

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

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

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Reasi pilgrims terror attack case

NIA conducts searches at multiple locations in J&K

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 27

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday conducted searches across two districts of J&K in Reasi pilgrims terror attack case.

A statement issued to the news agency reads that seven locations in Reasi and Rajouri districts were extensively searched in the case RC-02/2024/NIA/JMU, registered by NIA in June this year after taking over the probe from the local police.

"Incriminating material indicating linkages between the terrorists and OGWs was seized

during the searches, and the same is under scrutiny. The locations searched by the NIA teams were residential premises of hybrid terrorists and Overground Workers (OGWs) as well as the surrounding jungle linked with the hybrid terrorists who stayed in the area," the statement reads, adding that these terrorists were supported by one of the arrested accused, Hakam Khan @ Hakim Din, who provided them with shelter and food, NIA investigations in the case have revealed. The OGWs whose premises were searched were also involved in providing shelter, harbour,

food and other logistic support to the terrorists crossing the area, which is one of the transit routes to the Kashmir region, as per NIA investigations, it said.

"The attack was unleashed by terrorists on the evening of 9th June, as part of Pak-backed terror conspiracy to destabilise the J&K region with the aim to disturb India's peace and stability.

A bus carrying Yatris from Shiv Khori to Katra, in Pouni area of Reasi district, came under terrorist fire and plunged into a nearby gorge, killing nine people, including a child," it added.

J&K voters opting for ballot, giving reply to bullet: Nadda

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 27

National President of Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed a public meeting in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. During his address, Shri Nadda highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the



BJP government abrogated Article 370 and set Jammu and Kashmir on the path of development, integrating it with the mainstream. Shri Nadda criticized the NC, Congress, and PDP for fostering terror, corruption, and hindering the development of Jammu and Kashmir. During the event, Kathua candidate Shri Satish Sharma,

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Modi enabled Rahul to play with snowballs in Kashmir: Dr Jitendra

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, SEPT 27

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi because Modi enabled him to play with snowballs in Kashmir valley and indulge in leisure games at picturesque

locales.

Addressing a large BJP public rally here today, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, every-time one comes across visual s of Rahul Gandhi in Kashmir valley, it is heartening to see that he is thoroughly enjoying himself, which is quite in contrast with the times when his Party ruled at the Centre and also in alliance with



the then State of Jammu & Kashmir. He said, at that time, Rahul Gandhi could not move out of his security cover and had to remain confined within the walls of his small chamber along with his sister and other members of the family, which is a fact testified by none less than the then Congress Union

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We will end the rule of 3 families forever; now, the 'aam janta' of J&K will rule: Reddy

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 27 SEP

As Jammu and Kashmir enters into the last phase of polling with voters in 40 assembly constituencies casting their vote on 1st October, Union Minister of Coal and Mines and Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election in-charge said that the BJP is not hungry for power and aims to ensure that the positive transformation that has come in after the abrogation of Article 370



will continue.

While inspecting the arrangements and logistics at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu where

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the BJP Vijay Sankalp Rally on 28th September, G Kishan Reddy said "We will end

the rule of 3 families forever; now the 'aam janta' (common people) of Jammu and Kashmir will rule. Power will not go into the hands of three families so that the state can be saved from their destruction. After the removal of Article 370, everything has been snatched away from the family-oriented parties, so it is natural for them to be furious."

Kishan Reddy said that the atmosphere is in favour of BJP, and that they

will perform exceedingly well in the Jammu division. He said that the BJP will ensure that the era of stone pelting, organised hartal and terrorist activities should not return. "The hands holding the laptops will continue to progress. We have to take this development journey forward. The public has to decide whether to get out of the hands of Abdullah, Mufti and Congress or not." He added, "BJP has no A or B team,

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Pak could be split into three parts if it keeps supporting Terrorism: Adityanath in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, SEP 27

If Pakistan continues to support terrorism, it could be split into three parts, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday.

Issuing the warning to the neighbouring country at an election rally in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, Adityanath said Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is

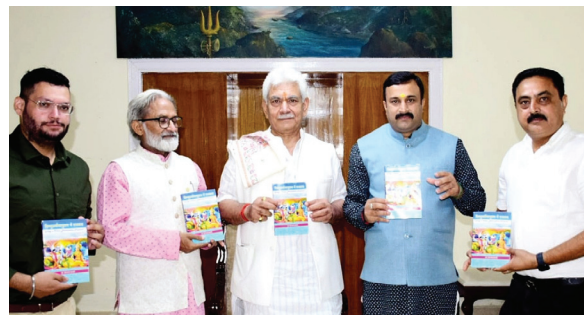


already prepared to merge with India. "Even Pakistan-backed

terrorists know the price Pakistan will have to

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LG releases Hindi book titled "Visnudharmottarapuram mein Raj Tantra"



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 27

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today released a Hindi book titled "Visnudharmottarapuram mein Raj Tantra", edited by Prof. Sharat Chander Sharma.

The book was written by Late Dr. Dev Rattan Shastri.

The Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the editor and everyone associated with the publication.

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PM Modi's monopoly model has taken away jobs, devastated MSMEs: Rahul

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 27

Alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "monopoly model" has taken away jobs in the country, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday stressed the need for simplifying the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and opening up the banking system to small businesses to promote job creation.

Sharing a video of the "Dogri Dham with RG" event hosted by the All India Professionals' Congress (AIPC) in Jammu on Wednesday, Gandhi said



on X that the frustration in the eyes of a young start-up owner from Jammu and Kashmir reflects the struggles of most entrepreneurs and small-business owners in India.

"Modi ji's monopoly

model' has taken away jobs, devastated MSMEs and deprived people of opportunity," the former Congress chief said.

"The systematic attack on small and medium industries through incom-

petent policies like a bad GST and demonetisation has turned India from a producing economy to a consuming one. At this rate we can neither compete with China nor ensure prosperity for all Indians," he said, adding that India deserves better.

"We must simplify GST and open up the banking system to small businesses to promote widespread opportunity and job creation," Gandhi said.

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Amit Shah slams Rahul Gandhi, asks if he knows full form of MSP

AGENCIES
REWARI, SEPT 27

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday trained his guns on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asking if he knew the full form of MSP as he underlined that the BJP government in Haryana was procuring 24 crops at the minimum support price.

Addressing a poll rally here, Shah also attacked the Congress on the issue of corruption and reservation.

Slamming the Congress on farmers' issue, he said some NGO has told Rahul 'baba' that by saying MSP



(minimum support price) he will get votes.

"Rahul baba, do you know full form of MSP. Which crop is of Kharif, which one is of Rabi, do you know," he asked. Shah said the BJP

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CS reviews progress on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 27

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday reviewed the progress on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and solarization of government buildings with senior officers of Science and Technology Department at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, PDD, Principal Secretary, Finance, Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, MD JPDCL/KPDCL, Executive Director, JKSPDCL, CPM REC, Chief Engineers and other



concerned officers in person and through virtual mode.

The Commissioner Secretary S&T, briefed about the present status and steps being taken to complete targets of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. MDs of DISCOMS also

briefed the chair about the physical and financial progress achieved, so far, in implementation of this scheme.

The issues which came up for discussion included present status of applications, implementation plan, progress on

RTS installations, district wise status of applications received by JPDCL/KPDCL, financial facilitation for PMSG-MBY (subsidized loan facility for consumers), milestones achieved in RTS process, challenges faced by the consumers, vendors and

DISCOMS as well.

The Chief Secretary asked the senior officers of concerned departments to expedite the process on already received applications and sort out issues for its smooth implementation.

On the occasion, other physical and financial issues were also discussed including implementation strategy CAPEX/RESCO model of implementation, capacity of all government buildings identified across the UT and their distribution as per the implementation plan devised by the Department.

Omar asks BJP to seek forgiveness from people for revival of Terrorism in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JAMMU, SEPT 27

National Conference Vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday said the deadly terror attacks in otherwise peaceful Jammu region reflects the alleged failure of the BJP which should seek forgiveness from the public of Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP by blaming NC, Congress and PDP for terrorism in the Union Territory has given a 'clean chit' to Pakistan, he said.

"What is the situation of militancy in the Jammu region where our brave force personnel are tar-



geted quite frequently? BJP should first reply why militancy spread to Jammu region after 2014, especially in the last three years when its graph went up," the former Chief Minister said.

"There is not a single

place in Jammu where terror attacks have not taken place - whether it is Chenab valley, Pir Panjal region, Reasi, Kathua, Udhampur, Jammu and Samba...This reflects their (BJP government's)

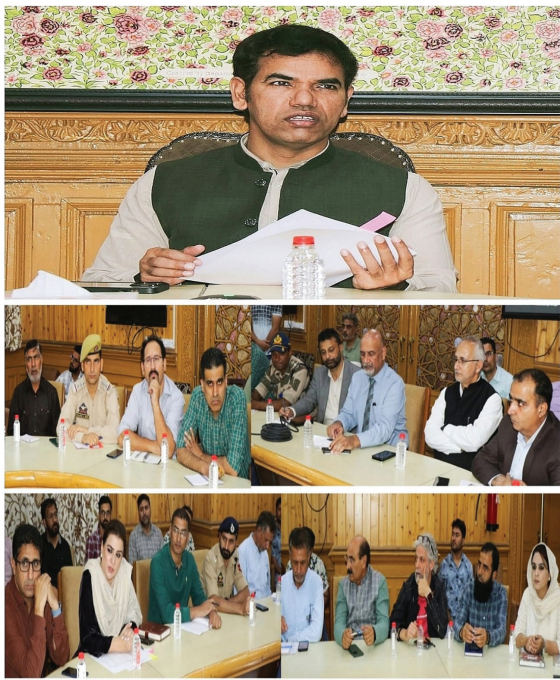
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Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for Legends Cricket League

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 27

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, today convened a meeting to review the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of upcoming Legends Cricket League to be held next month at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

While referring to the League as a signature event, he issued slew of directions to the line departments to ensure comprehensive arrangements during the event as thousands of spectators are expected to throng the venue. He directed the SMC to supplement the sanitation and deep cleaning arrangements at the Stadium besides ensuring installation of large bins and keeping dewatering pumps in a standby posi-



tion in case of rainfall.

The Div Com exhorted upon the PHE and PDD to ensure uninterrupted

supply of drinking water and electricity to the venue.

Similarly, instructions

were given to the health department for deployment of expert medical teams and ambulances at the venue to extend immediate help when required. The F&E department was asked to keep fire tenders in the vicinity of the stadium to tackle any incident of fire. Besides, the Food Safety Department was assigned the role of food analysis to ensure hygienic food is provided to the players and supporting staff.

Among others present in the meeting were Additional Commissioner Kashmir, ADC, Srinagar, officers of various departments including SMC, PDD, PHE, UEED, Information, Hospitality & Protocol, Fire & Emergency, Health, Police besides CEO, Legends Cricket League, Raman Raheja and Secretary, J&K Sports Council.

District-Level Slogan Writing, Essay Writing Competition held at GCOE Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 27

In commemoration of Gandhi Jayanti, Government College of Education Jammu on Friday hosted a district-level Slogan Writing and Reel Making Competition.

The event was part of a larger initiative led by the Higher Education Department, under the visionary guidance of Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Higher Education, to promote creative engagement and awareness of Gandhian principles among students. Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti Parihar, Principal of the College was the Chief Guest. She delivered an inspiring speech and highlighted the crucial role of youth in carrying forward the legacy of Mahatma

Gandhi through innovation and social responsibility. She also commended the event's organizers and participants for their exceptional work and dedication.

The event, coordinated by Dr. Rajinder Kaur, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Deepali and Prof. Ramandeep Karalia, was judged by the esteemed faculty members of higher education Dr. Bindu Sharma (GDC Hiranagar), Dr. Payali Arora (GDC Udhampur), Dr. Shaveta Sharma (GDC Udhampur) and Professor Sanjeet Singh (GDC Udhampur).

Winners of essay writing competition were Chanpreet Kour from GCW Parade, Harshpreet Singh from GDC RSPURA, Aayushvi Sharma from

GCOE bagging 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. The Slogan Writing Competition winners were Raksha Gurung from GCOE, Syona Gupta from GCW Gandhinagar and Sonia Thakur from GDC Nagrota bagging 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

The winners will now move on to represent the district at the division level. This competition exemplifies the Higher Education Department's commitment to fostering a sense of creativity and civic duty in students, encouraging them to internalize the values of Mahatma Gandhi.

Prof Satish Sharma, Prof. Sunanda Rani, Dr. Sushma Bala, Dr. Ambica were also present on the occasion.

Assembly Elections-2024: DEO Bandipora interacts with female and PWD poll staff

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 27

Ahead of General Elections to Legislative Assembly scheduled to be held on 01 October in district Bandipora, the District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Friday interacted with female and PWD poll staff designated for poll duties at Pink and Red polling Stations.

During the interactive session, critical roles and importance of red and pink polling stations were threadbare discussed.

The DEO highlighted the significance of these special polling stations in ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for all voters.



He reassured the staff that all necessary welfare measures are in place to support them during the election process.

He underscored the commitment to ensure a fair and accessible elec-

toral process.

He said that each member of the polling staff plays a vital role in fostering trust in our democratic system and instructed the poll staff to ensure that every voter

has the opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

To further enhance the experience for poll staff, the DEO announced the establishment of separate counters for female poll staff and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) staff at DCRC to streamline operations.

The programme was attended by DyDEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, Nodal officer SVEEP Kishor Kumar, Nodal Officer Manpower and training Dr. G. M. Pujoo, female poll staff of Bandipora and Sonawari AC, PWD poll staff of Bandipora AC and other concerned.

Female poll staff of Gurez AC also attended the programme virtually.

Presiding Officers imparted Election Training at Handwara

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, SEP 27

As part of the training schedule to familiarize Polling Staff with necessary skills to carry out Election duties efficiently, the Returning Officer Handwara today organised a training session for the Presiding Officers of AC 05-Handwara at Environmental Hall Handwara.

The Training session was held under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather, who is also Returning Officer AC 5-Handwara Constituency.

Pahalgam's "Aru Village" gets 'Best Tourism Villages of India' award

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

Union Ministry of Tourism today announced Aru village, part of Pahalgam in Anantnag, as one of the winners of prestigious 'Best Tourism Villages of India' award.

The announcement was made on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

Introduced in 2023, the Best Tourism Villages Competition aims to identify and recognize villages that preserve and promote their cultural and natural heritage through community based values and sustainable practices.

In the second edition of the competition, a total of 991 applications were received from 30 States



and Union Territories. After a rigorous evaluation process, 36 villages were selected as winners across eight categories.

Aru village was declared Best Tourism Village in the "Adventure Tourism Category". Recently, it has been noted for its unique blend of natural beauty, cultural

heritage, and community-based tourism initiatives.

The recognition of Aru village as a 'Best Tourism Village of India' is a testament to its efforts in preserving and promoting its cultural and natural assets. It is expected to further boost tourism in the region and contribute to the local economy.

Assembly Elections-2024: Mega SVEEP Programme Successfully Conducted at Tangmarg and Kunzer

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 27

A grand SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) awareness programme was held today at the Tangmarg Playground and Artisan Kunzer under the guidance of the District Election Officer Baramulla, Minga Sherpa.

The event marked a significant milestone in the voter awareness initiatives of the district.

The programme was graced by the presence of

Election Commission of India appointed Observers for Baramulla, Vishal Kumar Vaghela and Amit Dahiya, who appreciated the efforts being made to enhance the voter participation. The event was further attended by SDM Gulmarg, Altaf Hussain, Nodal Officer SVEEP, I-Gulmarg Assembly constituency, other Officers and hundreds of other participants.

As part of the program, a mega rally was also held at Tangmarg to further emphasize the importance

of voter participation and engage the community. A series of additional activities were conducted to create greater awareness about the electoral process.

Cultural programs along with engaging SVEEP-related initiatives kept the audience involved and educated, fulfilling its purpose of promoting democratic engagement and raising awareness about the significance of every vote, paving the way for more informed and active participation in the

upcoming elections.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO extended his gratitude to the participants for their enthusiastic response and highlighted the significance of SVEEP initiatives in ensuring free, fair, and inclusive elections.

Minga Sherpa further stressed the need for every eligible voter to come out and exercise their democratic right on 1st October, as every vote holds the power to shape the legislative representation of their community.

Assembly Elections-2024

DEO conducts late-night inspection of Strong Room after polling

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 27

To ensure the highest level of security and transparency post-elections, District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma conducted the late-night inspection of the Strong Room at Girls Higher Secondary School here the other day. The visit aimed to review the security measures in place for the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), which are securely stored in the Strong Room till the counting process begins. Abhishek Sharma thoroughly inspected the round-the-clock CCTV surveillance system, the deployment of security personnel, and the adherence to strict access control protocols at the site.

The DEO expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and commended the efforts of the security



forces and election staff for their vigilant approach. "The safety of the EVMs is our top priority, especially in the critical period before counting. We are leaving no stone unturned in ensuring the sanctity of the election process," Sharma stated.

He also directed the on-site officers to maintain a heightened state of alertness and to ensure that only authorized personnel are granted access to the premises. The DEO further emphasized that periodic checks should be conducted to avoid any

irregularities and to maintain a seamless transition to the next phase of the election process.

The late-night visit highlights the district administration's commitment to ensuring the highest levels of security and transparency in the post-election period, reinforcing public confidence in the election process.

The Assembly Elections 2024 in Rajouri were conducted smoothly, and the administration is now fully focused on ensuring the integrity of the upcoming vote counting process.

DLSA Samba hosts awareness event to mark World Tourism Day-2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 27

Under the aegis of J&K Legal services authority and also under the insightful directions of Chairperson District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Samba an awareness programme on "World Tourism Day, 2024" was held here at Samba Fort.

This programme was organized under the Chairmanship of Chairman DLSA Ravinder Nath Wattal and under the supervision of Secretary DLSA Sandeep Singh Sen.

The programme was attended by Tourism Officers of Samba as well as members of the Tour and Travel Association, Officers of LADCs, staff and PLVs of DLSA and students of Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School Samba. The resource person for



the programme Tourism Officer Dr. Rajesh Raina threw light on the different places of the tourist destination in the district Samba and the facilities available for the stakeholders.

The Secretary DLSA, in his speech, highlighted the importance and aim of the World Tourism Day and educated the participants about the theme of this day which is "Peace and Tourism" and also the goal of the World Tourism Day.

Proceedings of the programme were conducted

by Versha Anthal, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Samba.

Beside this, District Legal Services Authority Samba also organized an awareness programme on "Food Security and Standard Act and NDPS Act" at Govt. Degree College, Samba.

Tania Pargal, Legal Aid Counsel Samba educated the young students about the provisions of the acts. Light refreshment was also served to the students at the end of the programme.

Mega SVEEP Campaign witnesses over 8,000 Events in Jammu, mobilizes 800,000 Participants in Single Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 27

The District Election Office Jammu today organized a unique and comprehensive voter awareness campaign featuring over 8,000 events, and a participation of over 800,000 individuals, all within a single day.

Held under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program ahead of Phase 3 polling in Jammu district, and spearheaded by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Election Officer (DEO), the initiative was one of the most widespread electoral awareness campaigns in the region.

The events, organised across the district at all district offices, sectoral offices, sub-offices, polling stations, and in all the educational institutions including University of Jammu, Colleges, and schools, were designed to educate, encourage and empower the electorate, focusing especially on new voters, ensuring they understand the importance of their participation in the democratic process.

One of the highlights of the campaign was rallies taken out by various colleges including Women's College Parade, SPRM College, Science College, MAM College, Women's College Gandhi Nagar, Polytechnic College, GCOE, GDC Paloura, GDC Kunjwani, which after passing through different routes, culminated at Jammu University. Two rallies, from MAM College and SPRM College, were flagged off by DEO Jammu.

At General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, a special event was organized where DEO Jammu interacted with the first-time voters, urging them to not only vote but also to ask their families and peers to participate actively in the festival of democracy. The event concluded with enthralling cultural performances by the artist of information department and renowned Punjabi Artist Sangram Hanjram who also appealed the voters to vote in large numbers on 1st October, 2024.

The extensive SVEEP campaign utilized a variety of activities to maximize outreach and impact. These included street plays, debates, rangoli, mehandi, kite flying and many more. It was organised with collaborative efforts between government officials and employees, NGOs, and civil society groups, which facilitated a wider reach of the campaign.

DC inspects Water Filtration Plants; Asks for extensive chlorination to combat water borne diseases

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 27

Acting swiftly on reports regarding some cases of Hepatitis A in few villages of Shopian including Keegam, Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, today conducted an extensive tour of the district.

The DC, during the visit, reviewed the functioning of water filtration plants there with a view to ensure quality water supply to the inhabitants of the district. The DC visited various areas including Chowgam, Pad Pawan, Pahnoo, Balpora, and Shirmal filtration plants and water supply schemes to take



a first-hand appraisal of the water treatment processes. He emphasized the critical role of clean water in safeguarding public health.

During the review, the DC instructed the Jal Shakti Department to chlorinate all water sources in the district as a preventive measure against potential waterborne infections especially the Hepatitis A. He further urged the concerned officers to maintain vigilance and ensure consistent monitoring

of water quality at every stage of filtration and distribution. The DC made a fervent appeal to the citizens to consume boiled water as a pre-cautionary measure against the infectious diseases.

DEO Bandipora finalizes Arrangements for Assembly Elections



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 27

The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Friday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to finalize arrangements for the upcoming assembly elections scheduled to be held on 1st October in Bandipora District.

The DEO took detailed feedback from the concerned regarding law and order, poll day reporting, MCC complaint and permission status, DCRS arrangements, Non EVM material readiness, status of Voter Information Slip distribution, training status of poll staff, AMF at polling station, and other necessary poll arrangements. He assessed the progress of plantation initiatives at polling loca-

tions, marking of electoral rolls, and security measures to ensure a safe environment for voters.

The DEO said the administration is committed to ensure a transparent and smooth electoral process, and it is vital that all stakeholders work together diligently to uphold the integrity of elections. He urged everyone involved to complete their assignments efficiently and on time to facilitate voter participation. He further instructed all officers and officials to prioritize prompt communication and coordination to address any emerging issues swiftly besides stressed adherence to ECI guidelines.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, ADC/Nodal Officer MCC Zaffar Husson Shawal, DyDEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, ACD Irfan Bahadur, Election Nodal officers, DySP HQ, and other concerned.

RO 15-Bandipora Shabir Ahmad Wani, RO 14-Sonwari Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, RO 16-Gurez Mukhtar Ahmad also attended the meeting in virtual mode.

SVEEP event motivates youth voters at JU



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 27

As part of the ongoing SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) campaign, a musical event featuring Punjabi singer Sangram Hanjra was held today in the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium Jammu University. The event saw enthusiastic participation from youth. They were urged to cast their votes in the upcoming October 1 elections and motivate others to do the same.

District Election Officer (DEO) Sachin Kumar Vaishya, addressing the gathering, reminded the participants, especially the youth, of their responsibility to vote. "Make sure to cast your vote

on October 1 and inspire your family members and others to do the same," he said. He called upon all eligible voters to take part in the electoral process to boost overall voter turnout.

The DEO highlighted that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has made elaborate provisions to ensure accessible facilities at polling stations, especially for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) voters.

The event was attended by ADDC Sher Singh, ADC Ansuya Jamwal, SVEEP Nodal Officer Dr. Vikas Sharma, along with other district officers, all of whom encouraged the public to actively participate in the democratic process.

Voter Awareness Event organised at Bamboo Common Facility, Sumb to encourage Voting



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 27

As part of the ongoing efforts under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, a special voter awareness event was organized today at the Bamboo Common Facility in the village of Simblana, Block Sumb. The event, led by the SVEEP Nodal Officer, aimed to sensitize the local community about the importance of participating in the upcoming elections on 1st October 2024.

Simblana village, known for its bamboo artisans, saw a large turnout of locals who were

engaged in an interactive sensitization session.

The Nodal Officer emphasized the role of each voter in a democracy and encouraged the community to come out and vote in large numbers. The event also highlighted the special facilities available at polling stations to ensure a comfortable voting experience for everyone.

Key points of the awareness drive included:

Minimum Facilities at Polling Stations: Voters were informed about the arrangements made to provide adequate lighting, drinking water, ramps for persons with disabilities, and proper signage to guide voters at

all polling locations.

Special Polling Stations: Special emphasis was laid on setting up model polling stations to enhance voter convenience, particularly for vulnerable sections of society, including the elderly and disabled.

The event is part of a larger SVEEP initiative focused on boosting voter turnout, especially in rural areas where voter engagement has traditionally been lower.

The community of bamboo artisans in Simblana welcomed the efforts of the district administration and expressed their support for active participation in the democratic process.

Kanisha Sawhney of DPS Jammu excels in district level Chess Tournament

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 27

Kanisha Sawhney (VI-J) of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and her parents by clinching 2nd position in District Level Chess Tournament organized by Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K held at Ramban from 21-23 September, 2024. She participated in U-14 girls category. Kanisha also received a merit certificate. The esteemed management of DPS Jammu, Hon'ble President-RCT, Sh. M.K Ajatsharu Singh Ji, Distinguished PVC-Kuwarani Ritu Singh Ji, Hon'ble Director-Sh. S.S Sodhi Ji along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ms. Ruchi Chhabra and staff congratulated Kanisha and her parents for the achievement. They also extended their best wishes to her for all her future endeavours.

Progress of NHIDCL works reviewed in Doda



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, SEPTEMBER 27

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the ongoing development projects in the district being executed by the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

The meeting witnessed the presence of ACR Sunil Bhutyal, Tehsildars, and officials from the NHIDCL and Forest and Revenue Departments, highlighting a collective effort to address key issues associ-

ated with the infrastructure works.

The meeting discussed crucial topics such as compensation, rehabilitation of affected families, plantation in project areas, dumping of waste and road construction safety.

The DC directed the NHIDCL officials to ensure minimal disruption to the environment, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices. He stressed on massive plantations around project catchment areas and proper disposal of construction waste.

DIPR Kathua organises Nukkad Natak to promote Voter Awareness



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 27

As part of the ongoing SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) campaign aimed at raising awareness about the upcoming assembly elections, the District SVEEP Cell Kathua, in collaboration with the District Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Office, organized a series of Nukkad Natak in the Kathua town today.

The performances took place at two key locations, Mukherjee Chowk and Jarai Chowk, where talented artists from New Sargam, Social and Culture Club Samba, captivated large crowds with their theme-based Nukkad Natak, Dogri songs, and entertaining mimics.

The events attracted enthusiastic participation from the public, with com-

muters, business owners and shopkeepers in attendance.

The series of events kicked off at Mukherjee Chowk, one of the busiest areas in Kathua town. Through their engaging performances, the artists emphasized the importance of voting and highlighted the power of each vote in shaping government and democratic processes.

The Nukkad Natak also addressed the harmful practices of exchanging money or favors for votes, using satire and mimicry of popular Bollywood actors to spread the message. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed the performances while being reminded of the critical role of responsible voting.

The SVEEP campaign continues to focus on enhancing voter participation and ensuring a free and fair electoral process.

Col Mahan urges Nitin Gadkari to expedite key infrastructure projects in Kathua



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, SEPT 27

District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Kathua, Col Mahan Singh, held a significant meeting with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, during the latter's election campaigning tour to Mahanpur. Col Singh presented a series of crucial demands aimed at enhancing road connectivity and boosting tourism in the region, which he believes will open up vast opportunities for employment and economic growth.

During the meeting, Col Singh emphasized the early construction of the proposed PMDP Bharat Mala National Highway between Kathua and

achal Pradesh. He noted that this project would reduce the distance between Kathua District Headquarters and Basohli from the current 86 km to just 30 km, making it a major attraction similar to the Mumbai-Worli sea link.

Additionally, Col Mahan Singh proposed the initiation of cruise services in the Ranjit Sagar Dam to improve public transportation and promote tourism in the 6,000 square kilometer water body. With 80% of the dam's area falling on the Jammu and Kashmir side, the development of cruise services would offer a unique attraction for tourists while serving the landlocked areas adjoining the dam. Nitin Gadkari assured Col Mahan Singh of full support and said that these proposals will be carefully reviewed for their feasibility. He emphasized that the central government is committed to improving infrastructure and tourism in the region and will take all necessary steps to fast-track these projects under the ongoing national highway and tourism development schemes.

Swachhta Hi Seva Abhiyan 4.0 launched in Central Sanskrit University



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 27

National Service Scheme Unit of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Jammu organised a cleanliness drive in the campus on Friday, under 'Swachhta Hi Seva Abhiyan' 4.0, a cleanliness campaign based on the theme of 'Swachha Swachhta, Sanskar-Swachhta'. Campus Director Prof. Shridhar Mishra while addressing the students and staff of the campus said that there is a need to adopt cleanliness in our nature and conduct. For this, there is a requirement to pay special attention to cleanliness in and around

our houses. He appealed to all HoD's and staff to keep all the departments of the university campus clean and beautiful. Calling for running a clean campus, he said that there are high expectations from the students regarding cleanliness. He further said that in the modern era, plastic has taken an important place in our lives. Even food items are being packed in plastic. Thermocol glasses and spoons etc. are being used more. We should not throw plastic in the open. It should be collected and disposed at one place. On this occasion he administered the oath of 'Panch Pran' to everyone. Speaking on

the occasion, Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor, Associate Director of the campus said that Swachh Bharat initiative is dedicated to improving all aspects of human life, giving priority to cleanliness and hygiene which eventually will help in creating a healthier and more prosperous society.

Under the "Swachhta Hi Seva" program, the professors, staff and students of the campus visited various buildings of the campus and cleaned and disposed off single use plastic and garbage. On this occasion everyone contributed towards cleanliness. Everyone expressed gratitude on behalf of the NSS Unit.

Assembly Elections-2024 GDC Ramgarh organises Screening of Documentary on 'Fundamental Duties and Rights' under SVEEP

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 27

Government Degree College Ramgarh on Friday organised a documentary screening on 'Fundamental Duties and Rights' as part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program. The programme aimed to educate students about their rights and duties as citizens. The event was held under the guidance and supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College. Speaking on the occasion she articulated how these rights empower citizens while highlighting the crucial responsibilities that accompany them.

The documentary illustrated the essential fun-

damental rights, such as the right to equality, freedom of expression, and the right to education. It also emphasized the corresponding fundamental duties, including the responsibility to promote harmony, protect the environment and uphold the Constitution.

The documentary screening was attended by all faculty members and students of the college. Attendees were also encouraged to reflect on their responsibilities and the significance of active participation in the electoral process. The discussion emphasized that voting is not just a right, but a fundamental duty of every citizen, inspiring students to engage proactively in the upcoming electoral process.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

J&K voters opting...

DDC Chairman Colonel Mohan Singh, BJP District President Shri Omi Kumar Khajuria among other leaders were present.

Nadda stated that the people must ensure that they spread the Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's message that Kashmir has now progressed on the path of the mainstream, and it is essential to take Kashmir forward. Jammu & Kashmir shares a bond with the BJP and Bharatiya Jan Sangh, it is an emotional relationship. The National Conference and Congress have always betrayed, cheated, and misled the land of Jammu. It was only the BJP and Bharatiya Jan Sangh that stood with Jammu. Sher-e-Duggar Shri Prem Nath Dogra was the third National President of Bharatiya Jan Sangh in 1955. He fought for integration against Sheikh Abdullah and raised the voice of Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, the first President of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, challenged the wrong intentions of Jawaharlal Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee emphasized the injustices of Article 370 concerning Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting that there cannot be 'Do Nishan, Do Vidhan, Do Pradhan' in one country. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee entered Lakhampur without a permit to make his stance clear. He was arrested and ultimately sacrificed his life in a jail in Srinagar. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee's fight was carried forward by the BJP, and with the willpower of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and the strategy of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Article 370 was abolished in Parliament on August 5, 2019. This established 'Ek Desh, Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan' in the country.

BJP National President Shri Nadda remarked that this election is truly unique, as for the first time, Srinagar's valley witnessed a 60% voter turnout, a significant increase from the previous 8-10%. There is no atmosphere of fear or terror—no firing, terrorist attacks, or booth capturing. People are voting fearlessly, and in the first two phases, the recorded turnout was 58-60%. Those who once held guns in their hands are now using ballots to express themselves, this is a victory for Indian democracy. Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji has emphasized peace, stability, and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Nadda highlighted that when Article 370 was in effect in Jammu and Kashmir, Manmohan Singh, who came from West Pakistan, became the Prime Minister, but a refugee who came from West Pakistan in Jammu was deprived of the right to vote and participate in elections. However, the abrogation of Article 370 has proven to be a blessing for Jammu and Kashmir, as now refugees from West Pakistan will also be able to participate in elections and exercise their right to vote. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Valmiki community was previously limited to becoming sanitation workers. The Valmiki community was unable to pursue education or secure any government jobs, but today, due to the abrogation of Article 370, they have been granted equal rights to education. After the abrogation of Article 370, the BJP government has granted Gujars, Bakarwals, Padris, and Paharis the right to vote and stand in elections, while also ensuring reservations for them.

BJP National President Shri Nadda pointed out that the Congress, National Conference, and PDP all have only one goal - 'protect the family and promote the family.' However, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's goal is to uplift the people of Jammu and Kashmir and send these family-driven parties to his/her home. The NC and Congress alliance is merely a deal between two political families, they have nothing to do with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and have always prioritized their own families and corruption. The National Conference was involved in the Roshni scam, the J&K Bank scam, the J&K land purchase scam, and the scam in the cricket association.

Nadda stated that following the victory of BJP candidate Shri Satish Sharma and the party winning all six seats, legal action will be taken against those responsible for injustices in Jammu and Kashmir, specifically the Congress, PDP and NC. Individuals aged 20 to 25 have been denied education and instead given weapons and stones, transforming them into stone-pelters. Previously, around 300 to 400 terrorists emerged in Jammu, but this number has now fallen to just four identified terrorists in the last nine months.

BJP National President Shri Nadda expressed concern that the National Conference is not backing down. They want to revert to the situation of the 1990s. The NC's manifesto states they will release terrorists from jail. To prevent this, it is essential to ensure the BJP wins all seats in Kathua and Jammu and Kashmir by making the 'Lotus' bloom. Everyone knows what used to happen at the LOC: goods were sent from there, while counterfeit notes came back, and weapons were returned in exchange. The National Conference's ally, Congress, has also expressed their intention to resume LOC trade. The NC clearly supports talks with Pakistan. However Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji has stated that there will be no dialogue until terrorism is eliminated and the BJP will respond firmly to terrorism.

Nadda stated that significant changes have taken place in Jammu in terms of development and beyond. A G20 meeting was held in Srinagar, a car race took place, and the Khelo India event was organized. Over 2 crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir within a year, establishing peace and harmony in the region. Whether it's about reservations or development, the Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji has actively worked to advance every issue. Before the abrogation of Article 370, corruption was rampant in the state. Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji eliminated corruption and focused on development.

BJP National President Shri Nadda remarked that while economies in the USA, Europe, Australia, Japan, and China are facing challenges, India's economy is seen as a 'Bright Spot' under Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's leadership. India has climbed from the 11th to the 5th position in the global economy, surpassing Britain. Following the win in Jammu and Kashmir, India is on track to become the third-largest economy during the third term of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

Nadda highlighted that remarkable development has occurred in Jammu over the past five years, with roads extending to every village and numerous projects

for national highways, elevated roads, and flyovers underway. In the Jammu region, 1,800 kilometers of national and state highways have been built, including key projects like the Delhi-Katra Expressway, Jammu-Poonch Highway, Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, Banihal Qazigund Tunnel, and Zojila Tunnel. Furthermore, 19,000 kilometers of all-weather roads have been constructed, connecting 2,300 villages. The Border Roads Organization has completed 443 kilometers in the Jammu and Srinagar areas. The railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla is nearing completion, enabling train travel from Baramulla to Kanyakumari, truly uniting India. Vande Bharat trains are now operating between Katra and Delhi. The Chenab Bridge, originally sanctioned by Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee but delayed for ten years under the UPA government, has been completed under Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's leadership and now stands as Asia's tallest bridge, symbolizing pride for Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP National President Shri Nadda highlighted that nearly 38,000 government jobs have been created. The establishment of a premier AIIMS in Jammu will ensure quality healthcare in the region. IIT, IIM, and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication have been set up, making Jammu an educational hub. Jammu now offers a range of facilities similar to those found in metropolitan cities. The Shahpur Kandi project had been delayed for years due to concerns about Pakistan, leaving the Kandi area dry and without a proper water supply. The UPA government took no action for a decade, but now under Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's leadership, the project is underway and initiatives are being launched to supply water to farmers in remote Jammu areas. Furthermore, 8 new medical colleges have been established in Jammu and Kashmir, and the BJP government has approved multiple hydro projects, ensuring that the region will have adequate water resources.

Nadda remarked that during the tenure of the National Conference and Congress, there were instances of gunfire during DDC and panchayat elections. The BJP government has successfully conducted local elections and offered opportunities for youth representation. Under the Modi government, Jammu and Kashmir will not fall behind in any sector. Although the BJP government can introduce development and benefit schemes from Delhi, these initiatives cannot be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir without a BJP-led government in the state. To speed up development in the region, a double-engine government is essential. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, only the BJP can drive the narrative of development. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure that the 'Lotus' blooms in every seat in Jammu and Kashmir. The people must elect a BJP government, after which the party will complete all the pending initiatives in the region.

BJP National President Shri Nadda highlighted that the Modi government will construct 3 crore new homes under the PM Awas Yojana, guaranteeing that no one will be without shelter. The government has also introduced a health cover of 5 lakh for 6 crore citizens aged over 70. Furthermore, the health cover under Ayushman Bharat has been raised to 7 lakh. To facilitate the effective implementation of these beneficial initiatives, a robust BJP government in Jammu and Kashmir is crucial. BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda appealed to the voters to support BJP candidates with a substantial majority across all seats in the region.

Modi enabled Rahul...

Home Minister Sushil Shinde. Amid applause from audience, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, each time Rahul Gandhi plays with snowballs with his sister Priyanka or goes for a stroll at Lal Chowk or makes an impromptu evening visit to a restaurant at Residency Road, he does not realise that he is inadvertently endorsing Prime Minister Modi's success in handling the situation in Kashmir and restoring a compatible, friendly environment for such playful indulgences in public.

Mocking the Congress and National Conference alliance in the ongoing J&K Assembly election, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, it was a marriage of convenience but the cracks have started appearing even before the marriage could be solemnised. He said, even Omar Abdullah, the coalition partner of Rahul Gandhi is feeling disillusioned and disgusted with the latter and is constrained to say through the media that Rahul should be advised to concentrate on campaigning for the Congress candidates in Jammu region instead of spending time in Kashmir valley. In other words, this amounts to saying that the Congress leader is inclined to holiday in the pleasant climes of Kashmir valley even when the Party candidates are facing the heat of BJP challenge in the Jammu region.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, there is no challenge to BJP from the Congress and its alliance because it is nothing new and has existed for several years without causing any dent, though for each election they change the name of the alliance.

He recalled that during the 2014 election also, Congress and NC had put up common candidates who lost with a decisive margin. After the defeat, he recalled, when they set out to fight the next election in 2019, they changed the name of the alliance to UPA. However, after losing the 2019 election, when they went for 2024 election, they changed the name to INDI, he added.

Amid a big round of applause and clapping from the audience, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "please remember by words, after they are shaken by the defeat in these elections, they will change the name of the alliance from INDI to some other name, which could be "ABC", "XYZ" or any of that sort ". It is just like trying to sell the same product in the market in different packets each time after the marketing strategy fails, he said.

Calling upon the people of Kathua to vote for BJP, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, this is a land of Syama Prasad Mookerjee and is known to have withstood repeated assaults from the enemies of nation and is also capable of thwarting the designs of anti national forces. The victory of BJP from here, he said, will send out a message across the country that those who talk of bringing back Article 370 and 35A have been rejected once and all by the people of Kathua through the power of ballot..

We will end the...

our only team is the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Kishan Reddy went on to state that change is visible and everybody can feel the difference from where Jammu and Kashmir stood during the rule of three families to where it stands today. He said "People's rights were suppressed. The laws of the Union were not implemented here. Under the guise of 370, the rights of the poor were looted, there were organised hartals, schools were burnt down, and Pakistan's flag was hoisted. This has completely stopped now."

Kishan Reddy also said that it was due to Nehru's wrong policies that the public were suffering the brunt of Article 370. He said "Article 370 was Jinnah's constitution, in place of which Hon'ble PM Modi has implemented Baba Saheb's constitution. The supporters of 370 want to talk to Pakistan and end reservations; it was due to Article 370 that the money that Government of India would contribute to the region was not audited. Now for the last five years, every penny is being accounted for."

Kishan Reddy also said that more than 60 of our candidates are in the fray in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections. Today we are proud that the party is contesting elections in every district. The public will give BJP a chance based on work; we are confident that BJP will get the support of the public.

He said "BJP has ushered in an era of balanced political, social and economic development by ending systematic discrimination with the Jammu region. The people of Jammu were discriminated against systematically for decades, and this time Jammu will get due justice for the decades of discrimination". He also pointed out that after delimitation, the number of seats in the Jammu region has also increased from 37 to 43. We will set up three regional development boards in Jammu.

G. Kishan Reddy said that the BJP manifesto contains a specific plan to develop the Jammu region through regional development boards. He said that other initiatives include boosting tourism in areas like Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, and Poonch, along with border tourism on the International Border and Line of Control. He said, "Our manifesto also promised economic growth by establishing an IT hub in Jammu as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a Pharmaceutical Park in Udhampur, and an Ayush Herbal Park in Kishtwar."

He further mentioned the BJP's efforts to promote traditional arts, such as Basohli painting, which received a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in March 2023, and the development of religious circuits around shrines like Vaishno Devi and temples like Raghunath and Shivkhori. He assured that upon coming to power, the BJP would implement its Sankalp Patra (manifesto), increase pensions, and fulfil promises made to youth, farmers, and women. "We are here for service, good governance, and the welfare of the poor. The public will support us based on our track record and vision for the future."

Pak could be split...

pay for supporting terrorism. It could lead to Pakistan being divided into three parts, with no trace of it left," Adityanath said.

"Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is sitting, ready to merge with India. They want freedom from Pakistan, they want development, ration, peace, and Ayushman health cards, but all of this is only possible within India," he added.

He asked the people of Jammu and Kashmir to vote for the BJP, calling it the only option for good governance, peace, stability, and development in the region.

Highlighting Pakistan's economic struggles, Adityanath remarked, "Pakistan's situation is such that it is going around with a begging bowl. It's no secret that their government has taken their people. Even Balochistan is now saying they don't want to stay with Pakistan because they are treated like foreigners." The chief minister also reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "firm" stance against terrorism, saying "water and terrorism cannot flow together," referring to the Indus River treaty.

He warned that anyone attempting to spread terrorism in India with Pakistan's support would meet a grim fate.

"If anyone, with Pakistan's support, tries to sow seeds of terrorism in India, they will neither have a shroud to cover them nor two yards of land to be buried in." Taking a dig at the opposition parties, including the National Conference, Adityanath said their leaders used to behave like "rulers" of Jammu and Kashmir and enjoyed foreign trips at government expense but that is not the case anymore.

LG releases Hindi...

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust, along with Trustee and other members of the trust including Sh Sunil Sharma and Sh Samartha Sharma were also present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

PM Modi's monopoly...

the single-biggest reason for unemployment is that the basic structure of employment, which is small and medium businesses, is "under severe attack from five to 10 really big monopolies".

"These large monopolies have a control over the political system and they are organising a systematic attack on you," he said.

"What is the answer? The answer is a redesigned GST, banking support to small and medium industries, technological support to small and medium industries. India has a huge set of skills, capabilities. These are in different clusters.

"If I come to Jammu, I am certain that there will be certain things that you specialise in, certain skills you have. Linking those skills with finance, with technology and building up industries from the ground up is the way forward. We will give employment to people," he said.

At the event, Gandhi outlined several key policy proposals aimed at boosting the local economy, including improved access to capital for micro, small and medium

CS reviews status of high speed internet connectivity in far-flung areas

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEP 27

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a meeting of the State Broadband Committee of Jammu Kashmir at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) IT, Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, PDD, H. Rajesh Prasad, Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, Secretary, PWD, Bhupinder Kumar, CGM BSNL, Saurabh Tyagi and other concerned officers of allied departments attended the meeting.

The ACS and other senior officers briefed the meeting about the working of SBC and action taken to properly implement the project in letter and spirit.

enterprises (MSMEs), export incentives and measures to reduce tax-related burdens on businesses.

The event attracted 328 participants, with one-third representing business owners and a half comprising private sector professionals.

At the event, Gandhi participated in a candid question-and-answer session, where the attendees highlighted specific challenges facing businesses in the region.

Amit Shah slams...

government in Haryana is procuring 24 crops at MSP. "Let Congress leaders in Haryana tell which Congress-ruled state procures as many crops," he said.

"How many crops bought at MSP in Karnataka and Telangana," he asked.

During Congress rule, paddy was procured at Rs 1300 per quintal, now it is Rs 2300 and if you elect BJP government in Haryana, we will procure paddy at Rs 3,100 (per quintal), he said.

Further attacking the Congress, Shah said it was the Narendra Modi government which fulfilled the long pending demand of One Rank One Pension.

Shah said the BJP undertook equitable development in Haryana and corruption has finished in the last 10 years.

"Congress governments used to run on the basis of cut, commission and corruption while dealers, dalals (middlemen) and 'damads' used to rule. Under BJP government, there are no dealers, 'dalals' while there is no question of 'damad'," the senior BJP leader said.

Haryana goes to polls on October 5 and the results will be declared on October 8.

Omar asks BJP to...

failure and the party should accept it and seek forgiveness from the people," he said.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an election rally in support of party candidate Sunil Verma in Udhampur East assembly segment, Omar referred to the statements of Home Minister Amit Shah blaming NC, Congress and PDP for terrorism and said "when the BJP leaders speak within J&K, they blame us but when they are outside the Union Territory they hold Pakistan responsible".

"They (BJP leadership) do not talk in one voice. If we are responsible, then why are they not talking to Pakistan? You are blaming us (for terrorism) from the soil of J&K, thus giving a clean chit to Pakistan. They are making contradictory statements and taking in different tones to mislead the public," he said.

He, however, said the National Conference speaks in one voice within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Asked about BJP's criticism of his party's manifesto, he said, "What you expect that they will appreciate our manifesto? They are fighting the elections against us and it is evident that they will oppose our manifesto."

"I am happy and want to thank them for their reaction. We are a small regional party having no stakes outside J&K but they made our manifesto a topic of discussion across the country. Hardly any union minister or (BJP) chief minister had not talked about our manifesto. I am thankful to BJP," he said.

On the saffron party's leadership targeting him by name, Abdullah said, "Despite being out of power for so long, if the Prime Minister or home minister is remembering me in their speeches that means I have done something good."

The NC leader claimed that BJP is nervous because of poor performance in the first two phases of the assembly elections.

"There was no special performance by BJP in the first two phases (on September 18 and 25), they are nervous. Our internal reports said that their candidate from Nowshera constituency (J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina) is unlikely to save his seat. They are faced with such a situation and are targeting us. They are free to target us," he said.

Earlier, addressing the joint gathering of NC and Congress workers, he said BJP is saying that if "we form the Government, terrorism will get revived. We have completely wiped out terrorism from Jammu before 2014 but this double engine Government facilitated its return."

"They are saying attacks will be carried out on pilgrims. The reality is that the attacks had taken place under their rule - whether it was an attack on Amarnath pilgrims (in Kashmir in July 2017) when BJP and PDP were in the government or Shiv Khori pilgrims (June 2024)," he said, accusing BJP of reviving terrorism in Jammu, growing unemployment and destroying J&K.

"Except dividing the people on the name of religion, they (BJP) do not know anything else," he said, asking the people to stand united against the divisive policies and strengthen the secular forces.

Out of 90 seats, he said NC is in direct fight with BJP on only five seats but "it is mostly targeting our party, our manifesto, our leadership. Home minister announced results yesterday even as 40 seats are going to polls in the last phase (on October 1).

"Was he in possession of some magic wand through which he knows the outcome of voting. They are using everything to mislead the people," he said.

Department of Physical Education and Sports organizes Inter-College Annual Road Race at Kilhotran

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KILHOTRAN, SEPT 27

The Department of Physical Education and Sports proudly hosted its Annual Intra-College Road Race in collaboration with NSS unit, GDC Kilhotran on 26 September, 2024, an exhilarating event that brought together the spirit of competition and camaraderie among students. The race, organized under the leadership of Professor (Dr.) Javed Iqbal, Principal, GDC Kilhotran featured impressive participation from over 50 students, both boys and girls.

The race for boys commenced from the College Gate in Kilhotran, culminating at Thaloran, while the girls' race started from the same location and concluded at Thaloran Bridge. The event was officially flagged off by Dr.



Riaz Ahmed, Head of the Department of Arabic, who emphasized the importance of physical fitness and sportsmanship in student life.

Winners of the Road Race:

Boys:
Altaf Ahmad (Semester V) - 1st Place
Alam Bhallessi (Semester V) - 2nd Place
Mohd Arif (Semester V) - 3rd Place
Girls:
Ronika Devi (Semester

III) - 1st Place
Simran (Semester III) - 2nd Place
Arpna (Semester V) - 3rd Place

The event not only highlighted the athletic talents of the students but also showcased the collaborative efforts of faculty members who contributed to its success. Mr. Zakir Ali, Physical Director of the college, played a key role in organizing the event, with vital support from Dr. Aslam Rather,

Convenor IQAC & Head, Department of Chemistry
Dr. Jozi Farhan, Head, Department of History
Mr. Vicky Rattan, Convenor of the Sports Committee & Head, Department of Hindi
Dr. Tasir Sharief, Head, Department of Botany
Mr. Zain Batt, Head, Department of Political Science
Dr. Imtiaz, Head, Department of Urdu
Dr. Mudassar Nazar, Head, Department of Per-

sian
Mr. Ashwani Kumar, Head, Department of Zoology
Mr. Joat Singh, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences

Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Head, Department of Economics
Dr. Waqar Yonus Butt, Head, Department of English

The Health Department of PHC Changra, Kilhotran provided essential medical services, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants. The local police also ensured security throughout the event, contributing to a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

The Department of Physical Education and Sports looks forward to more such events that promote fitness, teamwork, and community spirit among our students.

NILM J&K organizes Painting Competition at Oriental Academy Senior Secondary School

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 27

National Incredible Literacy Mission organized school level painting competition to aware school children about environmental changes and natural resources. Students of At Oriental Academy Senior Secondary School, Afghan Street, Kachi Chawni, Jammu took part in this painting competition. This competition was organized by NILM NGO to aware the school children about green wealth and need of conservation of forest, water and other need full environment resources. "This year many students learned the values of environment and water conservation through painting" Thakur KD Kurhan Chair-



man NILM said. During the painting competition Vivek Parkash Chouhan Principal of the said school along with Shruti Chouhan Vice Principal of the school along with other staff including Pinky Sharma art teacher, Neera Dogra Coordinator and Vishal Sharma actively participated in the painting competition event. At end of painting competition certificates were distributed among the participants by the NILM (NGO).

R S Thakur Project Director NILM said, "This type of competitions are specially designed by our NGO to make a positive attitude among the children to love their surrounding and environment." He further added that students are passionately participating in the competition. This way they are getting aware with inner talent as well as the students develop environment friendly attitude in them.

Chinar Primary School organizes investiture ceremony

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NAGROTA, SEPT 27

Chinar Primary School, the primary wing of Sainik School Nagrota, organized its Investiture Ceremony today at the school auditorium. Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Singh, Zonal Vice President of AWWA, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and conferred badges and sashes to the newly appointed members of the Student Council.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome to the distinguished guests and parents by Mrs. Renu Devi, Teacher In-Charge, who highlighted the recent developments and value additions at CPS under the leadership of the new Chairman, Captain (IN) Shibu Devasia. The event featured an exciting cultural program performed by the students.

Indian Army celebrates World Environment Health Day in Rajouri, Poonch, and Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH RAJOURI & REASI, SEP 24

In a significant initiative to promote environmental health awareness, the Indian Army celebrated World Environment Health Day by organizing a series of impactful events across the remote districts of Rajouri, Poonch, and Reasi. This celebration was aimed at engaging local communities in sustainable practices and fostering a deeper understanding of the vital relationship between health and the environment. The celebration kicked off with a series of workshops focusing on various environmental health topics, including waste management, air and water quality, and the effects of pollution on public health. Local residents, school children, and community leaders



participated enthusiastically, reflecting a shared commitment to improving their environmental conditions. By providing valuable information and practical tips, these workshops empowered the community to take actionable steps toward a healthier environment. The Indian Army collaborated with local schools to host engaging activities, such as debates, encouraging students to express their thoughts on environmental conservation. Various

places at these three districts witnessed a robust tree-planting drive led by army volunteers and local residents. Hundreds of saplings were planted, aimed at enhancing green cover, combating climate change, and restoring local biodiversity. The initiative also included sessions on the benefits of afforestation, urging participants to understand how trees contribute to cleaner air and healthier ecosystems. The event concluded with a collective pledge from all

participants to adopt eco-friendly practices and work collaboratively towards creating a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations. This celebration not only highlighted Indian Army's dedication to social responsibility but also showcased the power of community engagement in tackling environmental challenges, fostering unity, and promoting sustainable living in the region. The celebrations also included a community clean-up drive, where army personnel and residents worked side by side to remove litter from public spaces and local water bodies. This hands-on activity was crucial in demonstrating the impact of community involvement in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Half-hearted commitment, insincerity may cast a shadow over NC-Cong Post-Poll Alliance: Ahmed Ayaz

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPT 27

In a press statement, Ahmad Ayaz, a noted political analyst and National TV debater, voiced skepticism about the future of the NC-Congress alliance, citing the National Conference's (NC) perceived half-hearted commitment and insincerity toward this partnership.

Recent developments in the Shalteng constituency suggest the alliance is under strain, with visible cracks beginning to surface. NC leader Irfan Shah's decision to contest independently against Congress candidate Tariq Hameed Karra raises alarms regarding the future of this coalition. Shah's move risks splitting the opposition vote in a crucial constituency, jeopardizing Karra, who



is also the president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC).

Further complicating matters, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi campaigned in Shalteng without the presence of any prominent NC leaders. This absence signals possible discontent within the alliance and raises questions about the sincerity of the NC's support.

Shalteng, a critical con-

stituency in the NC-Congress strategy to consolidate anti-BJP votes, now finds itself at the center of these emerging tensions. Shah's candidacy may indicate deeper internal issues within the NC, potentially reflecting factionalism or strategic maneuvering. The lack of NC leaders during Karra's campaign casts further doubt on the cohesion of the alliance.

The future of the NC-Congress alliance now appears uncertain, with the prospect of post-election cooperation between the two parties hanging in the balance. If these cracks are not addressed, the alliance could unravel, potentially paving the way for the NC-BJP to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir.

IIM Jammu Inaugurates 3-Day Capacity Building Program Under YUVA Project

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 27

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu today on 27th Sept 2024 inaugurated the 3-Day Capacity Building Program under the ambitious Project YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan). This groundbreaking initiative aims to foster entrepreneurship and accelerate employment opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir by empowering youth, women, and vulnerable groups. The program, scheduled from 27th to 29th September 2024, was graced by govt. officials of Jammu and Kashmir. The inauguration ceremony began with traditional lamp lighting. The inaugural event was graced by Shri Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, Secretary to Govt., Labour & Employment Department, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu presided over the inaugural ceremony. In his address, Shri Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, Secretary to Govt., Labour & Employment Department, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir emphasized that Mission YUVA is a forward-thinking initiative designed to

create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, independent of government schemes. He highlighted the challenges individuals face in their careers, stressing the need for a mindset that fosters intellectual growth and innovation. He outlined the 4Cs—Culture, Capital, Capacity, and Connectivity—as key pillars for driving entrepreneurial transformation. He also emphasized the importance of creating market linkages and self-sustaining ecosystems for long-term growth. Additionally, he encouraged the government officials to draft comprehensive guidelines to support entrepreneurship, noting that clarity in these frameworks is essential for effective implementation. He concluded by reaffirming that this capacity-building program is a crucial step toward fostering a sustainable and vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem that will empower both government officials and entrepreneurs to drive the future development of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his address, Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted the critical need for a mind-

set shift to foster entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir. Drawing from his personal journey in both industry and academia, he underscored that creativity and innovation, rather than financial aid or subsidies, are the driving forces behind entrepreneurship. He emphasized that success requires embracing opportunities and challenges with the right mindset. He urged participants to commit to Mission YUVA, pointing out that entrepreneurship benefits not only individuals but also has a transformative impact on communities. He stressed that success is inevitable when one takes ownership of the entrepreneurial journey, in line with IIM Jammu's vision to nurture entrepreneurs who can perform globally to make a valuable difference to the Society and the Corporate world. He also elaborated on the broader vision of mission YUVA, emphasizing its project to create a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, in his address, emphasized that initiatives like Project YUVA require

careful planning and thoughtful deliberation during their design and implementation. He highlighted the core vision of Project YUVA, which aims to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a thriving hub of enterprises. The program is anchored around the 4Cs—Culture (ecosystem creation), Capital (credit enablement), Capacity (skill development and handholding), and Connectivity (market linkages). It aims to create 1.37 lakh enterprises, generating employment opportunities for 4.25 lakh youths in Jammu & Kashmir over the next five years. The initiative has a projected budget of Rs 1,830 crore, with an influx of more than Rs 5,000 crore expected from banks and financial institutions. The event culminated with the national anthem.

The YUVA initiative jointly developed by Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir and IIM Jammu is poised to create a lasting impact by developing a robust business ecosystem in the region, fostering entrepreneurship, and unlocking the economic potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

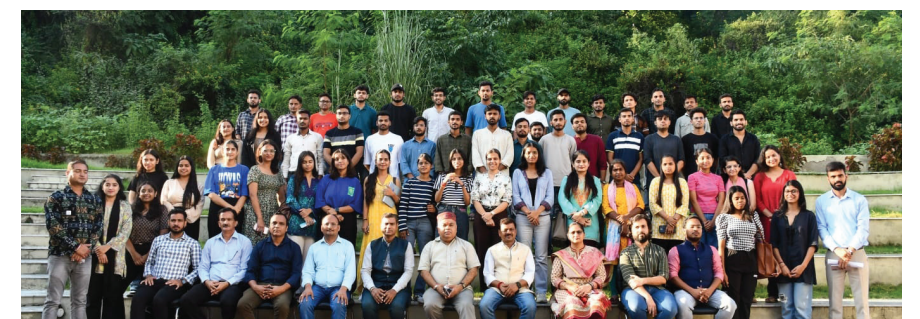
Hindi Pakhwada celebration concludes at IIMC Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 27

Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Jammu successfully concluded its Hindi Pakhwada closing ceremony. The program celebrated the significance of Hindi as a language and medium of communication, reflecting IIMC's commitment to promoting linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. The program was moderated by academic associates Mr. Rajiv Kumar and Mr. Gulshan Kumar.

The event began with a soulful Saraswati Vandana performed by the students. The esteemed guests of honor Shri Amrendra Gupta, Senior Reporter, DD News, and Dr. R.P. Prajapat, were formally welcomed by Dr. Dilip Kumar, Regional Director, IIMC Jammu. He congratulated the students for participating and putting in the efforts to make the event a success.

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, assistant, delivered the complete report of the 15-day-long Hindi Pakhwada event, covering all the activities. A video report made by students of Digital Media, Anuja Jain and Tamanna Ranjan, was also shared during the event.



Besides, students from different departments shared their experience of the 15-day-long learnings through the Hindi Pakhwada. They highlighted how it helped them develop skills like teamwork and dedication.

The special guest of the closing event, Amrendra Gupta, urged the students to never stop learning. He asked students to be creative and learn continuously. He also shared his insights from the industry as a parliamentary news reporter. He emphasized how getting involved in parliament by watching it is the only way to know more about it. He stated, "When you get in the field, you only have your skills, and having a clear vision and knowing your strength is very important." He added the need to read the editorial to enrich knowledge for survival in the field. He also

asked students to always keep a journalist alive in them.

The event was followed by Dr. R.P. Prajapat addressing the session. He encouraged the students to accept Hindi in its purest form and feel proud of the language.

A grand prize distribution ceremony took place, announcing the winners of various competitions. Indrajeet, Mohit, Nikhil, and Param (Hindi Journalism) secured first position in the Radio Jingle competition, whereas Bhawana Chand and English (English Journalism) and Rahul Yadav (Hindi Journalism) secured second and third place. Siddharth Maurya (Hindi Journalism) won the debate competition with Anamika Pandey (Digital Media) in second and Pawan Yadav (English Journalism) in third place. In the Hindi essay writing competition, Siddharth

Maurya (Hindi Journalism) came first. Nikhil Nayan (Hindi Journalism) stood second, and Himanshi Bora (Hindi Journalism) stood third. The Hindi typing competition was organized for the teaching and non-teaching staff, in which Mr. Gulshan Kumar secured first, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar second, and Mr. Rajiv Kumar secured third place. Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal, Assistant Professor and Course Coordinator, Digital Media, delivered the vote of thanks. He warmly congratulated the students and motivated the participants to keep putting in efforts for victory. The event was attended by Dr. Raviya Gupta, Assistant Professor; Mr. Vishv, Assistant Professor; Anoop Wattal, Senior Office Assistant; and Mr. Madhusudan, Course Coordinator, Digital Media.

EDITORIAL

Celebrating World Tourism Day: Rethinking Travel for a Sustainable Future

Every year, on September 27th, the world comes together to celebrate World Tourism Day, a date set aside to highlight the importance of tourism in fostering global cooperation, cultural exchange, and economic growth. Organized by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) since 1980, this day has evolved into a platform for rethinking tourism's role in an ever-changing world. The theme for World Tourism Day in 2023, "Tourism and Green Investments," reflects a pressing global concern—how can tourism continue to thrive while promoting sustainability and inclusivity?

Tourism, one of the largest global industries, has undeniable benefits. It contributes 10.4% to global GDP and supports millions of jobs worldwide. By opening up opportunities for people to experience new cultures, historical landmarks, and natural wonders, tourism has fostered greater understanding and tolerance between nations. For many developing countries, tourism remains a lifeline, offering income and employment where few alternatives exist.

However, as the number of international travelers grows each year, the environmental and social impacts become harder to ignore. The carbon footprint of aviation, the strain on natural ecosystems, the overtourism of fragile destinations, and the disruption to local communities raise urgent questions about tourism's future. Popular sites such as the Great Barrier Reef and Venice are feeling the pressures of overuse, pollution, and climate change, leading to calls for greater responsibility in how tourism is managed.

This year's theme, "Tourism and Green Investments," focuses on the crucial intersection of economic growth and environmental responsibility. The tourism industry is at a crossroads. It must reinvent itself by embracing green technologies and practices. Investments in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and eco-friendly accommodations are essential to mitigating the negative impacts of mass tourism.

Eco-tourism is already leading the way in reshaping how we travel. Sustainable tourism initiatives in places like Costa Rica, Bhutan, and Iceland have shown that preserving biodiversity and reducing carbon emissions can coexist with a thriving tourism sector. Costa Rica, for instance, is celebrated for its comprehensive environmental policies, from renewable energy to wildlife conservation, proving that sustainable tourism is not only possible but profitable.

The push for green investments also extends to how tourism interacts with local communities. When designed thoughtfully, tourism can empower indigenous and rural populations by promoting local craftsmanship, traditions, and agriculture. By investing in community-based tourism initiatives, travelers contribute directly to the well-being of the regions they visit.

Technological innovation will be a vital force in shaping the future of tourism. From AI-driven travel planning tools to smart cities that manage visitor flow in real time, technology offers endless possibilities for reducing the environmental impact of tourism. Moreover, virtual tourism, which gained traction during the COVID-19 pandemic, offers a unique way to explore cultural landmarks without the physical and ecological footprint of travel. While virtual experiences cannot fully replace the richness of in-person travel, they offer a way to reduce the burden on over-touristed areas.

Blockchain technology is also making waves in the tourism industry by offering greater transparency and sustainability in supply chains. From ensuring that eco-friendly accommodations meet their claims to monitoring carbon credits, blockchain could be a game-changer in the transition to greener tourism.

As we mark another World Tourism Day, it is clear that we are entering a new era of travel—one where the industry must balance profit with planet. Governments, private sectors, and tourists alike are called upon to rethink what travel means in a world facing climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequality. Investing in sustainable tourism is not just an ethical imperative but an economic necessity for the future of travel.

Tourism has the power to bridge cultural divides, foster economic development, and protect our shared heritage. However, if it is to remain a force for good, it must transform. This World Tourism Day invites us to imagine a future where travel is not only about discovery but also about safeguarding the very world we explore. By rethinking tourism with sustainability at its core, we can ensure that future generations inherit a planet rich in beauty, diversity, and wonder.

In conclusion, tourism should no longer be seen as a transient activity but as a stewardship of our planet. As travelers, it is up to us to demand sustainable options, support green investments, and cultivate a deeper awareness of our impact. By doing so, we honor the spirit of World Tourism Day—not just this year but for decades to come.

Exploring the depths of the human mind

VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The human mind is a unique organic entity whose lengths of reach and visions of the range are still to be fully mapped. Many believe that an average mind works at less than 30 per cent of its potential. Putting this in the context of artificial intelligence, the matter becomes even more complex. There is a theory doing the rounds in the field of artificial intelligence that suggests that entities of artificial intelligence have the potential of organic functioning, just like the human mind.

The evidence for this is fairly mixed. Some conclusions may emerge over time. The crucial question concerning artificial intelligence however does include its possibilities and potential for organic evolution and growth. As observed, sooner or later, answers will emerge. Even otherwise, the human mind is a suo motu logic of its existence. Attempts to map it, are indeed one of the exciting aspects of human endeavour. Notwithstanding some breakthroughs in mapping the brain, there are areas of brain function that need a closer look both physically and operationally.

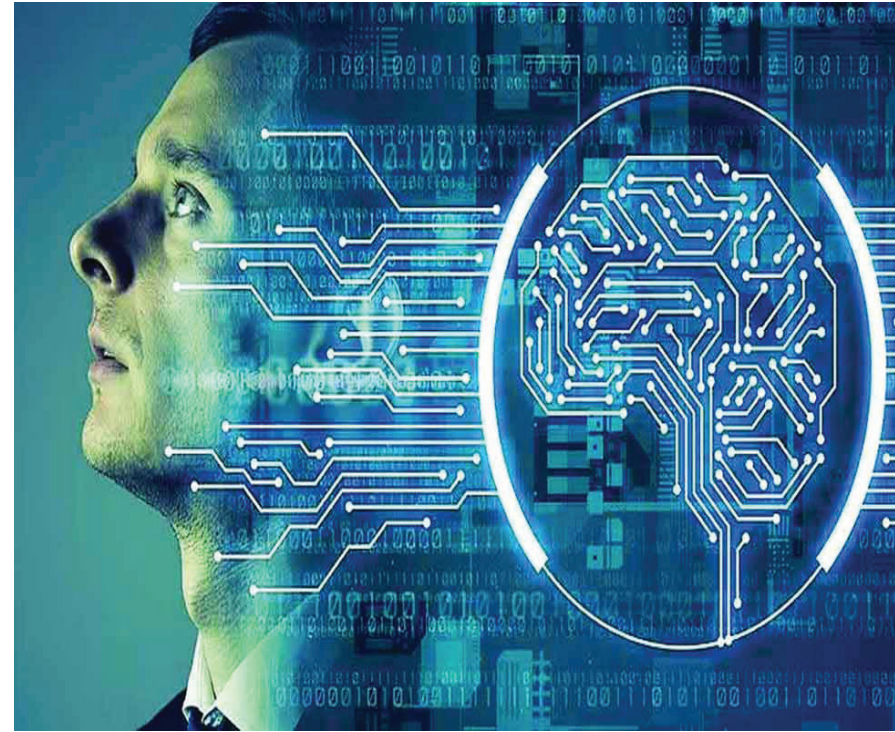
Interestingly, notwithstanding all this, there is a common reference to the 'second childhood' of human beings, where people, upon reaching a certain age, start behaving with childlike traits. It is difficult to explain this process, but it is fairly obvious to notice.

Similarly, the jury is out on the age by which, the basic orientation of the brain fully takes place. One also needs to know when it matures enough to develop a relationship between the 'conscious' brain and the 'subconscious' brain.

Notwithstanding the diverse interpretations of the above narrative, it is obvious that at some stage the basic foundations of the mind seemingly get concretised. One such example is the influence of early childhood experiences on a growing human being. There are stages of childhood emerging into early adulthood.

All this becomes integral to the individual's ways of thinking and behaving. Popularly, this is known to affect the orientations of a growing individual on matters of finance, gender or for that matter even values.

The list can be extended but more to the point one



does not know, exhaustively, of all the influences which go into the making of an operationally adult human mind. Very often, there may be latent influences on a human mind that may not manifest themselves until a much later point in adulthood.

All in all, many ambiguities remain, and so do many contradictions that stay alive so far as the working of the mind is concerned. Above all, it is generally believed that hormonal changes affect

the working of the mind. Both men and women reportedly pass through menopause in their later life. Many are of the view that menopausal effects are more identifiable amongst the women than the men. An issue, however, remains to be fully answered: what are the factors that influence the working of the mind?

Yet another element that influences behaviour is the fall out of a mental shock. It can have many approximations of derail-

ing the thought process of the individual, and indeed, impacting many values. Put simply, many areas of thought, reflection, analysis, and research may contain indications of understanding the dynamics of the mind. It may be a challenge, but a challenge that cannot be evaded.

Further, there are also some transgenerational aspects to it. Say, how two parents deal with each other, or singly and collectively deal with a child is an important factor for

the child's growth. This can carry on across generations. Physiologically, the passing of some genes is known to happen across generations.

This is not only in terms of physical characteristics but also certain diseases that may have affected one of the grandparents in a given generation and resurfaced again two generations later in the physical system of a descendant. The mapping of this process, as of today, needs much additional work to be done.

This also contains a whole research agenda of human physiology, physical anthropology, medicines and more. Such a subject matter would deserve an integrated approach of not just, anthropology, psychology, genetic sciences and more, but a whole setup of support disciplines with appropriate interdisciplinary framework.

This will give insights into the physiology of the human being and the composition of the brain and mind. It is a challenging task, but it is a task that cannot be avoided.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

World tourism day: Uniting people, fostering peace

ANJULI PATHAK

Every year on September 27, the world celebrates World Tourism Day, a reminder of the crucial role that tourism plays in fostering cultural exchange, boosting economies, and promoting peace. As borders open and people explore new destinations, tourism serves as a bridge, uniting diverse cultures and breaking down barriers between nations.

In 2024, as we celebrate World Tourism Day, the theme focuses on the far-reaching benefits of travel beyond leisure, recognising how tourism helps us understand the world, its people, and its many cultures in deeper and more meaningful ways.

Tourism is not merely about sightseeing; it's about experiencing the essence of a place, its history, and its culture. As Bulat Nurmukhanov, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, emphasises, "Tourism is primarily a way to immerse oneself in

new cultures and experience history." Through tourism, individuals are given the chance to see the world through different lenses, fostering greater acceptance and understanding of other people and their ways of life.

This broader understanding is why cities like Moscow have prioritised cultural tourism as a key driver for their economic and social growth. The Moscow tourism strategy emphasises the importance of museums, exhibitions, and cultural events, which help travelers connect with the history and artistic traditions of the region. This approach reflects a global shift in tourism, where travelers seek deeper, more authentic experiences that expand their worldviews.

Tourism has always played a unique role in creating connections between people from different backgrounds. It allows us to learn from one another, building bridges of understanding and respect. On World Tourism Day, this aspect



of travel is especially highlighted, as we reflect on how it fosters harmony in an increasingly interconnected world.

As Kush Kapoor CEO of Roseate Hotels & Resorts, points out, "Tourism is about the connections we forge and the cultural experiences we offer." Kapoor stresses the importance of offering travelers more than just a stay, but a chance to explore different

cultures and traditions. In a world where differences can sometimes divide, tourism brings people together, promoting peace and mutual respect.

For hotels and resorts, the focus is now on providing culturally aware experiences, from diverse culinary offerings to personalised services that reflect the traditions and customs of visitors. This kind of attention to cul-

tural diversity enriches the overall travel experience, making it more inclusive and meaningful.

Beyond cultural connections, tourism is a major economic driver for many countries. It generates millions of jobs, supports local businesses, and contributes to the global economy.

Sustainable tourism focuses on minimising the environmental footprint

of travel while maximising the positive social and economic impact on host communities. From eco-friendly hotels to tours that support local artisans, tourism can be a powerful tool for inclusive development and environmental protection.

Perhaps the most significant impact of tourism is its role in promoting global peace and understanding. By encouraging interactions between people of different cultures, tourism helps to break down prejudices and build mutual respect. As we celebrate World Tourism Day, it's important to remember that each journey is not just a trip to a new place but an opportunity to engage with the world in a way that promotes peace and harmony. When people experience the customs, values, and traditions of other cultures, they begin to appreciate the similarities and shared humanity that unite us all.

(The author is a travel writer, views expressed are personal)

Agri-tech 2.0: Digital innovations paving the path to sustainable farming

AUROBIND UPADHYAYA

As the global population heads toward an estimated 10 billion by 2050, the agricultural sector faces mounting pressure to significantly increase food production.

For India, with its vast and diverse agricultural landscape, this presents a critical challenge. Traditional farming methods alone will not be enough to meet the needs of a growing population while also addressing the threats posed by climate change, dwindling natural resources and the imperative for sustainable practices. In this context, agri-tech, the convergence of technology and agriculture, offers a transformative pathway forward. By integrating cutting-edge digital technologies into farming, India has the potential to enhance productivity, sustainability, and resilience. This article explores how these emerging technolo-

gies are reshaping the agricultural sector in India, positioning it to meet the demands of the future.

Agriculture at a Crossroads

For decades, agriculture has been the backbone of India's economy, employing over 50 per cent of the workforce and contributing significantly to GDP. However, the sector is now facing unprecedented strain. The growing population, along with environmental challenges such as erratic weather patterns, water scarcity, and soil degradation, has placed the industry at a critical juncture. The traditional methods of farming are no longer sufficient to meet the increasing demand for food while preserving the environment. This is where agri-tech comes into play, providing innovative solutions that can transform Indian agriculture by improving efficiency and promoting sustainable practices.

Precision Agriculture: Data-Driven Farming: One of the most promising advancements in agri-tech is precision agriculture, which leverages technologies such as GPS, IoT sensors, and drones to optimise farming operations. By gathering and analysing real-time data on factors like soil health, weather conditions, and crop growth, precision agriculture enables farmers to make informed decisions. This approach helps in the efficient use of water, fertilisers, and pesticides, minimising waste and environmental harm while maximising crop yields.

In India, the adoption of precision agriculture is accelerating. According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), these techniques have the potential to increase yields by 15-25 per cent while reducing input costs by 10-15 per cent. The precision agriculture market in

India is expected to grow significantly, from USD 57.6 million in 2020 to USD 124.2 million by 2025. Government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for water conservation and the Soil Health Card Scheme for better fertiliser management are further driving this growth.

AI and Machine Learning (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are also playing a crucial role in modernising Indian agriculture. By analysing vast amounts of data from satellite imagery, weather forecasts, and historical crop performance, AI algorithms can predict potential problems like pest outbreaks and suggest the best times for planting. AI-powered platforms are already being used to predict pest infestations and optimise pesticide use, potentially reducing the need for harmful chemicals by up to 30 per cent.

Ensuring Transparency: Blockchain technology is emerging as a revolutionary tool in agricultural supply chains. By offering a decentralised ledger for recording transactions, blockchain ensures transparency, reduces fraud, and promotes fair trade practices. For farmers, suppliers, and consumers alike, blockchain provides verifiable information about the origin and journey of food products, ensuring adherence to sustainability standards. The blockchain market in India's agriculture and food supply chain is expected to grow at a CAGR of 47.8 per cent, reaching USD 289 million by 2027. IoT and Smart Farming: The Internet of Things (IoT) is revolutionising how farmers monitor and manage their crops. IoT devices, such as soil moisture sensors and weather stations, provide real-time data on environmental conditions, allowing for better

decision-making in the field. For example, smart irrigation systems can adjust water usage based on real-time data, saving water and improving crop health. The IoT in agriculture market in India is projected to reach USD 634.5 million by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 12.5 per cent.

Use of Drones: Equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors, drones provide farmers with detailed aerial imagery of their fields. This helps in identifying issues such as nutrient deficiencies, pest infestations, and water stress. Farmers can then take targeted actions, reducing waste and environmental damage. The use of drones in Indian agriculture is expected to grow substantially, with the market anticipated to reach USD 108 million by 2025.

(The writer is chief growth officer with Arahas Technologies; views are personal)

Union Health Ministry releases new guidelines for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 27

The Union Health Ministry on Friday released the revised operational guidelines and training module for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) -- which affects about three in 10 people.

The guidelines will provide a framework for health workers -- from community health workers to medical officers -- and help boost patient care and outcomes related to the disease.

"India has taken the lead in recognising NAFLD as a major non-communicable disease (NCD)," said Apurva Chandra, Union Health Secretary.



"NAFLD is rapidly emerging as a major public health concern, closely linked with metabolic disorders such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.

Out of 10, one to three people can have NAFLD which highlights the

impact of the disease," he added.

The guidelines focus on the promotion of health and early detection -- crucial for patients with NAFLD.

"It also advocates for a multidisciplinary approach, integrating the

efforts of healthcare providers from various disciplines to offer holistic care to individuals affected by NAFLD," the ministry said.

Chandra also emphasised the importance of a continuum of care for people who have been diagnosed with NCDs and underlined the need for lifestyle modification to reduce the prevalence of NAFLD.

In 2021, India became the first country to integrate the NAFLD into the National Programme for Prevention and Control of NCDs.

Further, with the fresh guidelines, the government aims to "reach the grassroot level workers so

that the disease is detected early and the burden of NAFLD is reduced", said Punya Salila Srivastava, Officer on Special Duty, Union Health Ministry.

NAFLD is emerging as an important cause of liver disease in India. It could be assuming a silent epidemic with community prevalence ranging from 9 per cent to 32 per cent, depending on age, gender, area of residence, and socioeconomic status.

"India contributes high numbers for NCDs globally and one of the core causes of metabolic diseases is in the liver," the health ministry said, stressing the need to realise the growing burden and the urgent need to address it.

Zambia launches project to strengthen health system resilience

AGENCIES
LUSAKA, SEP 27

Zambia launched a project aimed at strengthening health systems to withstand shocks caused by natural disasters and disease outbreaks.

Supported by World Bank, Zambia Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience Project is part of a regional programme focusing on strengthening the health system resilience and multisectoral preparedness and response to health emergencies in eastern and southern Africa.

Acting Minister of Health Elias Mubanga said on Thursday that the project will target the whole country and ben-



efit around 2,055 community health assistants, 75,000 community-based volunteers, and numerous healthcare workers at the primary health-care level, Xinhua news agency reported. "Zambia is highly exposed to climate change, particularly flooding, high temperature, and drought, which are becoming more fre-

quent and severe. Aside from creating a food shortage crisis, the effects arising from the drought extend from communicable disease outbreaks to the breakdown in power supply, affecting drug supply, equipment maintenance, and life support systems, to mention just a few," he said at the launch of the project.

RG Kar tragedy: Senior doctors call for joint platform to clean health system in Bengal

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, SEP 27

Senior doctors participating in a mass convention organised by the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum on Friday, called for a bigger platform involving people from all walks of life to clean up the health system in the state.

The mass convention comes amid the protests over the rape and murder of a junior doctor of R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital last month.

While emphasising on the need to carry on the movement, veteran medical practitioner Dr Arnab Goswami said that there is a need for a bigger and joint platform for that purpose, involving not just representatives from the medical fraternity but people from different



walks of life.

"The joint platform is necessary to prolong the movement," he said.

Describing junior doctors as the pillar of the medical system, the Director of the state-run S.S.K.M. Medical College & Hospital Manimoy Bandyopadhyay said that the macabre tragedy at R.G. Kar was unimaginable.

"All those who are directly and indirectly

involved in it should be identified and punished," he said.

Medical teacher, writer and documentary filmmaker Tirthankar Guha Thakurta said the recent 'threat culture' in medical colleges is a matter of concern.

"We were brought up being rebuked by our teachers. That was a different thing. But the trend of passing people in exami-

nations against money is simply unacceptable. At the same time both male and female students should be protected from being victims of sexual exploitation," he said.

Also invited as a speaker at the mass convention was the noted film director Kaushik Ganguly.

According to him, when the junior doctors have to come out on the streets in support of their demands, it is clear that nothing is right in the system.

"I want to assure the protesting junior doctors that this is not just their movement. People like former R.G. Kar principal Sandip Ghosh are there everywhere. It is time to wipe them out of the system completely. I will ask the junior doctors to have patience and continue their movement," he said.

Instagram, Snapchat may be used to facilitate sexual assault in kids: Research

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, SEP 27

Social media platforms like Instagram and Snapchat offer benefits for teens but also can be used as a tool by predators online as about 7 per cent of more than 1,000 teens who disclosed sexual abuse reported that social media was used to facilitate the assault, a new study said on Friday.

The research, presented during the American Academy of Pediatrics 2024 National Conference & Exhibition, found that, when accounting only for victims whose perpetrators were not related to them, an even higher percentage - 12 per cent -- reported that social media facilitated sexual assault.

The team evaluated children 10 to 18 years of age who disclosed sexual abuse at Rady Children's Hospital Chadwick Center for Children and Families between 2018 and 2023.

They defined "social media facilitated sexual assault" as occurring when social media is used for communication between a victim and



perpetrator that leads to sexual assault.

Miguel Cano, a child abuse paediatrician and author of the research, said that adolescents are increasingly living their lives in digital spaces.

"Although there are benefits to the use of social media such as connecting with people and keeping in touch with family and friends across the globe, there are many well documented dangers as well," Cano added.

According to the study, dangers include meeting strangers online or being subjected to various forms of maltreatment including emotional abuse, cyber bullying, harassment, threats, exposure to sexual content, and being victims of online sexual abuse.

Instagram and Snapchat were the two most commonly reported social media platforms used.

However, multiple platforms were reported.

Kids who receive only breast milk at birth hospital less prone to asthma: Study

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, SEP 27

A team of researchers on Friday said that infants who were exclusively fed breast milk during their hospitalisation at birth were 22 per cent less likely to develop asthma in early childhood.

Although the birth hospitalisation lasts only a few days, it sets a critical foundation for establishing breastfeeding, which can influence health outcomes like childhood asthma, according to research presented during the American Academy of Pediatrics '2024 National Conference and Exhibition' in Orlando, Florida.

According to Laura Placke Ward, co-director for the Center for Breastfeeding Medicine at Cincinnati Children's Hos-



pital Medical Center, the study underscores the importance of hospital practices in supporting exclusive breastfeeding, as these early experiences may impact long-term health.

The authors noted that while longer duration and exclusive breastfeeding are known to reduce asthma risk, the effect of breastfeeding during the birth hospitalization is less understood.

From the 9,649 children

included in the study, 81 per cent received some breast milk and 31 per cent exclusively received breast milk during the birth hospitalisation.

Five percent had a diagnosis of asthma. Infants who received only breast milk had a lower rate of asthma diagnosis compared to those who did not receive any breast milk exclusively after adjusting for sex, race, and insurance status.

AMR containment strategies must be urgently integrated in health programmes: Centre

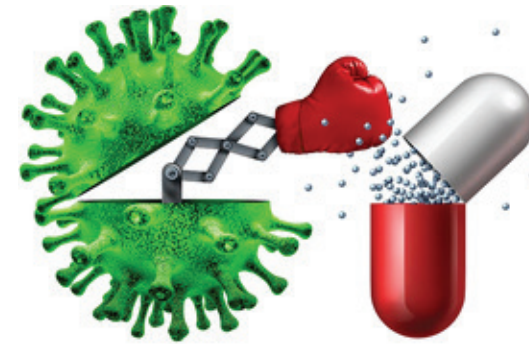
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 27

India has reaffirmed its commitment to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) high-level meeting on AMR, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Friday.

Addressing the gathering of global leaders, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel called for urgently integrating AMR containment strategies in various health programmes.

Patel also highlighted the urgent need for global cooperation to address the growing threat of AMR.

"AMR poses a critical threat to global public health undermining



decades of progress made in the field of modern medicine," said Patel.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to medicines. This leads to infections becoming difficult or impossible to treat, increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.

"Urgent integration of AMR containment strategies into the various

health programmes" is the need of the hour, the MoS added. She called for the inclusion of AMR strategies in programmes that focus "on pandemic preparedness, health system strengthening and universal health coverage with the focus of resource utilisation more on prevention and mitigation than surveillance".

The Union Minister also highlighted India's significant strides in combating

AMR since the launch of its National Action Plan (NAP AMR) in April 2017.

She underscored the progress made in expanding surveillance networks both in the human and animal sectors. This includes reducing hospital-acquired infections by improving infection prevention and control and promoting responsible antimicrobial use across human and animal health sectors. Under the Clean India Mission, the country's sanitation, hygiene, and infection control in healthcare facilities has significantly improved, the MoS said. In addition, "a nationwide systematic and standardised surveillance of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) has been initiated in the country," Patel said, adding that regulations have been

made to "ensure prescription-based sales of antimicrobials".

The UNGA was informed that India has developed an Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) programme to reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions and combat rising AMR.

"India remains fully committed to addressing the AMR challenge," Patel said while calling for collective work to "mitigate the risks posed by AMR and safeguard the future of public health worldwide".

Meanwhile, global leaders at the UNGA committed to a clear set of targets and actions, including reducing the estimated 4.95 million human deaths associated with bacterial AMR annually by 10 per cent by 2030.

RxDx Healthcare launches seventh multispecialty clinic in North Bengaluru

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, SEP 27

RxDx Healthcare on Friday launched its seventh flagship multispecialty clinic in Jakkur, a developing suburb in North Bengaluru, expanding its network to a total of 45 locations.

This includes seven flagship clinics, 20 corporate medical centers across Bengaluru, 17 rural centers in four states, and telemedicine services nationwide.

Over the past 17 years,

RxDx has provided healthcare services to more than 1.6 million patients.

The new Jakkur clinic was inaugurated by Karnataka's Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, alongside Dr Sunita Maheshwari and Dr Arjun Kalyanpur, co-founders of RxDx.

Dr Maheshwari emphasised the importance of the new clinic, saying, "Our Jakkur clinic is another step in expanding healthcare access across Bengaluru. We aim to provide comprehensive healthcare under one roof, ensuring convenience and quality for the local community."

Covering 4,200 square feet, the clinic is designed to offer worldclass, affordable healthcare. It will provide primary care and post-hospital follow-ups across more than 14 medical specialties, in

addition to digital diagnostics, NABL-accredited laboratory services via its Whitefield branch, outpatient day care, health check services, pharmacy, and home healthcare.

Dr Kalyanpur noted the growing demand for healthcare services in North Bengaluru, stating, "As North Bengaluru continues to grow, so does the need for quality healthcare. Our new clinic is here to meet the evolving needs of this region."

North Bengaluru, particularly Jakkur and nearby areas like Hebbal, Thanisandra, Hegdenagar, Hennur, and Doddababur, is rapidly transforming into a key residential and investment hub. The region

is expected to generate approximately 350,000 new jobs by 2025, enhancing its livability.

In response to the healthcare needs of the burgeoning population, RxDx's Jakkur branch is committed to delivering compassionate, comprehensive medical services with a focus on wellness and preventive care.

The clinic has also partnered with leading hospitals in the area to ensure seamless treatment for emergencies and facilitate follow-up care.

Dr Batra unveils revolutionary Xogen therapy for hereditary hair loss

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, SEP 27

Dr Batra's Healthcare, the world's largest chain of homeopathic clinics, launched India's first exosome-based targeted hair treatment, Xogen, designed to tackle hereditary hair loss in both men and women.

The state-of-the-art therapy was launched at a press conference in Hyderabad on Friday.

Addressing the media, Dr Akshay Batra, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Dr. Batra's Healthcare, stated that hair loss has become a growing concern among both men and women in India, leading to social stigma, loss of confidence, and even depression.

"Studies show that the onset of pattern baldness has decreased to as early as 21 years of age. About 50 percent of men and 22 per-

cent of women are affected by pattern baldness, which is alarming. To address this issue, we are thrilled to introduce Xogen, a revolutionary treatment that represents the future of hair restoration," he said.

Dr Batra described Xogen as a groundbreaking exosome-based therapy that utilizes regenerative science to offer a safe, natural, and highly effective solution for hereditary hair loss.

India poised to play important role in filling global demand-supply gap of skilled talent : Kovind

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, SEP 27

Former President Ramnath Kovind on Friday said India is poised to play an important role in filling the global demand-supply gap of skilled talent.

Participating in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Agarwal Relief and Educational Trust (ARET) here, he said "Today, we are fortunate to be living at a time when our country is the fastest-growing large economy in the world."

"We, as a nation, have collectively resolved to become a developed country, Viksit Bharat, by 2047. And we are steadily marching towards that goal", he said.

Observing that the country's youth will play a central role in this developmental journey, he said a huge variety of opportunities and career paths await the skilled youth.

Even the world today has high expectations from India. Populations of



developed countries are ageing and India is poised to play an important role in filling the global demand-supply gap of skilled talent.

Mr Kovind said India is fast emerging as the favoured destination for hiring skilled professionals.

He said "in the past few decades, we have made great strides in spreading literacy; now we must expand the frontiers of education and knowledge. Our aspiration must be to upgrade our education

system and make it relevant to 21st-century realities of the digital economy, genomics, robotics and automation."

"Today, 24% of our population is below the age of 14. Around half of our fellow citizens are still below the age of 25. It is in them that our hopes for the future lie", he added.

Stating that a confident and forward-looking nation is built by confident and forward-looking youth, the former President said an innovative

nation is built by innovative youth.

"This must be our obsessive goal. Our schooling system has to encourage our children to think and to tinker, not just to mug up, memorise and reproduce", he said, adding, "We need to have a system where young talent looks up and asks questions, rather than looks down and nods."

This will not be possible without adopting new learning approaches. We will need to include interactive, hands-on and experiential learning approaches for better learning outcomes.

Noting that Digital technology could be immensely helpful in enhancing learning outcomes by providing interactive simulations, multimedia resources, and educational apps that engage students, Mr Kovind said online platforms facilitate personalized, self-paced learning experiences tailored to individual needs and preferences. Collaborative

tools enable students to work together, encouraging teamwork and communication skills. Data analytics help educators track student progress and adapt teaching strategies suited to the inherent strengths of each student.

Lauding the role of teachers in moulding the students, Mr Kovind said teachers are the true architects of a nation's future. They establish the solid ground of character building in our sons and daughters and make them cognizant citizens.

In the last few years, the government has launched many programmes and initiatives to equip our youth with the education and skills to compete in a globalised world. Sizeable resources have been set aside for these programmes.

"It is the responsibility of our teachers to adequately guide our talented young people to make the most of these opportunities", he said.

BJP chides Siddaramaiah, says K'taka govt doesn't trust its Chief Secretary

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, SEP 27

BJP leader C. N. Ashwath Narayan took a jab at Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, saying the state Congress government does not trust the Chief Secretary (CS), he has appointed.

The remark of Ashwath Narayan, the former deputy chief minister, comes a day after the Karnataka government directed the Chief Secretary to provide information to the Governor only after its approval.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, Ashwath Narayan said: "As per the Karnataka government's order, now the Governor cannot receive replies directly from the Chief Secretary."

Slamming the state government's move, the BJP leader asked: "Why this fear and apprehension?"



Why are you creating these barriers?"

On the Karnataka government withdrawing consent to CBI to probe the case in the state, he said: "What all shady deals have you made? Why are you so scared?"

He alleged that the Congress is acting out of fear that the CBI investigation into the Valmiki Development Corporation scam will bring out the "shady deals".

"There is 100 per cent corruption in the Valmiki Tribal Board Corporation, something even the Chief Minister has

acknowledged. In the MUDA (Mysore Urban Development Authority) case, Siddaramaiah presents himself as 'Harishchandra', denying any illegal land acquisitions or misuse of Dalit lands, but his family's involvement in these irregularities has been exposed," Ashwath Narayan claimed.

"The courts have also delivered judgments on this. The High Court pointed out lapses, and yet Siddaramaiah's legal advisors claim he had no role. Do they have a new law that we don't know of?" he said.

SC launches page on website providing summaries of landmark verdicts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 27

In another citizen-centric initiative, the Supreme Court on Friday announced the launch of a new webpage on its official website providing summaries of landmark judgments.

The initiative will make it easier for citizens to understand the important decisions delivered by the top court in line with its broader goal of ensuring an informed citizenry, promoting legal awareness, and enhancing public engagement with the law, said an official statement released by the Supreme Court. It added that SC decisions impact diverse areas of public life nationwide, however, complex legal language and the length of judgments can serve as a barrier to citizens' understanding and may even lead to misconceptions about important verdicts. "The court therefore recognises the importance of making its judgments accessible to all citizens. To overcome this barrier and to ensure that all persons can easily understand its significant decisions, the new webpage provides accurate summaries of important decisions in simple and clear language," it said.



The 'Landmark Judgment Summaries' webpage on the official site of

the apex court features a year-wise curated list of significant judgments of public interest.

The summaries are written in a manner that allows readers to understand both the outcome of a case and the reasoning of the court, the statement said. "The webpage will continue to be updated to include summaries of new decisions as well as important historical decisions. The summaries are prepared by the Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court," it added.

Jagan Mohan Reddy cancels Tirupati visit amid demand for declaration of faith

AGENCIES
AMARAVATI, SEP 27

Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy cancelled his visit to Tirumala temple in view of the growing tension following threats by some groups to disrupt his visit if he fails to give a declaration of his faith before entering the famous hill shrine.

YSR Congress Party president cancelled his visit, hours before he was to leave for Tirupati for darshan on Saturday.

Alleging that there is devil's rule in the state, Jagan Mohan Reddy said he was being stopped from visiting the temple.

He said police have issued notices to YSRC leaders and cadres stating that there is no permission for his visit to Tirumala temple and warned them against participating in the programme.

The former chief minister alleged that BJP functionaries from adjoining states were being called to Tirupati to stop him.

"I don't know if the BJP's central leadership knows this," he said.

Jagan Mohan Reddy mentioned that thousands of policemen were deployed in Tirupati.

He appealed to YSRC cadres and people to pray at temples in their respective constituencies and villages that "god's wrath for desecrating Tirumala temple confine to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and that state is saved from this".

Jagan alleged that since CM Naidu "lied" about the use of ghee adulterated with animal fat for laddu 'prasadam', he was trying to "divert" the issue by raking up the issue of declaration.

He reiterated that the Chief Minister levelled



allegations of adulterated ghee in 'prasadam' to divert public attention from "failure" to deliver on poll promises in 100 days of his government.

The YSRC chief said CM Naidu "tarnished" the sanctity of Sri Venkateswara temple and "hurt" the sentiments of devotees by making false allegations that ghee used for making laddus had animal fat in it.

Reiterating that Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam

(TTD) has a foolproof system to check adulteration through three levels of quality tests, Jagan said there were many instances of TTD sending back ghee tankers that failed the tests.

Jagan said the four tankers that failed the tests had reached TTD on July 6 and 12 when the Naidu government had already assumed office. He said that earlier the TTD was sending samples from suspected adulterated to a lab in Mysuru for crosschecking in the past, for the first time the samples from these four tankers were sent to NNDB, Gujarat.

Citing the statements of TTD Executive Officer Syamala Rao, appointed by CM Naidu, that ghee from these four tankers was sent back, Jagan said despite knowing the facts, CM Naidu spread the "lie" that adulterated ghee was used for making laddus

and devotees consumed it. Jagan said CM Naidu deliberately spread "falsehood" for politics, desecrating Tirumala temple and hurting the sentiments of millions of devotees.

The YSRC chief said since CM Naidu's "lies" were getting "exposed", he "diverted" the topic and raised the issue of declaration of faith.

He recalled that his father Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, who was chief minister for five years, participated in Brahmotsavam and offered sacred clothes to Lord Venkateswara.

Jagan said he visited Tirumala temple many times before becoming the chief minister and recalled that he walked up to the hill shrine after completing his state-wide padayatra. "After I became the chief minister, TTD invited me every year to give clothes to Lord Venkateswara Swamy," he said.

CAQM 'needs to be more active' to control pollution: SC

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 27

The Supreme Court on Friday said that the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) "needs to be more active" to combat the menace of air pollution in the national capital and adjoining areas. A bench presided over by Justice Abhay S Oka observed that though it cannot be said that CAQM has not taken any action, "the Commission has not performed the way it was expected to perform considering the object for which it was set up."

"We are of the view that though the Commission has taken certain steps, the Commission needs to be more active. The Commission must ensure that its efforts and directions issued actually translate into reducing the problem of pollution," said the Bench, also comprising Justice AG Masih.

It stressed that "some efforts" need to be taken to ensure that equipment (providing an alternative to stubble burning) is used at grassroots level.

"The Commission must immediately take action to



ensure that the equipment provided at the cost of the Central government to avoid stubble burning are actually used by the farmers," the apex court said.

It noted that though the "Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021" has been in existence for more than three years now, hardly 85-87 directions have been issued so far by the CAQM.

"No action has been taken even after finding that directions have not been implemented, possibly action could be taken under Section 14 of the 2021 Act," the top court added. The SC expressed

surprise at the CAQM chairperson's submission that the sub-committees formed under the 2021 Act were holding a meeting every three months.

"The sub-committee on monitoring and identification and sub-committee on safeguarding and enforcement have been assigned important tasks. We wonder how they are performing those tasks by meeting only once every three months!" it said.

Posting the matter for hearing on October 3, the apex court asked the CAQM to place on record the details of meetings held and decisions taken therein. The SC told Additional Advocate General

(ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, representing the CAQM, that the apex court will exercise its power under Article 142 of the Constitution to include senior officers in CAQM.

"If you want any senior official or expert to be included in the Commission, we will exercise power under Article 142. If you want any senior IPS officer or any other expert, we will issue a direction. Framing of rules and regulations may take a long time," it said. On Tuesday, the top court called for a report from CAQM on steps being taken to curb stubble burning to combat air pollution in Delhi and adjoining states.

The CAQM was set up in 2020 for air quality management in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas for better coordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index.

Every year, Delhi and the entire NCR have to bear the brunt of air pollution from October to December mainly due to crop residue burnings.

On Wednesday, the Delhi government announced a comprehensive 21-point winter action plan to tackle pollution in the national capital.

Delhi's Environment Minister said that last year's 14-point plan has been expanded to a broader 21-point strategy to combat the menace of air pollution, including emergency measures such as drone monitoring, anti-dust campaigns, road-sweeping machines, etc.

The Minister claimed that incidents of stubble burning have reduced by 50 per cent in Punjab since the AAP government took office, following discussions with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Human bonding help rebuild calamity-hit tourism destinations: Buyers at Kerala Travel Mart

AGENCIES
KOCHI, SEP 27

The 12th edition of Kerala Tourism's flagship event Kerala Travel Mart on Friday saw several foreign buyers expressing hope that with a marketing strategy aligned with a sensitive approach, human connection, and financial support can help tourism destinations hit by natural disasters to bounce back.

The four-day KTM was launched here on Thursday.

Referring to the recent devastating landslide in Wayanad, Sofia Calvin, who represents Storyed Travel, U.S., said moral and financial support to the affected place is vital because when the locals see people coming back again, they will feel good about their place.

"You have to come up with a sensitive approach and help them rebuild as travellers bring money to that area. If we go and visit the place and leave money in hotels and local community, then it will tremendously help rebuild the area," she noted during her maiden visit to Asia's biggest

tourism sector event that attracts stakeholders from around the world.

While conceding that post-disaster, things will be delayed for a while because people don't want to be insensitive to such calamities, Calvin said, "As a travel advisor, I would convey that it's our onus to back up their efforts to rebound and push tourism to that area."

Her company focuses on FIT (Free and Independent Traveller) and wellness travel in Kerala where she finds abundant nature and a peaceful milieu. Through KTM, she explores the Indian market and, in Kerala, she is looking for partners who can do Ayurveda retreats.

According to her, KTM offers a plethora of distinct suppliers as well as opportunities. Hazel Tshosa, Global Sales & Marketing Director, Reeca Travel, Botswana, said natural disasters can't really hamper the tourism potential of a place. "Media has a key role in allaying the fears of tourists and promotion of the place, besides keeping up with the progress of rehabilitation," she emphasised.

She revealed that the tourism concept in Botswana is based on the norm of 'low volume and higher quality'. "We don't do over-tourism and we always keep only a few people in eco-sensitive areas. Our country emphasises the protection of the ecosystem, so we don't have overcrowding on such terrains," said Tshosa.

As a newbie in KTM, Tshosa plans to expand her company's health and wellness packages.

"Traditional systems like Ayurveda align with packages that we want to develop. In African communities, we have lost touch with traditions and don't know how to deal with curing different ailments because we are more leaning towards Western medicines, which have a lot of side effects," she added.

Ralica Angelova, Tour Operator, Hermes Holidays in Bulgaria, said new promotion strategies are required for reviving tourism activities in disaster-ravaged areas. She also expressed her willingness to visit Wayanad on her next trip to Kerala.

S. Korea had 'constructive' talks with US for defence cost sharing: Official

AGENCIES
SEOUL, SEP 27

South Korea had "constructive" talks with the United States this week to advance the negotiations for determining Seoul's share of the cost for the upkeep of American troops here, a Seoul official said Friday.

The allies wrapped up the three-day defence cost-sharing talks in Seoul, amid growing speculation that the two sides might be nearing an end to renew the multi-year deal for stationing 28,500-strong US soldiers in South Korea, Yonhap news agency reported.

"South Korea and the United States held constructive discussions aimed at narrowing their differences on key issues of mutual interest," a foreign ministry official said on condition of anonymity.



ity. Since the negotiations were launched in April, eight rounds of talks have taken place, giving rise to the possibility that the two sides may soon strike a new Special Measures Agreement (SMA).

CNN recently reported that Seoul and Washing-

ton could reach a new deal before the end of this year, citing incumbent and former US officials.

Following the seventh round of the talks in August, Linda Specht, the US chief negotiator, said that the two countries had made "good progress"

toward an agreement.

The latest negotiations are taking place amid speculation that South Korea is seeking an early deal to avoid tough bargaining in case former US President Donald Trump returns to the White House.

Under Trump's presi-

dency, Washington demanded more than a fivefold increase in Seoul's payment to \$5 billion.

South Korea has called for an agreement that will set its share at "a reasonable level," and the US has stressed the goal of reaching "a mutually acceptable" deal. The current six-year SMA committed South Korea to paying \$1.03 billion for 2021, a 13.9 per cent increase from 2019, and increasing the payment every year for the subsequent four years in line with the rise in Seoul's defence spending.

Under the SMA, Seoul has since 1991 partially shared the cost for Korean USFK workers; the construction of military installations such as barracks, as well as training, educational, operational and communications facilities; and other logistical support.

Iran, European signatories discuss revival of 2015 nuclear deal

AGENCIES
TEHRAN, SEP 27



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said that the country and the European signatories to a 2015 nuclear deal have discussed the agreement's revival and removal of sanctions on Tehran.

He made the remarks upon arrival in the Iranian capital Tehran from his trip to New York, where he attended the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly and held several bilateral meetings, including with his foreign counterparts, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the official news agency IRNA.

"Talks were held about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). We shared our concerns with the European states, and it was decided that (our) foreign ministers follow up on the issue," Pezeshkian said.

He described the trip to New York as fruitful, noting he held bilateral meetings with the neighbouring countries' presidents and prime ministers and decided to reach agreements.

Iran signed the JCPOA with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to put some curbs on its nuclear program in return for the removal of the sanctions on the country. The US, however, pulled out

of the deal in May 2018 and reimposed its unilateral sanctions on Tehran, prompting the latter to drop some of its nuclear commitments under the deal.

The talks on the revival of the JCPOA began in April 2021 in Vienna, Austria. Despite several rounds of talks, no significant breakthrough has been achieved since the end of the last round in August 2022.

Sudanese army launches major offensive against paramilitaries in Khartoum

AGENCIES
KHARTOUM, SEP 27

Sudan's army launched a significant offensive against rival paramilitary forces in the capital, Khartoum, marking its most substantial effort in months to regain control of the city, according to military sources and witnesses. Heavy fighting was reported in central Khartoum and its neighbouring cities of Omdurman and Bahri, with eyewitnesses noting air strikes, artillery fire, and clashes involving light and medium weapons. The army targeted several areas controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in central, western, and southern Khartoum, a military source said on condition of anonymity on Thursday.

"Today, the army launched a ground attack on strategic areas in cen-

tral Khartoum, marking the largest and most extensive assault of its kind to expel the militia from key locations," the source told Xinhua.

Witnesses reported explosions near the army's General Command, the General Intelligence Service headquarters, and Khartoum International Airport. The army has not issued an official comment regarding the operations.

Meanwhile, RSF advisor El Basha Tabig denied any army advances, claiming on social media platform X that RSF forces had destroyed an army unit attempting to cross the El Fithab bridge toward Khartoum.

Video clips purportedly showing army units entering the Al Souq Al-Arabi Market in central Khartoum, identified as an RSF stronghold, circulated on social media.

Canadian MP lambasts Khalistani extremists for promoting new conspiracy theories on Kanishka bombings

AGENCIES
OTTAWA, SEP 27

Canadian Member of Parliament Chandra Arya, a vocal critic of the Justin Trudeau government for giving refuge to pro-Khalistani elements in the country, has slammed a new petition initiated by Liberal Party MP Sukh Dhaliwal relating to the Air India Kanishka bombings of June 23, 1985, that left 329 people dead and was the worst tragedy in the history of aviation terror before the 9/11 attacks.

The petition, which is available on the Canadian parliament portal, called upon the Government of Canada to order a fresh inquiry into the Air India episode to determine whether any foreign intelligence was involved in the crime.

It mentions that the Sikhs in Canada widely believe that the bombings was the "handiwork of a

foreign intelligence to discredit their political activism and undermine their advocacy work for human rights in India."

Severely criticising the petition, Arya, who is of Indian origin, made a statement in the Parliament early Friday (India time), calling it as an attempt by the Khalistani extremists to promote new conspiracy theories.

"39 years back Air India Flight 182 was blown-up mid-air from a bomb planted by Canadian Khalistan extremists. It killed 329 people and is the largest mass killing in Canadian history. Even today, the ideology responsible for this terrorist attack is still alive among few people in Canada," Arya said in his statement.

"Two Canadian public inquiries found Khalistan extremists responsible for the bombing of Air India flight. Now there is a petition on parliament portal



asking for a new enquiry promoting conspiracy theories promoted by Khalistan extremists," he added.

The Canadian MP then quoted Bal Gupta, whose wife Rama was killed in the attack, telling the Globe and Mail: "It's deeply frustrating. It opens up old wounds all over again. It's all garbage. It's an attempt to gain publicity and support for terrorist activities."

In July, as another Hindu temple in Alberta's capital Edmonton was vandalised with hateful graffiti, Arya had empha-

sised the urgent need to rein in radicals before it was too late.

"The Hindu temple BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Edmonton is vandalized again. During the last few years, Hindu temples in the Greater Toronto Area, British Columbia and other places in Canada have been vandalized with hateful graffiti. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun of Sikhs for Justice for Hindus to go back to India," the Indian-origin Canadian MP wrote on X.

Be it publicly celebrating in Brampton and Vancouver the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi or brandishing images of deadly weapons, Arya said that Khalistani extremists seem to "get away with ease" with their public rhetoric of hate and violence in Canada.

"Again, let me put it on record. Hindu-Cana-

dians are legitimately concerned. Like a broken record, I again call on Canadian law enforcement agencies to take this issue seriously before these rhetorics get translated into physical action against Hindu-Canadians," he said.

During his visit to India last month, Arya had held a meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and even called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asserting that the Canada-India relationship remains "very important" for both countries.

India has repeatedly asserted that further deterioration in bilateral ties would eventually result in a big loss for Canada.

"Freedom of speech cannot be freedom to advocate violence, freedom of speech cannot be freedom to support separatism and terrorism in a foreign country. It cannot be... A group of Khalistanis

have been misusing Canada's freedom laws for years.

But when the Canadian government has any political compulsions, they accommodate these people who are also their vote bank," said Jaishankar a few months ago while speaking at the 'Vishwabandhu Bharat' interaction in Maharashtra's Nashik.

"Our relations have been spoiled today because of the activities of these people who are even threatening our Ambassador and various diplomats posted in the country. They threw smoke bombs inside the High Commission and, at one time, our diplomats were facing great difficulty to get out of the building. People who supported terror activities against India have been given refuge in Canada. The government there should have a relook at the entire situation," the EAM had added.

AU stresses urgent need to transform education systems in Africa

AGENCIES
ADDIS ABABA, SEP 27

The African Union (AU) has emphasised the urgent need to transform education systems in Africa toward providing resilient and quality education for all.

This came during a high-level meeting held on Wednesday under the theme 'Investing in Tomorrow: The African Union Year of Education Catalysing Progress for Africa and the World', the AU said in a statement.

Addressing the meeting, Chairperson of the AU Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat underscored the critical need to guarantee access to quality education for all Africans, with a particular focus on the



marginalised and most vulnerable groups, mainly young girls and people with disabilities, Xinhua news agency reported.

Noting that the education sector in Africa is often the most affected by instabilities caused by conflicts, Faki called for the protection of educational facilities and emphasised that education should serve as a beacon of hope

and an engine of progress.

"Education empowers individuals, strengthens communities, breaks the chains of poverty, and lays the foundation for a prosperous and equitable society. The African Union's commitment to prioritising education reflects our unwavering belief that knowledge provides the power to break bar-

riers, challenge societal norms, and create a more equitable world," the AU statement quoted Faki as saying.

Jakaya Kikwete, former Tanzanian president and board chair of the Global Partnership for Education, stressed that investing in education is an investment in securing a better future for Africa.

"Achieving the Africa we want hinges on our commitment to invest in young Africans. Too few governments are meeting the global benchmark of spending 15 to 20 per cent of national budgets on education.

Yet, the returns on education are immense -- a 1 per cent improvement in learning outcomes can translate to a 7.2 per cent

increase in annual economic growth," Kikwete said, adding that an educated and skilled population could boost per capita income in Africa by 50 per cent by 2050.

Claver Gatete, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, echoed the sentiment, emphasising that education in Africa needs a revolution.

The high-level meeting, held on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, is a recognition of the AU theme of the year 2024: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa.

Japan's ruling party to elect new leader

AGENCIES
TOKYO, SEP 27

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will elect a new leader on Friday to succeed Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. The race is expected to be fiercely contested, with none of the nine candidates assured of an outright majority in the first round of voting.

The election will decide the next Prime Minister of Japan, as the LDP holds a majority in parliament. A total of 736 votes will be cast--368 from LDP lawmakers and 368 from rank-and-file members. If no candidate secures a majority in the first round, the top two will proceed to a runoff later in the day.

In the first round, votes from rank-and-file mem-

bers are crucial, as support among lawmakers is divided. However, in the runoff, the balance of power shifts. While the number of lawmakers' votes remains the same, grassroots votes are reduced to one per each of the LDP's 47 prefectural chapters, giving more influence to Diet members.

The race, the first LDP leadership change since 2021, has drawn a record nine candidates, all pledging to renew the party. Former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba, 67, youngest candidate Shinjiro Koizumi, 43, and economic security minister Sanae Takaichi, 63, are currently leading the pack, according to Kyodo News. However, none is guaranteed victory in the first round.

Shigeru Ishiba, a defence policy expert known for

his regional revitalisation efforts, is popular among local supporters but has struggled to gain backing from party lawmakers. This marks his fifth bid for the LDP leadership after four failed attempts.

Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, is making his first run for the LDP's top post. Some see him as a fresh face for the party, while others question his experience.

Sanae Takaichi, backed by conservatives associated with the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, could make history as Japan's first female Prime Minister. This is her second bid for the leadership, and her stance on security has garnered support from right-wing sections within the party.

DEATH TOLL IN 115 ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES ON LEBANON RISES TO 60

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, SEP 27

The death toll from 115 Israeli airstrikes on various regions in Lebanon rose to 60, the Health Ministry reported on Friday.

Israel conducted attacks across Lebanon on Thursday, the ministry noted, adding the large-scale air-

strikes, which started on Monday and have been focused on the south and east of Lebanon, have now spread to include regions in the Mount Lebanon Governorate on its fourth day, Xinhua news agency reported.

As of Thursday, the death toll from the Israel-Hezbollah clashes since

October 8, reached 1,540, with injuries totalling 5,410, the ministry added.

In an airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs earlier Thursday, at least two people were killed and 15 others injured when a residential building near al-Qaem mosque in Dahieh was hit, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

Footage from Lebanese TV channel al-Jadeed showed rescue teams and ambulances rushing to the densely populated area to transport casualties to the hospital and remove victims from beneath the rubble.

Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reported that it launched

three missiles in "an intelligence-guided attack" on Mohammed Hussein Sarour, commander of Hezbollah's air unit, claiming he was killed in the strike. The military stated that Sarour was responsible for multiple drone and missile attacks against Israel. So far, Hezbollah has not commented on

the attack nor confirmed Sarour's death.

Additionally, the IDF announced that its 7th Armored Brigade concluded a military drill a few kilometres from the Lebanese border, simulating a ground operation in Lebanon. The drill trained troops in "manoeuvring and combat in thicketed,

mountainous terrain," the IDF said in a statement, adding that the exercises enhanced their operational and logistical readiness for various combat scenarios in enemy territory on the northern front.

This drill followed a proposal by France at a United Nations Security Council emergency meet-

ing for a 21-day ceasefire in Lebanon, in collaboration with the United States "to allow for negotiations." Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati welcomed the proposal; however, Israel denied earlier on Thursday that it had agreed to a ceasefire with Hezbollah or Lebanese political parties.

PM Modi meets Tata Sons, Taiwan's PSMC leaders as they build Rs 91,000 cr chip facility in India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met the leadership team of Tata Sons and Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC), which are building a Rs 91,000 crore mega semiconductor fabrication facility in Gujarat's Dholera.

In a post on X, PM Modi said he had "a great meeting with the leadership team of Tata Sons and Taiwan's PSMC".

"They shared updates on their semiconductor manufacturing projects. PSMC expressed enthusiasm to further expand its



footprint in India," said the Prime Minister.

Railways and Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said a detailed technology agreement has been inked between Tata Electronics and PSMC for the semiconductor fab in Dholera.

"Holistic semiconductor ecosystem is taking shape," said the minister after meeting the leadership team, including N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons.

In March, PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the Tata-PSMC chip plant

in Gujarat. The fab construction will generate over 20,000 direct and indirect skilled jobs in the region. This fab will have a manufacturing capacity of up to 50,000 wafers per month and will include next-generation factory automation capabilities deploying data analytics and machine learning to achieve industry-best factory efficiency.

According to the companies, the new semiconductor fab will manufacture chips for applications such as power management IC, display drivers, microcontrollers (MCU) and high-performance computing logic, addressing the growing demand in

markets such as automotive, computing and data storage, wireless communication and artificial intelligence.

According to Chandrasekaran, Tata Group has a tradition of pioneering many sectors in the country, and "we are confident that our entry in semiconductor fabrication will add to this legacy".

PM Modi said recently that this is the right time and place to be in India when it comes to semiconductor manufacturing, as the country provides an integrated ecosystem for the global players, along with ease of doing business and a large talent pool.

Jindal India Institute trains over 30 foreign diplomats, journalists to deepen understanding of India's Foreign and Security Policy

AGENCIES
SONIPAT, SEP 27

The Jindal India Institute (JII) of O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) hosted 31 foreign diplomats, foreign correspondents and defence attaches from 20 embassies, high commissions, international organisations and new agencies at the third edition of its one-day certificate course on 'Understanding India's Foreign and Security Policy' in New Delhi.

The countries and institutions represented in this training event were Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Finland, Kenya, Lithuania, Norway, Russia Today (RT), Rossiyskaya Gazeta, South Africa, Suriname, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, Togo, the UK, the US, Zimbabwe and the Inter-

national Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The day-long engagement has six modules delivered by expert practitioners and academicians in international and defence matters. They provided a nuanced understanding of India's foreign policy objectives and security strategies in an increasingly complex international landscape.

Sreeram Chaulia, Professor and Director General of JII, kick-started the discussion by providing a comprehensive overview of the essentials of India's foreign policy.

He discussed how India's foreign policy strategies are informed by its rich strategic heritage, ranging from Kautilya's realpolitik to the idealism of the Upanishads. He focused on the intent and purpose behind core

concepts like strategic autonomy, non-alignment, multi-alignment, net security provider, first responder, Vishwa Mitra and Vishwa Guru and showed how India is extracting maximum benefits from foreign engagements to enable its rise as a 'leading power' in the world.

The first half of the day also featured a session explaining the detailed organisational structure, functioning and processes of India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Ambassador Sanjay Bhatnagary, Professor of Diplomatic Practice at the Jindal School of International Affairs, amalgamated theoretical knowledge with practical insights to address various queries by the participants on the roles, responsibilities and divisions of the MEA.

Cisco inaugurates its 1st manufacturing facility in India, eyes \$1.3 bn annual revenue

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, SEP 27

Global networking giant Cisco on Friday inaugurated its first manufacturing facility in India, that will help the company generate more than \$1.3 billion annual revenue in combined exports and domestic production, along with creating 1,200 jobs.

Cisco has collaborated with homegrown contract manufacturer Flex to successfully build the facility and bring advanced telecom technology that can help connect citizens in India and globally.

"The inauguration of the Cisco's manufacturing facility in India producing advanced telecom equipment is a testament to the country's growing Atmanirbharta in the global technology landscape," said Union Com-



munications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

"I am certain that the factory will strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of becoming a global manufacturing hub and amplify the holistic growth of India's telecom ecosystem," the minister added.

The unit will produce a range of Cisco's best-in-class routing and switching products to meet the rapidly growing technol-

ogy needs of organisations in India and around the world.

The facility will initially focus on Cisco's Network Convergence System (NCS) 540 Series of routers, represents the first phase of the company's multiyear investment plan.

Significant innovation and technical advancements are planned in the next phase including printed circuit board assembly components with several

partnerships here. "This facility is in line with Tamil Nadu becoming a critical hub for advanced manufacturing and technological innovation," said Dr T.R.B Rajaa, State Minister for Industries.

Chuck Robbins, Chair and CEO of Cisco, said India has been an important market for Cisco for nearly three decades, and we are immensely proud of our progress and partnerships here.

The inauguration of a manufacturing facility in Chennai marks a significant advancement in our commitment to the region, he added.

According to Daisy Chitilapilly, President, Cisco India and SAARC, they are proud to officially open a new manufacturing facility in Chennai, which is a pivotal step in our investments in India.

Rs 850 crore HPC systems to bolster weather, climate research in India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 27

In a bid to significantly improve the precision and reliability of weather forecast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated \$850 crore high-performance computing (HPC) systems for weather and climate research, acquired by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Named 'Arka' and 'Arunika', the systems are located at two key sites – the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) in Noida.

The IITM system is equipped with an impressive capacity of 11.77 Peta FLOPS and 33 petabytes of storage, while the NCMRWF facility features 8.24 Peta FLOPS with 24 petabytes of storage.

Additionally, there is



The HPC system will allow the ministry to further improve existing data assimilation capabilities and refine physics and dynamics of its global weather prediction models at higher horizontal resolution.

Furthermore, regional models will achieve finer resolutions of 1 km or less over select Indian domains.

These high-resolution models will significantly enhance the accuracy and lead time of predictions related to tropical cyclones, heavy precipitation, thunderstorms, hailstorms, heat waves, droughts, and other extreme weather phenomena.

On Thursday, PM Modi launched three Param Rudra supercomputers worth Rs 130 crore and developed indigenously as part of the National Supercomputing Mission.

a dedicated standalone system for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning applications with a capacity of 1.9 Peta FLOPS, informed the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

With this, the ministry will enhance its total computing power to 22 Peta FLOPS, a substantial increase from the previous capacity of 6.8 Peta FLOPS.

The government aims to significantly improve

the precision and reliability of weather forecast, ensuring better preparedness and response to the challenges posed by climate variability and extreme weather events.

According to the government, the computational framework will enable the development of sophisticated models leveraging advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

IT Ministry, MCTE join hands to foster defence innovations

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 27

In an effort to foster innovation and drive technological advancements for defence applications, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and Military College of Telecommunications Engineering (MCTE) on Friday announced to formalise their partnership in this regard.

MeitY's research and development (R&D) organisations handed over various indigenously developed products to MCTE for potential military use, reinforcing the nation's commitment to self-reliance.

S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, said during the event that empowering the Armed Forces with indigenous solutions is



crucial, and the proposed CDAC Centre of Excellence at MCTE is commendable.

The event aimed to strengthen collaborative efforts for joint R&D in key areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), quantum, chip design, 5G and beyond, strategic electronics and communications etc.

The partnership is poised to accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies to meet the evolving needs and challenges faced by the Indian Army, according to the IT Ministry.

It also aims to provide a platform for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through an incu-

bation ecosystem, promoting cross-pollination of ideas and technologies.

Lt Gen K.H. Gawas, Commandant, MCTE said that to unlock the true potential and gravitate towards Viksit Bharat, there is a need for collaboration between Army and researchers to understand battlefield requirements.

economic growth. Moreover, latest consumer research said that 6 out of 10 users in premium segment buy smartphones through a financing scheme, which has worked well for Apple as the premiumisation trend is rising.

The Camera Control feature includes a tactile switch that powers the

Gawas expressed confidence that this partnership would drive future defence innovations and equip the Indian Army to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving battlefield environment.

In another example to bolster defence forces, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with researchers of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has developed lightweight bulletproof jackets with 360-degree protection. The ABHED jackets were developed using polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material.

The armour plates for the jackets have passed all necessary research and development trials as per the protocols.

Automaker Kia completes first EV-only manufacturing plant

AGENCIES
SEOUL, SEP 27

Automaker Kia said on Friday it has completed building Hyundai Motor Group's first manufacturing facility dedicated solely to electric vehicles, which boasts an annual capacity of producing 150,000 units.

Kia held a ceremony for the Kia Gwangmyeong EVO Plant, located at Kia Autoland in Gwangmyeong, just south of Seoul, which is tasked with mass producing Kia's new EV3 model and the upcoming EV4 model.

Kia invested 401.6 billion won (\$304.2 million) in the 60,000 square-meter facility, completely rebuilding it on an existing

plant site to facilitate the company's next-generation vehicle production, reports Yonhap news agency.

The event was attended by around 150 guests, including Choi Jun-Young, executive vice president and head of domestic production at Kia, and Gwangmyeong Mayor Park Seungwon.

The EVO Plant is characterised under the theme of pursuing maximum change through minimal expansion, taking into consideration its location in the city centre and other environmental factors, such as the protection of green spaces.

In addition, the plant has been constructed with a full-scale conversion to

electrification in mind, focusing on eco-friendly and worker-friendly elements.

Mass production of the EV3, the brand's compact all-electric SUV, began in the first half of this year. In the first half of 2025, Kia plans to introduce the EV4, the brand's upcoming mid-sized electric sedan.

Choi said in a welcoming speech that the completion of the plant "solidifies Kia's first step as an EV leader following the company's brand relaunch in 2021."

"With the goal of providing sustainable mobility solutions, we will lead innovation in the EV market and fulfill our responsibilities in helping to deliver a sustainable future," he added.

'MADE IN INDIA' IPHONE 16 FLIES OFF THE SHELVES IN ASPIRATIONAL INDIA

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 27

Riding on aspirational India as private consumption surges in tier 2, 3 cities and even beyond, Apple has seen its 'make in India' iPhone 16 flying off the shelves in the country.

According to trade analysts on Friday, the new iPhone, which has sev-

eral top-notch features like Camera Control, a powerful 48 MP fusion lens system (two optical-quality cameras in one), new A18 chip and a better battery life, are selling like hot cakes due to attractive financing schemes and trade-in offers at Apple retail stores as well as online.

Counterpoint Research

Vice President, Neil Shah, told IANS that the momentum for new iPhone 16 is really great, driven by Apple's aspirational appeal in the country.

According to him, more Indians this time are buying new iPhones rather than going for older generation devices, as purchasing power has increased in the country amid overall

economic growth.

Moreover, latest consumer research said that 6 out of 10 users in premium segment buy smartphones through a financing scheme, which has worked well for Apple as the premiumisation trend is rising.

The Camera Control feature includes a tactile switch that powers the

click experience, a high-precision force sensor that enables the light press gesture, and a capacitive sensor that allows for touch interactions.

Camera Control can quickly launch the camera, take a photo, and start video recording so users don't miss the moment. A new camera preview helps users frame the shot

and adjust other control options – such as zoom, exposure, or depth of field – to compose a stunning photo or video by sliding their finger on the Camera Control.

Later this year, Camera Control will unlock visual intelligence to help users learn about objects and places faster than ever before.

Additionally, iPhone 16 now take spatial photos and videos to help users relive memories with remarkable depth on Apple Vision Pro. Video can now be captured in Spatial Audio for immersive listening with AirPods, Apple Vision Pro, or a surround sound system.

iPhone 16 holds its value longer than any other

smartphone thanks to its industry-leading durability, including the strong back glass, a water- and dust-resistant design, regular software updates, and the latest-generation Ceramic Shield with an advanced formulation that is 50 per cent tougher than the first generation and 2x tougher than glass on any other smartphone.

2nd Test: Akash Deep picks two, Bangladesh 107/3 on rain-marred Day 1

AGENCIES
KANPUR, SEP 27

Bangladesh were 107 for 3 in 35 overs when the first day of the second Test between India and Bangladesh at Green Park Stadium was called off due to rain.

After a delayed start due to a wet outfield, India capitalised on seam-friendly conditions early on, but the visitors slowly clawed their way back into the contest, thanks to a promising partnership between Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mominul Haque.

Rohit Sharma's decision to bowl first paid off immediately as India's pacer Akash Deep, who has been on a roll, made early inroads. He struck twice in his first spell, leaving Bangladesh at



33/2.

Zakir Hasan fell for a duck, undone by a beautiful delivery from Akash that angled in and shaped away late, edging to Yas-

hasvi Jaiswal at gully for a stunning low catch. Shadnam Islam followed soon after, trapped lbw by Akash in a decision that was initially given not out but overturned upon

review, thanks to Rohit's smart use of DRS.

Bangladesh were reeling at 78/2 by lunch with their hopes for recovery rested on their captain Shanto and the experienced Mominul Haque. Both batters weathered the Indian pace attack, with Mominul gradually finding his rhythm and displaying some lovely

stroke play. Shanto, on the other hand, played with solid technique to grind out runs on a pitch that appeared to be flattening out as the day progressed.

However, it wasn't long before Ravichandran Ashwin worked his magic. India's ace off-spinner broke through Shanto's resistance with a clever arm-ball, luring the Bangladeshi skipper into playing for spin before trapping him lbw. Shanto's dismissal for 31, just when he seemed set to anchor the innings, was a blow to Bangladesh's hopes. Mushfiqur Rahim was then tasked with steadying the ship alongside Mominul.

The afternoon session saw Bangladesh show signs of recovery, with Mominul playing some

aggressive shots, including a couple of boundaries, to relieve the pressure. The pitch, though unpredictable earlier, seemed to ease for batting as the day wore on. But just as momentum began to swing toward Bangladesh, bad light interrupted play and persistent drizzle, forcing an early end to the day.

The early stoppage was a relief for India, as the Bangladeshi middle order, led by Mominul, was starting to assert itself. Mominul remained unbeaten on 40, with Mushfiqur at the other end.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 107 for 3 in 35 overs at Day 1 (Mominul Haque 40 not out, Najmul Hasan Shanto 31; Akash Deep 2-34, Ravichandran Ashwin 1-22) against India

Women's T20 WC: England's Kemp hoping to make most of her chances

AGENCIES
SHARJAH, SEP 27

Having endured two stress fractures, considered a bowler's worst nightmare, so far, England all-rounder Freya Kemp is looking forward to making a big impact on her debut in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in UAE next week.

While braving one stress fracture is difficult for a player, Kemp has had two of them before the age of 19. The England all-rounder will make her major event debut at the Women's T20 World Cup but only after two years of hard graft to come back from serious injury. "It's a huge honour to be picked in any squad, but especially for a World Cup," Kemp was quoted as saying by the ICC media team on Friday. "It's even more special given I missed the last one. It's been a tough two years, but it

makes it even better having had a slightly harder journey to get here."

Kemp played her club cricket for Fletching in East Sussex and has an older and a younger brother.

"We used to play all sports in the garden, and they didn't hold back, I can tell you that," she remembers. "It was the same at the club, playing with my brother and all of his friends, it toughened me up." A prodigy, Kemp made her senior debut for Sussex in 2019 while still playing for U17 and U15 teams and was included in the England Women's Academy programme as a 14-year-old. She benefited from the counsel of two true greats - Sarah Taylor, a coach while Kemp was a pupil at Bedes School, and Charlotte Edwards, who took her under her wing at Southern Vipers.

"I watched Lottie while I was growing up, she was one of my idols," said Kemp. "She has been a massive support to me throughout my career. She picked me up quite young and she has really helped me and mentored me through the last few years." Kemp broke through with breathtaking performances against the white ball in 2022, particularly with bat in hand, rewarded with a maiden T20I call-up and a place at the Commonwealth Games. A seamless rise to the top looked set to follow, in a similar fashion to her teammate Alice Capsey and others before her. But a couple of weeks after being awarded her first ECB central contract, disaster struck in the shape of a first, dreaded stress fracture in December 2022, ruling her out of the 2023 ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

A player of his quality will score lot of goals, says Liverpool's Arne Slot on Luis Diaz's scoring spree

AGENCIES
WOLVERHAMPTON, SEP 27

A day after Liverpool winger Luis Diaz hailed Arne Slot and credited the new head coach for his incredible form so far in the new season, the Dutchman had a humble response claiming a player of Luis Diaz's quality will 'always score a lot of goals'.

"We train daily trying to get them as most we can in certain situations and then help them in the best possible way where to position themselves and what to do in certain situations. But it's mainly also in this last third of the pitch the quality of the player and the finishing he has," said Arne Slot to reporters in a press conference.

"I think he always had this and I wasn't even that aware of the fact that (he scored eight league goals last season). For me, he was someone who could score a goal and eight for his quality (is) not of his standards, I would

say. I think he just comes back to his normal situation. Maybe he was a bit unlucky last season, but a player of his quality will always score a lot of goals in every season," he said.

Diaz has begun Slot's first season in charge of the club in outstanding and prolific form, scoring five goals in five Premier League appearances to help the Reds claim 12 points so far. And Diaz has detailed how much he is enjoying working under the new head coach.

"As a coach, he has been spectacular from the first day I arrived and we had contact.

The relationship is and continues to be really good. He is very attentive to the things you need to improve but he will also praise you for the good things you do. He is a good coach in that sense. He puts together good plans for the games and you can see that reflected in our results.

We have shown a lot of quality in our first few games," he said.

PKL 11: DABANG DELHI'S RAIDING FIREPOWER FACE DEFENSIVE VULNERABILITIES ON ROAD TO GLORY

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 27

Champions of season 8 of the Pro Kabaddi League, Dabang Delhi K.C. will be eager to get their hands on the PKL title once again, after crashing out in the playoffs stage in the last campaign. Dabang Delhi K.C. have reached the playoffs in each of the last five PKL seasons, and they will fancy their chances of another appearance in season 11.

Ahead of PKL season 11, Joginder Narwal, who served as an assistant coach under former Dabang Delhi K.C. head coach Rambir Singh Khokar in PKL 10, has been promoted to the role of head coach.

Joginder brings title-winning expertise, having led Dabang Delhi K.C. to their only PKL title as captain in season 8. Dabang Delhi weren't the most active at the auction table, having retained most of their star players before the season 11 player auction. However, they boast

a strong squad filled with top talents. Here's a look at their strengths and weaknesses ahead of the new campaign.

Dabang Delhi undoubtedly possesses one of the strongest raiding units in the PKL, with the likes of Naveen Kumar and Ashu Malik forming an irresistible duo in the attack. Ashu Malik finished season 10 as the league's joint top-scoring raider with 276 raid points, while two-time MVP Naveen Kumar is sixth on the all-time leaderboard for most raid points (1005) in PKL history.

While Naveen Kumar and Ashu Malik can be expected to wreak havoc on opposition defences, Dabang Delhi can be confident that they have plenty of firepower and depth in attack, should either of their star raiders have an off day.

The acquisition of Siddharth Desai, who has notched up 693 raid points, further strengthens their attack, while all-rounder Ashish has



proven he can contribute in offence, having amassed 184 raid points in the past.

Meanwhile, Dabang Delhi's defence could be a potential weakness if their top guns aren't in form and not firing on all cylinders. After finishing third in the leaderboard for most tackle points (74) last season, Yogesh will be entrusted to lead the defence. While he did shine for Dabang Delhi last season, Yogesh isn't the most experienced, and the same could be said about the rest of the team's defensive unit.

Like Yogesh, Ashish is another Dabang Delhi defender who played his first PKL campaign

in season 10, scoring a respectable 48 tackle points.

The defensive performance of the season 8 champions in the new campaign will depend heavily on their young and relatively inexperienced defensive duo, Yogesh and Ashish.

A bad day at the office for the pair could result in Dabang Delhi falling short in matches.

Even though the addition of Rinku Narwal for Rs 13 lakh at the player auction brings some defensive experience, it's worth mentioning that he didn't feature in PKL last season and hasn't been the most consistent performer in

the past. With 148 tackle points to his name and PKL experience under his belt, Rinku Narwal will be hoping to lead by example although it remains to be seen if that comes to pass.

As far as opportunities go, Dabang Delhi's fringe talents will be hoping to step up and make the most of the chances that they receive.

Their all-round talents like Ashish and Nitin Panwar will be hoping to make their presence felt, particularly in defence - a potential area of concern for Dabang Delhi.

Over the years, Ashish and Nitin Panwar have managed 64 and 15 tackle points respectively, and they will be keen on improving their tally when given a chance to perform on the mat.

All-rounder Brijendra Chaudhary will also hope to rise to the challenge when given the opportunity while defender Vikrant will be eager to kick on after accumulating 25 tackle points in his debut PKL campaign last season.

One of the biggest threats to Dabang Delhi's PKL II campaign is the risk of injuries, particularly to their raiders. Naveen Kumar and Ashu Malik are capable of dismantling any opposition on their day. However, if either of them succumbs to injury, the burden of raiding will fall heavily on the other player, disrupting the team's raiding balance.

Siddharth Desai has struggled to cope with the mantle of being a team's main raider in the last few seasons and Dabang Delhi's all-rounders don't seem ready to take on the lead raider responsibility yet.

Naveen Kumar has suffered injuries that have sidelined him from games in recent seasons, including most of the last campaign, where he played a total of six games. Similarly, Ashu Malik endured a rotator cuff tear a couple of years ago, and needless to say, keeping both him and Naveen Kumar fit will be crucial to Dabang Delhi's success in season 11.

ISL 2024-25: Unbeaten Bengaluru, Mohun Bagan seek to consolidate places in top half

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, SEP 27

Bengaluru FC will face Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday with both teams hoping to consolidate their position in the top half of the points table.

Both teams are unbeaten so far in the ISL, with Bengaluru winning both their games against East Bengal and Hyderabad FC, meanwhile, after sharing the spoils with Mumbai City FC in their opener, returned to winning ways in their last outing against NorthEast United. Besides banking on their superb form, Bengaluru FC will also be looking up to their tremendous home record under chief coach Gerard Zaragoza.

The Blues have lost only once in their nine home games under the tutelage of Zaragoza. Interestingly, their lone debacle at home was a 0-4 defeat to Mohun Bagan Super Giant last season.

On their part, Mohun Bagan Super Giant will be hoping to tide their



open-play record against a strong opponent.

The Mariners have scored 43 goals from open play since the start of the previous season, which is the highest in the league and 25 more than Bengaluru FC (18) in that period.

Gerard Zaragoza's side has won both games so far in ISL 2024-25. But they will now face last season's ISL Trophy winners Mohun Bagan, who have conceded multiple goals in their last three ISL fixtures. The Spaniard has the firepower in his bench to impact the game in the final quarter, where the Blues have scored only six goals since the 2023-24 season.

He stated, "It's 100% important to have a bench that can change the game.

As a coach, it's perfect. The game lasts 90 minutes, and we need players who can play 90 minutes as well as players who can come off the bench and make an impact."

Although the Mariners earned their first win in the matchweek gone by, Jose Molina is demanding more from his players in the games to come. He believes his team can do better and the win against NorthEast United FC will give them more confidence in the coming days.

He said, "The players need to put in a great effort. (There are still) Things to do, of course, but they are really happy because we got the three points. I hope the win will give us more confidence in the next matches."

2nd Test: Record-breaking Kamindu Mendis places Sri Lanka in the box seat

AGENCIES
GALLE, SEP 27

Kamindu Mendis scored an unbeaten 182 as he became the fastest Asian batter to complete 1000 Test runs on the second day of the second Test against New Zealand at Galle International Stadium here on Friday. Mendis scored his fifth Test century along with Kusal Mendis, who compiled the third century of the innings for the hosts, powering Sri Lanka to a monumental 602/5 before declaring in the final session.

Kamindu reached his 1000 Test runs in 13 innings, equalling Don Bradman as the joint second-quickest to the feat. Kamindu reached the milestone during his 200-run partnership with Kusal for the sixth wicket before Dhananjaya de Silva called them back to the pavilion. Kamindu might have missed the opportunity to score his first Test double-century but he reached his highest score in the format with a knock of 182 including 16 fours and four sixes.

Overnight batters,



Angelo Mathews and Kamindu added just 28 runs to the scoreboard before the former was removed by Glenn Phillips while playing a sweep early in the day. Mathews departed after scoring 88 with the help of seven fours.

However, the support from the other end didn't stop for Kamindu as he went on to stitch partnerships of 74 and 200 with Dhananjaya de Silva and Kusal, respectively. During the process, Kusal smashed his 10th Test hundred to add to the hosts' batting dominance.

The other wicket of De Silva (44) was bagged by Phillips while attempting a similar shot in the

opening session of the day. However, as the pitch began to offer more turn, Kamindu and Kusal took control. Facing a tiring attack, Kusal's aggressive approach found the perfect rhythm.

Kamindu capitalised on every chance for a lofted shot, smashing four sixes, and his growing confidence began to influence Kusal.

Kusal reached his half-century in style, hitting Phillips for 4, 6, and 4 in quick succession, effectively dismantling the off-spinner's lengths.

This contrasted sharply with how Kamindu thrived his day following Mathews' early departure. He adopted a cautious approach in

his partnership with De Silva, who, in contrast, began assertively.

De Silva's intent was clear from the start with a six off Phillips, and he repeatedly employed the sweep shot to find boundaries. At one point, he even encouraged Kamindu to attempt a reverse sweep. However, just as they were beginning to solidify their partnership, De Silva fell as Phillips claimed his second wicket of the day.

After the break, Kamindu reached his fifth Test century in only his eighth match. He survived a few close calls, including an LBW review, a missed stumping, and an overturned-caught decision as the spinners started to extract more from the surface.

But with Sri Lanka already in a commanding position, both he and Kusal turned the pressure back on the spinners.

Phillips, who had been a consistent threat during the first session with occasional drift troubling the right-handers, was later dominated by the duo, posing little danger.

U17 SAFF C'ship: India ready to clear Nepal hurdle in semifinals

AGENCIES
THIMPHU (BHUTAN), SEP 27

India will take on Nepal in the semi-final of the 2024 U17 SAFF Championship The Blue Colts eased into the last four as Group A table toppers with a perfect record of six points after beating Bangladesh (1-0) and Maldives (3-0).

Nepal, on the other hand, squeezed into the semi-final thanks to a late winner against Bhutan in their last group match, which lifted them to second place in Group B behind Pakistan, who will face Bangladesh in the second semi-final later on Saturday.

India have had ample rest between their matches so far, including three full days to prepare for their semi-final. Head coach Ishfaq Ahmed stated that the rest days for players are more about recovery and staying injury-free. "This rest is about recovering because we are playing on artificial turf. It's not easy to play and train on turf everyday.

SVEEP: Mega Voter Awareness Drive held at Wetland Reserve Hygam to boost Poll Participation

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 27

In an effort to boost public participation in the Assembly elections in district Baramulla, the District Election Office Baramulla, on Friday, organized a Mega Voter Awareness programme under the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) at the Wetland Reserve in Hygam Baramulla. The event was presided over by the District Election Officer (DEO) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, along with Superintendent of Police Sopore, Divya Dev, and was attended by the Nodal Officer SVEEP, Shabir Ahmad, other officers, officials, a large gathering of first time voters, and local residents. The programme commenced with the formation of the human chain, which witnessed the enthusiastic participa-



tion of hundreds of new voters who came together and joined hands, symbolizing unity and commitment towards a vibrant democratic process.

The DEO, accompanied by the SP Sopore, led an enthusiastic voter rally, attended by hundreds of first-time voters, students,

and community leaders, all of whom marched through the streets of Hygam with energy, showcasing their commitment to exercising their democratic rights and encouraging others to do the same.

A vibrant array of cultural programs followed the rally at the Wetland

Reserve Hygam, with students and new voters enthusiastically performing on election-centric themes, all aiming to promote enhanced electoral literacy.

During the event, the DEO along with other participants planted saplings at the wetland to promote greener elections. The participants also took a solemn pledge to actively participate in the elections by casting their votes on Election Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Minga Sherpa stressed the importance of such awareness programs in ensuring that every eligible voter understands their responsibility and the power of their vote.

Meanwhile, the DEO urged all participants, particularly the first-time voters, to come out and vote on October 1st, the day district Baramulla goes to the polls.

GDC Marh shines at National Seminar display contest

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 27

Department of Dogri, Government Degree College Marh has added yet another feather to its cap by winning Second Prize in Dogri cuisine and kitchenware in the Inter College/Universities competition at the National Seminar.

The contest themed 'Traditional Dogra Cuisine, Dogra Traditional Attire and Kitchenware' was part of the National Seminar hosted by Central University Jammu on the topic, "NEP 2020 for Viksit Bharat: Integrating Bharatiya Knowledge Systems with Education."

The College was awarded second prize in a stiff competition among 15 participating colleges and 04 Universities of Jammu.

The Marh College students displayed the stall showcasing rich culture of Dogra heritage including Dogra attire, kitchenware and cuisines like Khamire,



Gulrah, Quir, Luna Pura, Malpuha, Merie, Asra Madra, besides famous Dogra pickle "Lasoor & Teau da Achaar." The

aim was to revive the rich heritage of Dogra culture, which seems to be slowly diminishing in this modern era. Principal of

the College Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul expressed immense pride and joy over this maiden achievement of the College. He said that this event has provided a platform to the students to gain exposure and experience in culinary arts at National level. Students who participated in this event were: Shivali Sharma of Sem 3rd, Pallavi Devi of Sem 3rd, Sweety Kaith of Sem 3rd, Rohit Kumar of Sem 3rd, Gourav Sharma of Sem 3rd, Rahul Kumar of Sem 3rd, Richa Manhas of Sem 3rd, Sangeeta Devi of Sem 3rd, Atinder Kumar of Sem 3rd and Sneha Bhagat of Sem 3rd under the supervision of Dr. Sheetal Devi (HOD Dogri) and Dr. Ashu Jolly (HOD Education). Certificates of appreciation and participation were distributed among students.

TLSC Ganderbal, WMDA jointly celebrate 'World Tourism Day' at Manasbal

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 27

The Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Ganderbal, in collaboration with Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority, Ganderbal today celebrated 'World Tourism Day' at Manasbal Park. The event was held under the supervision of Abdul Nasir, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman District Legal Services Authority) Ganderbal and Tabasum, Secretary (Incharge), District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, and guidance of Mohammad Waseem Mirza, Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Ganderbal.

The event aimed to emphasize legal responsibilities in maintaining ecological balance.

Umar Shafi, Chief Executive Officer, Wullar-Manasbal Development



Authority, educated participants on the significance of World Tourism Day.

Adv. Aqib-ul-Ahad highlighted tourism's role in fostering development, global harmony and peace. He also highlighted

key legal responsibilities, including preservation of natural resources, protection of wildlife and their habitats, conservation of water bodies, reduction of plastic waste, respect for local regulations and traditions.

Students of Govt. Higher Secondary School, Safapora, Govt. High School, Kondbal, Ganderbal, Valley Lake School, Safapora, New Delight School, Safapora participated in the event and also delivered speeches, performed skits etc.

The programme was attended by Umar Shafi, Chief Executive Officer, Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority, Ganderbal; Assistant Executive Engineer, R&B Sub-division, Safapora, Ganderbal; Assistant Tourist Officer, Manasbal, Ganderbal, officers and officials of Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority, Ganderbal, Teachers and Students of Govt. Higher Secondary School, Safapora, Govt. High School, Kondbal, Ganderbal, Valley Lake School, Safapora, New Delight School, Safapora, Local Shopkeepers, etc.

GDC Vijaypur organises Symposium to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti

JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 27

Department of Commerce of Government Degree College Vijaypur organised a symposium on 'Gandhian Thoughts' under the aegis of Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations and Shikshit Bharat Abhiyaan.

Students of Commerce and other college departments participated in the competition with great enthusiasm, fervour and zeal. Students revisited the Gandhian principles with which he led his life and fought for freedom from Britishers and British rule. Gandhi Ji led a very simple life with high principles contributing so much to the independence.

Earlier, Prof. Mamta Gupta, Head, Department of Commerce delivered the welcome address. She shared her views on various movements started



by Gandhi Ji like the Non-Cooperation movement which Mahatma Gandhi started to achieve independence. The Students enthusiastically participated in the symposium by presenting their views on the contribution of Gandhi Ji in national independence and nation rebuilding. The event was conducted under the able guidance of Dr. Vandana

Verma, Principal of the College.

Symposium concluded with the distribution of prizes and certificates to the winners and participants of different events under Gandhi Jayanti Celebration.

In her address to the participating students, the Principal of the College said that apart from Gandhi Ji's contribution in the freedom struggle he also toiled to remove social evils that were rampant in the then Indian society which included social evils like sati, child marriage, untouchability and casteism. She appreciated and congratulated all the participants for their active participation and the staff for organising such an event.

Bandipora readies for 3rd Phase of Assembly Elections

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 27

District Bandipora is all set to go for polls on October 1, during the third and final phase of General Elections to the Legislative Assembly, with over 2.59 lakh voters eligible to exercise their right to franchise across the district.

The district comprises three Assembly Constituencies namely Sonawari, Bandipore and Gurez, with a total of 2,59,893 voters including 1,32,679 male 1,27,208 female and 6 third gender voters.

To facilitate the voters, Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 312 polling stations, 46 as urban polling stations and 266 rural polling stations for smooth and hassle free electoral participation in the district.

Among all the three Assembly Constituencies of the district, 14-Sonawari Assembly Constituency has highest number of 1,21,276 registered voters, comprising 61,473 males, 59,799 females, and 4 transgender voters. A total of 137 polling stations are spread across this constituency with 23 urban and 114 rural, ensuring that every registered voter has opportunity to participate in democratic process

15-Bandipore AC comes next with a voter population of 1,16,326, among which 59,483 are male, 56,841 female and 2 third gender voters. To facilitate the voters, 144 polling stations have been established in the constituency; 23 as urban polling stations and 121 rural polling stations.

16-Gurez Assembly Constituency comes last with 22,291 registered voters; 11,723 male and 10,568 female. To ensure smooth electoral process, 31 rural polling stations have been established across the constituency.

The District Administration has completed all necessary preparations to ensure a fair and transparent election. Adequate measures have been taken to ensure accessibility, security and smooth operations at all polling stations across all constituencies.

Div Com Jammu reviews preparations for Annual Navratra Festival at Katra

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, SEPTEMBER 27

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today reviewed the preparations for the Annual Navratra festival set to commence on October 2, 2024 at holy township Katra, the base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

Threadbare discussions were held on each aspect pertaining to comprehensive planning and preparations of different events and activities proposed for the Navratra festival. The meeting focused on critical areas, including cultural events, town beautification, sanitation, essential services, traffic management, and emergency response mechanism. The arrangements for activities including Shobha Yatra, Parbhat Pheri, Ram Leela, Kavi Sammelan, Hassya Vyang and a wide array of cultural programmes were also reviewed while seeking suggestions from the stakeholders.

The Div Com instructed to lay special emphasis on the façade and proper lighting of the Katra town and tracks to the holy Shrine for providing the best experience to the pilgrims.



While examining the proposed beautification plan for Katra Town, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the need for cleanliness and proper upkeep of public areas. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that Katra Town remains clean and well-maintained throughout the festival period.

Specific instructions were issued for repairing street lights on the Ban Ganga Road to ensure a safe and well-lit environment for devotees and visitors.

To ensure a smooth festival experience, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power supply, provision of drinking water for pilgrims. He also highlighted the need for strict monitoring to prevent overloading and overcharging by auto-rickshaw operators, ensuring a hassle-free commute for

the public.

In terms of sanitation, the Municipal Committee was asked to maintain cleanliness in Katra and ensure proper illumination for overall town beautification. The Divisional Commissioner also stressed the importance of traffic regulation, directing the SSP Reasi to deploy additional manpower to manage the expected increase in vehicular movement during the festival.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized close coordination among all departments and stakeholders to ensure the festival proceeds smoothly and successfully.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism, CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine board, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, SSP, Joint Director Information, senior officials and representatives from the business community and Civil Society.

Assembly Elections-2024: JKSTD host mega SVEEP event at Jammu to promote voter awareness

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 27

Jammu and Kashmir State Taxes Department (JKSTD) today held various activities under mega Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program at Excise and Taxation Complex, here.

Commissioner JKSTD, P K Bhat was chief guest on the occasion while as Additional Commissioner Tax Planning, Policy and Advance Ruling, Ali Afsar Khan and Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra were the special guests.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner highlighted the importance of voting in democratic system and said that such events play very significant role in reaching out to the voters. He also appreciated the involvement of young officials in the event and encouraged them to inspire their families, friends, relatives, and neighbours to participate enthusiastically in the forthcoming Assembly Elections.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Afsar Khan said that such initiatives are



geared towards ensuring that every eligible voter understands the importance of casting their vote.

In her address, Namrita Dogra underscored the need for first-time voters to come forward and take part in the electoral process. She reaffirmed that the SVEEP campaign remains committed to reaching out to all segments of society, ensuring that voters, especially the younger generation, are empowered to make informed choices in the upcoming elections.

On the occasion, the Commissioner along with other officers also flagged

of bike awareness rally and planted sapling of medicinal and fruit plants in the lawns of Excise and Taxation Complex as part of SVEEP.

During the event, the department organized Rangoli making event titled 'Colors of Democracy', skit programme, bike awareness rally, plantation drive and friendly badminton tournament to engage the employees as well as citizens, particularly the youth in a creative and interactive manner with an aim to highlight importance of exercising their right to vote.