincarnation, Ansar al-Islam. The

list also included Jamaat Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya formed in 2018. Another seven Islamic extremist groups were blacklisted during her regime. These were Ulama Anjuman E Al Bayyinat, Neo-JMB, Dawlatul Islam Bangladesh, Hezbut Tawheed, At-Tamkin, Tamiruddin-Bangladesh and Towhid Trust.

Particularly active among these was the Ansar al-Islam, which played a major role in the murder of the bloggers, which began with the killing of Ahmed Rajib Haider in Dhaka on February 15, 2013 and continued until 2015. The Neo-JMB, however, is believed to have been behind the attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery which killed 23 persons, including three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians and one Indian.

The tough measures that followed, had kept Islamist terrorism more and less under control. Following Sheikh Hasina's ouster, the Hizb-ut Tahrir (Hijbut) has been staging processions in different parts of Bangladesh and putting up posters articulating its ideology. On August 9, 2024, it held a rally in Dhaka demanding the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate in Bangladesh. Also, the statues of two police officers who died fighting the terrorists at the Holey Artisan Bakery, have been destroyed and a Hijb-ut Tahrir poster has been found at the site. On its part, the interim government has released Jashimuddin Rahmani, the chief of the Ansarullah Bangla Team, now Ansar al-Islam. Neither all this nor the very cordial meeting Muhammad Yunus has had with leaders of the Jama'at and Hefazate-Islam, of course, indicates that the interim government supports Islamist militancy. Nevertheless, skating on thin ice is better avoided.

(The views are personal)

## The death of window shopping: How e-commerce stole the joy

ASHA IYER KUMAR

Once upon a time, I was a passionate window-shopper. I could spend hours gawking in a mall or a market, viewing and trying out things I didn't need, but often ended up purchasing. Not any longer. During my latest visit to a mall this week after several months, I realised how my appetite for browsing and buying had nearly died. Our family now happily gets everything delivered to our doorstep: from Apple to Android phones. Shopping had long been a cherished ritual, offering an experience that transcended mere transactions. It tapped into our emotions and senses, creating memories, fostering

relationships, and offering solace in unexpected ways.

Yet, the rise of e-commerce has drastically altered this landscape, leading to the erosion of the joys of traditional shopping. The sensory overload of colours, smells, and sounds has been replaced by the sterile, one-dimensional world of online shopping.

We now scroll through product images on a screen, devoid of any real human interaction. Shopping was once an opportunity to step out of our daily routines, to wander through aisles with no particular destination in mind, and to let our imaginations run wild as we browsed items we didn't know we needed until we

saw them. This spontaneity is all but lost in the algorithm-driven world of e-commerce, where every click is tracked and every recommendation is based on past behaviour, leaving little room for surprise or serendipity.

Moreover, shopping in physical stores offered a tactile connection to the products we bought. We could feel the fabric of a garment, test the weight of a book in our hands, or smell the aroma of freshly baked bread before making a decision. These sensory experiences are deeply rooted in our memories and play a significant role in our attachment to the items we purchase.

Online shopping, in contrast, offers a purely visual experience, reduc-

ing our interaction with products to mere images on a screen. The absence of this tangible connection often leads to a lack of emotional attachment to the items we buy, turning shopping into a mechanical process rather than an enjoyable pastime. In the past, shopping was as much about the experience as it was about the purchase.

The thrill of discovery, the joy of window shopping, and the satisfaction of finding that perfect item after hours of searching were all part of the journey. However, it would be unfair to dismiss the advantages of e-commerce entirely. The convenience of shopping from the comfort of our homes and the ability to compare prices

across multiple retailers are undeniable benefits. For those with busy schedules or physical limitations, online shopping has been a game-changer, providing opportunities that would have been unimaginable a few decades ago.

Yet, as we embrace these conveniences, we must also consider what we are losing in the process. The act of shopping is not just a means to an end but a valuable experience in itself. It is a chance to connect with our communities, indulge our senses, and find joy in the unexpected. As we move towards a digital future, it is worth considering how we can preserve these intangible aspects of shopping that bring richness and depth to our lives.

In the end, the choice is not about rejecting technology or clinging to the past, but about finding a balance that allows us to enjoy the best of both worlds. We can find ways to reintroduce the joy of discovery, the pleasure of the tactile, and the warmth of human connection into our shopping experiences, even as we click our way through the digital aisles. In my case, I attribute my loss of interest to a feeling of satiety, a recognition that I have more than I need and it's time for me to stop indulging in senseless accumulation of material things. Period.

(The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai. Views are personal)

## Finding Peace Amidst the Chaos

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

It may sound very insulting, but this is what most of us, if not almost all of us routinely do. Because it is so natural to do. We have a deep desire for something considered most dear. Or, we may not want to lose something considered crucial for our existence. So what do we do? We keep on thinking about it. Yes, we also do whatever we can to ensure it or should. What happens in most cases? We fall short because we are small, and helpless in the ultimate sense.

God keeps control of Himself regarding the fruits of our actions. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 2.47) We have only been given the right to desire and do. (2.47) But we either don't give up trying by ourselves or with the help of others, if we choose to do that. Now worry sets in because we have set our

hearts on it. And we hurt ourselves both in terms of mental health and physical health because they are so intertwined. Are we doomed? No, we are not, if we choose to do what we are expected to do, which is to approach God. That is why our scriptures, especially the Bhagavad-Geeta, persuade us to do that. I will cite some verses in this connection. The verse #18.62 goes like this, "In all respects take shelter of God only. By His mercy, you will achieve supreme peace." What does this mean? We will not suffer from mental problems, by which a quarter and more in the world are suffering. (9.22) Isn't what we want? You get started on this path and start becoming deserving. God will respond suitably. But our natures won't allow us to do what God wants us to do to qualify for His 'kripa' (grace).

Even if we somehow



curb our natures, our egos come in the way. For us human beings, our egos are everything; we cannot imagine taking unconditional shelter from anyone including God of course. So we remain in the shelter of worry. Exalted personalities have surrendered to God and reaped all kinds of benefits from Him. Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame illuminates, "Where there is the yogeshwar

Shri Krishna and where there is a devotee of God (as Arjuna was), there will be opulence (saubhagya), victory (success), wealth and definite principles (dharma)." (18.78) God is unlimited and He can give what we cannot even imagine. Swami Vivekananda went to America in 1843. Not only did Swamiji give an iconic speech on Hinduism at the World's Religious in Chicago on

September 11, 1843, but introduced Hinduism and Indian spirituality to the Western world.

We just have to get started and achieve what these exalted personalities achieved after several lives. It is not so difficult, but requires determination. What is so difficult to pray? All we have to ensure that whatever we pray for is according to dharma. God will respond in a way He decides about what we deserve. Then, doing 'naman' (namaskar) to a Deity of God in a temple shouldn't be so difficult. God, being what He is, cannot be a debtor ever. He will give something, again what He feels is good for us. What is wrong with chanting God's names? This activity appears so innocuous but people of all religions for ages have been chanting Ohm and God's names. It must be useful, otherwise it would have been discontinued

a long time back. What is so difficult to thank God if something good happens? We know how thanking helps us to make friends even with strangers. Then, how it must benefit if we thank God. 'Dhyan' (meditation) is catching attention worldwide. Why? Because it is extremely useful. Remembering God is another spiritual activity, for which God rewards handsomely. I can go on. Believe that these spiritual acts are highly beneficial, and can be done by one and all. Spiritual acts help in this regard and change us for the better. Then, why take shelter from worry, anxiety, depression, sadness, etc.? Take shelter from the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, controller and owner of the Creation and say goodbye to negative emotions.

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



## Rising consumption of processed, packaged food in India to affect health outcomes

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

The rising consumption of processed and packaged food in India will likely affect health outcomes and policies may be required to regulate the nutritional content of these foods and promote healthier alternatives, a government paper has stressed.

According to the paper, titled 'Changes in India's Food Consumption and Policy Implications,' by the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister, across regions and consumption classes, "we observe a significant increase in the share of household expenditure on served and packaged processed food".

This increase was universal across the classes but more pronounced for



the country's top 20 per cent of households and significantly more in urban areas.

"While food processing is a growth sector and a significant creator of jobs, this rising consumption of processed and packaged food will also likely affect health outcomes," the paper warned.

The Indian food and beverage packaging industry is experiencing

substantial growth, with market size projected to increase from \$33.73 billion in 2023 to \$46.25 billion by 2028, driven by factors like rising consumption.

According to the paper, further research is needed to understand the nutritional implications of the growing consumption of packaged processed foods and policies may be required to regulate

the nutritional content of these foods and promote healthier alternatives.

The paper also analysed the relationship between nutritional intake and dietary diversity on the prevalence of Anaemia.

"As expected, we found that average iron intake was inversely related to the prevalence of Anaemia; however, we discovered a significant negative relationship between the prevalence of Anaemia and dietary diversity in sources of iron," it noted.

This strong inverse relationship was observed across state/UTs.

The analysis revealed that policies that aim to reduce anaemia among children and women would need to focus on improving iron intake and, more importantly, consid-

er the dietary diversity of iron sources.

The report, however, acknowledged the limitations of excluding served and packaged processed food from the micronutrient analysis.

"A separate study on this aspect is recommended due to its potential health implications. Further research could explore the relationship between dietary diversity and other health outcomes," read the paper.

The paper also observed a significant decline in the consumption of cereals in terms of cooked food by approximately 20 per cent, and this would be reflected in the average daily intake of micronutrients, because cereals are an essential dietary source for many micronutrients, such as Iron and Zinc.

## Prolonged poor gut health, constipation & nausea may signal Parkinson's

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

People suffering from poor gut health with constipation and nausea for a long period may signal the risk of developing Parkinson's disease, according to a study that shows the neurological disorder may begin in the gut and not the brain.

Trisha S. Pasricha, a neurogastroenterologist at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in the US noted that science is yet to completely unravel how the gut exerts enormous influence on the brain.

She said that decades before developing typical motor symptoms like difficulty walking or tremors, Parkinson's patients "experience GI symptoms like constipation and nausea for years". To explore the "gut-first hypothesis", the team



conducted a retrospective cohort study involving more than 10,000 patients who underwent an upper endoscopy (EGD) -- a procedure to image and diagnose problems in the oesophagus, stomach, and first portion of the small intestine -- between the year 2000 and 2005.

After over 14 years, patients who suffered injuries to the lining of the upper GI tract, also called mucosal damage, showed a 76 per cent higher risk of developing Parkinson's disease.

## World's Largest Cancer Awareness Run 2024 Launched: Over 1 Lakh Participants from 130 Countries Expected

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 7:

The medical community must dedicate time, talent, and resources to conduct deeper research to uncover the exact causes of cancer, urged Telangana State Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka during the launch of the "Quambiant Global Grace Cancer Run-2024."

The Minister, along with film star and comedian Ali, inaugurated the official T-shirt and Finisher's Medal for the World's Largest Cancer Awareness Run. This global event aims to raise awareness about cancer and promote early

screening, particularly in remote areas.

Scheduled for October 6, 2024, the run will be held both physically and virtually across the globe, with over 1 lakh runners expected from 130 countries.

The event's primary objective is to generate funds to provide free cancer screening for underserved communities in 10 countries, spanning four continents. Organizers aim to screen 1 lakh individuals, emphasizing the importance of early detection.

During the launch event in Hyderabad, Minister Seethakka highlighted the rising prevalence of cancer,

noting that once a rare disease, it has now become widespread. "Awareness and screening are the only way forward," she emphasized, adding that these efforts must start in villages and remote areas where the causes of cancer remain unknown to many. The Minister called for a united effort to "declare war against cancer" and encouraged the medical fraternity to continue their research to better understand the disease.

Comedian Ali praised Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli, the Founder and President of Grace Cancer Foundation, for his dedication to cancer awareness and treatment.

## New problem-solving therapy may help fight depression

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

US researchers have developed a novel problem-solving therapy that boosts brain functions to relieve symptoms of depression, giving hope to millions worldwide.

Depression is a common mental disorder, which affects an estimated 5 per cent of adults globally.

The study led by a team from Stanford Medicine applied problem-solving therapy -- a form of cognitive therapy -- on adults with both depression and obesity. The therapy reduced depression in a third of the hard-to-treat patient group.



The team targeted 108 adults diagnosed with both major depression and obesity, a confluence of symptoms that often indicate problems with the cognitive control circuit.

While 59 adults underwent a year-long programme of problem-solving therapy in addition to their usual care, such as

medications and visits to a primary care physician, 49 only received usual care. The participants also underwent fMRI brain scans and filled out questionnaires that assessed their problem-solving ability and depression symptoms.

Among the problem-solving group, 32 per cent

of participants responded to the therapy -- their symptom severity halved, revealed the study published in the journal Science Translational Medicine. Lead author Xue Zhang, a postdoctoral scholar in psychiatry at the varsity called it "a huge improvement".

It is because patients with obesity and depression have only a 17 per cent response rate for antidepressants.

Brain scans showed that in the group receiving only usual care, a cognitive control circuit that became less active throughout the study correlated with worsening problem-solving ability.

The pattern was reversed in the group receiving therapy. The decrease in activity correlated with enhanced problem-solving ability.

It may be because their brains are learning to process information more efficiently through the therapy, said the team.

While before the therapy, their brains had been working harder; now, they were working smarter, the team said.

Overall, both groups improved in their depression severity. But for some problem-solving therapy brought more clarity, allowing them to return to work, resume hobbies, and also to manage social interactions.

## Mpox does not easily spread through air: US CDC

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

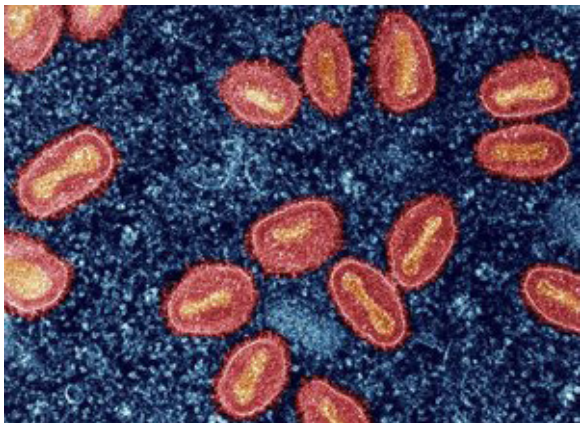
Amid the global outbreak of mpox, a US CDC report shows that, unlike Covid-19, the monkeypox virus (MPXV) does not easily spread through the air.

The CDC's latest 'Morbidity and Mortality' weekly report included a study on 113 persons with mpox who travelled on 221 flights during 2021-22.

The results showed that none of the 1,046 passenger contacts got infected.

"Among the 1,046 traveller contacts followed by the US public health agencies, CDC identified no secondary cases," the report said.

The findings suggest that "travelling on a flight with a person with mpox does not appear to consti-



tute an exposure risk or warrant routine contact tracing activities".

However, the CDC recommends that people with mpox infections must isolate and delay travel until they are no longer infectious.

Meanwhile, the CDC also pointed out that irrespective of variants, the findings apply to MPXV

and both clade I and clade II mpox spread in the same ways.

Primarily, it spreads via close physical or intimate contact with people infected with mpox lesions and "less often via infectious respiratory secretions and fomites", the CDC said.

This comes as the current outbreak is majorly driven by the clade 1b,

which has historically been associated with increased transmissibility.

Mpox, currently spreading rapidly in Africa, infecting both adults and children, has been declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO). It is also surging deaths, especially among children, raising concerns of being airborne.

"The situation is different during close contact however, where respiratory droplets could still play a role," said Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, co-chairman of the Indian Medical Association's National Covid-19 Task Force, in a post on X.

Outside of Africa, mpox's clade 1b has spread to Sweden and Thailand with one case each being reported so far.

## Apple Watch Series 10 likely to feature sensor to detect sleep apnoea

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

The soon-to-be-launched Apple Watch Series 10 is likely to feature an upgraded ECG sensor that can help detect sleep apnoea, according to media reports.

Sleep apnoea is a serious sleep disorder where breathing repeatedly stops and starts. People suffering from the condition repeatedly take pauses in breathing, as well as snort and gasp -- all while in sleep. This lowers blood oxygen levels, making the condition potentially fatal.

The reports noted that using the sleep tracking feature, the new Apple Watch Series 10 will be able to detect sleep apnoea



in users. It can then alert the user and recommend further tests.

Other key health features include a change in the processing of the health data collected by these sensors.

This includes using new algorithms in the Health app on the iPhone to look for atrial fibrillation, rather than on the Apple Watch itself, the reports claimed.

The highly-anticipated event, with a tagline "Its

Glowtime" is expected to take place on September 9.

Other potential features for the Watch Series 10 include slightly larger displays and a thinner case which will be available in both 44mm and 48mm sizes.

Further, it is also likely to come with better water resistance to allow for support of the Apple Watch Ultra's Depth app.

Another feature expected is "Reflections," a watch face that reacts to ambient light.

Despite the new additions, Apple will not likely include the blood oxygen sensor feature which it removed from existing watches following a patent dispute with Masimo.

Apple Watch is known to provide heart health features such as high and low heart notifications, cardio fitness, irregular rhythm notifications, the ECG app, and atrial fibrillation (AFib) history. It has also been instrumental in saving many lives.

In May, Apple Watch Series 7 saved a Delhi woman's life by alerting her abnormal heart rhythm. In January, a London-based doctor saved the life of an elderly woman mid-air using Apple Watch's banned pulse oximeter that monitors blood oxygen levels.

Last year, Apple Watch helped save a trail runner's life by calling an ambulance after he fell during a run.

## Limiting duration of mobile phone use may help reduce CVD risk: Expert

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

Limiting the use of mobile phones in making and taking calls may help reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, according to a top neurologist.

Taking to social media platform X, Dr. Sudhir Kumar from Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said that limiting mobile phone use, along with other healthy lifestyle measures may be good for boosting heart health.

"It is useful to limit the duration of taking and making calls in order to reduce the risk of CVDs," said Kumar.

"Ensure good sleep and minimise psychological stress," he added, while also suggesting to quit



smoking.

He said this citing a recent Chinese study, published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, which showed an increased association between mobile phone use and heart diseases like stroke, coronary artery disease, atrial fibrillation, and heart failure.

The number of mobile phone subscriptions

has increased dramatically worldwide in recent decades and surpassed 8.2 billion in 2020, according to data from the International Telecommunication Union. At the same time, heart diseases have also surged significantly worldwide, including in India.

Data from the World Heart Federation (WHF) showed deaths from cardiovascular disease (CVD)

jumped globally from 12.1 million in 1990 to 20.5 million in 2021.

The study by researchers from the Southern Medical University in China showed that weekly mobile phone usage time was positively associated with incident CVD risk.

The risk was partly "explained by poor sleep, psychologic distress, and neuroticism", the study showed.

Further, the team noted that "mobile phones emit radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF-EMFs), which could induce hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis deregulation, inflammatory reaction, and oxidative stress" -- these can affect heart and blood vessels, increasing the risk of CVD.

The study included 444,027 individuals without a history of CVD. After more than 12 years of follow-up, CVD risk was identified in 56,181 individuals (12.7 per cent).

Compared with participants who used a mobile phone less than 1 hour per week, those who used a mobile phone more than 1 hour had a significantly increased risk of incident CVD.

The risk of CVD was also found to be higher in people with diabetes and current smokers.

"Smoking and diabetes compound the risk of CVDs, and hence smokers should quit smoking and people with diabetes should keep blood sugars under control," Kumar said.

## Nadda inaugurates super speciality hospital in Darbhanga

AGENCIES  
DARBHANGA, SEP 07

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda on Saturday inaugurated a 210-bed super speciality hospital in the premises of Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), Darbhanga.

Nadda while addressing a function organised on the occasion, said that people of Darbhanga and its surrounding region would not be required to go to Patna or New Delhi for specialised treatment of any disease, as all such facilities were now available in this newly built

super speciality hospital itself.

Those suffering from cardiac, nephrology and neurology complications would now get treatment in Darbhanga, he added.

"With your blessings, Narendra Modi has become Prime Minister for the third consecutive term and I also got the opportunity to become Union Health Minister for the second occasion", Minister said adding that strength lay with people while he and others in power were only policymakers. Health care facilities had improved considerably in the country after the Narendra Modi

government was voted to power at the Centre, he stressed.

"A super speciality eye hospital has been established in premises of Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna which is one of the best ophthalmology units in the country", Nadda said adding that more than one thousand cornea transplantation had been conducted in ophthalmology department of IGIMS, Patna. It was heartening to note that no one having any sort of serious ailments in eye would be required to go to New Delhi for treatment, he assured.



# INDIA IS A COUNTRY OF RISHI TRADITION: VICE PRESIDENT

AGENCIES  
CHITRAKOOT (UP), SEP 7

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said that today the opposition people are ignoring the Rishi Tradition of India due to their political interests, which does not seem appropriate in any way.

While inaugurating the three-day international seminar on the topic 'Rishi Tradition in Modern Life' at Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyang State University in Chitrakoot, the Vice President said that India is a country of Rishi Tradition. "This is the reason why our country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working to take this tradition forward," he said.

He said that war can never be won with weapons. "Our country is standing in the category of



Vishwa Guru today only because of the Rishi Tradition," he said.

The VP said that it is on the strength of the Rishi Tradition that we are moving ahead in every field of India, land, water and sky. "The tradition of our country has been Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. To solve the problems, our country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is follow-

ing the Rishi tradition," he said.

He said, "It is said that war is not the solution to any problem. Even today, if you look around, Rishi tradition is respected only in our country. India, a country rich in cultural heritage, has always been incomparable. It is the need of the hour to follow the basic principles of Rishi tradition."

Dhankhar said that the austerity land of Lord Shri Ram, will definitely prove to be a new direction for all. "Because this seminar is being organised in the presence of Jagadguru Swami Rambhadracharya Maharaj, a great sage honoured with Padma Vibhushan," he said.

The Vice President has come to Chitrakoot with his wife to invite Jagadguru Rambhadracharya to come to Delhi and stay for a day at the newly built VP's House.

Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Maharaj, who was presiding over the programme, said that he is Triveni and President Draupadi Murmu considers him as her elder brother, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi is his friend and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar is his brother.

# Viksit Bharat is a shared dream, students should be enabled to achieve it: PM Modi tells educators

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged the educators to walk the extra mile with their students and carve them into 'citizens and achievers' of tomorrow. PM Modi underlined that the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' is not just his, but it should be the dream of the whole nation. He said that students must be groomed and nurtured to become its strong pillars.

"Developed India is not just Modi's programme. We all have to collectively prepare such a group of capable individuals who will steer a developed India, we have to prepare a pool of such able youth," the Prime Minister said while addressing the tutors who were recently bestowed with the National Teachers Awards.

PM Modi added that



these children will go on to become future gold medalists and champions in sports and hence, channelling their energy was important.

"If we have to win 25-50 gold medals in sports in the future, where will those players come from?

They will come from the pool of children you see in your school," the Prime Minister said.

PM Modi held a free-wheeling interaction with the outstanding educators and awardees at his residence 7, Lok Kalyan Marg. "You owe a huge respon-

sibility as you have to carve students into capable and empowered youths of tomorrow, who will take the nation to new heights," he said, amid applause by the teachers.

"You have to add that extra factor in students," the Prime Minister said, while quipping that a few years down the line, they would be the pensioners of Viksit Bharat.

In further interaction with the teachers, PM Modi commended their dedication to the craft of teaching over the years, which has been recognised through the Awards.

PM Modi also lauded the teachers for their role in rendering incredible service to the nation and also fulfilling their responsibility of preparing today's youth into tomorrow's citizens, as they will be the ones who will shoulder the goal of Viksit Bharat.

# RG Kar tragedy: West Bengal Medical Council suspends 3 doctors close to Sandip Ghosh

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, SEP 7

West Bengal Medical Council (WBMCO), on Saturday, announced the suspension of three doctors who are known to be close confidants of the former and controversial Principal of R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital, Sandip Ghosh.

The three doctors include the erstwhile Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of radiodiagnosis department of Burdwan Medical College, Avik De, former senior resident doctor attached to the pathology department of the same hospital, Birupaksha Biswas, and junior



doctor of Midnapore Medical College & Hospital, Mustafizur Rahaman Mallick. The common allegation against all three of them is using their closeness to Ghosh and leaders of the ruling dispensation to threaten and harass junior doctors at their respective workplaces.

On September 5, the

West Bengal Health Department announced the suspension of both De and Biswas from state medical services. Besides suspension De is also facing a departmental probe initiated against him.

On the other hand, the suspension order for Biswas was issued just a

day after he was transferred from Burdwan Medical College in East Burdwan district to Kakdwip Sub-divisional Hospital in South 24 Parganas district.

Since the incident of the rape and murder of a junior doctor of R.G. Kar surfaced, several junior doctors have accused De and Biswas, both confidants of Ghosh, of introducing "threat culture" where junior doctors and interns were threatened by them to act as directed.

Recently, there were protests by junior doctors at Midnapore Medical College & Hospital against Mallick on the same charges of running a "threat culture" in the same hospital.

Some members of the medical fraternity have claimed that the council should have taken steps against the three doctors and at least cautioned them much before, since the complaints of threatening and harassing junior doctors against them is nothing new.

On Saturday, the council also issued a show-cause notice to Sandip Ghosh, who is currently in CBI's custody because of his alleged links with the financial irregularities at R.G. Kar.

His registration might be cancelled if he fails to give any reply to the show-cause notice within the next three days.

# Congress to offer 'good small number' of seats to AAP, says party in-charge for Haryana

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

The Congress is offering "good small numbers" of seats in Haryana to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in an effort to forge a pre-poll alliance ahead of the October 5 Assembly elections, state Congress in-charge Deepak Babaria said after a meeting with AAP leader Raghav Chadha on Saturday.

Babaria told IANS that negotiations are underway and it is likely that the INDIA bloc partners will reach a deal by Sunday.

"Negotiations are going on, we will see where adjustments can be made," he said.

Asked the number of seats the AAP will get, the

Congress leader didn't divulge any exact figure but said, "Good small numbers".

On Friday, AAP leader Chadha said that the two parties are engaged in last-minute negotiations "for the interest of the people of the Haryana", adding that nothing "conclusive", however, has been reached yet on pre-poll coalition.

The AAP Rajya Sabha member told IANS that the talks are moving in a "positive direction" and both parties are hopeful of a coalition ahead of the Assembly elections.

"Talks are going on. For the interest of Haryana, its people as well as the country, we are exploring this coalition. We are hopeful

and making all efforts to reach a common ground," Chadha said.

The talks of a pre-poll coalition between the two parties gathered steam after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi expressed the desire at the recent Haryana screening committee meeting to align with like-minded parties to dislodge the BJP from power.

The Congress MP also asked Haryana state leaders and in-charges to explore an alliance with AAP to rule out the division of votes and also to present the INDIA bloc as a united and potent force in the poll-bound state.

Rahul Gandhi's statement was welcomed by the AAP.

# Haryana: Ex-BJP MLA joins Congress, reposes faith in Bhupinder Hooda's leadership

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

The Congress on Saturday got a boost in Sirsa district of Haryana as former Kalanwali legislator Balkaur Singh left the BJP and joined the Congress along with supporters.

Block Chairman, Zila Parishad members and 40 Sarpanches and former Sarpanches, who came with him, expressed faith in the Congress.

All of them joined the Congress under the leadership of former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state party chief Chaudhary Udaibhan.

Congress MLA and



candidate from Kalanwali, Sheeshpal Singh was among those present.

Hooda said Balkaur Singh has taken the right decision at the right time.

"This decision will oust the BJP from power and increase the majority of the Congress. He and his colleagues will be given full respect in the Congress party," he said.

Chaudhary Udaibhan also welcomed them to the party and said the BJP has spoiled the atmosphere of the state.

"Today, due to the anti-people policies of the BJP rule, all sections, including farmers, wrestlers and soldiers, are troubled. This time the public will uproot the BJP and show it the way out of power," he said.

# YOGI INSTRUCTS OFFICIALS TO EXPEDITE RELIEF WORK

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW, SEP 7

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took cognisance of the building collapse incident in Sarojini Nagar on Saturday evening and instructed officials to hasten relief efforts.

Following CM Yogi's directive, various departments, including the Relief Department, NDRF, SDRF, local police, and district administration, took control over the situation.

Several individuals were injured in the incident and have been transported to Lokbandhu Hospital and KGMU by ambulance for treatment.

CM Yogi expressed his sorrow over the accident



on social media, wishing for the speedy recovery of the injured and assuring that the government stands by them during this difficult time.

On CM Yogi's orders, the Additional Chief Secretary Home and ADG Law

and Order arrived at the scene to oversee the relief operations.

Relief Commissioner GS Naveen said that many individuals were trapped under the debris following the collapse of a building in Transport Nagar, Saro-

jinagar, Lucknow. In response, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to immediately proceed to the site and expedite the relief efforts.

Consequently, several teams from NDRF and SDRF were dispatched, and the local district administration, police, and hospital authorities were alerted.

He further stated: "Following CM Yogi's instructions, Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob, District Magistrate Suryapal Gangwar, and Police Commissioner Amarendra Singh Sengar arrived at the scene with their teams."

ADM FR Rakesh Singh added that many individuals have been rescued from the debris during the

ongoing operation. They have all been transported to Lokbandhu Hospital and KGMU by ambulance, where they are receiving treatment.

He explained that the three-story Harmilap building in Transport Nagar was used for pharmaceutical work. At the time of the accident, several employees were working there.

ADM FR stated that relief operations are ongoing, with debris being cleared through the operation.

Additionally, on CM Yogi's instructions, ACS Home Deepak Kumar and ADG Law and Order Amitabh Yash arrived at the scene to assess the situation.

# ED, I-T department to probe online trading scam: Assam CM

AGENCIES  
GUWAHATI, SEP 7

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that the state government has decided to involve the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax (IT) department to probe the multi-crore online trading scam that has sent shockwaves across the state.

He told reporters here: "The Assam Police have unearthed the online trading scam, and they have been investigating the matter with the utmost sincerity. The police have made significant progress in the case; however, the state government has



already contacted ED and the IT department to also investigate the case."

"The small cases will be investigated at the district level, while the bigger cases will be looked into by state level police officers.

The ED and IT department will investigate the online trading scam in an overall manner," Sarma mentioned, adding that if required, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will be called in for

this case.

He stated: "We are confident that the police can solve the whole matter with the help of the ED and IT department. However, if at any point we feel that the case is very complex, and it requires further help, then we shall hand over the case to the CBI."

Earlier on Saturday, the Assam Police arrested one person from Jorhat district's Titabor area for his alleged involvement in the Rs 2,200 crore online trading scam.

The arrested person has been identified as Abinash Pardhiya. He was taken into custody from Borhola locality in Titabor town.

Police said that the accused person was at his residence when he was arrested on Saturday morning.

A senior police officer said that Pardhiya has a tuition centre in his residence. He was running an online trading scam under the banner of Good Luck Tutor Centre Pvt. Ltd. in his home.

Police claimed that he had collected lakhs of rupees from the general public on the pretext of giving them higher returns through online trading.

The police have arrested 39 people across the state in connection with the online trading scam.

# Kolhapur teacher's inspiring journey takes centre stage in PM Modi's interaction with educators

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wide-ranging interaction with the outstanding educators of the country saw a teacher from Kolhapur taking centre stage because of his inspiring and motivating journey.

The unforgettable exchange between Sagar Bagade and PM Modi brought the spotlight on the former's riveting life journey on how he, himself being an orphan, went to become the 'saviour' of at least 11 orphaned children.

"I am an Arts teacher in Maharashtra's Kolhapur," Sagar Bagade told

the Prime Minister while informing that he has adopted 11 orphaned kids and was looking after their livelihood and education.

"I myself come from an orphanage and hence undertook this initiative for their welfare. Today, I am capable enough and if I could do something for unprivileged kids, there can't be anything bigger than this," he said, drawing loud cheers from the teaching fraternity.

Impressed with his selfless service, PM Modi heaped praise on the tutor's initiative and said that you have lived a life of high morals and your journey will emulate many

others to follow.

Sagar Bagade is one of the National Award-winning teachers, fighting against social evils through his dance art and also connecting his students with it.

Notably, PM Modi interacted with scores of noted educators at his official residence, who were conferred with National Teachers Awards. The purpose of the National Teachers Awards is to celebrate the unique contribution of the finest teachers in the country who through their commitment and hard work, not only improved the quality of the education sector but also enriched the lives of their students.



# After Putin, Italian PM Meloni says that India can resolve Russia-Ukraine conflict

AGENCIES  
ROME, SEP 7

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Saturday said that countries like India and China can play a role in resolving the conflict in Ukraine.

Meloni's remarks, made at the Ambrosetti Forum in northern Italy's Cernobbio city on Saturday - where she also held a meeting with the visiting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky - came less than 48 hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin also highlighted India's efforts in solving the ongoing crisis in the region.

"It is obvious that if the rules of international law are broken we will get a multiplication of chaos and crisis, but it is also obvious that with the multiplication of crisis, we will have a natural fragmentation of the geo-economic space, that is, in the long run, economic globalization and questioning of the rules of international law will not walk together.



This is what I also said to my Chinese counterparts, we must choose, because the two things do not go together, it is also the reason why I think that in the end nations, like China and India, can play a role and must play a role in resolving the conflict in Ukraine," said Meloni.

On Thursday, while addressing the 9th Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russian President Vladimir Putin had also mentioned India's role in providing a "helping hand"

in resolving the issue. "We respect our friends and partners who I think are sincerely interested in addressing and resolving all the issues associated with the conflict (with Ukraine). China, Brazil, India... I am in contact with my partners and I have no doubt that the leaders of these countries, and we have the relations of trust and confidence with one another, will be really interested in providing a helping hand," said Putin.

Meloni's comments came after her meeting with Zelensky met on the sidelines of the Ambrosetti Forum on Saturday where the two leaders discussed the latest developments on the ground and Ukraine's "most urgent needs" ahead of winter.

"The Head of State thanked for all the allocated military and technical assistance packages and emphasised the importance of transferring the relevant weapons to Ukraine as soon as possible," said Zelensky's office after the meeting.

It mentioned further that the Ukrainian President informed Meloni about the situation on the battlefield, the recent shelling of the country's civilian and critical infrastructure and spoke about current defence needs.

"The leaders discussed steps to implement the decision of the G7 to provide Ukraine with nearly USD 50 billion from frozen Russian assets," Kyiv asserted.

It added that the restoration and reconstruction of Ukraine, in particular of its energy system, was one of the issues discussed during the meeting.

The Italian PM's office stated that Meloni reiterated that support for Ukraine is a top priority on the Italian G7 Presidency's agenda and reaffirmed the ongoing commitment to Ukraine's legitimate defence and to a just and lasting peace.

The two leaders, it said, paid particular attention to the issue of reconstruction, also ahead of the next Ukraine Recovery Conference which will be held in Italy in 2025.

Later, in her address at the 50th edition of The European House - Ambrosetti Forum at Villa d'Este in Cernobbio, Meloni also highlighted the risks of destabilization for the geo-political and economic global space, and said she believed global actors such as China and India "will be able to play a role in resolving the conflict."

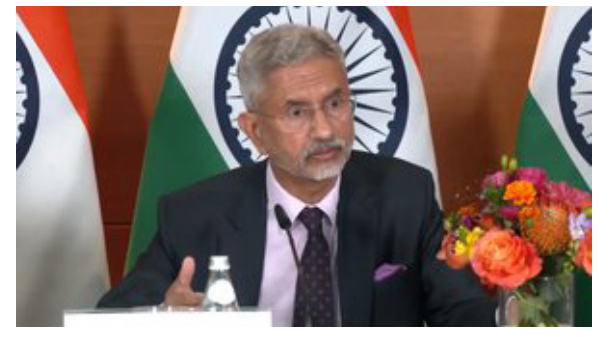
# EAM Jaishankar to visit Saudi Arabia, Germany and Switzerland

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar will be on a three-nation tour starting Sunday, visiting Saudi Arabia, Germany and Switzerland on an official visit between September 8 to 13.

The EAM will first visit Riyadh on Sunday to attend the First India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting. During the two-day visit, he is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers from GCC member countries.

"India and the GCC enjoy a deep and multifaceted relationship, in areas including political, trade & investment, energy cooperation, cultural and people-to-people ties. The GCC region has emerged as a major trading partner for India and is home to a large Indian expatriate community, numbering around 8.9 million. The Foreign Ministers meeting will be an opportunity to review and deepen



institutional cooperation between India and the GCC across various sectors," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

On the second leg of the visit, Jaishankar will travel to Berlin on a two-day visit starting September 10 which will be his third bilateral visit to Germany.

"Both India and Germany share a robust Strategic Partnership and Germany is one of India's prominent trading partners and among the largest Foreign Direct Investors. During the visit, EAM will meet German Federal Foreign Minister as well as the leadership and other Ministers from the German government with an objective to

review the entire gamut of bilateral relations between India and Germany," the MEA stated.

The External Affairs Minister will thereafter travel to Geneva, home to a large number of UN bodies and international organisations, on the last leg of his tour.

"During his Switzerland visit, Jaishankar will meet with heads and representatives of international organisations with whom India is actively engaged. The EAM will also meet Swiss Foreign Minister to review the close partnership between the two countries and explore avenues to enhance the bilateral relationship further," the MEA detailed.

# South Korea, US held simulation drills for nuclear deterrence in Washington

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, SEP 7

South Korea and the United States held simulation drills in Washington this week to enhance nuclear deterrence cooperation, as the allies are stepping up security coordination to counter evolving North Korean threats.

Seoul and Washington held the first table top simulation (TTS) of the Nuclear Consultative Group (NCG), the allies' key nuclear deterrence dialogue body, on Thursday and Friday, Seoul's defence ministry and the Pentagon said in a joint statement on Friday.

The TTS drills involved officials from the two countries' national security, military, diplomatic

and intelligence authorities, Yonhap news agency reported, quoting the statement.

"The simulation greatly contributes to the work of NCG, especially by strengthening the alliance's approach to cooperative decision-making about nuclear deterrence and planning for potential nuclear contingencies on the Korean Peninsula," they said in the release.

During the TTS program, the US reaffirmed America's "ironclad" extended deterrence commitment to South Korea, according to the release.

Extended deterrence refers to the US' pledge to use the full range of its military capabilities, including nuclear, to defend its ally.

# Need to invest in air pollution solutions for global prosperity: UN

AGENCIES  
NAIROBI, SEP 7

The world marked the fifth annual International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on Saturday, with calls for investment in clean air solutions as air pollution is increasingly causing public health, environmental, and economic problems.

More than 99 per cent of humanity is now breathing polluted air, leading to more than eight million annual deaths, including more than 700,000 children under five.

Dirty air disproportionately affects more vulnerable populations such as women, children and older people.

Air pollution has become the second leading risk factor for early death globally, overtaking tobacco for adults and second only to malnutrition for children

under five. Yet despite the already high and still rising economic, environmental and existential impact of air pollution, which each year costs the world \$8.1 trillion in health damages alone, less than one per cent of international development funding is dedicated to tackling it.

In addition to this silent killer's toll on human health, "pollution is also choking economies and heating up our planet, adding fuel to the fire of the climate crisis," UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in his message for the day, which the UN General Assembly designated as a day to champion clean air causes in 2019.

Led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), this year's theme focuses on amplifying global calls to invest in #CleanAirNow to ensure a healthier and more prosperous future for people and the planet.



"Investing in clean air requires actions by both government and businesses to phase out fossil fuels, strengthen air quality monitoring, enforce air quality standards, boost renewable energy, transition to clean cooking, build sustainable transport and sustainable waste management systems, clean up supply chains, and reduce harmful emissions, including methane," the UN Secretary-General said.

Ahead of Clean Air Day, the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coal-

ition (CCAC) launched

AQMx, a global air quality management platform, on September 5 in response to calls from countries for greater regional knowledge sharing and action on improving air quality that led to a resolution at this year's UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) talks.

UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen used her Clean Air Day message to call for greater investment in air pollution solutions in all societies, and an end to the violation of every human being's fundamental right to breathe

clean air.

"We are asking nations, regions and cities to establish robust air quality standards by backing renewable energy and sustainable transport, holding industry to account with strict emission standards, and integrating air quality into climate action," she said.

"We are asking for strong funding through redirecting fossil fuel subsidies, through grants or microloans for cleaner cooking technologies, and through serious private sector engagement and investment," she said.

"We are asking for collective action, from international development initiatives to individuals that can make small changes in their own lifestyles," she added.

Events across the world marked the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies: South Africa held a

two-day conference, and UNEP supported a webinar to highlight how African cities can avoid open burning of waste.

There were high-level discussions in Asia featuring youth voices from across the continent, and a celebration on the site of a former steel mill in Beijing that was transformed into an outdoor Olympic Games area to tackle air pollution.

The good news is that air pollution is preventable, and people around the world are stepping up to address the crisis.

Proving that change is possible, some cities have slashed air pollution levels, while countries have committed to reducing methane -- a potent air pollutant also driving global warming -- through the Global Methane Pledge and developed integrated plans to comprehensively tackle air pollution.

# India and UAE to deepen strategic partnership during Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's visit

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, will pay an official visit to India on September 9-10 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced Saturday.

This would be Zayed Al Nahyan's first visit to India as the Crown Prince

of Abu Dhabi and he will be accompanied by several Ministers from the UAE government and a business delegation.

According to the MEA, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi will meet Prime Minister Modi on September 9 and hold discussions on a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation.

He is also scheduled to call on President Droupadi Murmu and will also visit Rajghat to pay tribute to

Mahatma Gandhi.

On September 10, the visiting Crown Prince will visit Mumbai to participate in a business forum, in which business leaders from both countries will participate.

"India and UAE share historically close and friendly ties. In recent years, the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and UAE has deepened in a wide range of areas



including political, trade, investment, connectivity, energy, technology, education, and culture. The Crown Prince's visit will further reinforce strong India-UAE bilateral relations and open avenues for partnership in new and emerging areas," the MEA stated.

Earlier this year, UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited India and explored ways to further build upon

the strategic partnership between the two countries during his discussions with PM Modi. He also attended the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.

In July 2023, PM Modi visited the UAE - his fifth visit to the country since 2015 when he became the first Prime Minister of India to visit the UAE in 34 years.

The India-UAE relationship was formally elevated

to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the visit of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India in 2017.

According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), India-UAE trade rose to USD 85 billion in 2022, making the UAE India's third-largest trading partner for the year 2022-23 and India's second-largest export destination. India is the UAE's second largest trading partner.

# Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 40,939: Health authorities

AGENCIES  
GAZA, SEP 7

The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 40,939, Gaza-based health authorities said in a statement on Saturday.

During the past 48 hours, the Israeli military killed 61 people and wounded 162 others, bringing the total death toll to 40,939 and injuries to 94,616 since the Palestinian-Israeli conflict broke out last October, it added.



On Saturday, eight people were killed and 15 others injured in the Israeli targeting of the Halima al-Sa'diyya school in the Jabalia area of Gaza, Xinhua news agency

reported, citing the Palestinian official news agency Wafa.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement that it carried out a precise strike on militants

operating inside a Hamas command and control compound embedded in the Halima al-Sa'diyya school.

"The compound was used by Hamas terrorists to plan and carry out terrorist operations against IDF troops and the State of Israel," the statement added.

Israel has been waging a large-scale war on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, in response to a surprise military attack by Hamas on Israeli towns adjacent to the strip.

# Over 30,000 Afghan refugees return home in one week

AGENCIES  
KABUL, SEP 7

More than 30,000 Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland from Pakistan, Iran and Turkey over the past week, said an official from the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation.

"Among them, around 2,500 are from Pakistan, about 190 from Turkey, and the remaining from Iran," Abdul Mutalib Haqqani, spokesperson for the ministry, said on Friday.

According to the ministry, moreover, a total of 1.78 million Afghan refugees have returned from abroad over the past year,



reports Xinhua news agency, quoting local media outlet TOLONews.

The Afghan caretaker government has been repeatedly calling upon Afghan refugees to end living abroad as refugees and return home to contribute to the rebuilding of their war-torn homeland. Last month, the minis-

try announced that a total of 1,779,603 Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland from Pakistan, Iran, and other countries over the past 12 months.

"It is worth mentioning that currently, we have 7 million refugees in foreign countries and 3 million displacements inside Afghanistan," said the

Deputy of the ministry, Mawlawi Abdul Rahman Rashid, at a government programme.

According to Ahadi, to address the issues faced by Afghan migrants and returnees, the ministry has signed 93 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with its partner organisations, seven agencies, and 14 educational institutions during the period.

Over 7,88,000 Afghan internally displaced and returned families, with the collaboration of international aid organisations, have received financial, foodstuffs, and non-foodstuffs during the cited period, Ahadi asserted.



## Rs 80 lakh crore being earmarked for logistics sector's growth: Jayant Chaudhary

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

There is a huge scope of growth in logistics industry with over 300 initiatives and Rs 80 lakh crore being earmarked for the growth of this sector, Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, said on Saturday.

The minister said the government is also creating an enabling ecosystem for the growth in this sector where skilling and education work hand in hand.

Launching 'Swiggy Skills' initiative during an event in the national capital, Chaudhary said that public-private partnerships can accelerate and create new avenues for the workforce in the sector.

"There are huge opportunities in this space, and we wish to see more cor-



porates engaging with us," the minister added.

Online food delivery platform Swiggy and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) have collaborated to provide skilling and employment opportunities within its food deliv-

ery and quick commerce network.

According to Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the partnership will increase the economic contribution of the retail and supply chain logistics

sector while creating skilling, upskilling and reskilling opportunities for the workforce.

Rohit Kapoor, CEO of Swiggy Food Marketplace, said that India's food and beverages and retail sectors are expanding rapidly, contributing around 13 per

cent of the overall GDP and generating significant employment.

"As digitisation accelerates growth in these sectors, there is an urgent need for a skilled workforce across the entire value chain," he added.

'Swiggy Skills' plans to integrate with MSDE's Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) across partners' apps, enabling almost 2.4 lakh delivery partners and the staff of two lakh restaurant partners to easily access online skill development courses, offline certifications, and training modules.

"In Swiggy Instamart operations, we will be able to provide recruitment to 3,000 individuals across the country. We have also planned to provide training and internship to 200 people trained by MSDE, in our quick commerce operations at the senior level," Kapoor informed.

## India ACC battery manufacturing to woo \$9 bn investment in 5 years, create 50K jobs

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7



The advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery and associated components manufacturing sector in India is likely to attract a cumulative investment of \$9 billion (Rs 7.5 lakh crore) in next 5 years, according to latest industry data.

The ACC manufacturing industry has the potential to create 50,000 direct jobs during this period, according to the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA).

The IESA has been seeking parity of policy between ACC-PLI bid winners and non-PLI companies for issuing business visas to foreign experts for the installation and commissioning of ACC factories in India.

Considering IESA recommendations and industry voice, the government has announced multiple entry business visa (non-extendable) will be facili-

tated for a period of 6 months to foreign subject matter specialists/ engineers/technical people being engaged by Indian companies under PLI scheme or PLI-associated industries by the approval of respective line ministry.

This will be applicable to personnel required for installation and commissioning, quality check and essential maintenance, production, IT and DRP ramp-up, training, supply chain development for empanelling vendors, plant design and bring up and, senior management and executive.

Debi Prasad Dash, President, of India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA), welcomed the step, saying it will create an opportunity for additional 100+ GWh ACC battery and battery components factories in the next five years in India.

"Additionally, it will lead to savings of forex depletion on account of ACC imports and reduce India's reliance on China and other countries," he said. To become a global EV manufacturing hub, India must develop a comprehensive and indigenous value chain for EVs and their components.

## RBI penalises 3 housing finances firms for violating norms

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 6

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday imposed monetary penalties on Godrej Housing Finance Ltd, Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd, and Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd over non-compliance.

The central bank imposed a fine of Rs five lakh each on Godrej Housing Finance and Aadhar Housing Finance, and Rs 3.5 lakh on Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

The penalties have been imposed in the exercise of powers conferred on the RBI under the provisions of Section 52A of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

The statutory inspection of the Godrej Housing Finance was conducted by

the National Housing Bank with reference to its financial position as of March 31, 2022.

"Based on the supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the company advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said directions," said the RBI. After considering the company's reply to the notice, the apex bank found that the following charge against the company was sustained, warranting the imposition of a monetary penalty.

"The company failed to obtain two independent valuation reports before sanctioning certain loans of Rs 75 lakh and above," the

RBI said in its statement.

In the case of Aadhar Housing Finance, the RBI found that the company "charged interest on loans for a period prior to the date of actual disbursement of loan/issuance of a cheque to certain borrowers in contravention of RBI directions on 'Fair Practices Code'".

Housing and Urban Development Corporation "failed to undertake risk categorisation of its customers during the financial year 2021-22 and did not put in place a system for periodic review of risk categorisation of accounts".

It also did not "create floating charge on the assets invested by it in terms of Section 29B of NHB Act, in favour of its depositors and register the same with the Registrar of Companies", the RBI said.

## India's position set to rise in global supply chains with huge chip investments

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

As India marches towards becoming the global semiconductor hub, industry experts on Saturday said the country could receive a massive up to \$30 billion investment in the sector in the next three-five years which would further bolster its position in the supply chain worldwide.

On Thursday, the Maharashtra government approved four major projects totalling an investment of Rs 1.17 lakh crore, that includes a semiconductor manufacturing project to be jointly set up by Israel's Tower Semiconductor and the Adani Group.

The project will be set up in Panvel, Raigad district with a proposed



investment of Rs 58,763 crore in the first phase and another Rs 25,184 crore in the second phase, creating at least 15,000 jobs.

According to Prabhu Ram, VP-Industry Research Group, Cyber-Media Research (CMR), India's strategic investments in the semiconductor industry aim to bolster

its domestic manufacturing capabilities and elevate its position within global supply chains.

"By expanding production capacity, the country is poised to become a major player in the sector. National initiatives, such as the Semicon India Programme and the India Semiconductor Mission,

are focused on capturing a significant share of the global market, driving innovation, and stimulating economic growth through job creation and technological advancement," Ram told IANS.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent Singapore visit, both the countries announced a partnership to cooperate in the field of semiconductors.

Singapore and India will leverage complementary strengths in their semiconductor ecosystems and tap into opportunities to build resilience in their semiconductor supply chains. This will include government-led policy exchanges on ecosystem development, supply chain resilience, and workforce development.

PM Modi, accompanied by his counterpart Lawrence Wong, also visited AEM Holdings, a leading company in semiconductor and electronics sector, and discussed collaboration opportunities.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Modi, has also approved the proposal of Keynes Semicon Pvt Ltd to set up a semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat, with an investment of Rs 3,300 crore that will produce nearly 60 lakh chips per day.

In March, PM Modi laid the foundation stone of three semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore. As per reports, India's semiconductor-related market will reach \$64 billion in 2026, nearly triple the size in 2019.

## IIT Bombay secures record Rs 700 crore fund for research and development

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay secured a record Rs 700 crore as an annual grant for research and development in 2023-24.

This is the highest funds received in the last three years. In 2022-23, the institute received Rs 576 crore, and Rs 502 crore in 2021-22.

The R&D funds are

a combination of those received from government and non-government agencies. While funding from private agencies makes up 35 per cent of the grant, the rest is constituted by government agencies.

"IIT Bombay has made concerted efforts to align its R&D focus with the national goal of achieving technological self-reliance. The Institute has set up several large multidisciplinary research centres

to address complex problems in a holistic way involving researchers from different academic units," the Institute said, in a statement.

It noted that both students and faculty members conduct research projects in all areas of science, engineering, design, management, and humanities.

"New R&D projects, both short-term consulting and long-term spon-

sored research, are initiated every year in all the

areas of science, engineering, management, design,

and social sciences. Duration of the projects typically ranges from 2-5 years," the institute noted.

IITB will use the grant to undertake projects like the Maharashtra Drone Mission by the technical education department. In a bid to foster indigenous technology development and establish Maharashtra as a global leader in drone technology, the department funded a project with an outlay of Rs 151.8



crore. The institute will also work on a project for the Ministry of Textiles -- developing hydrogen pressure vessel manufacturing using textile-based composites.

IIT-Bombay has secured its name among world-class institutions. It was among the top 150 universities in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2025. IIT-Bombay also featured among the

top three in the recently released National Institutional Ranking Framework rankings.

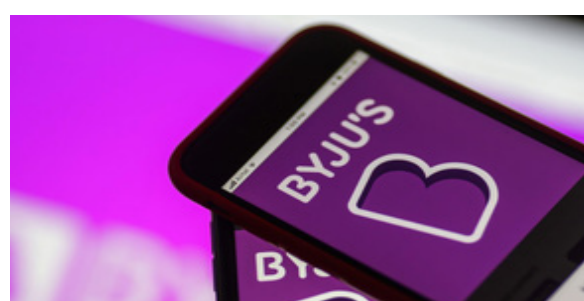
"Apart from offering viable solutions to various government sectors, industry and to society, IIT Bombay pursues basic research leading to knowledge generation that lays the foundation for empowering India as a nation to be technologically confident and self-reliant," the institute said.

## Second Byju's auditor exits in a year, embattled edtech firm responds

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

Grappling with several issues, Byju's has found itself in new controversy as its auditor BDO resigned with immediate effect, highlighting multiple issues with the embattled edtech firm, including significant delays in financial reporting and inadequate management support.

Last year, Byju's previous auditor Deloitte resigned, citing governance issues at the company. In the resignation letter, BDO subsidiary MSKA said that there has been "inadequate support from the management of the Company in providing us the books of account, information and explanations sought by us and sufficient appropriate audit



evidence to enable us to complete the audit for the Financial Year 2022-23."

In a statement, a Byju's spokesperson raised serious concerns about unethical requests made by the audit firm "and its failure to adhere to proper procedures".

"The real reason for BDO's resignation is Byju's firm refusal to backdate its reports, while BDO went to the extent of recommending a firm that could facili-

tate such an illegal activity. "Multiple call recordings exist, where BDO representatives explicitly suggest backdating these documents, which Byju's refused to do. Byju's strongly believes that this is the main reason for their resignation," said the edtech firm.

Byju's entered insolvency proceedings on July 16, 2024, due to a legal dispute with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

This triggered the appointment of an Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP), which resulted in the suspension of the company's Board.

According to the edtech firm, on July 17, BDO sent an email to the suspended board of Byju's seeking certain clarification regarding historical transactions that Byju's had undertaken with a partner based in the Middle-East.

Regarding the transactions with the Middle-East partner, "we wish to make it clear that the suspended Board and management of Byju's, had taken the proactive step of arranging a forensic audit, fully transparent and supervised by BDO, to ensure that there were no issues well before their email on July 17," said the edtech firm.

## Hackers behind Rs 2,000 crore WazirX theft begin laundering stolen assets

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

The hackers behind the Rs 2,000 crore (about \$234 million) WazirX theft have started withdrawing the stolen digital assets and have reportedly laundered more than \$12 million via Tornado Cash platform.

According to Blockchain security firm Cyvers, more than \$12 million in Ethereum (ETH) has been laundered through Tornado Cash, including deposits of about \$2 million in ETH.

"@WazirXIndia hacker just transferred 5,000 ETH worth \$12 million to a new address," Cyvers posted, adding that the hacker has started laundering stolen

funds via Tornado Cash.

Tornado Cash is an open source, non-custodial, fully decentralised cryptocurrency mixer platform that runs on Ethereum Virtual Machine-compatible networks.

According to industry analysts, the WazirX hacker's laundering tactics resembling those employed by the North Korea-backed Lazarus Group which is behind more than \$2 billion in crypto thefts worldwide. Lazarus Group often uses Tornado Cash to obscure its transactions as part of a sophisticated laundering process.

Meanwhile, WazirX has admitted that nearly 43

per cent of its users are likely to lose their money stolen in digital assets. WazirX has about 4.2 million users from India.

The platform said in a town-hall meeting earlier this week, attended by WazirX Co-founder Nischal Shetty, that customers will probably lose 43 per cent of the funds they had invested in the platform.

George Gwee, a director at restructuring firm Kroll working with WazirX, reportedly said that the best-case scenario is a return of "anywhere between 55 per cent and 57 per cent of the funds."

The Singapore High Court was set to hear

WazirX's request for six months' protection while it restructures its liabilities.

According to legal experts, a thorough investigation by state authorities is needed considering the magnitude of the cyber-crime. The whole episode reiterates the increasing need for effective regulation and rules for crypto-trading in India which can help safeguard investors and broader national interests, they added.

In the mean time, Indian cryptocurrency exchange CoinSwitch has sued WazirX to recover the funds stuck on Shetty-run platform.



# Inter-Department National Hockey: FCI, SSCB win; CISF, CAG play out draws

AGENCIES  
PUNE, SEP 7

Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) notch maiden wins in high-scoring encounters in Group C of the 4th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2024 at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, Nehrunagar-Pimpri, near here on Saturday.

In Pool D, which also began on Saturday, it was a day of drawn encounters as the Central Industrial Security Force and Comptroller & Auditor General Of India played out a 2-2 draw and later Punjab National Bank shared a 2-2 draw with Central Reserve Police Force.

The day belonged to FCI who registered a 10-0 victory over Tamil Nadu Police. The highlight of the win was two four-goal

including hat-trick efforts by Paramvir Singh who netted off penalty corners and a penalty stroke (4th - p.s; 21st - p.c, 35th - p.c and 40th - p.c) and Bobby Singh Dhama (13th, 57th, 57th, 52nd) all off field-goals. Kerobin Lakra (19th - p.c) and Ganendrajit Ningombam (60th) competed in the tally.

FCI thus recorded the biggest win of the day.

Earlier in another Pool C encounter, the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) logged an 8-0 win over Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). A brace each by Cyril Lugun (10th - p.c, 41st - p.c) and Jobanpreet Singh (29th, 30th) and a goal each by Harman Singh (2nd), Sushil Dhanwar (32 - p.s); Xaxa Sunil (25th) and Ajinkya Jadhav (60th) totalled the final scoreline.

In Pool A, Sports Authority Of India fended



off the resistance by Indo Tibetan Border Police (I.T.B.P) Central Hockey Team 7-4 for their first win in two matches and jumped into second position after losing earlier. Three goals each by Aditya Lalage (18th, 37th, 45th) and Neeraj (34th; Pankaj 39th - p.c, 43rd) and a lone strike by (Abdul Ahad 14th) did the job for SAI.

For I.T.B.P., a goal each in collective mode by Roshan (50th - p.c), Anil

(52nd - p.c), Dinachandra Moirangthem Singh (56th), Maibam Chingkeingamba Meetei (59th - p.s) proved to be a big fight-back in vain

In the last match of the day, the All-India Police Sports Control Board scored a 5-0 win over Canara Bank in Pool B and handed the bankmen their second successive loss. The police team logged their first win in two games so far. Akashdeep Singh

(25th), Gurvinder Singh (29th - p.c), Dilpreet Singh (33rd), Hatinder Singh Singh (37th) and Dharamvir Singh (48th) did the job for the police team.

RESULTS:

Pool C: Services Sports Control Board: 8 (Harman Singh 2nd; Sushil Dhanwar 32 - p.s; Cyril Lugun 10th - p.c, 41st - p.c; Xaxa Sunil 25th; Jobanpreet Singh 29th, 30th; Ajinkya Jadhav 60th) bt Sashastra Seema Bal: 0. HT: 5-0

Pool C: Food Corporation Of India: 10 (Paramvir Singh 4th - p.s; 35th - p.c, 35th - p.c, 21 - p.c; Bobby Singh Dhama 13th, 57th, 57th, 52nd; Kerobin Lakra 19 - p.c; Ganendrajit Ningombam 60th) bt Tamil Nadu Police: 0. HT: 4-0

Pool D: Central Industrial Security Force: 2 (Nithin 21st; Anjel Minz 58th) drew with Comptroller & Auditor General Of India: 2 (Jay

Prakash Patel 26th; Xess Nilam Sanjeep 49th - p.c). HT: 1-1

Pool D: Punjab National Bank: 2 (Gursimran Singh 15th - p.c; Satender Kumar 25th) drew with Central Reserve Police Force: 2 (Rahul Sharma 43rd; Lovepreet Jainth 52nd). HT: 2-0

Pool A: Sports Authority Of India: 7 (Abdul Ahad 14th; Aditya Lalage 18th, 37th, 45th; Neeraj 34th; Pankaj 39th - p.c, 43rd) bt V.I.T.B.P. Central Hockey Team: 4 (Roshan 50th - p.c; Anil 52nd - p.c; Dinachandra Moirangthem Singh 56th; Maibam Chingkeingamba Meetei 59th - p.s). HT: 2-0

Pool B: Canara Bank: 0 lost to All India Police Sports Control Board: 5 (Akashdeep Singh 25th; Gurvinder Singh 29th - p.c; Dilpreet Singh 33rd; Hatinder Singh 37th; Dharamvir Singh 48th). HT: 0-2

## Jr Men, Women Inter-Zone Hockey: SAI Shakti win men's, women's titles

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW/RANCHI, SEP 7

SAI Shakti secured a grand double by lifting the men's and women's trophies with fine wins in Ranchi and Lucknow respectively in the 1st Hockey India Junior Men & Women Inter-Zone Championships 2024.

In the women's section, SAI Shakti lifted the trophy by beating East Zone in Ranchi while its men's team defeated North Zone in the men's category, in Lucknow. Meanwhile, West Zone and SAI Bal finished third in the women's and men's categories respectively.

In the women's final played in Ranchi, SAI Shakti defeated East Zone 3-0. Kajal (7', 13') led the goal-scoring efforts for SAI Shakti with a brace. She was joined on the scoresheet by Latlanchungi (52') to seal their first-place finish.

West Zone defeated SAI Bal 3-1 in the Wom-

en's 3rd/4th Place match. West Zone built a solid lead after goals from Captain Gupta Palak (24'), Khushi (27'), and Parmar Ronak (36'). SAI Bal's Karuna Minz (38') scored a goal from the spot in the third quarter but failed to change the scoreline any further. In the men's final played in Lucknow, SAI Shakti beat North Zone 5-1. The goalscorers for SAI Shakti were Shivam Patel (10'), Sachin (20', 54'), and Ashu Maurya (37', 51') while the only goal for North Zone was scored by Ujjwal Pal (46').

SAI Bal defeated East Zone 6-4 in the Men's 3rd/4th Place match.

Ansh Kamboj (8'), Dhannush Shane D (11'), Kushal Bopaiah Cb (23'), Captain Rahul (43'), Suraj Kumar (51'), and Asim Ekka (55') got on the scoresheet for SAI Bal. Meanwhile, Ricky Tonjam (4', 39'), Bijay Shaw (22'), and Amit Turkey (59') found the back of the net for East Zone.

## Sports Minister facilitates Paralympics medallists, says contingent is 'bringing pride' to India

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

In a ceremony at the Sports Authority of India's headquarters, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated some of the para-athletes who have brought pride to our country.

"Our Paralympic athletes are bringing pride to the nation in Paris. I am pleased to announce that we have won a total of six gold, nine silver, and twelve bronze medals, bringing our total to 27 so far. With more events still to be held today, there is a possibility of winning additional medals. At the Tokyo Paralympics, we won 19 medals. Now, we have reached 27," said Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya to IANS.

India currently is in 18th position in the medal tally



with six gold, nine silver and 12 bronze medals to their name. The contingent has shattered the record for India's best-ever medal haul that was set at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.

Avani Lekhara bagged a second consecutive gold medal at the Paralympics in the Women's 10m Air Rifle standing SH1. In the final, Avani bettered her previous record set in the Tokyo Games to finish at

the top in the eight-player competition.

Avani finished with a total of 249.7 to achieve the new Paralympic Games record in the category. Her previous best was 249.6 in the Tokyo Paralympics.

"I am very happy and feeling great. I have brought another medal for India. It was a proud moment for my family. I started shooting in 2015, and it has been 9 years of hard work. There has

been significant support from the team, the coach, and my family, which has played a crucial role," Avani told IANS.

Rubina Francis secured a bronze medal in the Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final after finishing third with a score of 211.1. She finished behind Iran's Sareh Javanmardi and Turkey's Aysel Ozgan who collected gold and silver medals respectively.

"I am very happy to have won a bronze medal for my country. Today, the central minister honoured us, which felt great. We worked hard consistently; I have been shooting for 10 years, and this is my first bronze medal in the Paralympics. I am very pleased. There were many challenges and difficulties, but with the support of my coach, we worked day and night," Rubina told IANS. World ranked No.1

Rakesh Kumar alongside Sheetal Devi secured India a medal in Paralympic Games archery competitions by defeating Italy 156-155 in the Mixed Team Compound Open bronze medal match

After both archers missed out on individual medals for the country, the veteran-youngster duo combined to win India's second-ever medal in archery at the Paralympics.

"I am very happy, having the medal around your neck and with the tri-colour flying high it makes me very happy. I have been an archer for seven years.

This was my second Paralympics and I have to do even better. You can watch motivating videos all day but true motivation comes from inside," para-archer Rakesh Kumar told IANS.

## Subroto Cup Jr Boys: Govt. Secondary School, Monigong reaches semis

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

After an intense quarter-final stage, the business end of the 63rd Subroto Cup Juniors is in action as only four teams remain in the tournament. Govt. Secondary School, Monigong, Arunachal Pradesh overcame Lord Krishna SSS, Haryana 4-3 after being 3-1 down in the quarter-final of the 63rd Subroto Cup Junior Boys International Football Tournament which was played here at the Tejas Football Ground.

Byabang scored a hat-trick while Tage scored the winning goal for his side. Yaman, Sonu and Sameer scored for Haryana SSS.

They will now face Myngken Christian Higher Secondary School, Meghalaya in the semifinals on Monday in the first

semifinal while Sri Lanka Schools Football Association will lock horns with T.G English School, Bishnupur, Manipur in the second semis.

Lord Krishna SSS had a two-goal advantage by the 15th minute through strikes from Yaman and Sonu. Byabang halved the deficit in the 24th minute but Sameer's strike in the 37th minute gave back the two-goal advantage for the Haryana side.

The school from Arunachal then scored thrice in eight minutes to stun their opponents. Byabang levelled the scores after scoring twice in the 53rd and 60th minutes.

Tage then scored the winner in the 61st minute to book their spot in the semifinals.

Banganson scored an impressive hat-trick as Myngken Christian Higher Secondary School

comfortably beat Minerva Public School, Mohali 3-1 in the quarterfinal at Tejas Football Ground for a place in the final four. Hemneichung scored the goal for Minerva Public School

In the third quarterfinal at KIIT Global School, Gurugram, Sri Lanka Schools Football Association beat RMSA High School, Mizoram 2-1 for a place in the semifinals. Second-half strikes from Aman and Humaid scored the winning goals for the Sri Lankan side. Isak scored for the Mizoram side in injury time of the second half but it was not enough to extend the game into penalties.

On the same ground, Mianithoba's 62nd-minute strike against Amnity Public School, Uttarakhand was enough for T.G English School, Bishnupur, Manipur to book their spot in the semis.

## Adani Women's DPL T20: North Delhi Strikers Women qualify for final with seven-wicket win

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

North Delhi Strikers Women have qualified for the final of the Adani Women's Delhi Premier League T20 after a seven-wicket DLS method victory against East Delhi Riders Women in the last league stage match held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Saturday.

North Delhi Strikers Women will now take on South Delhi Superstarz

Women in the summit clash on Sunday.

After electing to bat first, East Delhi Riders Women posted a total of 150/2 in their 20 overs. In reply, North Delhi Strikers Women chased down the DLS-adjusted target with ease through Upasana Yadav's 65 off 44 balls.

Upasana Yadav and Mansi Sharma got the run chase off to a quick start. They were 26/0 in the fourth over. However, Sharma (10 off 10)



was dismissed on the fifth ball of the same over, just before rain briefly halted play. The target was then revised to 113 in 14 overs via the DLS method.

North Delhi Strikers returned after the break looking more assured as they crossed the 50-run mark in the sixth over. Nazma Sultana fell for 6 off 10, while Yadav completed her fifty in 33 balls in the ninth over, with 38 runs required off 30 balls.

Yadav combined with

Ayushi Soni to reduce the equation to 10 needed off the last two overs. However, Yadav's remarkable innings of 65 off 44 balls came to an end as she was dismissed by Priya Mishra in the 13th over.

Soni and Monika then ensured they chased down the target with two balls to spare, helping their team qualify for the Final of the inaugural edition of the Adani Women's Delhi Premier League T20.

Earlier in the day, Priya

Punia and Pratika Rawal provided East Delhi Riders Women with a steady start. They put 45 runs on the board by the end of the Powerplay.

Rawal brought up her half-century in 33 balls but was dismissed in the 12th over.

Her partner, Punia, combined with Pragya Rawat and kept the scoreboard ticking. Punia reached her fifty in the 17th over, while Rawat fell in the following over after

contributing 21 off 20 balls. Punia's unbeaten 63 off 59 deliveries helped East Delhi Riders Women post 150/2 in their allotted 20 overs.

Brief scores: East Delhi Riders Women 150/2 in 20 overs (Priya Punia 63\*, Pratika Rawal 52; Bharti Rawal 1-16) lost to North Delhi Strikers Women 113/3 in 13.3 overs (Upasana Yadav 65, Ayushi Soni 17\*; Priya Mishra 1-16) by seven wickets (DLS Method).

## Adani DPL T20: Rishabh Pant vows long-term association to Purani Dilli 6 ahead of semifinal

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 7

India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant is proud to see the redemption of Purani Dilli 6 in the ongoing Adani Delhi Premier League (DPL) T20 being played here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Pant is presently playing in the Duleep Trophy and is confident that Purani Dilli 6 will do wonders in the semifinals.

"I wish I could be there for the semifinals, but my commitments with the Duleep Trophy have kept me away. Still, I have full



faith in you all and I'm confident that you'll continue to give your best out there," said Pant in a message to the Purani Dilli 6 team.

"Play with heart, trust

yourself, and stick together like the family we are and will be in the long run. Let's make it count. I'll be cheering for you every step of the way. Let's do this Purani Delhi,"

he added. Purani Dilli 6 on Saturday will lock horns with South Delhi Superstarz in the second semifinals of DPL. It has been a remarkable journey for Purani Dilli 6 in the DPL. From tough losses in close encounters to back-to-back wins leading them to the semifinals, the team has shown resilience and determination. Pant, who captained Purani Dilli 6 in the opening match, is excited to see the team reach the semifinals. Pant lavished praise on the players in the Purani Dilli 6 team. "First of all, I just

want to say how proud I am of each and every one of you for the way Purani Dilli 6 played throughout this tournament. It's been incredible to follow the journey from here, and I've been actively following. You've shown great spirit, determination, and teamwork," said Pant.

Purani Dilli 6 owner Aakash Nangia said, "If DDCA permits in the future to retain marquee players. We would like to have Rishabh with us for the long run because under his guidance team has been nurturing and doing well."

## Hockey: Olympic bronze medallist India all-set to defend title at Asian Champions Trophy

AGENCIES  
MOQI (CHINA), SEP 7

The stage is set for the prestigious Men's Asian Champions Trophy which will begin on Sunday here at the picturesque Moqi Hockey Training Base which overlooks the Nerji Dam in Hulunbuir, Inner Mongolia in China. Reigning Olympic bronze medallist India start as favourites to defend the title while hosts China, Japan, Pakistan, Korea and Malaysia have arrived with hopes of a grand outing in the marquee tournament.

Last year, India won the title at home, making them the only team to bag four titles in the history of the

tournament. The team's skipper Harmanpreet Singh is keen on continuing India's dominance in the continental championships this year too. He said, "The Asian Champions Trophy last year gave us the right momentum going into the Asian Games and followed it up with the Olympic Games triumph of standing on the podium yet again. This time too, we want to begin the fresh Olympic cycle by winning this tournament."

"While we have ten members from the Olympic side playing in this tournament, we have a few youngsters trying to make their impact in the team. In terms of

game point-of-view, our attacking and penalty corners are our forte but we will be looking to play a structured defence, particularly against teams like Japan, Malaysia and Pakistan. This is an important tournament for us in terms of world ranking points and we are ready for the challenge," he added.

India will begin their campaign with the opening match against hosts China followed by their second match against Japan on September 9.

Following a day's rest, India will take on last year's runners-up Malaysia on September 11 and play Korea on September 12.



## Resident Commission organises interaction of Bharat Darshan student group under Hello JK campaign

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 07

On the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) has organised a Bharat Darshan tour for students from various districts of the Kashmir division.

As part of this tour, the students shall visit historic sites in Delhi and have the opportunity to engage with notable dignitaries.

In support of this initiative, the Resident Commissioner's Office provided a platform for interaction under hello JK.

Since its inception, Hello JK has consistently conducted both online and offline sessions, focusing on meaningful and impactful themes. To date, eight programs have been successfully completed under this campaign, and the current event is another initiative within the same framework.

As scheduled, students from Class 5th to 12th, representing various schools and including those from the families of martyrs, visited the RC office on 7th September 2024.



These students began their Bharat Darshan tour on 3rd September 2024, travelling from Srinagar to Mumbai and visiting numerous historic landmarks along the way.

The event opened with

Principal Resident Commissioner, Dr. Rashmi Singh warmly welcoming the students virtually.

Additional Resident Commissioner, Anil Sharma also engaged with the students, addressing their queries and sensitizing them about role of youth in countering negative narratives and building a good image of

the region, while emphasizing the importance of self-awareness and trust in the process. The officers of RC Office also gave the students an overview of the functioning of the office vis-i-vis roles and responsibilities. The students also shared their experiences of the tour with Resident Commission officers and officials.

## CEO exhorts upon officers to launch Plantation Drive under Green Election initiative in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 7

With an aim to ensure the Environment-Friendly Plantation Drive and to promote the Green Election initiative of the Election Commission of India (ECI) during the forthcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Pandurang K Pole on Saturday chaired a crucial meeting at Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu.

The CEO led the deliberations over the massive plantation drive that is going to take place across the UT during the Assembly Elections to foster environmental stewardship among the electorate, beside to compensate the impact on the environment due to waste generated during the election process.

Rahul Sharma, Additional CEO; Nirupa Rai, Special Secretary; Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal officer of SVEEP; Sapna Kotwal, Nodal Officer for Media; Namisha Abrol, IT Expert and others were present in the meeting.

Those who attended the meeting through video conferencing included, Director Forest Protection Force, Jammu, Chief Conservator of Forest, Jammu/Kashmir, District Election Officers, Conservators of Forest, Director Horticulture, Jammu/Kashmir, Divisional Forest Officers,



Deputy District Election Officers, All District Nodal Officers (SVEEP) and District Nodal Officers (AMF).

Leading the deliberations, the CEO instructed all the stakeholders that plantation drives shall be organised at all polling stations across the UT on scheduled dates, expressing the significance of environmental responsibility. The CEO exhorted upon the DEOs to set a target of planting more than 100 plants in the premises of Polling Station identified as Green Polling Station in each Assembly Constituency, whereas rest of the Polling Stations must plant 10-15 plants each in its premises across J&K UT.

The directions were also issued to ROs to identify alternate Polling Stations if sufficient plantation drive cannot be taken in the existing site and report to the concerned DEO by 15 September, 2024.

It was directed in the meeting that the J&K Forest Department will provide the plants free of

cost and it will also supervise the overall plantation drive across all the 90 ACs in J&K UT. Moreover, the BAG (Booth-level Awareness Group) and other staff members can be involved to launch the plantation drive across the UT and the shortfall of plants will be managed by the concerned Chief Horticulture Officer. Addressing the officers in the meeting, the CEO said that the aim of the meeting is to ensure 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 enhancing the SVEEP activities to educate and engage voters effectively and urged all stakeholders to maximize voter turnout through door-to-door campaigns by roping in the BAGs, BLOs, AWWs, Teachers, Youths and Students of Colleges and Schools under SVEEP initiative.

The CEO instructed for widespread publicity of all SVEEP programs and

prepare engaging social media contents by Youth Icons and other media influencers of society to ensure maximum voter awareness.

The CEO also directed the officers to ensure the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) across all the Polling Stations. He also directed the officers to send an Action Taken Report to the Office of CEO by 15 September, 2024.

The CEO also emphasized on transparency measures for home voting for the elderly and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

He also passed strict directions to the DEOs and Nodal officers to follow and implement the Model Code of Conduct and keep vigil on violations, if any, in the ACs.

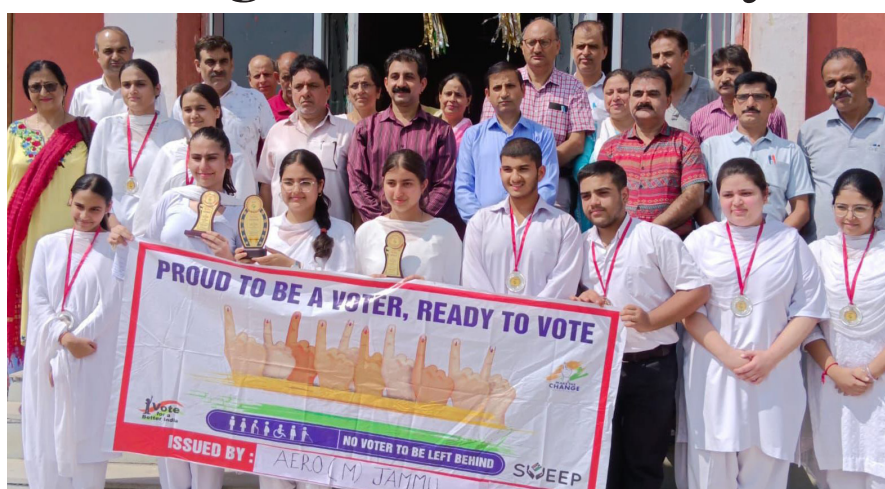
The directions were also given to the Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporation authorities to activate sounding of jingles on their vehicles which are involved in the door to door collection of waste material across the Capital cities for the awareness of voters.

## Dr Karwani appeals migrant voters to cast vote to strengthen democracy

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

Relief Organization, J&K as a part of a series of SVEEP activities, being organized under the guidance of Dr Arvind Karwani, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K and other officers of the Relief Organization associated with the Assembly Elections-2024, organized Nukad Nataks during the week at various Migrant Camps here. The Migrant camps where Nukad Nataks were organized on the topic "Elections - the pivot of democracy" include Jagti, Nagrota, Purkhoo and Muthi.

The camp inmates participated in large number with great enthusiasm. Senior citizens present there highlighted the importance of voting and appealed to all especially the first time young voters



to cast their vote in the interest of vibrant democracy.

It was emphasized that casting vote is not just a fundamental right but also a duty towards building a stronger democracy.

It was propagated that every one participate in the festival of democracy by casting his/her vote to elect right representatives

of choice, who can plead their cause in the Assembly.

The Relief Organization as part of SVEEP activities is organizing symposiums and poster competitions in migrant schools in the camp areas, besides rallies, tree plantation drive and nukkad nataks etc to promote voter awareness and literacy.

Various doubts and queries of the voters are addressed on spot by the election team. Pertinent to mention that as per the notified scheme for migrants every migrant has option to caste vote in person at the special polling stations as "specified voter" or to cast vote through postal ballot as "notified voter".

## Atal Dulloo takes stock of the readiness of Jammu Legislative Assembly Complex

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 07

Ahead of the scheduled Assembly polls in the UT, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited the Legislative Assembly Complex Jammu to review the progress of upgradation and renovation works.

During the visit, Secretary R&B; Secretary Legislative Assembly; Director Estates Jammu; Chief Engineer, Jammu along with engineering staff remained present on the

occasion. During his visit to the Complex, Director Estates briefed the Chief Secretary about the progress of various components and the timeline for its completion.

While reviewing the progress, Atal Dulloo impressed upon the officers that work must progress in full swing without any delays to complete it on time. Dulloo visited different sections of this complex to take first hand appraisal of the progress made in renovating differ-

ent sections including the Chamber of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, library and other areas. He urged upon the Estates department to complete the upgradation works in all respects.

He also emphasised upon ensuring the operational readiness of sound systems, internet connectivity, furnishings and overall facade improvement of the complex.

He also took this occasion to visit the nearby MLA hostel to take stock of the improvements

made there. He called for provisioning of requisite facilities in the hostel complex. He took the round of the complex and urged the executing agencies to create all amenities for safe stay of the legislators there.

Director Estates, Jammu, Tariq Ahmad Ganai apprised the Chief Secretary that the upgradation works on both the Complexes is in full swing. He said that these works are being monitored regularly and will be completed very soon.

## Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner reviews preparations for Assembly Elections-2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani, today chaired a meeting to take stock of the arrangements being put in place for migrant voters.

The meeting was attended by Deepak Kumar, Assistant Returning Officer(M) Jammu, Booth Level Officers and the election teams.

Dr Karwani emphasized on ensuring all requisite Assured Minimum Facilities(AMF) at all designated Special Polling Stations at Jammu viz. permanent ramps, drinking water, toilet facilities as per norms of Election Commission of India.

Booth Level Officers were asked to reach out to the migrant voters and ensure all necessary facilitation, particularly keeping in view the scattered population of the migrants in the non-camp areas of Jammu.



Pertinent to mention that the Election Commission of India has notified the scheme for Kashmiri Migrants to Vote in person at notified Special Polling Stations and voting by means of postal ballots pertaining to the General Election to Assembly Constituencies falling in Kashmir Province of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. As per the notified scheme 19 Special Polling Stations in Jammu and 01 in Udhampur have been mapped to the Camps/Zones individually, ensuring that every Zone has at least one special polling station.

The intra-zonal jurisdiction for each such polling station has been earmarked keeping in mind the distance/ease of approach for each set of electors. It was emphasized upon the Booth Level Officers to ensure to reach out to voters indicated in their respective electoral roll extract. It was further impressed that Zonal Officers (Nodal Officers) and Booth Level Officers (BLO's) shall remain available in their respective areas to promote SVEEP activities and also address the queries of migrant voters on spot.

### \*Defeat Dengue\*

"Each one can do one action for everyone"

Everyone besides personal protection can do a little action to protect Community

#### Examples

- filling a pit, which could stagnate water and breed mosquitoes,
- Emptying a pit with water logging,
- Spread awareness by word of mouth,
- Give a lecture in a School/Anganwadi Center/Urban slums regarding dengue awareness,
- Report a drinking water pipe leak stagnating water, to PHE by sharing it's Geo - tagged video,
- Report a Drain block, stagnating water to Municipal Corporation by sharing it's Geo - tagged video,
- Use of Social Medias i.e X (Formely Twitter), Instagram, Facebook & Whatsapp etc for Awareness of fellow community members & for **Flagging** the issues that need to be addressed.
- In the fridges with drip pan/defrost trays, dry and wipe these once in 7 days.
- Turn upside down any thrown away disposable glasses/bottles stagnating water during your morning/evening walks.

+Add your innovation+



You can add your innovation by communicating it on e-mail id: [smlogist.jk1@gmail.com](mailto:smlogist.jk1@gmail.com), We will acknowledge it.

"Kindly do one action and add one innovation"

"Together we can do it"

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY:

STATE MALARIOLOGIST / SPO NVBDCP, J&K  
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU



DIP/J-4921/24  
Date: 7-9-24