





## Swachhta Pakhwada Celebrated with Enthusiasm at Central University of Jammu Girls' Hostels

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

In alignment with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Girls' Hostels of Central University of Jammu commemorated the Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th September, 2024, with great zeal and commitment. The initiative, led by the residents of Gayatri Bhawan, Gauri Bhawan, Durga Bhawan, and Saraswati Bhawan, was a continuation of the efforts initiated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, who emphasized the importance of spreading awareness and instilling a sense of responsibility among students towards their nation.

The hostel residents, along with staff, actively



participated in a variety of cleanliness and awareness programs, embodying the values of the Swachh Bharat Mission. These activities were aimed at maintaining hygiene in and around the hostels, as well as raising awareness about the significance of individual contributions to cleanliness.

During the commemoration, Dr. Shaveta Kohli, Hostel Warden, emphasized the relevance of the

Swachh Bharat Mission and encouraged the residents to understand the importance of their personal role in maintaining cleanliness. Residents also took a solemn pledge to uphold cleanliness in their surroundings, committing themselves to inspire others in their communities to do the same.

A highlight of the event was the Nukkad Natak, performed by students Ms. Aastha Gupta, Ms.

Debopriya, Ms. Roshni, and Snigdha, which sensitized the audience on the importance of cleanliness. The play, delivered with creativity and passion, left the residents motivated and engaged.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Central University of Jammu, lauded the efforts of the hostel residents and administration for the successful execution of the awareness program and cleanliness

drive. He emphasized that these initiatives are vital in nurturing a sense of social responsibility among students.

Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean of Students' Welfare, also commended the collaborative efforts of the hostel residents and administration. She appreciated their active participation in carrying forward the legacy of the Swachh Bharat Mission, ensuring that the message of cleanliness reaches every corner of society.

The Swachhta Pakhwada commemoration not only motivated the residents but also contributed significantly in promoting a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment on campus, embodying the essence of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

## SMVDU Scholar won Best Paper Award

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

SMVD University scholar, Ms. Surbhi Badyal from the School of Languages and Literature, won the Best Paper Award in the 4th International Conference on Contemporary Perspectives in English Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies (ICCPPE-2024) organized by the Department of English, University Institute of Liberal Arts & Humanities, Chandigarh University. She is pursuing her research under the supervision of Dr. Anurag Kumar, Assistant Professor, School of Languages and Literature. She presented the paper titled "Dalit Feminist Ecriture and the Politics of Difference: A Reappropriation



of Dalit Writings through Select Dalit Life Narratives". The session was chaired by Dr. Javid Iqbal Bhat, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Kashmir, South Campus and the session was coordinated by Dr. Irshad Ahmad Itoo, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Chandigarh University.

## BJP's Proxy Govt neglected remote areas of Udhampur: Rattan Lal Gupta

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
MAJALTA (UDHAMPUR)

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), launched a scathing attack on the incumbent government, accusing it of completely neglecting the rural areas of district Udhampur particularly Majalta Block, depriving the people of even basic amenities.

He expressed these views while addressing a series of meetings in support of NC Congress Alliance Candidate for Udhampur East Assembly Constituency Sunil Verma.

The senior NC leader said that it is deeply ironic that the BJP's Double Engine government continues to make tall claims of equitable development across the nation, while the reality on the ground tells a different story. "The truth is, during the present regime, rural areas have remained largely ignored, with no visible progress. The appalling conditions in rural Udhampur stand as a testament to the government's failure to bring development to these neglected areas," he remarked.

Highlighting the dire state of public infrastructure, Rattan Lal Gupta criticized the administration for failing to initiate even the most basic development projects. He pointed out the absence of essential facilities such as a Trauma Center between Udhampur and Dhar, leaving the people vulnerable in medical emergencies. He further said, "People have been left to fend for themselves, with a severe lack of healthcare and medical facilities."

"People are subjected to face Severe Power shortages under the present dispensation while the youth are grappling with unemployment, leading to widespread frustration and chaotic conditions," he added.

## BJP set for landslide victory in J&K: Vikram Randhawa

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Vikram Randhawa, MLA candidate for Bahu Constituency, expressed unwavering confidence in the BJP's prospects for the upcoming assembly elections in J&K. He stated that the party is receiving overwhelming support from every section of society across the region. During the door to door campaign, Vikram Randhawa along with Ex Councillor Jasmeet Kour Pandey and Mandal President Bharat Bhushan interacted with the voter at ward no 3, Govindpura cantonment board of Bahu Constituency. The BJP's popularity is evident, with people from all walks of life backing our vision for J&K's development, Randhawa



said. "We are poised to form the next government with a full majority, ushering in a new era of progress and prosperity." Randhawa attributed the BJP's widespread support to the party's commitment to transparency and accountability. He added that PM Modi's visionary leadership and initiatives has transformed J&K.

Addresses the gathering, Randhawa noted that since independence, the Congress and NC has

worked to divide society. It has created four sores of corruption, casteism, nepotism, and terrorism, whereas PM Modi has freed the country from all these. He highlighted the consecration at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the abrogation of Article 370, Kartarpur corridor, and the law on triple talaq as achievements of the Modi government. While addressing the voters, BJP popular leader Vikram Randhawa furthermore

added that today, the standard of living of poor people in the country has improved; we do not say this, the IMF report says. The opposition alliance in the country has no vision for the future, whereas Modi has a track record of 10 years and a vision of 50 years," he said.

"The lotus will bloom in J&K, symbolizing the BJP's victory and the dawn of a new era," Randhawa said, referencing the party's electoral symbol. Randhawa expressed gratitude to the public for their trust in the BJP, assuring them of the party's unwavering commitment to J&K's welfare. The people of Bahu Constituency have placed their faith in us, and we will not let them down," Randhawa said. "We will work tirelessly to ensure J&K becomes a model state."

## NC, Cong, BJP be-fooled J&K people by showing green pastures

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

Taking a dig at National Conference (NC), Congress, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) for befooling the innocent people of Jammu and Kashmir by showing them green pastures, senior Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leader and former JMC Councillor, Sobat Ali Chowdhary has said that the people of J&K will teach these opportunist parties a lesson in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Sobat Ali, who is also DPAP candidate from Bahu-Gandhi Nagar Assembly Constituency, while addressing public meetings at Bhatindi, Chowadi, Narwal, Sunjwan, Bahu Fort and other areas has said that voting DPAP to power will usher all the welfare measures and progress in J&K again as was witnessed earlier when Ghulam Nabi Azad was Chief Minister of J&K.

He said that DPAP has



resolved to establish peaceful atmosphere and all the welfare measures for the people of J&K under the leadership of its chief Ghulam Nabi Azad.

"If you vote me to power I will leave no stone unturned to get you the required solution for the miseries you are facing due to the mis-governance by the old political parties," he said while addressing the people of Bahu Constituency at a public meeting in Chowadi. After this Sobat Ali visited door-to-door in Bahu area of the Constituency and noted the problems which the people there were facing and he assured them that soon after being elected

he will get those problems resolved on priority.

Most people in Chowadi, Sunjwan and adjoining areas raised the issue of poor water supply, hefty power bills, narcotic addiction among the youth, problems in getting old age and widow pensions.

Ali also assured the people of Bahu Constituency that on winning the Assembly election he will ensure better healthcare and education facilities in the Constituency.

On this occasion many people joined DPAP and were welcomed by Sobat Ali into the Party and they assured Ali to vote in his favour along with their supporters and relatives.

## Tribal Upliftment Sabotaged: Khatana Exposes Long-Running NC-Congress Conspiracy

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KITHER, INDERWAL, SEPT 15

In a blistering address, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana launched a scathing critique of the National Conference (NC) and Congress, accusing both political parties of systematically depriving Jammu and Kashmir's tribal communities of their constitutional rights and fundamental amenities.

Speaking at the Kither panchayat in the Inderwal constituency, Khatana, while campaigning for BJP candidate Haji Tariq Hussain Keen, condemned the NC-Congress alliance for their deliberate neglect of the tribal population.

"These parties have actively conspired to deny basic amenities such as education, healthcare, electricity, drinking water, and roads to tribal communities for decades," Khatana declared, adding that despite constitutional safeguards, these fundamental rights were consistently withheld from some of the most vulnerable sections of the population.

The BJP MP alleged that the NC-Congress regimes were responsible for not only ignoring the Tribal communities but also creating obstacles to their progress. "Instead of uplifting the Tribals, NC and Congress intentionally sidelined them. Developmental schemes aimed at improving their lives were either stunted or outright blocked under their leadership,"



he stated, shedding light on the long-standing conspiracy to keep the tribal population in the shadows of backwardness.

Contrasting the dismal past with the efforts of the current BJP government, Khatana praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their initiatives targeting marginalized groups. "The BJP government has broken the shackles that bound the tribal communities for decades. Under Modi ji's leadership, welfare schemes have been implemented on the ground, finally reaching the people who were denied these benefits for so long," Khatana said.

The BJP's inclusive policies, he argued, are the real game-changers for the tribal communities. Welfare measures such as the provision of basic amenities, education, health, electricity, road, drinking water and other basic facilities, once denied to them, are now accessible. Khatana's remarks resonated with the local audience, many of whom expressed agreement with the BJP MP's assessment

of the prolonged neglect under NC and Congress rule.

Under the Modi government's initiatives, Khatana emphasized, the living standards of tribal communities have visibly improved. "The development they never saw in decades of Congress-NC rule is now at their doorsteps. This is why the tribal communities are now embracing Modi ji's vision for a progressive India," he asserted.

As the campaign for the BJP's candidate, Haji Tariq Hussain Keen, gains momentum, Khatana's sharp attack on the NC-Congress alliance has brought the plight of tribal communities back into the political spotlight, raising questions about the true motives behind the policies of past regimes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Haran Banoo, ex Sarpanch, Kither, Noor Mohd Gors, Farooq Ahmed Kashmiri, Qasam Din, Mohd Ibrahim Choudhary, Mohd Ibrahim Kashmiri, Shams Din, Mohd Ismael, Aftad, Sher Din and other BJP leaders and workers were present during, MP's meeting at Kither.

## Priya Sethi slams Congress for misleading statement on unemployment

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

National Executive Member BJP and former minister, Priya Sethi today strongly countered the misleading statement made by Congress regarding unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a baseless political tactic to mislead the public.

She asserted that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has launched several transformative initiatives to create job opportunities and empower the youth across the country, including Jammu and Kashmir.

While during Door to Door campaigning for BJP Candidate in Jammu the former minister strongly reacted to the Congress leader's false claims,

She further added that Congress couldn't even release its manifesto till date so what J & K people can expect from a grand old party of India is a big question.

Priya Sethi emphasized that the Modi government has taken unprecedented steps to ensure employment generation and skill development, giving young people more opportunities than ever before.

## Current importance and the projected worsening of heart failure-Need to revisit Primary Prevention: Dr Sushil

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

In view of the ever increasing incidence of cardiac ailments and lifestyle diseases Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health Check up camp at Shri Ram Mandir modern Village Allah, area of Arnia Jammu for educating masses regarding the importance of primary prevention in decreasing mortality and morbidity associated with cardiovascular diseases and particularly heart failure.

While interacting with the People Dr Sushil stated that Heart Failure (HF) is a multi-faceted and life-threatening syndrome characterized by significant morbidity and mortality, poor functional capacity and quality of life, and high costs. HF affects more than 64 million people worldwide. Therefore, attempts to decrease its social and economic burden have become a major global public health priority. While the incidence of HF has stabilized and seems to be declining in industrialized countries, the prevalence is increasing due to



the ageing of the population, improved treatment of and survival with ischemic heart disease, and the availability of effective evidence-based therapies prolonging life in patients with HF. There are geographical variations in HF epidemiology. Heart failure prevalence is rising and this trend will worsen. This is attributed to the increasing elderly population and the increasing prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors like diabetes and obesity. He elaborated heart failure risk increases with age and male gender is associated with a higher risk. Lower physical activity, coffee consumption, increased salt intake, and lower socioeconomic status have been associated with increased risk of heart failure. Healthy weight, avoiding smoking, engaging in exercise, and a healthy diet have been shown to reduce heart

failure risk factors including coronary disease, diabetes mellitus. Healthy lifestyle habits, that is, normal body weight, not smoking, regular exercise, moderate alcohol intake, consumption of breakfast cereals, and consumption of fruits and vegetables are associated with a lower risk of heart failure, with the highest risk of 21.3% in men adhering to none of these habits and the lowest risk of 10.1% in men adhering to 4 or more of them. Using a step-wise approach, once a patient is identified at increased risk, clinicians may consider a biomarker assessment (i.e., natriuretic peptide) or cardiac testing (i.e., echocardiogram). Furthermore, data suggests a natriuretic peptide biomarker-based screening coupled with optimization of guideline-directed medical therapy can help prevent new-onset HF.

He added that in the future, more widespread utilization of genetic testing may be incorporated for a more precision medicine-focused approach to HF risk assessment. Advances in knowledge about the genetic impact on

HF risk are growing rapidly. Increased accessibility to and reduced cost of an individual's genomics data may lead to identification of new risk-enhancing genes in asymptomatic patients, He said. Prominent member of the area Kailash Saini, Kamlesh Kumari, Dineshwar Mohan Singh, Supinder Sharma, Kartik Sharma and Gautam Sharma appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health Checkup camp in their area and expressed their heartfelt gratitude. Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Dhaneshwar Kapoor. Paramedics and Volunteers includes Kamal Sharma, Raghav Rajput, Gourav Sharma, Rahul Vaid, Mukesh Kumar, Makhan Sharma, Rajinder Singh, Vikas kumar and Nirvair Singh Bali.



## BL Santosh boosts morale of BJP Cadres, urges Intensified grassroots campaigning

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary, BL Santosh, addressed a series of meetings simultaneously with BJP workers in Jammu South RS Pura emphasizing the importance of strengthening booth-level activities and grassroots campaigning. The meeting was attended by MLA candidate for RS Pura Jammu South BJP District President Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan, Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, MLA Mathura Srikant Sharma, Palak Vidhansabha Purnima Sharma, District General Secretary Akash Chopra, BJP leader Brijeshwar Rana, Convener RS Pura Constituency Sunny Sangotra, DDC Vidhya Mottan, Mandal Presidents Vijay Sharma, Bikram Sandhu, Ranjit Singh and Shaktikendra Parmukhs were present on the occasion.

BL Santosh exhorted the workers to intensify door-to-door campaign highlighting his vision for RS Pura. "It's essential to showcase BJP achievements and the BJP's agenda to every household." BJP National General Secretary, BL Santosh, highlighted the importance of robust booth-level management as a



crucial factor in achieving electoral success. Addressing a meeting with BJP workers in Jammu South, Santosh emphasized the need for effective booth management to leverage the party's strength at the grassroots level. Booth-level management is the backbone of our electoral strategy," Santosh said. "It's essential to have a strong, well-organized booth structure to ensure victory."

Rekha Mahajan expressed gratitude to BL Santosh for his guidance and support. BL Santosh's presence has energized our cadre," she said. "We will leave no stone unturned in ensuring a resounding victory for the BJP." She said in his address to BJP workers to make aware those who are new voters, especially the youth so that no voters are hindered in making new votes. Rekha said she is confident that the BJP's welfare schemes and out-

reach to all sections of society will ensure its victory in the next assembly election in J&K. Rekha Mahajan emphasized that BJP is the only party with an active cadre base at every polling station. We recently identified "weak booths" within every Assembly constituency and deployed a team of workers in each such booth to reinvigorate the party's connection with the electorate. We have demographic data from every pocket of the Jammu South and our contact programmes are designed in keeping with local expectations. She urged the party cadres to stay in the midst of the public and live up to their expectations.

Mandal Presidents presented reporting of their respective mandals. Akash Chopra Conducted the proceedings of the programme and vote of thanks was presented by Sunny Sangotra.

## Former BDC Chairman, several sarpanchs, panchs of RS Pura join BJP

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

The BJP on Sunday got a big boost in RS Pura Jammu South Constituency as former BDC Chairman, Dalip Kumar, and several former Sarpanchs and Panchs of RS Pura along with their supporters joined the BJP.

The Union Minister and J&K election Incharge, G Krishna Reddy, BJP Working President, Sat Sharma, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and BJP National Secretary & candidate from Jammu South, Narinder Singh Raina, Chief Spokesperson, Sunil Sethi and media in-charge, Dr. Pradeep Mahotra welcomed the new entrants in the party during a programme organised at BJP Media Center, here today. While speaking on the occasion, former BDC Chairman, Dalip Kumar, said that Prime Minister Modi has a long-term vision for J&K and the



country as well.

"We are nationalist people and have decided to join the BJP as it puts national interest first and works for the welfare of the people irrespective of caste and religion," he said.

Brother of Cong candidate from Jammu South, Vinod Bhalla also joined the BJP. He said, "I am a nationalist person and only BJP is the party which keeps national interest above all," he said.

Amid raising of slogans like 'Bharat Mata ki Jai,'

BJP zindabad-2,' Dalip Kumar, former sarpanchs, panchs and their supporters pledged support to the BJP and vowed to work hard for BJP's success in the Assembly election. Ajay Kumar, Congress OBC Cell Convener, former Sarpanch, Des Raj, former Deputy Sarpanch, Amirjit Singh, former Sarpanch, Sukhdev Singh, former Panch, Naresh Kumar, Yashpal, ex-sarpanch, Tilak Raj, Bachan Lal and Ranjit Singh were among those who joined the BJP.

## Central University Jammu hosts Journal Club Seminar on Advancements in Microfluidics and Quantum Dots



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

The Centre for Molecular Biology at Central University of Jammu hosted a weekly journal club meeting. In the meeting, 2nd-year M.Sc. Biotechnology students Ruchika and Smriti delivered a presentation on their summer internship project on advancements in microfluidics and quantum dots conducted during their summer internship at IIT Jammu.

Ruchika and Smriti explained the concept of microfluidics and described the custom glass chip they prepared to conduct their experiments. The presentation was devoted to quantum dots, where Ruchika and Smriti explained the type of quantum dots and synthesis. The students demonstrated the techniques employed for visualizing and characterizing their samples.

The presentation included a vibrant Question & Answer session, where students and faculty engaged in discus-

sions about the research methods and implications. This interactive component added depth to the session, allowing for a broader exchange of ideas.

Ruchika and Smriti's presentation was met with enthusiasm, reflecting their deep understanding and innovative contributions to the fields of microfluidics and quantum dots.

The meeting was coordinated by Dr Swarkar Sharma, Associate Professor, Dr Sudhir Singh, Assistant Professor, and Dr Shelly Sehgal, Assistant Professor, CMB CUJ. The meeting was attended by students, scholars, and faculty of the Centre. In the meeting, the peer group discussions were encouraged to advance the knowledge and raise awareness.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Dr. Narendra K Bairwa, Director of the Centre for Molecular Biology, praised the Centre's efforts in giving students an excellent scientific environment.

## Party wants to empower displaced KPs, says Vijay Bakaya

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

Apni Party today held an interactive session with the migrant Kashmiri Pandit voters of South Kashmir, especially Shangus assembly constituency to garner support in favour of the Party's candidate for the above stated constituency, M.K. Yogi Ji. The Party as a part of ongoing aggressive election campaign in Kashmir as well as in Jammu's migrant colonies and camps held a series of similar interactive sessions to educate people about the developmental policy and agenda of the party for the welfare of the migrant community for their rehabilitation, and employment of the unemployed migrant KP youth.

In this session at Durga Nagar in Jammu District, the Party's General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya appealed to the voters to vote for M. K. Yogi, candidate of Apni Party in Shangus Constituency. He told the audience



that Apni Party was the only Party which really wanted to empower the KP displaced persons by giving M K Yogi the mandate. He said other Parties paid only lip service.

Bakaya told them that Yogi was the right choice because of his grass-roots connection and passion for public service. Many other heads of organization spoke and extolled the qualities of M K Yogi and said this opportunity when KP candidate was given mandate by a regional political Party should be availed of and Yogi should be given votes whole heartedly.

MK Yogi assured he would serve the community and the people of Shangus to the best of his

ability and try to bridge the gulf between Muslims and Kashmiri pandits.

Those who spoke were Ashok Aima, M. L. Malla, Kuldeep Raina, Bihari Kak, Ramesh Hangloo, M. K. Jalali, Advocate Kashmiri Lal, M K Bangroo, Avtar Bhat, Abhay Bakaya, Satish Kisu, P. L. Sideshi, D. N. Sadhu, M. K. Razdan, Dr. T. K. Bhat, Vaibhav Mattoo, Vishal Jyotishi, Shivani Koul, Ashwani Bhat, Ashok Dhar, M. K. Raina, Chandji Ji Kher, Chandji Ji Bhat, Mutkesh Yogi, Bhushal Bhat, G. I. Pandita, Santosh Kher, Subhash Kachroo, Satish Raina, Devansh, Rakesh Koul, Sofi Yusuf, Kulwinder Singh, Shameem Rashid, Naved Ahmad Shah, and others.

## Natrang presents hard-hitting play 'Bhrasht Tantra' in Mendhar

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
MENDHAR, SEPT 15

Natrang presented Hindi play 'Bhrasht Tantra' written and directed by Neeraj Kant here today at Bus Stand, Mendhar. The play is based on the youth's perspective on the corrupt administration of the country.

The play started with the aggression of the frustrated youth who is breathing in the contaminated air of corruption, scandals and dishonesty. Then they hold the common people responsible for this corruption and say that corruption is spread by anarchist elements who get the protection of those in power. And in this democracy, the general public is completely responsible for establishing power. In this way, full participation of the common people is directly ensured in this corrupt system. Then it is told how corruption starts. A street fruit seller becomes a victim of the corrupt guardians of the system and the prices in the markets increase and the general public bears the burden.

Then, by mentioning the different side effects of corruption, it is told how it affects the common people and the progress of



the country. There are no strict rules to stop corruption. The courage of corrupt people is increasing day by day and so are the number of scams.

In another scene it is told that Tatkal tickets are not available to common passengers for train travel. But due to collusion with the officials, middlemen indulge in black marketing and get huge profits by purchasing tickets and selling them at higher prices. A passenger who is a victim of this fraud takes alertness and informs the Vigilance Department and gets the officer in charge arrested. In this way the solution to the problem is also given. In one another the leader is luring the general public by distributing gifts during elections. The officer involved in all this gets his son admitted in college with

the money he gets through bribery. But his son, to teach his father a lesson, steals in his own house. A police officer does not file a theft report without a bribe. Thus, he realises the fate of a person having no money to pay as bribe. Upon realizing this, the father takes a pledge that he will neither take nor give bribe in future. And the play ends with this message that they would say no to corruption and commit to the Nation. Actors who outshined in their respective performances and left an impact of their acting included Kananpreet Kaur, Palshin Dutta, Vrinda Gujral, Mihir Gujral, Aadesh Dhar, Vishal Sharma and Kushal Bhat. The presentations of the play were conducted by Neeraj Kant and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Azad vows to bring developmental revolution to Chenab valley

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, SEPT 15

Chairman DPAP & former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad addressed two massive gatherings in the Doda East constituency today. Rallying in support of DPAP candidate Ab Majid Wani, Azad reiterated his commitment to the development of the Chenab Valley, claimed that the region will witness renewed progress under his leadership. Addressing an enthusiastic crowd in Thathri, Azad highlighted the extensive development work carried out during his tenure as Chief Minister and Union Minister. "Whether it is Doda or any other area in the Chenab Valley, the massive development witnessed during my leadership stands as proof of our dedication to uplifting this region," said Azad. He assured the people that

DPAP will continue to prioritise infrastructural growth and welfare in the chenab valley. Azad further said that significant developmental strides in Chenab Valley, including the establishment of medical college, university, schools, districts, roads, tehsils, and hospitals, were all made during his tenure as Chief Minister and Union Minister. "For over seventy years, other parties have exploited the people of this region and ignored their needs. But all the major work was done when I was in office," said Azad. He further added, "These parties do not understand the pain and struggles of the poor. I have personally felt the pain because I, too, come from a village and understand the hardships faced by common people." Azad assured the people that DPAP will continue to work for the



upliftment and welfare of the region's most marginalised. He urged the people to remain vigilant against communal politics and division based on religion, particularly during the election period. He stressed for the importance of unity, stating, "We will ensure equal development for everyone, regardless of caste or creed and at this stage in my life, I do not seek wealth. My only desire is to bring relief to the poor and uplift the underprivileged," he said, highlighting his commitment to the welfare of all citizens. He pointed out, "We provided free ration to the poor, but the present government has reduced the scale." Azad further

said, "We had given free land through the Roshni scheme, but the government stopped it. We will restore the Roshni scheme and ensure free ration up to 50 kg for the poor." He further committed to significant relief measures, promising, "No electricity bill will be charged from the poor." In his vision for development, Azad stressed the need for better infrastructure, stating, "We will ensure road connectivity to all villages, even to the last house on the mountain." Azad also outlined plans for rapid progress, announcing, "We will introduce double and triple shift work culture to accelerate development." His message was

clear: the focus will be on restoring support for the underprivileged and ensuring comprehensive development for all. Azad voiced the deep concerns of the people following the revocation of their rights on August 5, 2019. He pledged to introduce legislation in the assembly that will prevent outsiders from buying land or securing jobs in Jammu and Kashmir. "We will safeguard the rights of the people and ensure that their land and jobs remain protected," he stated firmly. He also expressed grave concern over the rising issue of drug abuse among the youth. "Our young generation is getting involved in drugs, and we must act swiftly to stop this menace," he said. Azad vowed to create new job opportunities to steer the youth towards a brighter and more productive future.

## BJP's election campaign goes full throttle After PM Modi, Amit Shah to address 3 rallies

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

The election campaign of the BJP has gone full throttle as after Prime Minister Modi's mega rally at Doda yesterday, the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, will address 3 rallies in Jammu region.

"Amit Shah will address 3 rallies at Ramban, Kishtwar and Padder," BJP Spokesperson & Media Centre Incharge Arun Kumar Gupta said and added, "BJP is getting overwhelming response from the people across

J&K and will form government with majority".

Gupta said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP is contesting the elections based on the revolutionary steps taken over the last ten years for peace, development, and prosperity.

BJP is the only party presenting a comprehensive manifesto focused on the public welfare, Gupta said. He further said that the party is reaching out to the people with its development agenda, while other parties are

misleading the people with hollow promises, aiming to push Jammu & Kashmir back into era of unrest and turmoil.

Gupta said that the people of Jammu & Kashmir are wise enough and will teach a lesson to NC, Cong and PDP.

It is worth noting that this will be Amit Shah's second visit. Earlier, he made a two-day visit to Jammu, where he not only released the party's manifesto but also addressed a large convention of party workers in Jammu city on the second day.



## 5-Day Vermicomposting skill training workshop wraps up



J NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, SEPT 15

The valedictory function of five-day-long skill training workshop on "Vermicomposting as an enterprise" in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kathua of SKUAST Jammu was organized at Government Degree College for Women Kathua.

The Government Degree College (GDC) for Women, Kathua under the aegis of Hariyali Eco Club, Department of Environmental Sciences, Institute Innovation Council and IQAC organized workshop in which a total of 50 students participated.

During the course of training, the eminent resource persons from Krishi Vigyan Kendra gave detailed presentations on

various aspects of Vermicomposting.

Dr. Vishal Mahajan Chief Scientist and head KVK interacted with the students by means of informative and innovative presentations along with practical demonstrations.

A vermibed was also established in the college campus by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kathua (SKUAST) involving the students themselves in setting up of vermibed by adding different layers of leaf litter, organic waste and cowdung.

The epigeic earthworm species were also introduced into the vermibed by KVK. Dr. Anamika Jamwal Chief Scientist KVK, Dr. Berjesh Ajrawat Chief Scientist KVK and Dr. Vishal Sharma Scientist KVK also delivered

informative and elaborate lectures on vermiculture and organic farming in respective sessions during the workshop.

The Principal of the college Dr. Savi Behl in her concluding remarks appreciated the efforts of KVK for providing a great opportunity to the students training in vermiculture. The whole training programme was coordinated by Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, HOD, Department of Environmental Sciences and convenor Eco Club. She also presented a detailed report of the workshop.

Dr. Kamini Kapoor conducted the proceedings of the workshop and formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof Romika Bassin.

## Assembly Elections-2024

# General Observer mobilizes Micro Observers for transparent Assembly Elections in Ramban

J NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 15

As part of ongoing efforts to ensure free, fair, and transparent Assembly Elections in District Ramban, General Observer Himanshu Kumar Rai today chaired a crucial meeting with Micro Observers here in the Conference Hall. The meeting aimed to brief them on their roles and responsibilities for the upcoming elections.

Speaking at the meeting, the General Observer emphasized the critical role that Micro Observers will play on polling day. "Micro Observers will be deployed across different polling stations, and their



presence will be vital in maintaining the integrity of the electoral process," he said. He stressed the importance of their duties

in ensuring that voting is conducted freely, fairly, and peacefully.

The Micro Observers were informed about the

procedures they must follow and were urged to act as representatives of the General Observer, reporting any discrepan-

cies or issues in a timely and accurate manner. "You must ensure that every step is taken to uphold the transparency and fairness of the election. Your reports will be key to this effort," he added.

Dy. District Election Officer, Abdul Jabbar, also addressed the gathering, underscoring the significance of the Micro Observers' role in safeguarding the credibility of the election. He assured them of full support from the district administration and election authorities.

The meeting concluded with the General Observer assuring the Micro Observers of full cooperation and guidance throughout the election process.

## SVEEP: Nukkad Natak promotes electoral awareness in Kishtwar

J NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 15

As part of the preparations for the upcoming General Election to the Legislative Assembly 2024, a series of Nukkad Natak (street plays) were organized at prominent places of Kishtwar under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) awareness campaign.

The events, held at prominent locations such as General Bus Stand and Chowgan Ground in



Kishtwar, were conducted under the leadership of District Election Officer, Rajesh Kumar Shavan. The street performances

were expertly coordinated by Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, District Nodal Officer SVEEP, with enthusiastic participation from the Sangam

Theatre Group. Through captivating street performances, the Sangam group artists effectively communicated the significance of

ethical voting to the local populace, stressing the principles of responsible and informed voting. The messages resonated with audiences, encouraging active and fair participation in the upcoming elections. This initiative is part of a broader SVEEP campaign being conducted throughout the district to ensure maximum voter engagement. The District Administration of Kishtwar is steadfast in its efforts to uphold electoral integrity and promote active civic participation.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Fresh encounter breaks...

been rushed to plug escape routes and help neutralise the terrorists, the officials said.

In Poonch, the officials said the overnight encounter in Pathanateer area near Gursai top in Mendhar subdivision ended around noon.

Blood stains were seen near the scene of the gunfight, suggesting that one of the terrorists had got injured, they said, adding the area is still under cordon and a search operation is underway to hunt down the fleeing militants.

Acting on a tip-off about the presence of two to three terrorists, a joint search operation was launched by the police and Army in the area on Saturday evening.

The search party came under fire from the hiding terrorists, triggering a gunfight, the officials said, adding intermittent exchange of fire continued till this afternoon. (Agencies)

### PM virtually releases...

"The prime minister underlined that the first installment of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) was being started today, which would ensure pucca houses to thousands of beneficiaries. Other facilities of toilet, drinking water, electricity, gas connection were also provided along with PMAY-G," the statement said.

The PM pointed out that when a "family gets its own house, their self-confidence increases".

Thousands of jobs were also being created in villages and cities for the people of Jharkhand along with pucca houses through PM Awas Yojna, he said.

Modi also said the PM-Janman scheme is being run for the tribal brothers and sisters of Jharkhand and other parts of the country.

"Efforts are being made to reach out to the tribes, who are still lagging, through the scheme. In a bid to provide houses, roads, electricity and education to such families, officers are reaching out to them. Such efforts are part of my commitment to 'Vikshit Jharkhand'. We will fulfil the dreams of Jharkhand," he said.

The prime minister underlined that many significant steps have been taken to empower the poor, Dalit, deprived and tribal families of the country since 2014.

He said the PM-Janman Yojana is being run for the tribal community across the country, including Jharkhand.

Modi also tendered an apology to the people of Jharkhand as he could not be present at the venue due to poor weather conditions, restricting his helicopter's movement and compelling him to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for the projects via video conferencing.

The prime minister is on a three-day visit to Jharkhand, Gujarat and Odisha, beginning Sunday, where he is scheduled to lay the foundation stones and launch projects worth more than Rs 12,460 crore. (Agencies)

### Bangladeshi, Rohingya...

panchayat system, grabbing land, indulging in atrocities on daughters of the state...Each Jharkhand resident is feeling unsafe," the Prime Minister said while addressing the 'Parivartan Maharally' of the BJP at Gopal Maidan here.

He also alleged that the JMM was "supporting infiltrators" and that "illegal immigrants from the neighbour-

ing country have managed to gain influence over the ruling party in the state."

Modi criticised the Jharkhand government for refusing to acknowledge the ongoing infiltration, despite a High Court order to establish an independent panel to investigate the "infiltration of Bangladeshi immigrants" in the state.

Modi termed the JMM, RJD and the Congress as the "biggest enemies of Jharkhand", asserting that these parties were "power-hungry" and "indulged in vote bank politics".

The Prime Minister alleged that the RJD was still taking revenge for the creation of Jharkhand while the Congress hated the state and prevented tribals from coming to the mainstream.

"JMM which came to power through tribal votes is siding with forces which are usurping tribal land and forests," the PM said and added that JMM was doing vote bank politics at the cost of dalits, backwards and tribals.

Modi asserted that the JMM has been engaging in vote bank politics in the name of tribals for the past five years.

He said, "A tribal chief minister Champai Soren was insulted and ousted for the JMM's greed for power. This has dealt a severe blow to the tribals of Jharkhand, and a fitting reply will be given to the party. Even Sita Soren, the sister-in-law of Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, was subjected to disrespect."

The PM also alleged, "JMM-led coalition is all out to increase their vote bank in the name of religion. This is the time to prevent the threat by strengthening the BJP in Jharkhand. The JMM-led government has been trained by Congress' school of corruption. It is time to bid farewell to the JMM that looted mines, minerals and Army land."

He added that the JMM-led coalition was so deeply entrenched in corruption that substantial amounts of cash were recovered not only from their leaders but also from their aides.

The Prime Minister further alleged that lawlessness in the state had become so pervasive that people were compelled to place signs reading "Not for Sale" on their property to protect it.

The PM remarked that Jharkhand was created to fulfill grand aspirations, but those dreams have been sidelined.

Modi, who was scheduled to arrive in Jamshedpur by helicopter, had to travel to the steel city by road instead, as his copter was unable to take off due to adverse weather conditions.

"No obstacles, including heavy rain, could prevent me from reaching you, I am touched by your affection as a large number of people queued up along the highways braving incessant rains when I was coming via road as my chopper could not take off due to bad weather," he said.

He also asserted that the BJP is set to come to power in the state after the assembly polls due later this year.

"If the BJP comes to power, it will launch a probe into the deaths of 15 aspirants during an excise constable recruitment drive," he said.

Referring to the Lok Sabha elections, the Prime Minister said, "The entire opposition hatched a big conspiracy, spread rumours and all forces got united to break the nation but the people voted for BJP and it is my promise to you that Modi will never break your trust."

The country's middle class, youth, women and poor rely on BJP government which will go to any extent to

fulfill their dreams, he added.

The Prime Minister said that BJP has a special bond with Jharkhand and it was the saffron party which contributed towards creation of a separate state.

He alleged that the tribal youths were deliberately kept away from education and it was the BJP government which ensured their education and jobs by bringing in special schemes.

"It was BJP which established more than 400 Eklavya schools...It is the BJP who made a tribal woman the President of India," he said.

He asserted that the governments in the past indulged in loot of natural resources, mines and minerals and it was the BJP government which brought justice to them through District Mineral Fund.

"BJP is committed for development of Jharkhand... Identify the enemies of the state and show them the exit door," he said.

Modi accused the JMM-led coalition of targeting BJP leaders and framing false cases against them.

He also extended his greetings to the people on the occasion of "Karma Festival," a tribal celebration that honours the bond of love between brothers and sisters, saying he has gifted 'pucca houses' under PMAY-G to his sisters here. (AGENCIES)

### Shah to address...

minister and the defence minister.

"Seeing the immense response of the people, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that the BJP will form the next government in J&K," Reddy said.

### PDP contesting polls...

a transparent manner.

"We will make daily wagers permanent. We will also try to bring multi-national companies here to provide employment opportunities," she added. (AGENCIES)

### PM Modi is guarantee...

by Reddy while being accompanied by BJP Working President, Sat Sharma, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP National Secretary & BJP candidate from Jammu South, Narinder Singh Raina, Chief Spokesperson, Sunil Sethi and media in-charge, Dr. Pradeep Mahotra at BJP Media Centre.

"PM Modi is guarantee to development of J&K and its better future for next generations, while the NC-Cong alliance is guarantee to destruction and division," Reddy said, while adding, "BJP is getting full support from every section of the society".

Reddy said, "Seeing the immense response of the people of J&K, there should be no doubt in anybody's mind that BJP will form next government in J&K".

He appealed to the people to support BJP in the Assembly elections for bright future off J&K.

Reddy said that due to people friendly policies and development agenda of PM Modi, people from all sections are joining the BJP.

He said, the agenda of the BJP is better future of J&K and its development, while the agenda of the NC, Cong and PDP is destructive and divisive.

"BJP is fighting Assembly election for the betterment of future generations and in the national interest," he said.

Referring to PM Modi's rally at Doda, he said that after

42 years a Prime Minister has visited Doda. "There was massive participation in the Doda rally and the people response shows that BJP will form next government in J&K".

The rally venue was packed beyond capacity which shows PM Modi's popularity, he said and added that the number of people listening to Modi was more than 4 times than those present at the venue.

Reddy urged the people of Jammu & Kashmir to support the BJP and thwart the plans of those who wish to push the J&K back into the era of unrest, turmoil and darkness.

### Lt Governor's greetings...

the path of righteousness and strengthen the values of compassion, equality, love and peace in the society.

May his teachings of universal brotherhood and service to humanity guide us on the path of kindness, unity and harmony."

### Farooq Abdullah...

pointing towards you as well. What have you done? You are misleading people, you are lying every day," he added.

Asked about criticism that rigging in the 1987 elections led to eruption of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said he did not ask separatists to take to violence.

"I did not make them separatists. The NC did not make them. They talk for Pakistan. Those who were raising Pakistan zindabad and talking about holding a plebiscite are today sitting in their camp. Why don't you ask them where those slogans of establishing Nizam-e-Mustafa (Shariah law). They are sitting with BJP and RSS," he added.

On the Jamaat-e-Islami contesting elections, he said it is a good thing.

"Instead of beating around the bush, it is better they come out in the open and we will see where they stand," he added.

Asked about Lok Sabha member Sheikh Abdul Rashid's criticism of the National Conference and other parties, Abdullah asked: "Why was he not released earlier? Why now? He has been released to fragment the Muslims and finish their voice. He is with BJP and RSS". (Agencies)

### PM Modi forget all his...

Mohammad Sayeed, then Mehbooba Mufti, and now through the Raj Bhawan, what Jammu and Kashmir got on the ground during all these ten years of double engine government... Let the Prime Minister count, and later we will talk on other issues."

Asked that Awami Itihad Party (AI) Chief Abdul Rashid Sheikh, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, is targeting the National Conference, Omar said, "Let him do...in what compulsion he is doing, he will only give the answer."

The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said that "everyone is targeting the NC... Either it is Prime Minister, Central Government, Bharatiya Janata Party, PDP, or AIP, all are targeting us."

Omar said there is a good response from the youth to the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir. (Agencies)



## J&K people suffer countless wounds and ruthless insensitivity inflicted under BJP rule: Bhalla

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 16

Continuing intensive campaign in RS Pura Jammu South constituency, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla said on Sunday addressed serious of election gatherings at Purana Pind, RS Pura, Kotli Shah Dulla, Railway Line Patri, Chib Mohalla, Kunjwani, Chowdhri area. Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said politics of disorientation and false propaganda have become the hallmark of the functioning of the Modi government. The last ten years of BJP government stands at a stage where people of J&K were forced to suffer the countless wounds and ruthless insensitivity inflicted by the government," he charged. He lashed out at the Central Govt for the unprecedented price hike and record unemployment besides failing to address the grievances of people of J&K on every count after promising massive development post August 5, 2019.

Bhalla said that development process started by UPA Govt in J&K, received a major setback, as the NDA Govt failed to carry forward the massive developments started by UPA. He said that people are feeling harassed by 'tax-terror' and unprecedented price hike by the Modi Govt. At the same time, they realize that BJP Govt is looting them to recover the losses it has caused to the Country's economy by misrule and mismanagement of things since the day one, as a result, there is a restless-



ness across the country. Every section of the society including farmers, youth, students, employees are up in arms due to wrong policies of BJP. He pointed to the landmark reforms introduced by Congress, which were instrumental in empowering the weaker sections of society. "Our party has a rich legacy of serving the poor with sincerity and dedication, and we pledge to continue this mission by ensuring social justice and economic equality," he affirmed.

Bhalla said that people of J&K feel betrayed by the downgrading of the historical state and deprived of the rights to land and jobs. He said that Congress party would intensify struggle for the restoration of statehood with protection to jobs and lands for the locals of J&K. He said that lust for power could lead the BJP to compromise with the Jammu pride and dignity. He accused the BJP of undermining the understanding and political sagacity of the people of Jammu. He dared the BJP to spell out just 10 initiatives for Jammu's growth during the party's tenure in the government. Bhalla highlighted that the BJP's declining popularity was evident during the recent Lok Sabha elections,

where the INDIA Alliance, of which Congress and NC are key constituents, gave a major setback to party. He predicted that the same outcome would be witnessed in the forthcoming Assembly elections, with the INDIA Alliance emerging victorious.

Hitting hard the BJP and its state leadership for cheating the people of Jammu, Bhalla said that the BJP has lost the moral right to go to Jammu people after betrayal after betrayal. The honour of people of Jammu has been compromised and downgraded by the leaders who claimed to be the champion of their cause in the region. BJP climbed political ladder raising voice against discrimination with people of this region. They ended up doing same disparity with the people who voted them to power to rule the country," said Bhalla. Bhalla highlighted Congress's unwavering commitment to the socio-economic empowerment of the marginalized. He said "The downtrodden and the poor represent a significant section of our population that has been consistently deprived of basic necessities such as livelihood, education, property, and employment opportunities." He emphasized that Congress

has always been at the forefront of taking bold initiatives to elevate the status of these communities, providing them with equal opportunities for growth and development.

Coming down heavily on BJP leadership for indulging into misinformation campaign against Congress, Bhalla said that it is all due to the concerted efforts of great leaders like Prime Ministers Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, Manmohan Singh that India is on the path of prosperity. "BJP is just inaugurating the mega projects which were built and completed by Congress party," pointed out Bhalla. He expressed great disappointment over the government's failure to provide adequate opportunities for these marginalized groups in terms of employment, education, and social security. He said that the BJP Govt has miserably failed to uplift the weaker sections in its ten years of rule in the country.

Firing a salvo on the BJP leadership, Bhalla said Jammu people are now realizing their mistake committed in 2014 and 2019 as these people who were sent by the voters to raise their voice, kept mum and the public voice remained unheard inside and outside Assembly. It is hoped that the people of Jammu will surely correct the past mistake and reject such opportunists and exploiters and show them their place in Assembly elections. Bhalla claimed that only Congress has the capability and com-

mitment to address the current issues and bring meaningful change to the region, restoring stability and improving the living conditions of the people. He asked the people of Jammu and Kashmir to support the Party in the ensuing Assembly polls and assured that the Congress will form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir with a commitment to restore stability and improve living conditions of people of J&K.

Bhalla strongly criticized the failure of the Govt to the genuine issues of different categories of temporary, contractual, casual, daily rated and need based categories of employees and workers and failure to frame regularization policies of them and pay them regularly. Bhalla also took stock of the various other issues confronted by the people and different sections of people including employees, unemployed youth, farmers, labourers and blamed the BJP Govt and UT Administration for ignoring the genuine issues and concerns of different sections. He urged the people to support and vote for Congress candidates in the upcoming Assembly elections, with an aim to bring positive change and ensure that the party's pro-people policies are implemented. Bhalla said despite the installation of smart meters, the government has miserably failed to ensure a regular power supply. To make matters worse, people are being burdened with inflated electricity bills," he said.

## SOS Int'l calls for political accountability, seeks actionable plans from candidates to resolve PoJK refugees' issues

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DHANWA (RAJOURI),  
SEPTEMBER 15

The S. O. S. International—a registered frontline organisation spearheading the struggle for delivering justice to the PoJK displaced persons—on Sunday asked the political parties to reveal their clear and actionable plans to resolve all core issues of the displaced PoJK community if they seek their votes in the current Assembly elections.

The Organisation made it clear that the 6.5 lakh votes from the community will be a deciding factor in 27-28 assembly seats across J&K and warned that opportunist politicians will no longer be able to deceive the community.

A crucial meeting of the Organisation, under the chairmanship of Rajiv Chuni, was held in Dhanwa village of Rajouri district, to strategize for the upcoming Assembly elections. Senior representatives from the Rajouri block attended the meeting to discuss the community's strategy and its decisive role in the election outcomes.

Addressing the largely attended meeting, Mr Chuni emphasized the organization's unwavering commitment to the work for community's issues, regardless of the election cycles. "Our organization has been working diligently throughout the year for the welfare of the PoJK community. Elections come and go, and politicians may rise or fall, but our commitment to resolving our issues remains steadfast", he said. Chuni further said, "This election period presents an opportunity for our community to raise their concerns assertively before the political class, compelling them to address our long-standing issues. With only ten days remaining



until the second phase of polling on September 25, it is essential to highlight the significant impact the PoJK community can have on the electoral outcomes in Rajouri and Poonch districts".

He specifically mentioned three assembly constituencies including Kalakote-Sunderbani, Nowshera, and Rajouri where the PoJK community's strong presence is expected to play a decisive role.

Mr Chuni also pointed out the persistent failure of political groups to address the pressing issues faced by the PoJK community, who have lived in displacement for over 70 years and continue to endure below-poverty-line conditions. "Our people, who have sacrificed and suffered so much and left behind their movable and immovable properties in PoJK, are now drivers, laborers, cleaners, and domestic helpers. Despite their contributions, they have been largely ignored by those in power," he regretted.

Mr Chuni said the meeting underscored the need for all political parties to present their agendas and concrete plans to alleviate the sufferings of the PoJK community. "We urge all political candidates to engage with our community and outline their strategies to address our core issues. As voters, we seek transparency and accountability from those who seek our support. We cannot afford to repeat

the mistakes of the past 75 years," Chuni asserted.

The senior refugee leader said, "The outcome of three out of the eight assembly seats in Rajouri-Poonch districts, going to polls in the second phase, will heavily depend on the votes of the PoJK community. If political parties seek our support, they must publicly apologize for their past failures and make sincere promises to address our outstanding issues post-election".

Mr Chuni added that the political parties should remember that the votes of the community will be a decisive factor in these elections. "Our impact is expected to be significant across 27-28 assembly seats, including a strong influence in the third phase of polling. We will leverage social media effectively to communicate with our community members with regard to our decisions on supporting or opposing any candidate. We will take all our decisions in the larger interests of the state, country, and particularly the PoJK community," he said.

Prominent among others who addressed the meeting were Sush-eel Sharma, Phuskar Nath Raina, Capt Ravinder Raina, Kewal Ram Sharma, Romesh Sharma, Master Mangat Ram, Ex Sarpanch Khem Raj, Dheeraj Sharma, Ved Raj Bali and Tarvinder Kumar. Vinod Kumar Dutta conducted the proceedings of the meeting.

## Prime Minister had nothing to offer new to J&K, resorted to old rhetoric—Solanki

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU SEPT 15

AICC Incharge J&K Affairs Shri Bharatsinh Solanki has said that Prime Minister Modi always repeats the old rhetoric's in Jammu and Kashmir as BJP has nothing new to offer to the people of J&K after ruling for ten years and giving lot of pain and sufferings to them all these years.

Addressing a Press Conference at PCC HQ Jammu today, Shri Solanki reacted to the Prime Minister Modi's speech yesterday that was nothing new for the people as he repeated the old rhetoric's and offered the same old promises after re-packing them but people of all sections especially the youth know what happened to the old "Jumlas". They remembered the old pack of "Jumlas", so not ready to buy the same again.

Flanked by AICC Secretaries Manoj Yadav and Divya Madema, National Media Co-ordinator Ms. Dolly Sharma, JKPC Sr. Vice President & Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Shri Solanki said that BJP's Sankalp Pattar is another "Jumla Pattar" and same old promises for youth, women and others have been re-packaged but what treatment was given to them in 10 years is known to them. Since 2018, when Assembly was dissolved and more particularly after the downgrading of the state into UT, who stopped BJP to implement all these promises for these sections being offered now and rather they were subjected to great harassments and suffered in many ways. The youth are facing



highest ever unemployment of the last 45 years, as J&K is second top in unemployment while women unemployment is highest in J&K in the country. Youth were promised employment boom after abrogation of Article 370, but reverse happened to them.

The pensions of elderly, widows, and handicapped were stopped and they were forced to take rounds of various Govt. offices for reviving their pensions. The daily wagers, need based and other such temporary employees including Anganwari workers, helpers were subjected to worst kind to harassments and resorted to police lathicharge when protested. Solanki regretted that Prime Minister Modi did not utter a word of sympathy to the families of two jawans martyred and two other injured in the adjoining district Kishtwar, in terrorist encounter, when he addressed an election rally in Doda, yesterday. P.M. had no answer to the large scale rise in terror activities in Jammu Region, since BJP had claimed that terrorism shall be wiped out After removal of Article 370. But it was fully revived in Jammu region and even today encounter is going on. Solanki announced that the age old practice of Darbar move shall be revived, as it was great source of economic sta-

bility of Jammu as well Kashmir besides exchange of of cultures and other interests of two regions. If voted to power, our Govt. will restore it in the larger interests of people as overwhelming demand has come from people especially Jammu region.

He reminded that a massive 24000 Cr package for infrastructure and development was announced by Dr. Manmohan Singh ji in 2004 which swelled to over 36000 Cr as a result lot of power infrastructure and road connectivity was strengthened in Jammu and Kashmir. Besides UPA-I & UPA-II did a lot of things for the education, skill trainings of youth including women and creation of jobs. AICC leader said that P.M. & BJP should tell what they did to the Kashmiri displaced community as nothing was done to their issues, after the P.M. Dr. Manmohan Singh's package of 1600 Cr for employment, relief and rehabilitation package for them, as a result first time KP youth got jobs in Kashmir, modern township in Jammu besides transit colonies were constructed in Kashmir Valley.

We shall carry forward the Manmohan Singh Package for them and creation of jobs for them but BJP's 10 years rule was worst for the youth and other sections. He said that Congress will come out a full mani-

festu shortly, comprising all the commitment and issues of all sections, while only few guarantees have been announced by the Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge Ji and Shri Rahul Ji during their visits. He referred to the plight of farmers who have not been given any relief during 10 years as BJP does not know the even meaning of M-S-P and had brought three black laws which were rolled back after over one year.

Referring to political situation, he said that Congress-NC Coalition will form the next Govt. with comfortable majority. We are contesting elections on a positive agenda of restoration of peace, normalcy and governance, as ten years of BJP rule has derailed the various systems of governance and welfare. We shall have a common minimum programme (CMP) for governance when voted to power to work for the overall welfare of all sections of the development of J&K. Our priority shall be to heal the wounds of all sections who are facing hardships due to the authoritarian bureaucratic regime under LG. The promise of restoration of statehood was not fulfilled by the Centre as BJP wants to rule J&K through proxy and exploit the resources through crony capitalists but we shall struggle for immediate restoration of statehood and undertake relief and welfare measures to the people of all sections. Kapil Singh -Spokesperson, Neeraj Gupta - Chief Media Coordinator and Deepanshu Bhat IYC Spokesperson were also present.

## Modi ensured justice to SCs, Valmiki Samaj: Sanjay Nirmal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 15

The BJP-led government at the centre under Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has been deeply concerned for the welfare and socio-economic upliftment of different sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir and during the last over ten years it has taken many decisions for the benefit of the deprived and marginalised sections.

BJP SC Morcha National General Secretary, Sanjay Nirmal, said this while discussing various initiatives of Modi government which has wiped tears and brought smiles on the faces of Valmiki Samaj, SCs, STs and other sections, who had no place in the programmes and policies of the successive governments of the Congress and NC at the centre and in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He was discussing wide range of issues related to the reserved category communities with Balbir Ram Rattan, J&K BJP Spokesperson, Santokh Singh Gumtala, SC Morcha National Secretary and J&K Prabhari for SC Morcha, Vijay Anand Gill, SC Morcha Vice President and Adarsh Jathiar, SC Morcha General Secretary. Quoting few examples, Sanjay Nirmal said that under the Modi government the Valmiki Samaj in Jammu and Kashmir has been included in the SC category like other parts of the country. Similarly, the West Pakistan refugees have gained full citizenship rights and more than 70 per cent among them belong to the SC community. It has ended decades of oppressive treatment to them.

## Upcoming Assembly Elections a Battle Between Nationalist and Anti-National Forces: Mohan Lal Bhagat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
AKHNOOR, SEPT 15

BJP candidate Mohan Lal Bhagat addressed multiple public meetings in the Akhnoor Assembly constituency, covering areas such as Sungal Lower B, Pangyari, Rajya Chak, and Bomal. During his speeches, he launched a scathing attack on Congress and the National Conference, accusing these parties of driving Jammu and Kashmir into an era of terrorism, stone-pelting, and chaos. In contrast, Bhagat emphasized that under BJP rule, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented development, and terrorism is now on its last breath. On Sunday, Mohan Lal Bhagat also visited Sahib Bandgi Ashram in Akhnoor, where he received the blessings of Sant Satguru Madhu Paramhans Sahib Ji during a spiritual gathering.

In his address, Bhagat credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for the direct benefits the people of Jammu and Kashmir have received through schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, and Kisan



Samman Nidhi. He framed the upcoming elections as a contest between nationalist forces and those working against the nation, expressing confidence that the people are firmly backing the BJP due to its unwavering commitment to the region's development and security.

The event saw the presence of prominent local figures including former Sarpanch Ram Pal Sharma, former Sarpanch Mahesh Chandra, social worker Ganesh Sharma, Sanjay Sharma, Mangat Singh, Suman Chib, Ramesh Chander, Capt Ram Saran, Satinder Kumar, Rahul Singh, Sohan Singh, Krishna Lal, Sanjay Kumar, Anchal Singh, and Rajya Sharma, among others.

During the gatherings, local residents voiced their concerns and raised

key issues with Mohan Lal Bhagat, who assured them that their problems would be addressed as a priority. The people expressed their full faith in Bhagat, believing that he is the leader who will bring comprehensive development to their region.

### NOTICE

It's informed that I Kaiser Ahmed Qureshi S/o Syed Ahmed Qureshi R/o Katra prop m/s Chinar tours & travels Katra under reg no JKEA0002000 change the location of the office from Jammu road to Rly Road Katra and applied for the renewal of the registration certificate from tourism department Katra if any body have any objection he/she may have raise with the concern department within 7 days otherwise objection may be not accepted. Kaiser Ahmed Qureshi Prop Chinar Tours & Travels Katra. 9419215786, 7006242533



## EDITORIAL

## Kejriwal's bold gamble in Delhi: A step toward early polls

In a dramatic turn of events, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has announced that he will resign after two days and push for early elections in the state. This announcement, as bold as it is unexpected, has the potential to reshape the political landscape of Delhi. Kejriwal's call for early elections not only reflects a calculated political move but also raises critical questions about governance, political timing, and the implications for both the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its opponents.

Kejriwal's decision to step down ahead of his term's conclusion and demand early polls appears to be a strategic gambit, aimed at catching his political rivals off-guard. By choosing to step aside voluntarily, the AAP leader signals his confidence in the performance of his government. His focus on calling for early elections shows that he believes the time is ripe to seek a fresh mandate from the people. For a leader who has managed to blend activism with governance, this decision may indicate that he views a new election as an opportunity to capitalize on the perceived goodwill of the public and to preempt any decline in popularity.

At the same time, this move exposes Kejriwal to risks. If the Delhi electorate perceives his resignation as irresponsible or as an act of political brinkmanship, the decision could backfire. The public might question whether this is truly in their best interest or just an attempt to gain electoral advantage. Early elections require significant resources, both financial and human, and the public might not take kindly to the disruption in governance.

For the opposition parties, Kejriwal's resignation and call for early polls present a significant challenge. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, which have struggled to make a significant dent in the AAP's popularity in recent years, will need to quickly mobilize their resources, identify strong candidates, and mount a coordinated campaign. While the BJP has been a formidable force nationally, it has faced challenges in unseating the AAP in Delhi. The Congress, on the other hand, is still working to rebuild its base in the capital after being sidelined for nearly a decade.

For both parties, Kejriwal's move could serve as a wake-up call, forcing them to focus on key issues like inflation, infrastructure, and governance. A rushed campaign could leave them vulnerable, with insufficient time to establish a compelling narrative that resonates with voters.

Delhi has always been a unique political entity, with a mix of urban concerns, local governance challenges, and national implications. Early elections could disrupt ongoing government projects and initiatives that require long-term planning and execution. The AAP government's work in areas such as education, healthcare, and public services could either serve as a solid platform for reelection or be criticized for being incomplete or insufficient.

Additionally, early elections in Delhi would have ripple effects across the political spectrum. National parties might divert their attention from other states or national campaigns to focus on Delhi, while the capital itself could see a period of uncertainty, with no clear leadership during the transition.

Ultimately, Kejriwal's decision to resign and call for early elections is a gamble on public perception. His past electoral victories have shown that he can effectively connect with the urban voter base by positioning himself as a leader who is in tune with the common man's needs. However, in this case, the stakes are higher. A rushed decision could either reinforce his image as a decisive leader willing to take risks or could lead to disillusionment among voters who may view this move as a calculated ploy for power.

In the coming days, Delhi's political landscape will be closely watched. Kejriwal's announcement is likely to spark intense debates, both within political circles and among the public. Whether his resignation will be seen as a moment of political brilliance or a misstep that opens the door for his rivals remains to be seen.

In any case, Delhi's voters now stand at the crossroads of a potential early election—one that could either reaffirm Kejriwal's governance or signal a new chapter in the capital's political journey.

## Perfect parenting: Navigating expectations and aspirations

ASHA IYER KUMAR

In the olden days, it wasn't uncommon to be born in large families and be raised along with several siblings. But for some reason, parents back then did it with a laid-back approach and have not been heard or known to feel pressured by the size of the family they had to support. My paternal grandparents had 13 children and my maternal grandparents had ten.

It is a scenario impossible to even imagine in modern times, where stress has become a staple for all - from kindergarten children to pensioners past their prime. Today's parents are engulfed in a whirlwind of expectations, constantly feeling the weight of being "perfect" while juggling the relentless pressures of life.

The irony is not lost on any of us—despite our best efforts, parents often feel they are falling short,

outpaced by a society that holds them to impossible standards. Dr Vivek Murthy, the US Surgeon General, recently said that parental stress is a significant public health issue and called for shifts in cultural norms. In our hyper-connected world, where every action and decision is subject to public scrutiny, the quest for perfection is an unending pursuit that only leads to exhaustion. We need to pause and ask: Are we, as parents, pushing ourselves into a corner, one where our best is never good enough? How far should we go to prove our merits and how much strain can we take before we break at the seams?

A young parent recently mentioned how she was waiting for her toddler to grow up by a few years so that the tensions of the difficult years are past, but the truth is the stress of parenting seldom leaves, no matter how old the



children become. It is in the psyche of the parent to be ever concerned, with the concerns and expectations only changing with age. Once a parent, always a parent. There is a relentless battle to become the perfect parents who have raised peerless offspring that the world would appreciate. This pressure to adopt the best prac-

tices of parenting is now increased manifold by social media which presents picture-perfect family lives. What parents often forget is the travails of raising children are never easy and what seems perfect on social media are filtered versions of a life and landscape filled with challenges.

The idea of being a 'per-

fect parent' is a myth and it would be prudent on the parents' part to recognise that benchmarks set by society, media and peers are often unattainable. Each family should set its priorities and boundaries commensurate with its resources, circumstances and the children's capacity to undertake over-demanding expectations from all around.

How parents of yore have been able to divide their attention between the litany of concerns and complaints their children must have presented baffles me. The joke that goes around in our family is this - the children just grew up; no one raised them by following any stringent standards. This attitude may not work in our times where the bars are set so high and the race for achievement is taken so seriously that parents find themselves caught in the quagmire of worry and anxiety even after the

children have flown from their homes and built their nests.

The anxiety of being an inadequate parent haunts many and the truth is there is no single right way to parent; neither is there a prescribed format to make children successful and happy except by instilling the right values in them. Embracing their imperfections as parents and learning to let go are difficult but essential traits to pick up in their journey of parenthood. What children need most is not a parent who has everything figured out, but one who loves them, supports them and is present through the highs and lows of life. Constant fretting about children will only take away from the confidence of the children and make them incompetent to face life's numerous challenges.

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

## J&amp;K Polls | Regional parties fight an existential battle

JAVID AHMAD DAR

Despite a common political agenda, ground-level competition prevents a united front of Kashmir's regional parties.

As Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) goes to the polls, there is just one pre-electoral alliance in place - between the National Conference (NC), a regional party, and the national opposition party, the Indian National Congress.

There is no alliance between any of the regional political parties such as the NC, the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), the Peoples' Conference, and the less grounded Apni Party.

The all-season friend of the NC, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), has not spared its pocket borough of Kulgam, in South Kashmir, either in the 2020 district-level elections or Assembly polls.

The regional parties are united in their agenda for Kashmir but divided by politics.

Take the case of the two main parties - the NC and the PDP. Both derive political assertions from the same premise: the socio-cultural uniqueness of J&K and the special protection (now withdrawn) given to the region within the Constitution of India.

They also appeal to and seek support from the

same electoral base.

Their political canvas appeals to a limited political constituency, and, so, competition between them trickles down even to the village-level units of each party. Such rivalry is the foundation of their political existence.

Yet, there are sharp political differences between the NC and the PDP.

The NC has a party cadre which is spread far and wide, and its workers have suffered the brunt of the violence of separatists.

## Religious element

While the NC does not appeal to religious organisations, the PDP has been traditionally favoured by religious organisations in J&K.

However, the PDP's support among religious organisations has faltered after members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) decided to contest the Assembly elections.

The JeI aims for 'Iqamat e Deen' (establishing religion-as-system) and seeks 'Nizam-e-Mustafa' or sharia rule. Many of its former members are contesting as independents leaving implications primarily on PDP.

Worried about its eroding base, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti demanded 'revocation' of the ban on JeI in August. Earlier, she had protested against



the government's decision to ban JeI.

The electoral contest, which used to be primarily between the NC and the PDP, has become multi-cornered with the emergence of new political players in the past two decades.

Their emergence is linked to the diminishing influence of separatist politics, especially after 2019 when the special status of the state was revoked. There are now many more parties and independent candidates in the fray.

Existential questions There are also existential questions for the NC and the PDP, which remain focused on constitutional autonomy and its guarantee. If they give up the demand for autonomy and special status for J&K, they would lose their regional specificity and importance.

These may seem good reasons for the two parties to come together. But ground-level competition and irreconcilable social bases will make this difficult.

But there was one

instance when they were able to unite.

The immediate period following the revocation of the special status of J&K and its division into two union territories created conditions for political consensus between the NC and the PDP, as well as other political forces.

This led to the Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), named after Gupkar Road in the capital, Srinagar, where the political elite lives and where the agreement came about.

However, the alliance was formed in an exigency without agreement on deeper political issues. In an August 4, 2019 declaration, party leaders declared their political commitment to 'protect' and 'defend' the removal of the special provisions under Article 370 and Article 35-A of the Indian Constitution.

The PAGD pledged to reverse the process. However, they were unable to maintain the alliance even in the elections for the District Development Councils in 2020. In these

elections, the PAGD parties/supporters contested each other in several seats in the Kashmir valley.

Alliance partners like the People's Conference complained of 'breach of trust' against the NC for fielding proxies and left the alliance in 2021. The Jammu & Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM) followed it in 2022, reducing the alliance to an ineffectually functioning 'four-party group'.

The poor electoral performance also led to fissures sooner than expected, with a radical dip in the PDP's vote share in Jammu, and other parties faring badly in the Valley. The NC and the PDP contested the 2024 general elections separately. They have continued to do so in the Assembly elections as well. In effect, the PAGD did not re-group to contest these much-awaited and crucial elections.

## New Delhi's role

The local parties of J&K also suffer from the peculiar compulsion of all regional parties in India. They constantly look to be on the right side of the Union government, in anticipation of its largesse for their states. This makes the national parties an important factor in any alliance formation.

Kashmir politics has seen many such instances. The political landscape of

the erstwhile state altered significantly, for example, after the NC-Indian National Congress alliance in the mid-1980s. The alliance brought Farooq Abdullah back to power after his dismissal, but the legislature was left without an Opposition.

The current NC-INC alliance is propelled by the importance of the 'Jammu factor'. With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s substantial political and electoral presence in Jammu, neither the NC nor the PDP, either singly or jointly, can defeat it there.

However, the NC-Congress alliance allows for some 'friendly' contests between the parties.

With or without asking for the restoration of the special status of J&K, the local parties are fighting an existential battle that has affected the pre-poll alliances in Kashmir. Their contest remains among themselves, even as they face a strong BJP.

A lot of bargaining will be necessary for a post-poll alliance if they seriously wish to keep the BJP out.

(Javid Ahmad Dar is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.)

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## Strive to have an empty mind

RAVI VALLURI

Aeons ago a neophyte Zen student was an apprentice at a temple of knowledge. Regrettably, his mind was not robust enough and kept vacillating; so much so his mind and soul were not satisfied with "mere" breathing practices and meditation techniques imparted at the monastery. Petals of knowledge revealed. In a state of haughtiness, the Zen student arrived at another temple of knowledge where he remarked, rather dramatically that, "The human mind, Sakya Muni Buddha and other sentient beings, in reality do not exist." The pontiff of the monastery was silently listening to the outburst but uttered nothing for a while. And then abruptly and quite unexpectedly he whacked the tutee with his prized bamboo pipe which angered the student.

The Zen Master compassionately inquired of the tutee that if nothing existed, from where did his bout of anger and arrogance emerge? The mentee was momentarily nonplussed and then fell at the feet of the Zen Master, begging for forgiveness. A hollow and empty mind? The perceptive Master agreed to admit the whippersnapper but with a few stipulations. It was incumbent upon the greenhorn to remember the cardinal principle of trying to keep the mind hollow and empty. Lord Krishna's flute: There is an interesting parable about Lord Krishna and his flute. It is believed that he used to visit a garden and whisper, "I love you" to all the flora and fauna. In unison, the flora and fauna reciprocated their unalloyed and unadulterated affection towards Lord Krishna. It so transpired that one day, an animated



Lord Krishna approached a bamboo tree in the garden. The Lord broke the cataclysmic news that he would have to snuff out the life of the bamboo plant. The entire garden was aghast as the news spread; several plants and trees were however secretly joyous that they were spared of the torture.

The bamboo mulled upon the news for a while and then languidly responded, "Lord, you and I have no choice. At the altar of the Master of the Universe, I am willing to sacrifice my life." Hearing this, Lord Krishna beamed. With surgical precision, he struck the bamboo plant. Soon the bamboo was fashioned

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

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

na's unflinching devotion to the Lord that made the character so robust and aerobicized. He faithfully carried out all the commandments of the Lord. Only inner strength and a mature mind transfigure an individual to establish contact with the source of our inner energy.

This is possible through the process of authentic surrender. Breathing techniques like Sudarshan Kriya help to make the mind hollow and empty. "A mature mind is one who understands the impossibility of knowing the ultimate, and with this understanding there is a new dimension, the dimension of the being," said the philosopher, Osho.

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



## INDIAN BIOTECH STARTUPS LAUNCH 11 UNIQUE PRODUCTS IN BIOSCIENCES

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 14

The Indian biotech startups took centre-stage with unveiling 11 products at the 'Global Bio-India 2024' that showcased the country's emerging talent in biosciences, it was announced on Saturday.

The fourth edition of the event, organised by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in the national capital, concluded after showcasing India's biotech prowess.

The theme highlighted the potential and opportunities in biotech innovation and bio-manufacturing and its impact on the bio-economy.

The ceremony also



marked the launch of calls for proposals under the i4 (Innovation for Industry) and PACE (promoting academic collaboration and entrepreneurship) programmes, furthering the government's commitment to fostering innovation.

Professor V Ramgopal

Rao, Group Vice Chancellor, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, emphasised the need for India to develop organisational models similar to the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) for other emerging technologies like nanotechnology

and quantum technology. He also stressed the importance of fostering deep tech startups led by PhDs and academic faculty, urging institutions to encourage entrepreneurship.

The event demonstrated India's potential in the biotech sector with evidence, both within the country and to the world, paving out a roadmap to leapfrog the Biotech innovation and Bio-manufacturing in the country, said the Ministry of Science and Technology.

According to Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, India's bio-economy has experienced remark-

able growth, skyrocketing from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024, with projections to reach \$300 billion by 2030.

There are 30 breakthrough startups, paving the way for the future of biotech.

According to the minister, there are a billion reasons to invest in India. The reasons being India has 60 per cent share of global vaccine production, it has the second highest number of FDA-approved manufacturing plants outside the US.

Opportunities for investments are available in bio-pharma, bio-agri, bio-industrial, bio-energy, bio-Services and med-tech, said the minister.

## Only 12 pc of unsafe food imports, including from China, taken off market

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, SEP 15

Only about 12 per cent of food imports determined to be unsafe have actually been taken off the market, a lawmaker said here on Sunday, citing related government data.

According to the data from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, an average of 12.5 per cent of 141 import food items that had been ordered to be recalled since 2022 have actually been removed from the local market.

Rep. Seo Mi-hwa of the main opposition Democratic Party said some of the recalled food items had a collection rate of over 80 per cent, but that the rates for more than 90 recalled items were



below 10 per cent, reports Yonhap news agency.

For instance, a type of dried mushrooms from China had been banned after it was found they contained prohibited substances, but none of the 3,550 kilograms that had already been imported and sold have made it back to the seller to be disposed of, the data showed.

Also, 144,000 kg of Vietnamese chili pepper

had been ordered to be recalled for excessive pesticide residues, but only about 115 kg have so far been collected from the market.

A ministry official said the government works to "quickly retrieve affected products off the market when there is a recall order while informing consumers to return such products to the place of their purchase."

## OVER 2,500 GOVERNMENT DOCTORS IN PUNJAB CALL OFF STRIKE

AGENCIES  
CHANDIGARH, SEP 14

Over 2,500 government doctors in Punjab on Saturday decided to call off their weeklong-old strike, following assurances from Health Minister Balbir Singh on their demands.

Balbir Singh, along with Principal Secretary, Finance, Ajoy Kumar Sinha and Secretary, Health, Kumar Rahul chaired a meeting with a delegation of the Punjab Civil Medical Services Association, led by its state President Akhil Sarin, and appealed to the doctors to call off the strike as patients were facing hardships due to the strike.

Medical services in state-run hospitals were severely affected, following the strike. However, emergency and intensive care units (ICUs) were exempted from it.

The indefinite strike call initially was to keep outpatient departments (OPDs) shut for three hours, from



8 a.m., till September 11. From the next day, the strike was extended to the full day.

The minister informed the striking doctors said although the cabinet subcommittee had already agreed demands of the doctors on Wednesday, he reassured them that their demands like the restoration of Dynamic Assured Career Progression (DACP) will be implemented soon.

Deliberating on other demands of the PCMSA, Balbir Singh, a doctor him-

self, said he himself "is of the opinion that there is stagnation in the career of a doctor, their first promotion is mostly at the age of 50 years" and he is working to increase the posts of Senior Medical Officers (SMOs) so that such stagnation can be minimised.

The government has sanctioned recruitment of 1,390 doctors out of which 400 vacancies have already been advertised.

Funds for the security arrangements in hospitals have already been

released and CCTVs in all government health facilities are being installed, the minister said, as per an official statement.

He said the government is committed to the demands of the PCMSA as most of their demands have been approved and will be implemented in a time-bound manner.

During the meeting, PCMSA President Sarin expressed gratitude and announced to call off their strike with immediate effect. As a sympathetic gesture towards patients, the PCMSA decided to extend the OPD timing by two hours to compensate for the inconvenience faced by the patients due to the strike.

Secretary, Finance, Diprava Lakra, Director, Health and Family Welfare, Hitinder Kaur, Director, Medical Education and Research, Avnish Kumar and other senior officers of the state government were also present at the meeting.

## Low-carbohydrate diet beneficial for kids, youth with type 1 diabetes: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 14

A diet low in carbohydrates could be beneficial for children and young adults with Type 1 diabetes, claimed a study.

People suffering from Type 1 diabetes -- an autoimmune disease that results in the loss of beta cell mass -- have insulin deficiency and hence need lifelong insulin therapy.

Researchers from Charles University and Motol University Hospital in the Czech Republic showed that a short-term low-carbohydrate diet led to an improvement in glycemic parameters.

To achieve optimal metabolic control, T1D requires frequent insulin administration and daily control of carbohydrate intake and physical activity. While the targets are often missed, especially in children and adolescents, dietary interventions can be a promising way to achieve the goal, said the



team.

A low carbohydrate diet (LCD) is defined by American Diabetes Association (ADA) for adults as more than 130 grams of carbohydrates per day or less than 26 per cent of daily recommended energy intake from carbohydrates.

The study comes amidst clinical guidelines from the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) rec-

ommending against low carb diet for children and adolescents with or at risk for developing diabetes.

Despite ISPAD's recommendation of 45-50 per cent of daily energy intake from carbohydrates for children and young people with type 1 diabetes, there is growing evidence that carbohydrate reduction is a popular strategy, the team said.

For the study, they

investigated whether a short period of tightly controlled low-carbohydrate diet leads to a higher time in range without increasing the associated risks in children and young people with diabetes.

They included 35 children and young people with type 1 diabetes in a randomised controlled cross-over study. The interventions were five and five weeks of ready-made food box deliveries of isocaloric diets in random order: either a low-carbohydrate diet (LCD) or recommended carbohydrate diet (RCD).

Children are known to be at risk of hypoglycemia -- a condition when blood sugar levels drop too low -- with a low-carb diet.

However, the study results published in the journal Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice showed that short-term LCD led to an improvement of glycemic parameters without increasing time in hypoglycemia.

## Hormone therapy can significantly cut insulin resistance: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, SEP 15

A new meta-analysis of 17 different randomised, controlled trials suggests that hormone therapy can significantly reduce insulin resistance.

Menopausal women are at greater risk of insulin resistance as a result of declining estrogen levels.

Previous studies evaluating the potential benefits of hormone therapy on insulin resistance have produced mixed results.

In the new study, Dr Xuezhi (Daniel) Jiang, lead researcher from Reading Hospital Tower Health and Drexel University College of Medicine in Pennsylvania in the US, said their analysis showed that both types of hormone therapy, including oral and transdermal routes, significantly



reduced insulin resistance in healthy postmenopausal women, although estrogen alone was associated with a more prominent reduction when compared to a combination hormone therapy.

A number of studies have previously attempted to determine the potential positive effect of hormone therapy on insulin resistance. However, those studies produced inconsistent results.

But in this new meta-analysis, it was found that hormone therapy significantly reduced insulin resistance in healthy postmenopausal women without metabolic diseases

including diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases.

"Hormone therapy is an effective treatment for many bothersome menopause symptoms, including hot flashes," said Dr Stephanie Faubion, medical director for The Menopause Society.

This new meta-analysis is important as declining estrogen levels in menopausal women put them at greater risk for insulin resistance and hormone therapy could be beneficial in reducing insulin resistance in these women, Faubion noted.

Insulin resistance can occur in men or women, but menopausal women are at greater risk because, as estrogen levels fall during the menopause transition, the body can become less responsive to insulin.

## Why high-intensity exercise can help you recover faster from stroke

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 14

While the importance of exercise in stroke rehabilitation cannot be overstated, experts on Saturday affirmed that short bursts of high-intensity interval training (HIIT) could be more effective than continuous moderate physical exercise.

When a stroke occurs, blood flow to the brain is disrupted, leading to damage that can impact physical and cognitive functions. Exercise plays a crucial role in the rehabilitation process by promoting neuroplasticity, where the brain reorganises itself to recover lost functions.

HIIT involves repeated one-minute bursts of intense exercise followed by short recovery periods. Use of a stationary bike, treadmill, bodyweight, kettlebell, dumbbells, or



jumping rope are some examples of HIIT workouts.

"HIIT represents a paradigm shift in rehabilitation, particularly for stroke recovery," Dr Vikram Huded, HOD and Director and Clinical Lead,

Interventional Neurology, Narayana Health City, told IANS.

"Unlike traditional continuous moderate exercise, HIIT enhances cardiovascular health more efficiently by pushing the body to adapt to short,

intense bursts of activity," added Dr Raghvendra Ramdasi, Consultant Neurosurgeon, Jaslok Hospital, Mumbai.

Several studies have shown that exercising after a stroke offers several health benefits, including reduced risk of stroke recurrence and boosted overall recovery.

A recent research, published in the journal Stroke, showed that one-minute bursts of high-intensity interval training over 19 minutes were more effective than traditional moderate exercise for improving the body's aerobic fitness after a stroke.

Evidence suggests that HIIT can accelerate cardiovascular recovery and improve overall physical endurance more effectively than conventional methods.

Ramdasi told IANS the method not only boosts heart and lung capacity

but also improves circulation, which is vital for brain recovery.

However, HIIT may not be suitable for everyone, said the experts.

"Patients with severe cardiovascular conditions or those who are not yet physically stable post-stroke should avoid this form of exercise until they have regained a certain level of baseline fitness," Huded said.

Ramdasi said patients who have regained some mobility and are medically stable benefit most from HIIT.

The experts also urged stroke patients to perform "any exercise regimen, particularly HIIT, according to an individual's abilities and under supervision of an expert to avoid potential risks"

They also advised to begin with lower intensity and gradually increase as tolerance improves.

## A drug combo can minimise agitated delirium in patients with advanced cancers

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, SEP 15

A combination of drugs can help reduce symptoms of agitated delirium, a common end-of-life condition for patients with advanced cancers, according to a new study.

Treatment with a combination of haloperidol and lorazepam reduced

symptoms of agitated delirium, compared with haloperidol alone, according to the study led by researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

David Hui, professor of Palliative, Rehabilitation and Integrative Medicine, said that advanced delirium is common and highly distressing in many

patients with advanced cancers receiving palliative care.

"But we've had limited evidence on the use and effectiveness of treatment for this condition," said Hui.

"The RECORD trial offers valuable data and insights that support the use of therapy in the palliative care setting in



order to provide patients with greater comfort," he

added. Agitated delirium occurs when a patient's brain function begins to deteriorate as their cancer advances, resulting in many patients beginning to behave aggressively or abnormally.

Although the use of medication in this setting has been debated, these results suggest tailored

combination treatments can significantly improve symptoms for patients at the end of life.

In the study, patients that received the combination of haloperidol and lorazepam experienced a significant decrease in agitated delirium when measured at 24 hours with a standard scoring tool.

In that same time frame,

this group needed no more than two rescue doses, or additional medication provided as needed.

The team also observed a significant decrease in agitated delirium in patients treated with lorazepam alone, but these patients required more rescue doses.

The placebo group saw very little reduction in

delirium, and, in some scenarios, patients needed as many as five rescue doses.

"By proactively personalising treatment of this distressing symptom, we are providing caregivers, families and patients an opportunity for meaningful connection in the time they have remaining," Hui said.



## Protecting Constitution key to strong democracy: Yogi

AGENCIES  
GORAKHPUR, SEP 15

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday that the strength of Indian democracy lies in the protection of our Constitution and it is the collective responsibility of every citizen to do so by rising above divisions of caste, creed, religion, and region.

He made these remarks while presiding over the inaugural conference on 'India as the Mother of Democracy,' which is a part of a series of discussions on contemporary issues held to mark the 55th death anniversary of Yugpurush Brahmalen Mahant Digvijaynath Maharaj and the 10th death anniversary of Rashtrasant Brahmalen Mahant Avedyanath Maharaj.

Adityanath said that at a time when much of the world lacked a strong emphasis on civilization,

culture and human values, India was flourishing in all these areas.

The CM said, "From ancient times to the present, Indian civilization has been deeply rooted in democratic principles. The Rishi tradition emphasised the principle of 'Live and Let Live,' a true form of democracy, one that originated in India."

"Unlike other cultures that sought to conquer or dominate, India's ethos has always been one of inclusivity, captured in the timeless philosophy of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' (May all be happy). This spirit is reflected today in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,' the Chief Minister said.

Congratulating the chief guest, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh, Adityanath said, "The evidence of democratic values can be found in India from the Vedic period through the



Ramayana and Mahabharata eras. In Indian democracy, the people's voice and interests have always been of utmost importance. The Indian tradition has long upheld the belief that the king is responsible for the well-being of the people."

He said, "During the Ramayana era, Lord Ram prioritised the people's voice and Lord Krishna oversaw governance through a council of elders.

When internal strife broke out in Dwarka, leading to the demise of the council members, Lord Krishna remarked that the laws of

the state apply equally to all citizens."

The CM expressed concern over the fact that a mindset of slavery still prevails among some people in the country, despite India's deep democratic roots that date back to ancient times. "India lost its freedom when it failed to safeguard its democratic heritage," he said.

He said, "In ancient India, councils representing the people had the authority to remove autocratic kings, underscoring that in a true democracy, the welfare of the people is paramount.

He cited the Vaishali Republic as a prime example from ancient history, where the entire governance system was dedicated to the people's interests.

Yogi said, "Today, all Indians should take pride in their democracy and the nation's rapidly growing economy, which is built on democratic values."

He stressed that the strength of our democracy lies in the protection of our Constitution. "It is the collective responsibility of every citizen to safeguard the Constitution with sincerity and rise above divisions of caste, creed, religion, and region," he said.

The CM said that by upholding the highest respect for the Constitution, India can ensure a stronger democracy.

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh said that the principles of democracy have been shaped by India's 5,000-year-old

values. He highlighted that the true democracy today is deeply rooted in Indian traditions and values.

Harivansh said, "The essence of democracy lies in the freedom to express one's views openly, a principle deeply rooted in thousands of years of Indian tradition. Indian democracy provides people with full freedom, along with the ability to correct its flaws."

He said that those influenced by Western ideals have mistakenly viewed Indian democracy as an imported concept, largely because of the habit of looking to Greece for inspiration. He pointed out that when India gained independence, many foreign scholars doubted the survival of democracy in the country.

He said, "However, today, India stands ready to prove them wrong, as next year marks the Amrit Year of the implementation of the Constitution."

## Haryana polls: 62 candidates file nominations in Gurgaon's four Assembly seats

AGENCIES  
GURUGRAM, SEP 15

Gurugram district is set to witness a crucial political contest as 62 candidates are in the fray for four Assembly seats in the upcoming Assembly elections.

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Gurugram Nishant Kumar Yadav said that election symbols will be allotted to the candidates who have filed nominations in all four Assembly constituencies of the district namely Pataudi, Badshahpur, Gurgaon and Sohna on Sunday.

He said candidates who are willing to withdraw their nomination papers can withdraw by September 16 after that the nomination papers will not be considered.

Yadav said that to withdraw the nomination, it is

important to submit Form 5. If the candidate is not there, then it is mandatory for the candidate, agent and proposer to take written permission from the candidate to fill Form 5.

He informed that in the district, 8 candidates have filed their nomination papers in the Pataudi Assembly, 15 in Badshahpur, 20 in Gurgaon Assembly and 19 in Sohna Assembly. The District Election Officer called upon all the candidates to ensure that they follow the instructions issued by the Election Commission.

It is mandatory for the candidate to take permission from the administration for rallies, road shows and other programs. If any candidate violates norms, then necessary action will be taken against them under the rules laid down by the Election Commission.

## PM Modi labels JMM, RJD, Cong as 'three enemies of Jharkhand'

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 15

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing a public rally in Jamshepur on Sunday, launched a fierce attack on the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and Congress and labelled them as the "enemies" of the state.

"There are three enemies of Jharkhand—JMM, RJD, and Congress—and the sooner people understand this, the better it will be for them. The RJD still seeks revenge against Jharkhand for its separate statehood," he said.

"Congress despises Jharkhand, which is why, for so many years, when they ruled the country from Delhi, they never allowed the Dalit, poor, and backward sections to move forward. They are willing to go to any lengths for their greed and power," he further asserted.

PM Modi accused JMM of building its political



base on Adivasi votes while now aligning with those who allegedly threaten the land rights of the state's people.

He expressed concern about the growing problem of illegal immigrants in Jharkhand, particularly in the Santhal and Kolhan regions, which he said has endangered local girls and their families.

"Today, the biggest problem in the state is the intruders. Just two days ago, the Jharkhand High Court passed orders to investigate these activities, but the JMM government

refuses to acknowledge that this is a significant issue," he said.

The Prime Minister alleged that the demographics and identity of these regions are changing rapidly due to Bangladeshi and Rohingya immigrants. Modi claimed that JMM is siding with these immigrants for political gains.

"JMM is standing with the Bangladeshi and Rohingya intruders. Political benefit is their top priority," he added.

He also pointed to the recent controversy

surrounding former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren, stating, "Today, poor tribal people in Jharkhand are questioning if Champai Soren wasn't a tribal or if he didn't come from a poor family. The insult to him has deeply hurt every tribal person in Jharkhand."

Shifting his focus to Congress, PM Modi branded the party as the "most corrupt" in the country and took aim at the Gandhi family, labelling them as the "most corrupt family."

He accused JMM of being trained in corruption by what he called the "Congress School of Corruption."

PM Modi emphasised that accountability is key in the upcoming elections, calling for the public to hold corrupt individuals responsible.

"We must hold accountable those corrupt individuals who have looted your money and drained the treasury of Jharkhand.

It is our responsibility to account for every penny, and I need your support for this," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister also criticised the state government over the deaths of more than 15 candidates during physical tests for recruitment exams.

He extended condolences to the families of the deceased and assured them of a thorough investigation once the BJP and NDA come to power.

"I pay my respects to those young lives lost due to recruitment exams in the state, and offer my condolences to their families. I promise that once the BJP and NDA government is in power in Jharkhand, a thorough investigation into these matters will be conducted," he said.

With the elections approaching, PM Modi's address was met with enthusiastic cheers from the crowd as he promised to bring Jharkhand back on track with BJP leadership.

## 'No move to impose President's rule in West Bengal'

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 15

The Centre has no plans to impose President's rule in West Bengal, which was hit by political violence in the run-up and in the wake of the Lok Sabha elections this year, sensational crimes like the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder, and a slew of corruption allegations against senior figures of the ruling Trinamool Congress.

There is no move to impose President's rule in West Bengal, a top government source said, as the state continues to grapple with the ongoing protests by junior doctors against the ghastly crime and the latest proposed talks with the agitators and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee failing on Saturday evening.

The source also defended Prime Minister Naren-



dra Modi's visit last week to the residence of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud for Ganesh Puja celebrations, which had evoked criticism by some opposition parties.

"Better to go openly than to go secretly," the source said, asking if India's judiciary "is so weak that judges will get influenced because of a meeting?"

"Such thinking is reflective of a weak mindset," the source added.

As Prime Minister Modi, who had donned a tradi-

tional Maharashtra cap, reached the CJI's residence, CJI Chandrachud and his wife welcomed him with folded hands, and all three were seen offering prayers to Lord Ganesh and performing aarti.

Opposition parties including Congress, the NCP-SP, and the SS-UBT had raised questions over PM Modi's visit, with some calling it "uncomforting", and others went on to raise doubts over the CJI's 'ability' to conclude future hearings after this meet.

## RESERVATION IS CONSCIENCE OF OUR CONSTITUTION: JAGDEEP DHANKAR

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, SEP 15

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar said on Sunday that the reservation is the conscience of the Constitution and also questioned the mindset of people who denied the conferment of Bharat Ratna to Babasaheb Ambedkar and the implementation of Mandal Commission.

Criticising those who talk of ending reservation and think that it is against meritocracy, the Vice President underlined: "Let me assure you, reservation is the conscience of the Constitution, reservation is in our Constitution with positivity, with great meaning to bring about

social equality and to cut inequities. Reservation is affirmative action, it is not negative. Reservation is not depriving someone of opportunity, reservation is hand holding those who are pillars and strength of society."

He said that a pattern of prejudice against reservation has been handed over and a person holding a constitutional position who is making serialised periodic 'anti-India rant' on foreign soil is talking about ending reservations.

"The frontal attack on the democratic constitutional values must be rebuffed," the Vice President said while speaking at the inauguration of Samvidhan Mandir (Constitu-

tion Temple) at Elphinstone Technical High School & Junior College in Mumbai.

Criticising the flaunting of Constitution by some, Dhankar said that: "Constitution is not to be flaunted like a book. The Constitution has to be respected. The Constitution has to be read. The Constitution has to be understood. Merely presenting the Constitution as a book, showcasing it - at least any civilised, knowledgeable person, someone with a devoted spirit towards the Constitution, and one who reveres the essence of the Constitution - will not accept it."

Dhankar stated: "It is a matter of concern, a subject for reflection, and



a topic for deep contemplation! The same mindset that was anti-reservation, the pattern of prejudice against reservation that has been handed over. Today, a person sitting in a constitutional position says abroad that reservations should be abolished."

"Why the true gem (Babasaheb Ambedkar) was not awarded Bharat Ratna. It was awarded on March 31, 1990. Why was this honour not given earlier? Baba Saheb was very well-known as the architect of the Constitution. Another significant issue

related to Babasaheb's mindset is the Mandal Commission report. After this report was presented, for the next ten years, and during that decade when the country had two Prime Ministers - Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi - not a single move was made regarding this report," he added.

Dhankar said that India's first Prime Minister Pandit Nehru had the anti reservation mindset. He quoted Nehru who said, "I do not like reservations in any form. Especially reservations in jobs. I am against any step that promotes inefficiency and takes us towards mediocrity."

Asking the young gen-

eration to be mindful and aware of the 21 months of Emergency, the darkest period in the history of post Independent India, he remarked, "Never forget a particular day; always remember it. It is a black day, a stain on our history. June 25, 1975, is the darkest chapter of our journey post-independence, the darkest period of our democracy."

"We celebrate Constitution Day to remind ourselves how our Constitution was created, how it establishes our rights, how it empowers us, and how it creates a system where a person from an ordinary background can become Prime Minister, a farmer's son can become Vice Presi-

dent, and a tribal woman of great calibre and elegance, who has seen all the shortcomings and ground realities, can become President," he said.

Reflecting on the need for separation of power among different organs of the state and need for all the organs to work within their limitations thus avoid becoming trigger point of political inflammatory debate, Dhankar stated: "All organs of the state - judiciary, legislature, and executive - have a single purpose: to ensure the success of the fundamental spirit of the Constitution, to guarantee all rights to the common people, and to help India prosper and flourish."

## 11 lakh candidates appear in Assam govt's recruitment exam

AGENCIES  
GUWAHATI, SEP 15

A huge government recruitment examination was conducted in Assam by the state administration on Sunday where more than 11 lakh applicants took part in the exercise. The examinations were conducted at more than 2,300 centres across the state.

A senior official said, "A total of 11,23,204 candidates applied for the class III level government

posts. We set up 2,305 centres in different corners of the state for the examinations."

He asserted that the examinations were conducted without any difficulties and that the entire examination process was peaceful across the state.

The state government adopted a slew of measures to conduct a free and fair examination process that includes suspension of the internet for more than three hours to check the use of illegal means during

the examination process.

A notification issued by the administration on Sunday night mentioned, "To ensure that there remains no loopholes in the examination process which might have the potential to create doubt in the public mind on the fairness of the recruitment process, the Government of Assam has taken necessary steps to temporarily disable the mobile internet/mobile data/mobile/Wi-Fi connectivity on 15th September 2024 from

10.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m."

The notification added that despite the state government taking the necessary steps to conduct a free and fair examination, it was observed on many such earlier occasions in our state as well as in other states that some unscrupulous elements resorted to unfair means using different mobile applications such as Facebook, WhatsApp, X (Twitter), Telegram and YouTube etc which are based on internet/Wi-Fi connectivity.

## Ready for 'agnipariksha', says Kejriwal while announcing resignation as Delhi CM

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 15

AAP Chief Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday announced to resign as Delhi Chief Minister in the next two days, saying he was ready for the 'agnipariksha'.

Addressing a gathering at party headquarters, Kejriwal said he will not sit in the Chief Minister's chair till the people again elect him. "I will reach out to people. If people think that I am honest, they will vote for me in the Delhi

Assembly polls," he said.

Attacking the BJP-led NDA government, Kejriwal said: It is their formula to topple the state governments where they could not win by registering false cases against the Chief Ministers. They have filed cases against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, and Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee.

"Running a government from jail is possible if we all work together. It's not about our greed for power

or the importance of the CM's position to us. What matters is our Constitution, our country, and preserving democracy," said Kejriwal.

Kejriwal said that he did not resign while going to prison in connection with the excise policy case as he wanted to "save the democracy".

On the Supreme Court granting him conditional bail, Kejriwal said that he respects the Apex Court's decisions.

He also appealed to the

Election Commission to hold early polls in Delhi in November, alongside Maharashtra.

Highlighting his government's achievement, he claimed that the educational infrastructure of Delhi's schools has improved.

"We have given 18 lakh underprivileged children a brighter future by offering them access to an improved education system. We achieved this because we are honest," Kejriwal asserted.



## Israeli drone drops evacuation leaflets over Lebanese villages

AGENCIES  
BEIRUT, SEP 15

An Israeli drone dropped leaflets on Sunday morning over the southeastern Lebanese village of Wazani and nearby areas, calling on local residents to evacuate to the north of the town of Khiam, according to Lebanese military sources.

Bearing the signature of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), the leaflets read, "To all residents and displaced persons in the refugee camps area, Hezbollah is firing from your area.

You must leave your homes immediately and head north of Khiam until 4 p.m. (local time) and do not return until the war's end," military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua news agency.

"Anyone present in this



area after this time will be considered a terrorist element, and his blood will be shed," it added.

Meanwhile, military sources told Xinhua that Israeli warplanes and drones conducted five raids on Sunday on four border towns and villages in southern Lebanon, and

Israeli artillery shelled eight towns and villages, injuring four people in the town of Adaisseh.

"This morning, 40 Katyusha rockets and several drones were fired from the Lebanese side into northern Israel," they added.

Tensions along the

Lebanon-Israel border escalated on October 8, 2023, following a barrage of rockets launched by Hezbollah toward Israel in solidarity with Hamas's attack on Israel the day before. Israel then retaliated by firing heavy artillery toward southeastern Lebanon.

## Channel calamity: Eight dead as migrant boat sinks between France and UK

AGENCIES  
PARIS, SEP 15

Days after this year's biggest tragedy in the English Channel, another eight people drowned overnight while attempting to make the perilous crossing to the UK from France, reports said on Sunday.

Rescue teams were alerted when the rubber boat, with 50 people onboard, soon after setting sail from the French coast, encountered trouble in waters north of Boulogne-sur-Mer in Pas-de-Calais around 1 a.m. (local time) and, began sinking shortly, the BBC reported, citing the French police.

The French Coast Guard said the boat was seen heading towards a beach in the town of Ambleteuse but rescue teams could not offer assistance from the sea.



On the beach, emergency services provided care to 53 people and confirmed eight had died, the Coast Guard said. No other people were found during searches in the sea.

An investigation has been opened by the Boulogne-sur-mer Public Prosecutor's office.

This incident follows the deaths of 12 people, including six children and a pregnant woman, less than two weeks ago when another migrant boat

sank, marking the deadliest event in the Channel this year.

A spokesperson for the UK Government confirmed the tragic event, stating that French authorities are leading the response and investigation.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy expressed his sorrow over the "further loss of life" and reiterated the need to work with European nations to combat the criminal gangs involved in people smuggling, which fuel these dangerous crossings, the BBC said.

The recent tragedy comes amid an increase in Channel crossing attempts due to improved weather conditions.

In the past two days, French maritime authorities have rescued around 200 people in multiple operations. The Coast Guard and other responders saved individuals from four boats carrying between 36 and 61 people each.

Authorities monitored 18 separate crossing attempts in just one day.

So far this year, 45 people have died in the Channel, the highest toll since 2021, according to the UN's International Organisation for Migration.

Over 21,000 people have crossed the Channel in 2024.

## Clashes erupt between Houthis, pro-government forces in Yemen

AGENCIES  
ADEN (YEMEN), SEP 15

Ferocious clashes erupted between Houthi militants and pro-government forces in the country's southern province of Lahj, a military official said.

The local official, speaking on condition of anonymity to Xinhua news agency, reported that armed confrontations broke out on Saturday when Houthi forces attempted to seize control of strategic mountainous positions along the administrative borders of Lahj and Taiz provinces.

The official confirmed that two soldiers were killed and five others left injured as a result of the Houthi offensive, and heavy weapons were used in the hours-long confrontations.



tations.

The Houthis failed to capture new territory, but they established military positions near the contact lines, according to the source.

Local media outlets reported that the intensification of hostilities prompted many families in affected areas to evacuate their homes, raising concerns about potential humanitarian consequences.

The recent outbreak of violence followed limited engagements between the two sides in the same area last week, which resulted in the killing of a number of people.

Yemen has been mired in a civil war since late 2014 when the Houthi group seized several northern provinces, forcing the Yemeni internationally recognised government out of the capital, Sanaa.

## Russia warns of potential nuclear response amid Western actions in Ukraine

AGENCIES  
MOSCOW, SEP 15

Russia's patience regarding a nuclear response to Western actions in Ukraine is wearing thin, warned Dmitry Medvedev, Deputy Chairman of Russia's security council, in a message posted on his Telegram channel.

Medvedev said that while "a nuclear conflict is in no one's interest," Russia has thus far exercised restraint in utilising its nuclear capabilities in response to Western involvement, particularly concerning high-precision strikes deep into Russian territory. However, he cautioned that "even the greatest patience has its limits."

This warning came following recent US discussions regarding the provi-



sion of Army Tactical Missile Systems to Ukraine, which could enable strikes deeper into Russian territory, Xinhua news agency reported.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov claimed that Western leaders had already decided whether to allow Ukraine's use of long-

range missiles and had informed Kyiv – forcing Moscow to respond with its own actions.

"The decision has been made, the carte blanche and all indulgences have been given (to Kyiv), so we are ready for everything," Ryabkov said, state-owned RIA news agency reported.

## Death toll rises to six from Bangladesh's ship-breaking yard fire

AGENCIES  
DHAKA, SEP 15

The death toll from last week's explosion and fire at a ship-breaking yard in southeastern Bangladesh rose to six with two more injured succumbing to their wounds, an official said.

The victims died on Saturday at a hospital in Dhaka, said Tariqul Islam, a resident physician of the institute.

"With this, the death toll in the explosion rose to six," he told journalists, adding that the death toll may rise further as several critically injured patients are undergoing treatment.

Jahangir Hawlader, 45, and Barkatullah, 23, were declared dead in between 6 a.m. and 6:30 a.m., he said at the hospital.

Jahangir and Barkatullah had suffered burn

on 70 and 50 per cent of their bodies respectively, he added.

At least 12 people were wounded on September 7 after a blast sparked a fire at a ship-breaking factory in Sitakunda on the outskirts of Bangladesh's southeastern Chattogram seaport city. Four of them had died earlier, Xinhua news agency reported.

Among the injured, Anwar Hossain and Abul Kashem who are still undergoing treatment at the burn institute, have 25 per cent and 70 per cent burn injuries, hospital sources said.

Their condition is critical too, the sources said.

Bangladesh's Ministry of Industries has formed a committee to investigate the accident while operations at the ship-breaking yard have been suspended until further notice.

## Iran denounces Western countries for imposing new sanctions on Tehran

AGENCIES  
TEHRAN, SEP 15

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has denounced certain Western countries over fresh sanctions imposed on Tehran, which was accused of selling ballistic missiles to Russia.

The Iranian Foreign Minister made the remarks in an interview with Iran's IRIB news agency, which was published on Saturday, while reacting to the sanctions imposed by the US, France, Britain, and Germany on Iran.

"The Western states should know, and it is surprising that they still do not know, that sanctions are a failed tool and they will not be able to impose their intentions on Iran, whether with regard to the nuclear issue or other



ones, through sanctions," Araghchi said.

He stressed that Iran would "continue its path with strength," adding that although the country had always been open to dialogue and had never abandoned "constructive" talks on achieving a common understanding about different issues, such a diplomatic process should be based on mutual respect, not threats or pressure, Xinhua news agency reported.

Also on Saturday, Iran's

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said that any claim about Iran's sales of ballistic missiles to Russia is "basically false," while referring to the Western sanctions as "a path that not only fails to help resolve problems, but also is part of the problem and will be responded by Iran."

Iran has condemned allegations by Western countries that it has supplied short-range missiles to Russia for use against Ukraine and pledged to

respond to new sanctions imposed by a trio of European states.

Tehran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Araghchi said last Wednesday that Iran had not delivered ballistic missiles to Russia and that the US and its allies were acting on "faulty intelligence".

Last Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani called the sanctions announced by Britain, France and Germany "economic terrorism" against the people of Iran and pledged that the three European countries would face "appropriate and proportionate action".

France, Germany and Britain announced the sanctions earlier last Wednesday after the US formally accused Iran of supplying the weapons to

Moscow.

The measures revoke bilateral deals for providing air services to Iran and impose sanctions on flag carrier Iran Air that will restrict its ability to fly to Europe.

"In addition, we will pursue the designations of significant entities and individuals involved with Iran's ballistic missile programme and the transfer of ballistic missiles and other weapons to Russia," the three European states said.

The Iranian spokesman's statement did not mention similar sanctions that were announced by the US.

"Any claim that the Islamic Republic of Iran has sold ballistic missiles to the Russian Federation is completely baseless and false," Kanaani said.

## 21 Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes on Gaza

AGENCIES  
GAZA, SEP 15

At least 21 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip, said Palestinian security and medical sources.

An Israeli warplane struck a residential house in the al-Tuffah neighbourhood east of Gaza City with at least one missile, Palestinian security sources told Xinhua news agency on Saturday.

The raid killed 10 Palestinians, including three children and a woman, said Palestinian medical sources.

In addition, the Palestinian Civil Defence said in a press statement that at least five Palestinians were killed in an Israeli airstrike near a school northwest of Gaza City, Xinhua news agency reported.



Six other people were killed in an Israeli shelling of a tent housing displaced people in the al-Mawasi area west of Khan Younis city in the southern Gaza Strip, according to local sources and eyewitnesses.

The Israeli army has not yet commented on these incidents.

Israel launched a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the

southern Israeli border on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and about 250 taken hostage.

The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip has risen to 41,182, Gaza-based health authorities said in a statement on Saturday.

In addition, Gaza-based health authorities announced in a press statement the death of

## Cyclone hits Romania, leaving five dead, hundreds displaced

AGENCIES  
BUCHAREST, SEP 15

Galati County, Romania, is struggling to recover from the severe floods brought by Cyclone Boris, which has claimed five lives and displaced over 250 residents.

The cyclone unleashed heavy rainfall, totalling 150 litres per square meter on Saturday. According to local media reports, it caused widespread flooding, leaving more than 25,000 homes without power and impacting over 5,000 households across 12

towns.

In response to the disaster, the Romanian government has mobilised emergency resources, reports Xinhua news agency.

Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu visited Slobozia Conachi, one of the hardest-hit towns. "Our priority is saving lives. We have the logistics in place to respond quickly," he said, promising temporary housing, food, and other essential supplies for displaced families.

Meanwhile, the National Committee for Emergency Situations approved emer-

gency aid, which includes 400 tonnes of food, sleeping bags, mattresses, and modular housing units to provide temporary shelter for those affected.

The Ministry of National Defense deployed military personnel, rescue boats and trucks to assist in rescue operations.

Romanian Gendarmerie patrols have also been deployed to prevent looting and vandalism in the affected towns.

"The safety of the people remains our top priority," a Gendarmerie spokesper-

son said, urging residents to follow safety instructions and avoid returning to dangerous areas until conditions stabilise.

As more severe weather is forecast, with a red alert for heavy rain issued for nearby Vaslui County, the Romanian government is closely monitoring the situation. Efforts are also underway to repair damaged infrastructure and restore normalcy for the thousands impacted by what has been described as the worst flooding in the region since 2016.

## Two Jordanians freed after being kidnapped in Syria: Foreign Ministry

AGENCIES  
AMMAN, SEP 15

Two Jordanian citizens kidnapped in Syria have been safely returned to Jordan after more than two weeks in captivity, the country's Foreign Ministry said.

The Ministry said on Saturday in a statement that Syrian authorities secured the release and transfer of the two individuals, who are in good health.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Sufian

Qudah expressed gratitude for Syria's cooperation in freeing the captives and facilitating their return through official channels.

Qudah said the Ministry, through its Directorate of Operations and Consular Affairs and the Jordanian Embassy in Damascus, had been in constant contact with Syrian authorities since the kidnapping was reported.

The Ministry did not provide details about the circumstances of the kidnapping or the identities

of the victims.

Jordan and Syria have been working to improve relations in recent years after a decade of tension due to Syria's civil war.

The Jordanian citizens are Maher al-Soufi and Mohammad Owaida, both drivers, who went missing after delivering goods from Amman to Damascus and were on their way back, according to the Jordanian website Roya News.

Cases of kidnapping, disappearance, and arrest of Jordanians in Syria have

been active since the opening of the border crossing between Syria and Jordan and the resumption of relations between the two parties in October 2018, followed by the entry of Jordanians into Syria for various reasons, including tourism and shopping.

The Jordanian and Syrian sides officially reopened the Nassib border crossing on October 15, 2018, after three years of closure due to military events, allowing Jordanian citizens to visit Syria.



# India to add 179 million people to its working age population by 2045

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 15

India's demographics are in a sweet spot, and the country is projected to add at least 179 million people to its working-age population by 2045, which can be a significant tailwind for economic growth, particularly as demographics in several parts of the world (including China) turn unfavourable, a new report has said.

At the moment, India's working-age population is around 961 million and the unemployment rate is at a five-year low.

India's working age population (age 25-64) is



rising as a proportion of the total population which will be a positive for savings and investments as well, according to global investment firm Jefferies.

A rise in the Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR) of females has started in India which will be among a key driving force for expansion of the labour force, alongside

demographics.

Labour force addition is expected to slow to 6 million by 2030 but the gap should be filled by the shift from agriculture jobs, said Jefferies in its latest note.

According to August data released by the Ministry of Statistics, the LFPR in India's urban areas among persons aged 15 years and above has increased from 48.8 per cent during April-June 2023 to 50.1 per cent in April-June this year, reflecting an increase in employment in the country.

As per the data, the LFPR for females of age 15 years and above in urban areas also increased from

23.2 per cent during April-June last year to 25.2 per cent during April-June this year.

The Worker Population Ratio (WPR), another employment indicator, also went up in urban areas among persons aged 15 years and above from 45.5 per cent during April-June, 2023 to 46.8 per cent in April-June, 2024.

As per the RBI data, the total increase in employment during the last 10 years stood at about 17 crore. It showed that employment in the country increased to 64.33 crore in 2023-24, compared to 47.15 crore in 2014-15.

# India's renewable energy journey to serve as model for other emerging economies

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 15

As the world's largest democracy and a rapidly developing nation, India's renewable energy journey will serve as a model for other emerging economies navigating the path to sustainability, Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, has said.

The country aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, focusing on renewable energy expansion, and plans to reach 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030.

According to the minister, the country's renewable energy journey is sup-



ported by strong policy backing and international partnership.

For example, initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), cofounded by India and France, seek to promote solar energy use worldwide, particularly in developing countries.

"Despite having one of the lowest per capita emissions in the world, India is not only championing the cause of clean energy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but also inspiring other nations to join the cause," Joshi said.

PM Modi said last month that India is the only G20 country to have ensured that the pledge towards creating a green planet made at the Paris Climate Change Summit in 2015 was fulfilled even before the deadline.

The country has now updated its targets to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP to 45 per cent by 2030 from the 2005 level, and cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources to 50 per cent by 2030.

Currently, the total installed capacity of solar photovoltaic (PV) power in the country stands at 85.47 gigawatts (GW) and wind power at 46.65 GW.

# India, key nations to cooperate in mutually beneficial areas in agriculture

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 15

India held bilateral meetings with several nations on the sidelines of the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting in Brazil, expressing the commitment to cooperate in mutually beneficial areas, it was announced on Sunday.

Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ram Nath Thakur, led the Indian delegation along with Ambassador of India to Brazil, Suresh Reddy, and other senior government officials.

India held bilateral meetings with the US, Brazil, Germany, the UK, Japan, Spain and the UAE.

In the meeting with Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, Sakamoto, Thakur asked to expedite the market access of Indian pomegranate and grapes in Japan.

In the bilateral meet-



ing with Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Brazil, Carlos Favaro, both sides discussed issues related to cooperation in science and technology, cooperation in ethanol production and market access.

They also expressed the hope that the memorandum of understanding between ICAR India and EMBRAPA Brazil would be completed before G20 leaders meeting in November.

The Brazil side showed

commitment to cooperate in ethanol production technology which will help the climate change action, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

The US and India agreed to take forward the cooperation in areas of climate-smart agriculture, agricultural productivity growth, agricultural innovation, forecasting and production reporting and agriculture and crop risk protection and agricultural credit.

In the meeting with Germany, Minister Thakur expressed the happiness on ongoing regular engagements of Indo-German Joint Working Group (JWG) and expressed the hope that the next upcoming meeting of JWG will be fruitful.

Both sides agreed to collaborate in the sectors such as application of artificial intelligence in farming and support to small farmers, agro-ecology and organic farming.

In the bilateral meeting with the UK, the both sides expressed their interest to cooperate in transformation of agriculture food system into sustainable agriculture, research and science-precision breeding, gene editing, and extension services.

The UAE showed interest to collaboration in research and technology, share experience on vertical farming and high yield technologies.

# FPIS GO BULLISH AGAIN ON BUYING EQUITIES IN INDIAN MARKET

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 14

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought equities in the Indian stock market worth Rs 16,800 crore this week, taking the total buying to Rs 27,856 crore this month (till September 13).

As per NSDL data, FPIs were buyers of equity in the cash market on all days of the week.

Industry watchers said that it is significant to note that unlike in previous weeks when FIIs were buyers through the primary market, this week, they were buyers through the exchanges.

There are two reasons why FPIs have changed their strategy from selling to buying.

There is a consensus now that the Fed will start cutting rates from this month onwards pushing the US yields down, facilitating fund flows from the



US to emerging markets.

Also, the Indian market is extremely resilient with strong momentum and missing out on the Indian market would be a bad strategy for FPIs.

In 2024, the total investments by FPIs now stand at Rs 70,737 crore to date.

According to Manoj Purohit, Partner and leader, FS Tax, Tax and Regulatory Services, BDO India, the month of September came with a full swing from the FPI

fraternity which made a substantial infusion in the Indian equity market, recording the second highest single-day purchase of 2024.

"This shift in the investment wave is largely attributable to the Indian equity market reaching new all-time highs. The robust inflows are due to underlying factors such as global confidence in India's economic outlook and the government's commitment to drive a

long term growth story," Purohit mentioned.

FPIs are encashing at the right time to tab the Indian market amidst positive market sentiments, political stability, contributing to the rally. This incursion not only mirrors the growing attractiveness of Indian equities but also emphasises the confidence foreign participants have shown in India's financial markets historically as well during geopolitical crises and other macro factors.

Also, due to the market regulator's timely actions on easing business norms, rolling out consultation papers on industry issues, being agile to accept and inculcate global best practices to make India a competitive and one of the most preferred destinations for imbedding funds to get better returns as compared to other developing economies, said experts.

# Bank of Korea likely to cut key rate in November

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, SEP 14

South Korea's central bank is likely to cut its policy rate in November, rather than in October, as it wants to be confident of a slowdown in household debt increase amid moderating inflation, analysts have said.

The Bank of Korea (BOK) has only two rounds of its monetary decision meetings left this year in October and November. Last month, the BOK kept interest rates unchanged at 3.5 per cent, the highest level in about 16 years, for the 13th straight time. The central bank delivered seven consecutive rate hikes from April 2022

to January 2023, reports Yonhap news agency.

Recently, inflation has markedly moderated, leaving room for the BOK to reduce the rate, but rising household debts have emerged as a drag on its policy pivot.

"Given rising home prices and household debts, it is not easy for the BOK to cut the rate this year," said Hwang Seung-taek, an analyst at Hana Securities. At the earliest, the bank will slash the rate at its November meeting.

The central bank said housing prices in the greater Seoul region have continued to rise and household debts are highly likely to maintain high levels.

# Adani Portfolio companies to supply 6,600 MW hybrid solar and thermal power to Maharashtra

AGENCIES  
AHMEDABAD, SEP 15

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and Adani Power Ltd (APL) have won the bid to supply 6,600 MW of hybrid solar and thermal power to Maharashtra, it was announced on Sunday.

Adani Green will sign a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (MSEDCL) for the supply of 5,000 MW (5GW) solar power to the state.

The solar power supply will come from the world's largest renewable energy park being developed at Khavda in Kutch, Gujarat, as per the Letter of Intent (LOI) awarded to Adani Power.

Also, Adani Power will

sign a long-term power supply agreement (PSA) with MSEDCL for the supply of 1,496 MW (net) thermal power to Maharashtra from a new 1,600 MW ultra-supercritical thermal power project.

The total of 6,600 MW capacity has been secured through a competitive bidding process, initiated by the MSEDCL for procurement of combined 1,600 MW thermal and 5,000 MW solar power.

"We are glad to collaborate with the MSEDCL to meet the states' rising energy demand through renewable sources and fulfil its RE commitments. Our goal is to accelerate India's clean energy transition.

This is a crucial step towards the country's energy independence



and building a sustainable future," said Sagar Adani, Executive Director, Adani Green Energy.

He further said that Adani Green is well positioned to achieve the 50 GW target with secured resource-rich sites in strategic locations, a portfolio mix of renewables and storage solutions, a robust supply chain, and clear evacuation plans.

The solar capacity award of 5 GW is the world's largest such award since 2020, bolstering AGEL's leadership in India and as one of the largest renewable energy (RE) portfolios globally.

Similarly, the thermal capacity award is the largest in the country in recent years to the private sector.

The solar capacity has been allocated at a flat

tariff of Rs 2.70 per kWh for the supply of power for a period of 25 years.

The solar projects would be developed in a staggered manner over a period of three years from execution of the PPAs with MSEDCL, said the company.

The thermal capacity has been awarded on the design, build, finance, own, and operate (DBFOO) basis with the sourcing of fuel from coal linkages allocated under the 'SHAKTI Policy'.

Under the terms, APL will enter into a 25-year PSA with MSEDCL for the supply of 1,496 MW of electricity on a long-term basis from a new thermal power plant having an installed capacity of 1,600 MW.

Anil Sardana, Managing Director, Adani Power,

said that as India advances in achieving its economic growth targets while maintaining a keen focus on sustainability, the role of conventional power in helping stabilise the grid and supplying base load power assumes greater importance.

"Adani Power is proud to partner a leading industrialised state like Maharashtra by becoming one of its key suppliers of reliable and competitive power from its existing and upcoming capacities, while enabling it to integrate an ever-increasing quantum of renewable energy in its grid," said Sardana.

Adani Power operates an installed thermal power capacity of 17,010 MW spread across 10 power plants.

# 24 Indian startups raise over \$229 million in funding this week

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 14

At least 24 domestic startups secured more than \$229 million in funding this week, which included six growth-stage deals worth \$182.65 million.

The week saw 13 early-stage deals worth \$46.14 million. Overall, Bengaluru-based startups led with eight deals, followed by Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata, as per industry data.

The funding momentum was led by mobile advertising network software InMobi which raised \$100 million in a debt

funding round, followed by MSME-focused fintech lender FlexiLoans which secured \$35 million.

While employee health-care platform Onsurety secured \$21 million, spiritual tech startup AppsForBharat raised \$18 million.

Among other fundings, consumer lending platform Moneyview received \$4.65 million and HRtech platform HROne \$4 million this week.

The average funding in the last eight weeks stood at over \$331 million with 26 deals per week. E-commerce startups led the funding with 5 deals, fol-

lowed by fintech, health-tech and Cleantech startups.

Among mergers and acquisitions, Nazara Technologies took a controlling stake in Moonshine Technology, the parent company of PokerBaazi, for Rs 982 crore.

The gaming and sports media company acquired 47.7 per cent stake in Moonshine for Rs 832 crore through a secondary transaction and announced to infuse Rs 150 crore in primary capital via compulsory convertible preference shares.

E-commerce enabler GoKwik acquired Return

Prime, a global returns management app.

Meanwhile, global venture capital firm Accel announced a pre-seed scaling programme where selected startups will receive up to \$1 million in funding through equity or convertible note, and access perks worth more than \$5 million from Accel's network partners.

Last week, the Indian startups secured \$348 million across 19 deals.

The week was led by ride-sharing platform Rapido which raised \$200 million in its Series E funding.

# Onion prices drop in major cities after retail selling at subsidised rate: Centre

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 14

The government on Saturday announced that its retail sale initiative of onions at a subsidised rate has resulted in a significant drop in the price of the staple food item in major cities.

The Centre launched the retail sale of onion at the subsidised rate of Rs 35 per kg with the flagging off of mobile vans on September 5.

From September 5 till September 13, the prices of onions dropped in Delhi from Rs 60 to Rs 55; in Mumbai from Rs 61 to Rs



56 and from Rs 65 to Rs 58 in Chennai, according to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

The retail disposal started through outlets and mobile vans of the Nation-

al Cooperative Consumers' Federation Of India Ltd (NCCF) and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) in major consumption hubs - Delhi

and Mumbai - and was subsequently extended to other important locations like Chennai, Kolkata, Patna, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, and Guwahati etc. In response to growing demand and to further ease the prices of onion, the government decided to enhance the quantity and distribution channels.

"Besides expanding the retail sale to e-commerce platforms, outlets of Kendriya Bhandar and SAFAL, bulk sales strategies are also being adopted to ensure availability of onions to the consumers at affordable prices," the ministry announced.



# INDIAN RACING FESTIVAL: MAIDEN IRL WIN FOR MOHAMMED RYAN AS CHENNAI TURBO RIDERS BAG DOUBLE

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, SEP 15

On an exciting day for Chennai Turbo Riders, Mohammed Ryan led from pole to finish for a maiden win in the Indian Racing League (IRL) while delivering a double for the team as the exciting third round of the Indian Racing Festival came to an end at the Madras International Circuit (MIC) on Sunday. The 22-year-old Ryan's win came on the back of team-mate Jon Lancaster's success in Race-1 of the Indian Racing League on Saturday.

The 2019 Rotax Karting champion Ryan, racing on the home circuit, had a brilliant start and put in consistently fast laps for his first win in the IRL which triggered celebrations in the Chennai Turbo Riders.

While Ryan disappeared into the distance at the start, Sohail Shah (Goa

Aces JA Racing) moved aggressively past Jaden Pariat (Bangalore Speedsters) going into Turn-1. Pariat then dropped one more spot when teammate Rishon Rajeev got a jump on him later in the opening lap.

The top three then maintained their track positions without much ado, while behind them others scrapped for points.

An elated Ryan said: "I had a good start and kept my focus to put some consistent laps. I am happy that my team, Chennai Turbo Riders won both the IRL races this weekend and picked up some big points."

Formula 4 Indian Championship

On a busy day in the Formula 4 Indian Championship, three races produced three different winners in Ruhaan Alva (Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers), Veer Sheth (Ahmedabad Apex Racers), who moved

up from P2 to P1 after racer winner Jaden Pariat (Bangalore Speedsters) was handed a 20-second penalty, and South African Aqil Alibhai (Black Birds Hyderabad).

In the day's first race, Alva was in a league of his once he moved to the front in the very first lap and was simply unstoppable. As the race progressed, Australian teenager Isaac Demellweek (Chennai Turbo Riders), Alibhai, Pariat, and pole-sitter Aiva Anagnostiadis (Goa Aces JA Racing), the 2021 Australian female karting champion, settled into formation behind Alva until the Safety Car came into play in the 15th minute which bunched up the grid.

On resumption with close to two minutes and one lap left, Alibhai and Pariat jumped to P2 and P3 behind Alva who continued serenely to victory while also being credited



with the fastest lap of the race.

In the next race, it was Jaden Pariat all the way after surviving contact with Alibhai while trying to regain his track position. The incident pushed Alibhai to P16 but he finished P4 eventually.

Pariat was docked a post-race 20-second penalty "for causing avoidable collision" and it dropped him to eighth in the final standings.

Consequently, Veer Sheth, Ruhaan Alva and

Racing Festival will be held on October 19-20 at the Kari Motor Speedway, Coimbatore.

Bengaluru's Tijil Rao led a podium sweep for the Dark Don Racing team as he came up with a brilliant drive starting from P5 for his third win in six starts this season.

Finishing behind him were team-mates Viswas Vijayaraj from Nellore and Coimbatore's Bala Prasath. Despite losing the front nose cone of his car, Bala Prasath gave a fine exhibition of defensive driving to hold off rookie and Bengaluru teenager Dhruv Goswami (MSPORT) over the last three of the 10-lap race.

Goswami started from P12 on the grid and aided by some daring overtakes, all but managed to secure a podium spot in the overall standings, though he topped the Rookie category, way ahead of Monith Kumaran (Ahura Racing)

Round 4 of the Indian

and Abhinav Reddy (Avalanche Racing).

The weekend results put Tijil Rao on top of the overall leaderboard while Goswami also moved up the championship standings in the Rookie category.

The results (Provisional):

Indian Racing League: Race-2 (B Driver) (25 minutes + 1 Lap): 1. Mohammed Ryan (India, Chennai Turbo Riders) (26mins, 57.602secs); 2. Sohail Shah (India, Goa Aces JA Racing) (26:59.183); 3. Rishon Rajeev (India, Bangalore Speedsters) (27:14.841).

Formula 4 Indian (25mins + 1 Lap): Race-2: 1. Ruhaan Alva (India, Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers) (28:16.720); 2. Aqil Alibhai (South Africa, Black Birds Hyderabad) (28:17.475); 3. Jaden Pariat (India, Bangalore Speedsters) (28:18.697).

Race-3: 1. Veer Sheth (India, Ahmedabad Apex Racers) (27:41.457); 2.

Ruhaan Alva (India, Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers) (27:41.622); 3. Abhay Mohan (India, Bangalore Speedsters) (27:43.916).

Race-4: 1. Aqil Alibhai (South Africa, Black Birds Hyderabad) (27:31.329); 2. Divy Nandan (India, Ahmedabad Apex Racers) (27:50.567); 3. Ruhaan Alva (India, Bengal Tigers) (27:51.089).

JK Tyre-FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship:

Formula LGB 4: Race-3 (10 Laps): 1. Tijil Rao (Bengaluru, Dark Don Racing) (19:42.876); 2. Viswas Vijayaraj (Nellore, Dark Don Racing) (19:44.762); 3. Bala Prasath (Coimbatore, Dark Don Racing) (19:52.697).

Rookie: 1. Dhruv Goswami (Bengaluru, MSPOIT) (19:52.770); 2. Monith Kumaran (Chennai, Ahura Racing) (19:59.569); 3. K Abhinav Reddy (Hyderabad, Avalanche Racing) (20:05.030).

## Formula 1: Azerbaijan GP will go down as 'one of the better races of my career', says Oscar Piastri

AGENCIES  
BAKU (AZERBAIJAN), SEP 15

The 2024 Azerbaijan Grand Prix was full of chaotic moments but after hanging on for nearly 30 laps, it was Oscar Piastri who pipped Charles Leclerc to win the race. The Australian deemed it to be 'one of the better races' of his career.

"I went for a pretty big lunge and managed to pull it off and hang on for dear life for the next 35 laps. The last couple of laps when Leclerc dropped out of DRS were a little bit more relaxing but there's no such thing as a relaxing lap around here so it was hard work.

I think that definitely goes down as one of the better races of my career," said Piastri in the post-race interview.



Oscar Piastri's win was McLaren's first win at the Baku City Circuit and took them past Red Bull in the race for the Constructors Championship. The British car manufacturer now sits 20 points ahead of Red Bull, with 476 points, and hopes to end their reign

which has seen them win the trophy for the past two seasons.

"Considering where we started when I joined the team last year, we were literally last, and now we are leading the world championship. It's full credit to the team and for the

turnaround we've managed to have, first in terms of improving the car but also helping me improve as well," he added.

Piastri overtook Leclerc in the 20th lap and did not give the Monegasque driver any room to fight back into the race. Leclerc went on to admit the team's mistakes and said he would learn from it.

"It is enjoyable, you've got many opportunities every lap. I think maybe McLaren had less downforce and in the straights they were very quick, in the corners we were a bit quicker. I couldn't get as close as I wanted and eventually we lost the race when I didn't defend as well as I could have at the end of the straight. Sometimes you make mistakes and I'll learn from it," said Piastri.

## Duleep Trophy: Wanted to replicate what I do for my state team, says Mumbai's Shams Mulani

AGENCIES  
ANANTAPUR, SEP 15

India A's left-arm spin all-rounder Shams Mulani said his aim during his team's 186-run win over India D in the Duleep Trophy second round match was to replicate what he used to do for his state team Mumbai.

At the Rural Development Trust Stadium 'A', Mulani's 89 runs helped India A come out of 93/5 to post 290 in the first innings. He also got support from Kumar Kushagra and Tanush Kotian to ensure India A posted a respectable total, which kept them ahead of India D in the match.

Mulani also took four wickets with his left-arm spin bowling in India A's massive triumph.

"It was tough in this heat. I am used to it. I



wanted to replicate what I do for my state team. Discipline while batting helped me a lot. The wicket was getting a little slower. One odd ball was gripping. What I spoke to the captain and coach, they told me to bowl in consistent areas," he said after the match ended.

With this win, India A have six points and are in the running alongside India B and India C to be winners of the Duleep

Mayank Agarwal.

Shreyas Iyer, the India D skipper, credited Mulani and Kotian for taking the game away through their stand of 91 runs for the seventh wicket in the first innings.

"Right from the first ball, we were on the mark. Picked up four wickets. But Shams and Kotian have been performing brilliantly. That partnership of 120 plus took away the momentum," Iyer said.

"We came in and lost wickets. We were trailing from then on. The ball turned. The batters were getting beaten. The way their batters batted in the second innings was superb. 488 on a given day is not an easy task. We were calculating in our minds how to go about it. We will look to have a good contest in the next game," he concluded.

"Very happy with the win. The way we played in the first innings after the first session changed the game for us. The way we bowled in the first innings set it up for us."

"Because we knew there was not a lot on offer. If you bowl with consistency, it isn't easy for the batters. We spoke about creating an environment for the players that they will do well," said India A captain

## ISL 2024-25: Debutant Mohammedan SC meet confident NorthEast Utd as new contenders rise to challenge

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, SEP 15

Defending Durand Cup winners NorthEast United FC will start their Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 campaign by playing against the newly-promoted Mohammedan SC at the Kishore Bharati Kriangan here on Monday. Mohammedan SC won the I-League 2023-24 campaign to earn their place in the ISL 2024-25 season, whereas the Highlanders had finished the previous season in the top tier at the seventh spot.

The Mohammedan SC head coach Andrey Chernyshov has modest expectations from his side in the team's maiden season and is not putting exceeding pressure on his players right now. He instead wants them to take a feel of the league, embrace a fighting spirit, and improve as they move ahead in the year.

"First, we need to make a strong team for the ISL. We understand how strong this competition is. We will be playing against many good Indian and foreign players. We need to take this feeling from the ISL, the experience, and we need to fight in every match, show good football for the people, and this is



the most important, which inspires us to do very well in every match," Chernyshov told the ISL.

The move to the ISL presents a significant challenge for Mohammedan SC, who will also rekindle their fierce rivalry with Kolkata neighbours Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal FC. Though their head coach is not putting immediate pressure on the team, Mohammedan are eager to rise to the occasion and make an immediate impression, aiming to replicate the impressive debut of Punjab FC last season and take their performance even further.

But Mohammedan has undergone tremendous

transition as they bid farewell to key players Eddie Hernandez and David Lalhansanga, who were pivotal last season. Hernandez, their top scorer in the I-League, and Lalhansanga, the leading Indian goal-scorer, will be missed. Despite these losses, the club has bolstered their squad with intriguing new signings. Forward Cesar Manzoki, who joins from the UAE Pro League, is a standout addition. The 27-year-old has also showcased his talent in the CAF Champions League and the Chinese Super League.

In addition, Indian talents like Gaurav Bora, Amarjit Kiyam, and Rochharzela, each with ISL experience, will be

hoping to make a significant impact and establish themselves in the league.

Fresh from their Durand Cup triumph, NorthEast United are still basking in the glory of bagging the first silverware in the club's history. However, head coach Juan Pedro Benali is looking beyond that to deliver a successful ISL 2024-25 season.

Having missed the playoffs qualification by a whisker in 2023-24, the Highlanders are sure to leave no stone unturned in the coming term.

"The feeling of winning the Durand Cup was great, but it finished 24 hours later. We cannot live with it anymore if we want to move forward. We need

to forget that. It's great for the paper and the stats, but we just need to think about the next game," Benali said.

"We have our own mentality. We take every game as the finale. We are playing against a strong team, a good coach, in a very good stadium, with great fans, so we need to be smart, cool, and calm in our approach," he added.

Their recent success is because Benali adopted a more pragmatic approach to winning games. The never-say-die attitude began to reflect in the players.

The Highlanders began their journey under Benali with last year's Durand Cup, where their dreams were halted in the semi-final by East Bengal FC after a penalty shootout. Undeterred, they carried their resilience into the ISL, only to narrowly miss the playoffs by a single point, finishing behind sixth-placed Chennaiyin FC.

The management saw the value in his approach and granted him a contract extension during the previous season. Even though the team missed the ISL playoffs by a narrow margin, Benali was committed to guiding them to triumph in the upcoming season.

## Jr Women's Hockey League: SAI Shakti, Pritam Siwach, MP Academy win on Day 2

AGENCIES  
GWALIOR (M.P.), SEP 15

SAI Shakti, Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy Sonipat, Centre of Excellence Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh Women Hockey Academy emerged victorious in their respective matches on the second day of the Khelo India Junior Women's Hockey League 2024-2025 (Phase 1), being played here on Sunday.

Sukhvinder Kaur scored six goals, finding the net in the 8th, 20th, 27th, 29th, 31st and 38th minutes as SAI Shakti defeated Jai Bharat Hockey Academy 17-0 in the first match of the day. Purnima Yadav (2', 19', 59'), Kajal (14', 49'), Karuna Minz (21', 25', 30', 39'), Sejal (51'), and captain Nandani (52') netted the other goals for SAI Shakti.

The second game of the day witnessed, Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy Sonapat defeat Bhai Bhelo Hockey Academy Bhagta 10-0. Aarti (17'), Ritika (22'), Maninder (23', 33', 35'), Jyoti (29'), Priya Chauhan (44', 55'), Riya (51'), and Priyanka (60') scored goals for Pritam



Siwach Hockey Academy Sonipat.

In the third game of the day, Centre of Excellence Jharkhand edged out SAI Bal 4-3. Roshni (3', 13', 60'), and Sweetie Dungle (49') scored goals for Centre of Excellence Jharkhand, while Preetambari Kumari (18', 52') and Shanti Horo (29') found the back of the net for SAI Bal.

The fourth and last match of the day saw

Madhya Pradesh Women Hockey Academy defeat Odisha Naval Tata Hockey HPC 5-2. Captain Bhumi-sha Sahu (4', 20'), Khushi Katariya (29'), Krishna Sharma (42'), and Swati (57') netted goals for Madhya Pradesh Women Hockey Academy. On the other hand, Captain Komal Gurjar (23') and Amisha Ekka (47') were on a scoresheet for Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High-Performance Centre.



## Massive Seizures, Cannabis Destruction conducted in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 15

In a major crackdown on electoral malpractices, the District Election Authorities (DEA), under the aegis of Vikas Kundal, District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, has made significant seizures of cash, drugs, liquor, and kerosene across the district Poonch.

These measures are part of the ECI's rigorous efforts to curb illegal methods used to influence voters during the ongoing Assembly elections.

Additionally, the district police have carried out a large-scale destruction drive targeting cannabis plantations, marking another crucial step toward ensuring a free and fair electoral process.

During the operations, the DEA seized Rs.



2, 82,090 in cash, 12.28 grams of heroin worth Rs. 90,000, 261 bottles of liquor valued at Rs. 80,000, and 380 liters of kerosene and raw material worth Rs. 35,000.

In a separate operation, the Poonch District Police, in collaboration with Flying Squads (FSTs), conducted a destruction drive of cannabis plants at 43 locations in Surankote, Poonch, and Mendhar, resulting in the eradica-

tion of 342 kilograms of cannabis, valued at Rs. 23.4 lakhs.

Election Expenditure Observer for Poonch, Bharat Ramchandra Andhale, praised the proactive role of the police and election officials in curbing electoral fraud and ensuring transparency.

Furthermore, strict vigilance is being maintained across the district to detect and prevent any attempts to use illegal means to

sway voters.

With heightened monitoring of suspicious activities and swift action from law enforcement agencies, the goal remains to conduct free, fair, and impartial elections in Poonch, ensuring the public's faith in the democratic process is upheld.

Consequent to the seizures and destruction drives, the Poonch District Police have registered cases under relevant sections of the law, including the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the Excise Act, and other applicable statutes.

The police have taken swift action, registering FIRs and arresting individuals involved in the illicit activities. Further investigations are underway to identify and apprehend other accused persons.

## DEO launches 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' drive to promote Green Election initiative

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 15

In a unique initiative, District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch Vikas Kundal on Sunday launched "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" tree plantation drive, linking it with the Green Sweep campaign and Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

The DEO planted a tree at Deena Nath Rafiq Memorial Higher Secondary School, marking the beginning of the campaign. The initiative aims to promote environmental responsibility and encourage citizens to vote. It is pertinent to mention here that several polling stations in Haveli, Mendhar, and Surankote assembly constituencies have been designated as Green Polling Stations.

"The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative honors our mothers and con-



tributes to a sustainable future," said DEO Poonch. "We urge everyone to participate and make our polling stations eco-friendly." The Green Polling Stations will feature eco-friendly

voting material, efficient waste management, and tree plantation drives, accompanied by environmental awareness campaigns.

The district administra-

tion has pledged to make the upcoming elections an environmentally conscious event, inspiring other districts to follow suit. This initiative integrates environmental responsibility with democratic participation, fostering a culture of sustainability in Jammu and Kashmir.

By launching this initiative, Poonch district sets an example for eco-friendly elections, promoting a positive impact on the environment. The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative encourages citizens to take responsibility for their environment and vote for a sustainable future. With this innovative approach, the district administration aims to make a lasting impact on the community.

The event was attended by Principal HSS Girls Anjuman Shaheen, DFO Poonch, and senior district administration officials.

## Training for Micro Observers held at Bhandarwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BHADERWAH, SEPT 15

In preparation for the upcoming Assembly Election 2024, a training program for Micro Observers of Assembly Constituency (AC) 51 Bhandarwah was organized here at Dak Bunglow.

In all, 75 Micro Observers are being trained to oversee 196 polling stations in different parts of the constituency, ensuring that the election process is carried out efficiently and in accordance with the Election Commission of India's guidelines.

The training session was led by Dr. Akhter Hussain Akhoun, District Nodal Officer for Trainings and Human Resources, who delivered a comprehensive presentation.

He covered essential guidance on election procedures, the role of Micro Observers in maintaining transparency, and the correct handling of election materials, including Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) systems. The session aimed to equip the Micro Observers with the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure smooth conduct on Election Day.

Present at the event was General Observer Mallikarjun, overseeing the training for AC-51 Bhandarwah. The Nodal Officer for Micro Observers and the Liaison Officer from R&B Bhandarwah were also in attendance, reinforcing the importance of coordination between different departments to ensure a fair and transparent election.

This initiative is part of the broader effort to ensure that the Assembly Election 2024 runs smoothly and that all officials involved are well-prepared to fulfill their responsibilities on polling day.

## Udhampur: Dogri SVEEP song inspires voter participation

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 15

District Election Officer, Saloni Rai, today released a Dogri SVEEP song "Vote Sare Pana" in presence of SDM Ramnagar Rafiq Ahmad Jaral here in Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The song sung by young duo Singers Primita Rajput and Tamana Rajput has been composed to inspire voters across the district to exercise democratic right by casting their votes in the Assembly Elections.

The song has been conceived by Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, Returning Officer for the 62-Ramnagar Assembly Constituency and Sub-Divisional Magistrate Ramnagar.

The DEO appreciated young performers, who are also first time voters, the SDM Ramnagar and the District Election Cell for reaching every seg-



ment of society through various outreach initiatives under the SVEEP program. While appreciating the lyrics and resonating message to the voters by the young singers, she said that the song will not only aware the women voters but also young voters.

She emphasized the importance of such creative efforts in enhancing voter awareness and fostering a transparent and inclusive electoral process.

Earlier, two SVEEP songs for the motivation of voters have been released by PK Pole, Chief Electoral Officer J&K and DEO Udhampur Saloni Rai, which are trending and appreciated by the voters.

The event marked a significant milestone in Udhampur District's ongoing voter awareness campaign, which aims to maximize voter turnout and promote an informed and participatory electoral environment.

## Captivating SVEEP Festival promotes voter awareness in Doda, Bhandarwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, SEPTEMBER 15

District Election Office Doda, under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO) Harvinder Singh, organized a grand SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Festival at picturesque Gatha resort Park Bhandarwah aimed at raising public awareness for the upcoming General Assembly Elections 2024.

The event commenced with a SVEEP awareness balloon release and screening of a short documentary on the Lok Sabha elections at the DC Office Complex Doda.

District officers, officials, and members of civil society gathered to witness the inspiring speech delivered by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, who motivated participants to work diligently for the smooth conduct of the upcoming elections. SSP Mohd Aslam also highlighted the importance of collective efforts in ensuring a successful election process.

A similar SVEEP logo balloon was released in the sky at Khellani and Bhandarwah to create



awareness among voters and encourage them to participate in the election campaign.

A bike rally, flagged off by DEO Harvinder Singh, was a key attraction of the event. Singh himself led the rally on a motorbike, accompanied by SSP and a large group of bikers. The rally commenced from the DC Office Complex and concluded at Gatha Resort Park, Bhandarwah, adding excitement and commitment to the awareness campaign. The rally aimed to draw attention to the importance of voter participation and encourage citizens to actively engage in the electoral process.

The SVEEP Festival continued at Gatha Park,

Bhandarwah, where a series of events unfolded with enthusiastic participation from students, officials, and the public. Highlights included a Nukkad Natak on voter awareness performed by students from Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School Doda and a cultural presentation featuring Gojri and Sarazi dances. The festival also included a mock polling booth demonstration aimed at educating the public on the voting process.

The day-long event concluded with large-scale participation, showcasing the collaborative efforts of the district administration, election officials, and local communities to spread electoral awareness.

## General Observer reviews enforcement of MCC in AC Bhandarwah



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 15

General Observer for Assembly Constituency Bhandarwah Mallikarjun today convened a meeting with the political leaders and representatives of various political parties to discuss the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and other guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India for the upcoming Assembly Election 2024.

The meeting was attended by ARO Bhandarwah, Tehsildar Bhalla, Liaison Officer SDPO Wasim Hamdani, SHO Sandeep Parihar, and other officials, along with representatives from various political parties.

The discussion focused on logistical arrangements, voter education

initiatives, and measures to enhance transparency and prevent electoral malpractices. Party representatives projected their concerns and suggestions, which were thoroughly discussed in the meeting. They also appreciated the administration's efforts, especially the cooperation during the last Lok Sabha Election, particularly regarding the timely issuance of permissions to political parties.

The meeting was attended by ARO Bhandarwah, Tehsildar Bhalla, Liaison Officer SDPO Wasim Hamdani, SHO Sandeep Parihar, and other officials, along with representatives from various political parties.

## DEO visits remote Paddal Polling Station to promote voter awareness



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 15

To encourage voter participation, District Election Officer (DEO) Samba, Rajesh Sharma, along with a team of officials, visited Paddal Polling Station to host a Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation event. The polling station is located in a remote village across the Devika River and accessible through a challenging trek.

Accompanying the DEO were SSP Vinay Kumar, ADC Jagdish Singh, SVEEP Nodal Officer Ekshu Sharma and other government functionaries.

During the visit, DEO Rajesh Sharma and SSP Vinay Sharma interacted with the residents of the remote village, motivating them to actively participate in the electoral process and exercise their

right to vote in the upcoming General Assembly Elections scheduled on 1st October 2024. The DEO stressed the importance of every vote and the role of citizens in shaping the future of the state.

In addition to inspecting the polling station, the DEO visited the Middle School Paddal, where he interacted with teachers and students, emphasizing the value of education in fostering informed and responsible citizenship. He also inspected the Health and Wellness Centre in the village to take stock of the health-care facilities being provided to the residents.

This visit forms part of the larger SVEEP campaign, which is focused on raising awareness and ensuring the highest possible voter turnout, particularly in remote and far-flung areas of the district.

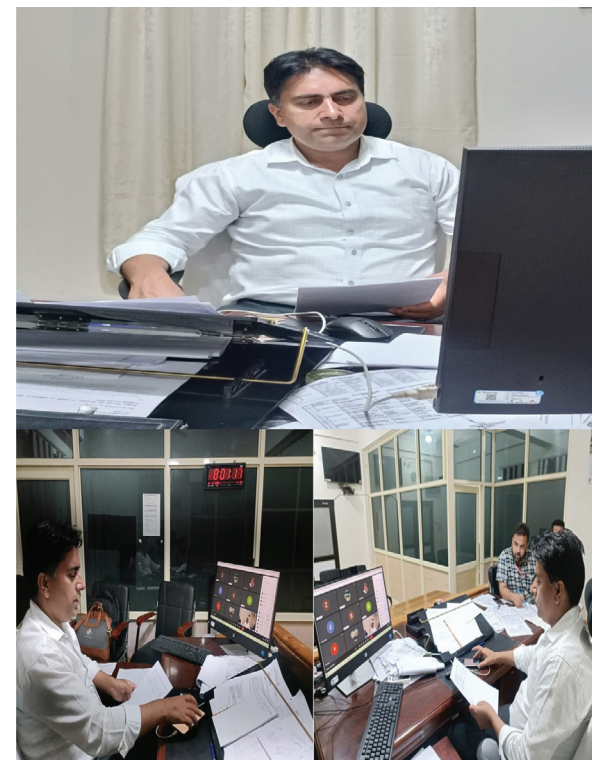
## RO 48-Inderwal takes BLO on board to ensure readiness for smooth, free, and fair polling as Election Day nears

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 15

As the polling day approaches, the election machinery in Kishtwar has reinforced its efforts to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for a smooth, free, and fair election process.

In this regard, an online meeting was organized by Returning Officer (RO) for 48-Inderwal Constituency, Idrees Ahmed Lone with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of the constituency. The meeting focused on critical topics, including Home Voting and the SVEEP campaign aimed at achieving 100% voter turnout.

During the meeting, RO reviewed the current status of poll arrangements and emphasized the need for cleanliness and readiness at polling



stations. He stressed the importance of 100% dis-

tribution of voter information slips to the voters of

each ward, a key responsibility of the BLOs.

Further, the RO highlighted the role of BLOs as ground-level facilitators, offering vital instructions to ensure that polling arrangements are smoothly executed at all stations.

Special focus was placed on voter guidance during elections and the implementation of 100% webcasting at each polling station on polling day.

Reiterating the crucial role of BLOs, Mr Lone called for enhanced coordination among all stakeholders to achieve 100% voter turnout in the 48-Inderwal Assembly Constituency.

The meeting concluded with BLOs receiving actionable directives to fine-tune their preparations as the constituency heads toward a seamless and successful election.