

JANSAMPARK
PRINTING PRESS

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DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness on the skin

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 229 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

'Mann Ki Baat' shows people like positive stories, inspiring examples: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 29

With 'Mann Ki Baat' set to complete 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said contrary to the belief that only spicy or negative conversations receive much attention, the monthly radio broadcast has proven that people like positive stories and inspiring examples.



going to make me emotional. It's flooding me with a lot of old memories...The reason is that this journey of ours in 'Mann Ki Baat' is completing 10 years. 10 years ago 'Mann Ki Baat' started on the day of Vijaydashami on October 3," Modi said.

"And what a divine coincidence it is that this year on the 3rd of October when 10 years of 'Mann Ki Baat' are completed, it will be the first day of Navratri. There are many phases in this long journey of 'Mann Ki Baat' that I can

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Stage set for 3rd and last phase of J&K poll 39.18 Lakh electors eligible to vote across 40 AC

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

More than 39.18 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their electoral franchise during the last Phase-III of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Election to be held on 01st October 2024 across the 40 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) in 7 districts of the Union Territory, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Pandurang K Pole said.

In Kashmir Division, 16 Assembly Constituencies including Karnah, Trehgam, Kupwara,



Lolab, Handwara, Langate, Sopore, Rafiabad, Uri, Baramulla, Gulmarg, Wagoora-Kreeri, Pattan, Sonawari, Bandipora, Gurez (ST) and in Jammu

Kathua (SC), Hiranagar, Ramgarh(SC), Samba, Vijaypur, Bishnah(SC), Suchetgarh(SC), R.S Pura, Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Akhnoor(SC), Chhamb will also go to the polls in this phase..

Polling Stations and Staff: In this phase, there are 5060 Polling stations across 7 districts of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Udhampur, Samba, Kathua and Jammu will be established. Four election staff, including

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One terrorist killed in Kathua

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

A terrorist was killed in an ongoing operation in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Sunday, taking the death toll in the incident to two, officials said.



ferent parts of the country, Modi described it as an "emotional" episode and said the programme has become a unique platform that celebrates the spirit

of India. The prime minister said the monthly radio broadcast showcases the collective strength of the nation. "This episode today is

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India would have given larger bailout package to Pak had it maintained friendly ties: Rajnath

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 29

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India would have given a larger bailout package to Pakistan than sought by Islamabad from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had the neighbouring nation maintained friendly relations with New Delhi.

Addressing an election rally in Gurez assembly segment of Bandipora district, Singh referred to the prime minister's development package for Jammu and Kashmir announced in 2014-15 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



"Modi ji in 2014-15 announced a special package for development of Jammu and Kashmir which has now reached Rs 90,000 crore. The amount is much bigger than what Pakistan was seeking from the IMF (as bailout

package)," the senior BJP leader said.

Singh referred to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's famous statement that "we can change friends but we cannot change the neighbours".

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True equality and justice requires more women in politics: Rahul Gandhi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 29

Asserting true equality and justice requires more women in politics, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday urged women, who are passionate about creating real change to join the 'Shakti Abhiyan' which aims to create an equal space for 'women's interests' in politics.

"A year ago, we launched the 'Indira Fellowship' with a mission to amplify women's voices in politics. Today, this initiative has grown into a pow-



erful movement for women's leadership," Gandhi said on X.

"True equality and justice requires more women in politics. 'Aadhi Abadi, Poora Haq' embodies our unwavering commitment to this cause," he said.

"I urge all women who are passionate about creating real change

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Why Jammu can't decide future of J&K? Chugh asks Abdullahs

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

The BJP National General Secretary and Incharge of J&K affairs, Tarun Chugh, on Sunday said that Jammu will decide and lead the next government in J&K and BJP is committed to give justice to Jammu region.



ilies always looted J&K and discriminated with Jammu".

Chugh also said that Polling in 2 phases in J&K is against 3 families and people now hate these families Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis.

"The polling in the first 2 phases is against

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

I won't die as long as Modi is at the helm, asserts Kharge

JINNEWS SERVICE
JASROTA (KATHUA), SEPT 29

Congress President Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge has vowed to continue opposing the BJP-led NDA government's policies, which he believes are harmful to the people and weakening the security of the nation.

Speaking here on Sunday, Mr. Kharge emotionally declared, "I will not rest nor will I die as long as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in power and the BJP is ruling the country."

This statement came while paying tribute to the martyr of the Billawar terror attack, which clear-



ly moved him.

Mr Kharge was visibly shaken as he paid tribute to the martyrs of Saturday's terror attack in Billawar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Overcome with emotion, he momentarily felt uneasy but swiftly

regained his composure to reaffirm his party's unwavering commitment to eradicating terrorism from the region.

Kharge's emotional response underscores the profound impact of

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Kashmir celebrating festival of democracy, resurgence of democratic aspiration: Dr Jitendra

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that Kashmir is celebrating the festival of democracy and resurgence of democratic aspiration which had gone dormant.

In an exclusive interview to national news channel, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "what we witness today is the mainstreaming of democracy in Jammu & Kashmir and the credit for this entirely goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

"It is heartening to see the transformation in the region where fear has been replaced by hope



and just as the contesting candidates in large number are turning out to try their fortune, the voters in equal numbers are coming out to exercise their franchise", stated Dr. Jitendra Singh, highlighting the active participation

of people in the ongoing Assembly elections.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this is a miraculous transformation from the times when the Returning Officer would reject all the nomination

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Support Cong for a better future; Pilot appeals to voters of Jammu region

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary and former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot on Sunday cautioned the people against divisive policies of the BJP.



ticularly since downgrading of a full-fledged state into a Union

Territory, have been a stark reminder of their disdain for democratic principles," Mr Pilot said.

"They have consistently undermined the rights of

the people, ignored the aspirations of the youth, and divided communities for political gains," he said.

Mr. Pilot emphasized that the Congress party stands committed

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Govt mulls three bills to implement 'One Nation, One Election' plan

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 29

The Government is likely to bring three bills, including two to amend the Constitution, to put in place its plan to hold simultaneous elections.

One of the proposed Constitution amendment bills, that deals with aligning the local bodies elections to that of the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, will require an endorsement from at least 50 per cent of the states.

Moving ahead with its 'one nation, one election' plan, the Government earlier this month accepted the recommendations of

the high-level committee for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner after a country-wide consensus-building exercise.

The proposed first constitutional amendment bill would deal with making provisions for holding Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly elections together.

Citing recommendations of the high-level committee, sources said the proposed bill would seek to amend Article 82A by adding sub-clause (1) relating to the 'appointed date'. It will also seek to

insert sub-clause (2) to Article 82A relating to the end of terms of the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies together.

It also proposes to amend Article 83(2) and insert new sub-clauses (3) and (4) relating to the duration and dissolution of the Lok Sabha. It also has provisions related to the dissolution of the legislative assemblies and amending Article 327 to insert the term "simultaneous elections".

This bill will not require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the states, the recommendation said. The proposed second

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Cong always stands with enemies for sake of power, demands proof from Army: Anurag Thakur



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

our jawans demanding proof on their achievements. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Defence Minister were at the border boosting the morale of the soldiers, Rahul Gandhi was holding meetings with

questions the sacrifices of

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

IIM Jammu Completes Three-Day Capacity Building Program Under YUVA Initiative with a Grand Valedictory Ceremony

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu concluded the First 3-Day Capacity Building Program under the Project YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and creating employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. This program, held from 27th to 29th September 2024, for the Government officials of J & K was a critical part of the government's initiative to empower youth, women, and vulnerable groups by promoting a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem across the region. The valedictory ceremony held on 29th Sept 2024 at Pralad Classroom marked the end of a successful and impactful three days of learning, knowledge-sharing, and skill-building for government officials and stakeholders.

Shri Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, Secretary to Govt., Labour & Employment Department, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasized the government's commitment to building a self-sustaining entrepreneurial ecosystem through Project YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan). He highlighted that

the initiative is focused on long-term growth and should operate independently of government subsidies, calling for a mindset shift towards innovation and self-reliance. Shri Ranjan encouraged participants to embrace creativity and focus on building sustainable businesses capable of thriving on their own. While the government is committed to providing necessary support, he pointed out that Project YUVA's success hinges on effective grassroots implementation. He urged participants—key stakeholders in the process—to actively contribute to developing operational guidelines that are crucial for smooth and efficient execution across Jammu and Kashmir. He encouraged collaboration to create a practical framework that benefits entrepreneurs from small startups to larger enterprises, emphasizing that it should include clear processes, defined roles, and accountability mechanisms to ensure successful outcomes. Reiterating that Project YUVA is focused on fostering a sustainable and forward-thinking entrepreneurial culture, he stressed the importance of businesses flourishing without dependence on



government aid. He concluded by urging all participants to embrace this vision and collaborate to ensure the initiative's successful implementation, positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a hub of entrepreneurship and innovation.

Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized the unprecedented convergence of government, academia, and funding agencies over the past decade to foster entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that this collaboration—uniting colleges, universities, government officials, and financial institutions—is a first for the Union Territory and can serve as a model for the entire country. Prof. Sahay highlighted the example of Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and credited Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, for conceptualizing this unique

initiative, which has led to the establishment of 22 SBDUs across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. He also recognized the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) initiative, which provides young professionals an opportunity to contribute to skill development and economic growth. Commending the J&K government, he lauded Shri Atal Dulloo, IAS, Chief Secretary, and Shri Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, Secretary, Labour & Employment Department, Govt of J & K for spearheading transformative initiatives like YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan). He stressed the need for efficient documentation and real-time Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) via a portal to streamline processes and ensure smooth execution. He reiterated the importance of nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that cross-

sector collaboration is crucial for making the region a national role model. He urged the formation of a committee to establish timelines and develop an action plan to ensure the success of these initiatives, encouraging participants to apply their learnings to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, summarized the program and outlined the way forward, highlighting the key takeaways. He stressed that while progress has been made, the work is far from complete. Prof. Ali praised the participants' efforts and emphasized the need to formalize activities with clear SOPs. He proposed a joint presentation by all groups to create a common platform and urged everyone to sustain the collaborative momentum moving forward.

The participants also shared their experiences and learning outcomes from the training, discussing the challenges and opportunities in facilitating entrepreneurship in the region. The program covered key topics including the 4Cs—Culture, Capital, Capacity, and Connectivity—which form the foundation of the YUVA initiative.

The 3-Day Capacity Building Program has equipped the officials with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively support entrepreneurial initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir. Present on the occasion were Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson, Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development, IIM Jammu Srinagar Campus, and Dr. Mahesh Gaddekar, Chairperson, Small Business Development Units, IIM Jammu. The ceremony 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.

CBC organizes Outreach Programme on Mission Life and Poshan Abhiyaan in Tangtse, Leh



J I NEWS SERVICE
TANGTSE, LEH, SEPT 29

The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, through its field units Anantnag and Leh, today organized an Outreach Programme (ICOP) at Community Hall, Tangtse, Leh. The event aimed at raising awareness about Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission).

The programme, held in one of the remotest regions, emphasized the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle, understanding the significance of nutrition, and familiarizing the local population with India's new criminal laws. Resource persons from the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Environment, and Education departments urged participants to embrace the principles of Mission LiFE and follow the guidelines of Poshan Abhiyaan for a healthy lifestyle.

Sub Divisional Magistrate, Tangtse, Mohamad Ismail, in his speech, highlighted the initia-

tives of the government, especially with special reference to environment, ICDS and sustainable development. He urged the participants to avail benefits of various schemes.

Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the crucial role CBC plays in outreach activities. He emphasized that these programmes focus on creating awareness among grassroots communities, especially in far-flung areas, enabling them to benefit from various government schemes and adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Field Publicity Officer, CBC Srinagar Naseer Rather highlighted the role of CBC in field outreach, especially Jammu and Kashmir. He said such integrated communication programmes (ICDS), Environment, and Education departments urged participants to embrace the principles of Mission LiFE and follow the guidelines of Poshan Abhiyaan for a healthy lifestyle.

The ICDS department set up stalls showcasing various government initiatives and schemes of the government.

Vote for development, maintain unity, brotherhood: Azad

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU SEPT 29

Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad today addressed a series of public meetings in Jammu, where he called for unity and brotherhood among the people. He urged the public to vote for development and progress in the upcoming elections. Azad stated, "For years, political parties have used division as a tactic, offering excuses not to develop both regions. This has led to conflict, while those in power continue to enjoy their privileges." He urged people to recognise that their shared struggles should unite them rather than create rifts, stressing that only through unity can genuine progress be achieved. Reflecting on his tenure as Chief Minister, he noted "People witnessed real progress and development during my time. Through double and triple shifts, we initiated a developmental revolution that no other leader has been able to replicate. Many projects that I sanctioned remain incomplete to this day, highlighting the



urgent need for a renewed focus on development." Azad voiced concerns over the promises made by various political parties regarding the return of Article 370, asserting that these promises are not grounded in reality. Azad stated, "We all want return of Article 370, but we cannot expect anything from the BJP. Even Congress fails to speak on this crucial issue. It is not possible to restore Article 370 through the assembly, but we can introduce legislation to ensure that no outsider can buy land or secure jobs in our region. This was the essence of Article 370." He further said "I do not cheat, lie, or mislead. I recognise that some people have become

accustomed to falsehoods and have been voting based on those lies, but I speak the truth, which only a few may comprehend. I will never give false hope or make unrealistic promises." Azad acknowledged the widespread disillusionment among people, who are tired of false slogans that have only led to bloodshed and unrest. "People are fed up with the empty promises that have resulted in nothing but chaos and division," Azad stated. "Today, we must focus on creating jobs for our youth, who are increasingly becoming involved in drugs, this is the biggest issue we face." He highlighted the desire for peace and unity among the people of

Jammu, stating, "Whether in Samba, Gandhi Nagar, or Bakshi Nagar, the people of Jammu yearn for harmony. This is part of our Dogra culture and we must strive to maintain this unity. We cannot allow ourselves to be influenced by parties that seek to divide us." Azad further said that his return to the state is driven by a desire to serve the poor, who remain deprived of basic necessities such as water and electricity. "We will restore the Roshni scheme, which previously benefited the poor, but unfortunately, this government revoked it," Azad stated. "Our focus will be on ensuring that every citizen has access to the essential services they deserve." In his address, He outlined a comprehensive development agenda that includes the creation of more districts, schools, tehsils, colleges, and roads to enhance infrastructure and educational opportunities in the region. "This is our only agenda," he asserted, stressing for the need for tangible progress that addresses the needs of all people.

IGP Kashmir chairs law & order review meeting at PCR Kashmir



J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPT 29

The Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone Shri V. K Birdi-IPS chaired a meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the law & order situation of the zone.

The meeting was attended by the senior officers of Police, Security Forces & intelligence agencies, all range DisG of Kashmir Zone, DisG of CRPF South & North Srinagar, all district SSSP of Kashmir Zone, SSP PCR Kashmir, SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, SSP CID SBK, SSP Traffic City Srinagar, SSP CID CIK, SSP Security Kashmir, SP PC Srinagar, Lt Col (IS) and other officers.

At the outset of the meeting the participating officers briefed the IGP Kashmir about the overall security scenario and provided insights into the existing security challenges. The discussions encompassed various facets including intelligence gathering and response to various

emergent situations. The district SSSP also briefed the IGP Kashmir regarding the preparedness and the issues related to the current law and order situation of their respective districts.

IGP Kashmir directed the officers to meticulously prepare, plan and monitor their respective areas of responsibility to prevent any untoward law & order outbreak. He directed district SSSP, Cyber cell and IT & Social media cells to monitor the rumour mongers and those who post incriminating material. He emphasized strict adherence to SOPs and stressed upon conducting coordination meetings with the public to ensure peace and calm in the valley. The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to ensure peace and calm in the region. IGP Kashmir reaffirmed the commitment of the police and security forces to maintain law and order while safeguarding the rights and safety of citizens.

Security preparedness and briefing session held in Bandipora

J I NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, SEPT 29

Today a security preparedness and briefing session was conducted by Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora Shri Harmeet Singh Mehta-JKPS at Auditorium Bandipora. The session was attended by officers from the Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), and District Police, in preparation for the 3rd phase of the General Elections for the Legislative Assembly.

During the session, SSP Bandipora provided detailed instructions on the duties and responsibilities to be undertaken by the officers, focusing on the security scenario in the district, law and order maintenance, and handling terrorism-related challenges. The briefing emphasized the importance of coordination and effective response to ensure smooth and secure conduct of the upcoming elections.

During the briefing senior officers of CAPF also addressed the participating officers. They provided further insights and guidance on the duties to be performed during the election period.

The briefing saw active participation, with several queries and issues raised by the attending officers. SSP Bandipora addressed these concerns and assured full cooperation from the District Police to support the smooth execution of responsibilities by the deployed forces.

The session was attended by Adhoc COs of CRPF, BSF, ITBP, as well as Company Commanders of the CAPF contingents who have arrived for election duties in the district, alongside other officers from the District Police.

MK Ajatshatru Singh, Ranvijay flag off JKCA U-19 Women's Team for Nat'l T20 Tournament in Rajkot

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 28

In a momentous event, senior BJP leader and former Minister MK Ajatshatru Singh, along with Rajkumar Ranvijay Singh, today flagged off the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) Under-19 Women's Team for their participation in the Under-19 Women's T20 National Championship being held in Rajkot. While addressing the players, MK Ajatshatru Singh wished the team success and encouraged them to perform with full dedication and sportsmanship. He expressed pride in the talent emerging from Jammu & Kashmir



and emphasized the role of sports in shaping the future of the youth.

Rajkumar Ranvijay Singh also extended his best wishes to the players and highlighted the significance of such national-level tournaments in providing young athletes a platform to showcase

their abilities and gain exposure.

The team's departure marks a significant moment for JKCA, as the Under-19 Women's team continues to rise as a strong contender in the national sports arena. Both leaders expressed confidence in the play-

ers' capabilities and urged them to bring laurels to the Union Territory by excelling in the championship.

The event concluded with a warm send-off to the team, as they embarked on their journey to Rajkot with high hopes and determination.

"Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign being organized over Delhi Division

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPT 29

"Swachhata Hi Seva" Campaign is being organized on the Indian Railways this year from 17th September to 1st October 2024 on the theme of 'SwabhavSwachhata-SanskarSwachhata'.

On the 13th day of the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign Delhi Division of Northern Railway, organized a mega drive for cleaning of base kitchens, Restaurants and Food stalls. Intensive



cleaning was organised at catering units of Divisional Hospital Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat

Nizamuddin, Delhi Kishanganj, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Meerut City, Ghaziabad, Shakur-

basti, Punjabi Bagh, S.P. Marg and Diesel Shed Tughlakabad colonies and railway stations.

‘Mann Ki Baat’..

never forget. Crores of listeners of ‘Mann Ki Baat’ have been our companions in this journey, whose continuous support I have kept receiving. They provided information from every corner of the country,” he added.

The prime minister said the listeners of ‘Mann Ki Baat’ are the real anchors of this show.

“A commonly held belief has become so ingrained that as long as there are no spicy or negative conversations, it does not receive much attention. But ‘Mann Ki Baat’ has proven that how hungry the people of the country are for positive information. People like positive stories, inspiring examples, encouraging stories very much,” Modi said.

This whole process of ‘Mann Ki Baat’ for me is like going to the temple to have a ‘darshan of the almighty,’ he added.

“When I remember each and every thing, each and every incident, each and every letter connected with ‘Mann Ki Baat’, I feel as if I am having a darshan of the Janata Janaardan, the people, who are like the almighty to me,” Modi said.

“I will appreciate all people associated with Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati and All India Radio. On account of their tireless efforts, ‘Mann Ki Baat’ has reached this important milestone. I am also thankful to various TV channels, regional TV channels who have consistently broadcast it,” he added.

The prime minister said this programme can be heard in the country’s 22 languages, besides 12 foreign languages ?? as well.

“Today, at this important juncture, I once again seek your blessings - With a pure heart and complete dedication...May we all continue to celebrate the collective power of the nation in this way. This is my prayer to God, this is my prayer to the people,” he said.

In his broadcast, Modi also highlighted the importance of water conservation.

The prime minister noted that many people are taking new initiatives to conserve water and highlighted the work of a group of women in Uttar Pradesh’s Jhansi.

One terrorist...

DSP and an Assistant Sub-Inspector – were injured in the encounter, he said, adding both the officers are stable.

The whole area is under tight security cordon and an operation is underway to neutralise the three to four foreign terrorists hiding in the area, he said.

He said the presence of terrorists was reported in a house and subsequently an operation was launched which is underway.

Asked about the interception of the terrorist group ahead of the third phase of polls on October 1, the police officer said the operations against terrorists are going on and will continue.

“We are getting continuous information about terrorists and subsequently conducting operations with an endeavour to neutralise them as soon as possible,” he said.

He said adequate security arrangements have been put in place in all poll-bound areas to ensure that there is no terror-related incident and violence-free third phase.

Besides Kathua, the third phase covers Jammu, Udhampur and Samba districts in Jammu region and north Kashmir’s Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts.

India would have...

“I said, my Pakistani friends, why have strained relations, we are neighbours. If we had good relations, we would have given more money than the IMF,” he added.

Singh said the Centre gives money to Jammu and Kashmir for development while Pakistan has been misusing financial aid for a long time.

“It seeks money from other countries to run a terrorism factory on its soil,” he added.

The defence minister said Kashmir will again become a paradise on earth when Vajpayee’s dream of restoring “Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat” in the valley is achieved.

Singh said Pakistan, which has used terrorism as a tool against India, has been isolated at the international forums with some of its trusted allies also stepping back.

“Whenever we have investigated terrorism, we have found Pakistani involvement. Our successive governments have tried to make Pakistan understand that they should stop terror camps but to no avail. Pakistan is frustrated after revocation of Article 370 and is making attempts to revive terror. They do not want democracy to take roots here. (But) India is strong enough that it can take on Pakistan on its soil. If anyone in Pakistan carries out an attack on India, we can crossover and respond,” he added.

True equality and...

to join the ‘Shakti Abhiyan’ and become active participants in women-centric politics. By getting involved, you will contribute to building robust grassroots organisations and driving meaningful change. Join us and register today at <http://haktiabhiyan.in>,” he said.

“Together, we can create change, from the villages to the nation as a whole,” Gandhi added.

The ‘Shakti Abhiyan’, an initiative of the Indian Youth Congress, aims to create an equal space for ‘women’s interests’ in politics and decision-making, driven by the representation ‘of women by women’ at all levels of governance – local bodies, legislative assemblies and Parliament.

The Indra Fellowship is an initiative in honour of former prime minister Indra Gandhi to amplify the voices of women in the political arena and drive a much-needed transformation in our society. (AGENCIES)

Why Jammu can’t decide...

Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis and Omar, Gandhis and Muftis will lose this election,” Chugh said, while adding, “Omar will lose both seats he is contesting from”.

Abdullahs and Muftis used to become CMs with just 6% to 8% polling. “This is the first election when there is no boycott and no violence and people have rejected 3 families,” Chugh said.

He added, “These families, which gave stones and guns in the hands of youth are now shamelessly going to the people to seek votes”. Chugh also said that Cong has surrendered its manifesto, agenda and ideology before the NC.

“Cong is fully behind NC which says that they will release jailed terrorists, stone pelters and bring back Article 370,” Chugh said, while adding, “If Abdullahs take birth ten times more even then Article 370 will not return”.

He said that NC-Cong insulted Maharaj Hari Singh. “Hari Singh was not the Maharaja of Jammu but entire J&K and insult of Maharaja is insult of the entire country,” Chugh said.

Three families are responsible for death, destruction and terrorism in J&K. “We will issue a white paper to fix responsibility for giving justice to terror victims and expose those

who brought terrorism,” Chugh said.

He said that BJP is committed for ending discrimination with Jammu region and promote tourism. A tourism city like Gulmarg and Pahalgam will be developed in Jammu, he said.

“We will make biggest Ayurved center at Kishtwar, big airport at Jammu, bring metro in Jammu, Pharmaceutical hub in Udhampur,” Chugh said, adding, “We gave 10 medical colleges, AIIMS, IIM, IIT to Jammu”.

Jammu is nationalist and has embraced all be it KPs, PoJK refuges or others, he said. We will make J&K tourism capital of the world, Chugh said.

“As long one BJP worker is there, Tiranga will always flutter in Kashmir,” Chugh said, while adding, “bullet will lose and ballot will win”.

I won’t die as long as...

such senseless violence on the nation and its leaders. His swift transition from grief to resolve highlights the Congress party’s determination to address the ongoing security concerns in Jammu and Kashmir.

After completing his address Congress president insisted on going to Ramnagar to address the last election rally where thousands of people were gathered since morning to listen to him.

However, his chopper couldn’t land at Ramnagar where the party has fielded Mool Raj Bhagat as Congress candidate.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Senior vice president and chief spokesperson of the party Ravinder Sharma said that the Congress President Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge was deeply moved as he paid tribute to the brave martyrs of Saturday’s terror attack in Billawar, Jammu and Kashmir.

“His emotions momentarily got the better of him, but he quickly composed himself to strongly reaffirm his party’s unwavering resolve to eliminate terrorism from the region”, Mr. Sharma said and added that on the advice of senior party leaders including AICC incharge J&K Bharatsinh Solanki the Congress President went for a routine check-up at Kathua Hospital.

“After a brief check-up, the Congress president insisted on going to Ramnagar as thousands of people were waiting for him since morning but his chopper could not land there,so it landed in Jammu,& returned to Delhi”, JKPC Chief spokesperson said.

Earlier addressing an impressive rally at Jasrota in support of party candidate Thakur Balbir Singh, Mr. Kharge said “As the President of the Congress party, I reaffirm our unwavering commitment to restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir”.

“We will leave no stone unturned in our fight to ensure that the rights and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are protected”, he asserted.

Cautioning people exploitive policies of BJP, Mr. Kharge said, “For too long, the BJP has exploited and deceived the people of Jammu and Kashmir with false promises. They have reneged on their commitments, leaving the people feeling betrayed and disillusioned. But we will not let their lies and deceit go unchecked.

“The BJP’s track record in Jammu and Kashmir is one of failure and neglect. They have stifled development, ignored the aspirations of the people, and presided over rampant corruption. Their much-vaunted promises of job creation have turned out to be hollow, with a staggering 65% of government posts lying vacant”, he pointed out.

Kashmir celebrating...

papers and accept only one that of the ruling Party candidate, who would be declared elected uncontested. From that era we entered into the era of 8% to 10% with limited participation and room for manoeuvrability to elect the dynasts generation after generation. For the first time, he said, the election seen in Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir valley is the same as seen anywhere else in the country.

The Union Minister emphasised that the people of the region, particularly in Jammu, are eager to bring the BJP back to power, having witnessed equitable development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership.

With the third and last phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls due on October 1, Dr Jitendra Singh discussed the BJP’s transformative agenda for J&K and the party’s vision for the future.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphasised that the people of the region, particularly in Jammu, are eager to bring the BJP back to power, having experienced equitable development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership.

“For years, Jammu alleged discrimination, but in the past ten years, both Jammu and Kashmir have seen equal progress. Prior to 2014, agitations were common, but today, peace and development have taken centre stage,” he said.

Highlighting the development in his own constituency, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out the unprecedented growth in healthcare and infrastructure. “My constituency is perhaps the only one in the country with three centrally funded medical colleges. Airports are being developed, and Kishtwar will soon have one as well. Modi Ji has blessed this region with growth that was long overdue,” he said.

On the issue of water rights, Dr Jitendra Singh credited Prime Minister Modi for completing stalled projects under the Indus Water Treaty, which had left India with a lesser share of water compared to Pakistan. “Modi Ji completed the projects that ensure India’s rightful share of the water from the Ravi River, water that was previously flowing into Pakistan.

Speaking on the BJP’s long-standing commitment to revoking Article 370, Dr Jitendra Singh reiterated that it was a matter of conviction for the party. “It was in the Jan Sangh manifesto. Syama Prasad Mukherjee had a clear vision that until we are in power, we won’t be able to implement our agenda. Vajpayee couldn’t do it due to coalition constraints, but it was destined for Modi Ji to fulfil this promise.”

Dr Jitendra Singh also pointed out how Article 370 had been exploited by certain political leaders in Kashmir for personal gain. “Politicians used Article 370 to keep the people of Kashmir underdeveloped and under their control. For the first time in 50 years, assembly elections will be held for a five-year term. It was these leaders who prevented the implementation of the Panchayati Raj Act, keeping funds in their personal accounts.”

He spoke passionately about the plight of West Pakistan refugees, who were denied basic rights for decades. “These refugees were nationalists, but they weren’t granted citizenship in Jammu and Kashmir. Congress and NC didn’t see them as part of their vote bank, so they ignored their rights. This has changed under Modi Ji, he added.

On the issue of statehood, Dr Jitendra Singh was confident, echoing Modi’s previous statements. “Statehood will be restored. The opposition is simply trying to claim credit for something that is already in the pipeline.

Dr Jitendra Singh concluded by speaking about Jammu and Kashmir’s crucial role in India’s economic future. “Before

2014, India was classified among the ‘fragile five’, but under Modi Ji’s leadership, we are now in the top five. With resources like ‘purple revolution’, lithium ore in Reasi and Neelam or Sapphire ores in Kishtwar, J&K will be pivotal in India’s rise to economic supremacy.”

As the third and final phase of the elections approaches, Dr Jitendra Singh’s words reflect a sense of optimism and confidence in the BJP’s vision for a united and developed Jammu and Kashmir. With promises of restored statehood and continued growth, the stage is set for what could be a defining moment in the region’s political history.

Support Cong for a...

to restoring democracy and secularism in Jammu and Kashmir.

“We will fight tirelessly to ensure that the people’s voices are heard, their rights are protected, and their future is secured”, he said.

Referring to the ongoing elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Pilot urged the people to reject the BJP’s divisive politics and vote for a government that truly represents their interests.

“These elections are a crucial opportunity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to choose between a party that seeks to divide and a party that seeks to unite”, he said.

Mr Pilot’s impassioned appeal resonated with the crowd, as he said, “Let us join hands to build a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir, a future built on democratic values, secularism, and the principles of justice and equality.”.

He criticized the BJP for focusing on polarizing the society instead of addressing key issues.

Former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan warned that the BJP’s policies have been detrimental to the poor and marginalized, saying, “The BJP’s anti-poor agenda has left the state crippled, and now is the time for the people to rise against it”.

Reflecting on the BJP’s track record, he said, “For over a decade, the BJP has made grand promises in Jammu and Kashmir, but has delivered little. Their pledge of creating 5 lakh jobs remains a hollow slogan, while unemployment continues to soar, leaving the people struggling”.

He highlighted the critical issue of unemployment, pointing out that over 70 crore people across the country remain jobless, a figure that reflects the BJP’s failure to address this pressing concern.

He also accused the BJP of serving the interests of big business houses while neglecting the needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt mulls three...

Constitutional amendment bill will require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies as it will deal with matters relating to state affairs.

It will seek to amend constitutional provisions relating to the preparation of electoral rolls by the Election Commission (EC) in consultation with State Election Commissions (SECs) for elections to local bodies.

Constitutionally, the EC and SECs are separate bodies. The EC holds elections to the post of the President, the Vice President, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state assemblies and state legislative councils while the SECs are mandated to conduct polls to local bodies such as municipalities and panchayats.

The proposed second Constitution amendment bill will also create provisions to hold simultaneous elections to municipalities and panchayats, along with elections to Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies by inserting a new Article 324A.

The third bill will be an ordinary one to amend provisions in three laws dealing with Union territories having legislative assemblies – Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir – to align the terms of these Houses with other legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha as proposed in the first constitutional amendment bill.

The statutes it proposes to amend are the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act-1991, the Government of Union Territories Act-1963 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019.

The proposed bill will be an ordinary legislation not requiring a change in the Constitution and will also not need ratification by the states.

The high-level committee had proposed amendments to three Articles, insertion of 12 new sub-clauses in the existing articles and tweaking three laws related to Union Territories having legislative assemblies. The total number of amendments and new insertions stands at 18.

In its report submitted to the Government in March, just before the general election was announced, the panel recommended implementing “one nation, one election” in two phases.

It suggested simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies in the first phase and elections for local bodies like panchayats and municipal bodies within 100 days of the general election in the second phase.

It also recommended a common electoral roll, which would need coordination between the Election Commission and State Election Commissions. (Agencies)

Cong always stands...

Chinese officials behind closed doors during Galwan conflict. He said that the Gandhi family has received crores of rupees from China, which is why they stand with China rather than India.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken revolutionary steps to improve the living standards of the weaker sections of society, and the BJP will form its government in Jammu and Kashmir with a full majority.

While addressing public gatherings in support of party candidate Gharu Ram Bhagat in Suchetgarh, Anurag Thakur said that the Modi government has taken solid steps to strengthen the country’s defense system, including the creation of Rafale and Tejas fighter jets, and implemented the One Rank One Pension policy for soldiers.

He noted that PM Modi celebrates Diwali with the soldiers instead of his family. Thakur accused Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi of accepting crores of rupees from China under the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, which is why they stand with Chinese officials rather than with Indian soldiers.

He added that during Congress rule, thousands of acres of land were given to China, but since Modi’s arrival, not an inch of Indian land has been taken.

Stage set for 3rd...

Presiding Officer will be stationed in every polling station. In total, more than 20,000 Polling staff will be deployed on duty for 3rd phase election.

Voters: Total 39,18,220 lakh voters eligible to exercise their franchise. Out of them, there are 20,09,033 male voters; 19,40,092 female voters and 57 third gender voters. As many

as 1.94 lakh youth between the age 18-19 years, along with 35,860 Person with Disabilities (PwDs) and 32,953 elderly voters above the age of 85 are also eligible to exercise their franchise in this phase.

Mock Poll and actual poll time: The voting will take place from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm and before that there will be mock poll in the polling stations in presence of the polling agents. Also, the voting will continue even after 6.00 pm, if voter’s queue is still there in the Polling Station premises to exercise their right to vote.

Facilities at Polling Station: Every polling station will be provided with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF’s) like drinking water, electricity, toilet, ramp, furniture, veranda/shed besides wheel chairs will also be provided to the needy. The ballot unit will also have a list of contesting candidates in brail script. Where ever required, there will be separate queues for senior citizens and specially-abled persons facilitating them with early polling. Additionally, there will be a voter help desk, manned by the concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO), to extend necessary help whenever required.

Special Polling Stations: There will be 50 polling booths managed by women, known as Pink Polling Stations, 43 polling stations manned by specially abled persons and 40 polling stations manned by youths. Also, there will be 45 green polling stations in order to spread message about environmental concern and 33 Unique Polling stations. 29 polling stations are established near the LOC/ IB for residents residing there. The purpose behind these special polling stations is to spread awareness among sections of society like women, specially abled, first-time young voters to come forward and exercise their right to vote.

Till date more than 1.07 Lacs plants have been planted in the premises of all polling stations.

Distribution of voter information slip: In order to facilitate voters in identification and also to increase voter turnout ratios, all voters have been provided with voter information slips. It is a simple black and white printed piece of paper with information like Polling Station name, date & time of poll, serial number of voter in the list, his full name, QR code but NOT the photograph of the voter. Hence, Voter Information Slips will not be allowed as proof of the identity of voters. Proof of identity will be any documents out of 12 documents, including EPIC. The BLO concerned has distributed 100% voter information slips. The citizens can also view details of the Polling Station, Parliamentary Constituency, and get the contact details of the Booth Level Officer, Electoral Registration Officer among other services, through Voter Helpline App (VHA), available on the Google Play store and Apple App Store.

Electoral Photo Identification Card (EPIC) card of all those voters who have enrolled as fresh voters or has changed their particulars through form no 8, during recently held Special Summary Roll (SSR) in the month of July- August, have been dispatched by speed post. Without waiting for receipt of these EPIC cards, they can come to polling stations with any one out of 12 IDs, the ECI has allowed for as alternate document for voter identification at Assembly Election.

Documents which can be used for voter’s identification: In addition to Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), the following 12 types of documents will also be allowed to verify a voter and aid him in voting. It is pertinent to mention here that EPIC card is NOT mandatory for voting. If some voter has misplaced his/her EPIC card, any of the following documents can be used by him at the Polling Station and after verification. These documents are as follow:

- Aadhaar Card
- MGNREGA Job Card
- Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office
- Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of the Ministry of Labour
- Driving License
- PAN Card
- Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR
- Indian Passport
- Pension document with photograph
- Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt/PSUs/Public Limited Companies
- Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs
- Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, issued by M/o Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India

SVEEP: With the aim of spreading awareness among the voters, Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) emerges as a comprehensive programme aimed at reinforcing voter education and promoting active participation in democratic process. The need for SVEEP arises from the Election Commission of India’s unwavering commitment to ensuring the participation of every voter in this monumental celebration of democracy. During the last few months, through various modes, SVEEP activities were undertaken in every nook and corner. Various activities like appeal messages in print, electronic and social media, through hoardings, banners, radio jingles etc were carried out. Street plays, use of social media influencers and icons, adventure and indigenous sport activities, along with plantation drives, painting and debate competitions were also done. Because of all these, the voter turnout is expected to be higher than the last Assembly elections.

Similarly, to ensure accessible and inclusive elections, Home Voting has been held for Persons with Disability with more than 40% benchmark disability as well as for elderly electors above the age of 85 years, for all those who had applied for the same.

Media Pass for Facilitation of poll coverage: More than 1600 journalists and cameramen of print, electronic and social media platforms have been provided with requisite pass to cover the polling process. Without compromising secrecy of vote and causing any inconvenience to the democratic exercise, they can cover the polling. Detailed instructions have been given to the journalists on the pass.

Voter turnout app and reporting of poll percentage: The Voter Turnout App will be used to display estimated provisional voter turnout details of each Assembly Constituency entered by the RO. The media can also use the same application to capture estimated voter turnout data. Approximate voter turnout data of each phase of the elections will be displayed through this app. There will be two hourly reporting of voting percentage from 9.00 am to the end of poll. The concerned ARO and RO will share the data with media accordingly. The updated figures shall also be placed in voter turnout app. These figures are always subject to, normally upward correction as the final confirmed figures are collected after receiving the statutory forms from all Polling Stations. So, till these final figures are known, figures on Voter Turnout App are to be always tentative.

Use of technology -webcasting of Polling station and GPS for vehicle: All 100% Polling stations, (5060) in 40 Assembly Constituencies will have CCTV type cameras for live webcasting to control rooms established at District and CEO office. Cameras will be positioned in such a way so that they don’t violate the secrecy of vote.

BJP making fun of innocent people of Jammu: Rajesh Gupta

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Contesting Candidate for Jammu East constituency Rajesh Gupta lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stating that the party "doesn't know how to do politics without lying or cheating." BJP had done nothing for the past 10 years for Jammu. Gupta said while addressing the gatherings during door-to-door campaign in Bhagwati Nagar, Kuppar Bajalata and Sidhra areas in Jammu East constituency.

"As usual, the BJP is resorting to lies. They are desperate to silence me because they cannot stand the truth. But I will always speak up for the values that define Jammu: our unity in diversity, equality, and love," Gupta added.



Gupta said PM Narendra Modi's Jammu visit was a full of false promises and lollypops. Gupta termed Modi as habitual 'Jhumla maker' don't take him seriously. PM Modi and his party BJP making fun of innocent people of Jammu.

"For too long, the BJP has taken our people for granted, making false promises and backstabbing us at every turn.

They downgraded our prestigious Dogra State to a Union Territory,

Gupta claimed that all sections of society were suffering under BJP rule as promises made to them have turned out to be hollow. Launching attack on BJP Government, the BSP leader alleged that the BJP government has left no stone unturned to destroy democratic institutions. Lashing out

at BJP, Gupta said BJP has become mute spectator on the issue of discrimination with Jammu.

He said that the general public including traders, businessmen, farmers, unemployed, families of the martyrs, border residents besides daily wagers, casual workers, contractual lecturers, etc were bearing the brunt of discrimination in all spheres.

Appeal to all J&K voters, cast their vote for BJP candidates: Randhawa

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

People in Jammu and Kashmir are looking forward to a government free of "corruption, terrorism, and separatism" for peace and a better future for their children, BJP senior leader MLA Candidate for Bahu Constituency Vikram Randhawa said today. Addressing the public meeting in Sanjay Nagar and its adjoining areas Randhawa said this assembly election has given a historic opportunity to the people of Jammu to decide the next government. They need to seize this moment and choose the BJP, Randhawa said. "There has been a massive voter turnout in the first two phases of the election. He appeals to all J&K voters to cast their vote for BJP candidates. It is certain that the BJP is going to form its first government with an absolute majority in Jammu and Kashmir," he said. Randhawa also noted that Modi scored high ratings even during an international crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic when other world leaders suffered in popular support. Vikram Randhawa, a dedicated BJP leader, has proudly shared his experiences of serving the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. "I consider it a great honor to have served the public during such challenging times," Randhawa stated. By risking his own life, he distributed essential items like food, masks, and sanitizers to those in need. Praising the Narendra Modi-led government's initiatives in front of the general public, BJP leader Vikram Randhawa highlighted significant progress made over the past decade in improving access to essential amenities, citing a series of statistics. He asserted that under the leadership of Modi ji, in 10 years of good governance, the central government has worked for the welfare of more than 60 crore poor people in the country. In these 10 years, PM Modi worked to provide tap water to 70 crore poor people in the country; drinking water has reached several houses in J&K for the first time after 75 years of its independence. He further highlighted the initiatives taken by the government to bolster national security and deliver social justice, besides the economic achievements of its tenure, and PM Modi has completed all impossible-looking tasks and is looking forward to future endeavors.

GDC Doda organizes Series of Events under Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations

JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, SEPT 29

Under the overall guidance of Prof. (Dr) Javid Iqbal the principal of the institution, GDC Doda hosted a series of district level inter college events. The programme was organised as a part of a week long celebrations in order to commemorate and honour the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary which would be observed on 2nd October.

A group of students selected at intra-college level competitions from GDC Bhaderwah, GDC Kastigarh and GDC Doda participated in seminar, slogan writing, bhajan singing, reel making and essay writing competition. The events marked the commitment of GDC Doda which has been designated as the lead college to articulate and disseminate Gandhi's vision for sustainable development.



The events which were organised by the debate and cultural committee in collaboration with the NSS unit reinforced the commitment of the department of higher education in fostering critical thinking, effective communication and social consciousness among the students. Dr Tanveer Hussain, Ms

Falak, Mr Naz Zargar, Mr Satish Kumar, Dr Sandeep Kotwal, Mr Anoj Kumar, Dr Barkat Ali and Ms Upma Kumari managed the whole programme.

Towards the end, a prize distribution ceremony was organised in which the toppers from each category were awarded with mementoes by the principal of the college.

Indian Army interacts with Gujjars, Bakkarwals, holds Medical Camp at Dera Ki Gali, Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, SEPT 29

Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens, Indian Army conducted an interaction cum Awareness Camp for Gujjars and Bakkarwals along with Medical Camp at Dera ki Gali (DKG). The aim of the camp was to interact with & educate Gujjars & Bakkarwals on Forest Right Act (FRA), Dera Migration procedures and to facilitate mitigation of any hardship being faced by them. Interaction also assisted in developing a deep understanding of each other's customs and beliefs, leading to a harmonious coexistence. Pamphlets prepared for spreading aware-

ness related to FRA were also distributed. Refreshments were also offered to the invitees. A free Medical and Veterinary Camp was also organized to help the local populace in leading a normal and healthy life, which is otherwise challenging considering the terrain and weather conditions. Free health check-up & medicines were provided to the patients by special civil & military doctor. Requisite consultation, vaccination and medicines were provided by Medical Staff for the people to help the invitees avail medical treatment benefits. Requisite consultation, vaccination and medicines were provided for a total strength of 140 including (70 Males, 48 Females and

22 Children) from nearby areas of DKG, who availed medical treatment benefits. During this event, food items were also distributed amongst children and locals. This gesture and effort by Indian Army was highly appreciated by locals. This endeavour by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between security forces & local population. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between Indian Army and the people of this region. It showcased Indian Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

NYK Doda engages dozens of youth in Swachhta Hi Seva at JNV Arnora

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

Nehru Yuva Kendra Doda, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India organized mass cleanliness drive at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Arnora to propagate the message of Gandhi Ji on the importance of Cleanliness & Sanitation. The campaign routed on the theme "Swabhav Swachhta, Sanskaar Swachhta" aimed at eradicating plastic waste and cleanliness in and around the school premises. During the campaign, scores of MY Bharat volunteers including that of NYKS and NSS took the



pledge on Swachhta and committed to maintaining cleanliness in their daily lives. Principal of the school Sh. Kheem Chand lead the cleanliness drive accompanied by members of several youth clubs.

District Youth Officer Khushal Gupta urged public from all strata of society to come forward and participate in Swachhta Hi Seva programmes in their respective villages to make India a clean and

green nation. He specifically mentioned that My Bharat volunteers across the nation are undertaking massive cleanliness drives in a mission mode during the period 17th September to 02nd October. During this period, millions of KGs of plastic waste will be collected and disposed properly so as to eliminate plastic pollution. During the event, Jugnu Bhagat along with Romesh Kumar from NYKS requested the youth to get registered on MY Bharat portal and participate in nation building activities. The event ended with the eradication of more than 150 Kgs of plastic waste.

Hundreds of activities under Swachh Bharat Mission with theme Swabhav Swachhata- Sanskar Swachhata organized across UTs of J&K-Ladakh

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

NYKS- J&K under the aegis of MY Bharat Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India organized various programs in the twin UTs of J&K and Ladakh. The National event was launched in all the districts of the UTs of J&K and Ladakh. A Painting Competition focused on reducing plastic use and recycling waste has been held at Govt Girls Hr Secondary School, Srinagar in which more than 30 students took part. A rally was taken out by the Youth Clubs members at Rajbagh Srinagar under the Supervision of Sh Gulzar Ahmed Ganai, APA, NYK Srinagar. In Budgam District Cleanliness derive



was conducted in collaboration with Nilnag Govt High School, and Sheerin Youth Club.

Various programs were organized in Jammu Division. In Poonch district, Door to Door campaign has been pasted on wall and cleanliness derive held by Ravinder Kour, social activist and president of

Waseem Ahmed and Mr Gulnaz Ahmed Ex NYVs. In Ramban District, Swachhata programme has been conducted by NYK Doda at post office Banihal. In Samba district Poster related to Swachh Bharat has been pasted on wall and cleanliness derive held by Ravinder Kour, social activist and president of

Rapiyal Mahila Mandal. In Ladakh UT, NYK Leh organized group discussions and painting competitions at Army Good will School Turtuk Block with the support of the Mahila Mandal. Cleanliness derives held in all districts of both UTs and More than 12 lakh Kg waste were disposed off.

Preventing disease through human resolve: Dr. Sushil's inspiring World Heart Day message

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 29

Continuing its mission to raise awareness about the looming cardiovascular crisis, the Department of Cardiology at Super Speciality Hospital Jammu, under the visionary leadership of Dr. Sushil Sharma, Head of the Department, Department of Cardiology, SSH organized a day-long walkathon in celebration of World Heart Day. The event focused on this year's theme, "Use Heart for Action," reminding individuals, governments, and health organizations to take proactive measures in preventing heart-related conditions, which remain the world's leading cause of death. The day served as an opportunity to spread awareness about cardiovascular diseases and encourage preventative action, ultimately helping people around the globe lead healthier and more fulfilling lives. Read on as we delve into this year's theme and the history and significance behind this important day.

The walkathon commenced at Bikram Chowk and concluded at Super Speciality Hospital, Jammu, with enthusiastic participation from people from all walks of life. Dr. Sushil Sharma, alongside eminent cardiologists, highlighted the importance of heart health, stating, "A healthy heart is the gateway to a healthy life." Dr Sushil emphasized the alarming reality that millions of people die from heart diseases every year.



"To combat this, World Heart Day is celebrated annually on September 29th to raise awareness and encourage preventative measures", he said while putting light on the importance of this day. Dr Sushil expressed his admiration for the resolve of the people of Jammu, as evidenced by the large turnout at the walkathon and the enthusiastic participation from various sections of society. The event aimed to address the growing trend of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), which claim 20.5 million lives annually, accounting for 33% of global deaths. Dr. Sushil stressed the need for lifestyle changes to prevent heart-related problems. "Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, dietary preferences, and engaging in physical activity are crucial for heart health," he suggested.

Dr. Sushil highlighted the significance of human resolve in preventing diseases. "Nothing is more powerful than human resolve to prevent any disease," he noted, praising the participants for reaffirming their commitment to heart health. Dr Sushil pointed out that heart attacks and strokes

are the primary manifestations of these diseases, which are often triggered by tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, and excessive alcohol consumption. This year's theme, "Use Heart for Action," encourages individuals to prioritize heart health and urged leaders to take cardiovascular health more seriously. The theme offers a global platform for meaningful action, highlighting the importance of deliberate and impactful efforts. It marks a shift from simply raising awareness to empowering people with clear goals and a sense of purpose. "Action" also encompasses the dual approach of influencing policies and advocating for behavior change and physical activity, underscoring the need for sustained collaboration and commitment. On this occasion, the city of Jammu came together to emphasize the importance of heart health and encourage preventive measures against cardiovascular diseases.

He emphasized the need for awareness among all sections of society to prevent heart disease. "Collective factors like abnormal lipids, smok-

ing, hypertension, diabetes, abdominal obesity, psycho-social variables, and alcohol consumption require early intervention. Dr. Mohan Lal (Former HOD Cardiology GMCH Jammu), Dr. Gurjit Singh (Former HOD CVTS GMCH Jammu) and Dr. Nasir Ali Choudhary provided valuable insights on maintaining heart health and preventing complications in patients with cardiovascular disease.

Speaking on the occasion, Director ACB Shakti Pathak called for coordination among all sections of society to create awareness about heart diseases. "Regular exercise is essential for overall health and well-being," he emphasized. He appreciated the Walkathon, stating that such events are crucial for creating awareness among people.

Eminent figures, including President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) Arun Gupta, Koushal Sharma (SSP), Sunil Sharma, Former - chairperson Poonch Municipal Council, Dr Rajinder Singh (Former Principal GMCH Jammu) Dr Rehana Superintendent SSH, Dr Sanjogita Sudan Deputy Superintendent SSH, Dr Rajinder Singh (Orthopaedics), Dr Narinder Singh (Paed Surgeon) Dr I. A Mir (Former HOD CVTS SSH Jammu), Jyoti Rokri (AAO), faculty members, Students and staff members of GMCH Jammu attended the event. Dr Arvind Kohli (Vascular Surgeon) conducted the proceedings of the event.

EDITORIAL

Historic turning point in J&K politics

The final phase of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir is poised to mark a watershed moment in the region's political landscape. For the first time, marginalized communities such as West Pakistan refugees, Valmikis, and Gurkhas will participate in the electoral process, finally gaining a voice in a system that has long excluded them. This development is not just a matter of political inclusion; it represents a significant step toward rectifying historical injustices faced by these groups. For decades, individuals like Labha Ram Gandhi, president of the West Pak Refugees Action Committee of 1947, and members of the Valmiki community have felt the sting of disenfranchisement. 'We were not considered citizens of Jammu and Kashmir,' Gandhi lamented, reflecting the sentiments of many who have lived in limbo, denied their fundamental rights. The revocation of Article 370 in August 2019 was a turning point, allowing these communities to finally receive domicile certificates and the right to vote in assembly elections. The enthusiasm among these groups is palpable. Gandhi's declaration that they will celebrate their first opportunity to vote with drums and sweets captures the deep emotional significance of this moment. For the West Pakistan refugees, who number around 23,000 families, this election symbolizes the culmination of a seven-decade-long struggle for recognition and equal rights. Gharu Bhatti, a leader from the Valmiki community, echoed this sentiment, noting the unprecedented attention candidates from various parties have given to their neighborhoods. For many, the presence of political representatives is a powerful reminder that they are no longer invisible in the eyes of the political elite. The Valmiki community, which numbers between 8,000 and 10,000, is ready to cast their votes, primarily in favor of the BJP, which they credit for ending decades of discrimination. This newfound political engagement is not merely a numerical shift; it has the potential to reshape the political narrative in Jammu and Kashmir. Historically, Kashmir-centric parties like the National Conference and PDP have dominated the political discourse, often overlooking the needs and aspirations of marginalized communities. The voices of West Pakistan refugees and Valmikis, previously relegated to the sidelines, are now poised to influence the outcome of elections in ways that could challenge the status quo. However, while the excitement surrounding these elections is encouraging, it is essential for the new voters to remain vigilant. Political parties must be held accountable for their promises, and the newly enfranchised communities should ensure that their participation translates into tangible improvements in their social and economic conditions. Moreover, the attention now directed toward these groups highlights the importance of inclusivity in democracy. The ability to vote is a fundamental right, yet it carries with it the responsibility of participation in governance. As these communities step into the electoral arena, they must also engage with the broader issues facing Jammu and Kashmir, advocating for their rights and working to address the challenges that persist. The inclusion of marginalized communities in electoral exercise is a historic milestone that not only empowers these groups but also enriches the democratic fabric of the region. As Labha Ram Gandhi and Gharu Bhatti prepare to cast their votes, they do so with the hope that this moment will pave the way for a more equitable and representative political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a chance for all citizens to shape the future of their state—together.

Sri Lanka's new leaders of 'change' face daunting challenges ahead

N SATHIYA MOORTHY

The election of centre-left Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) candidate Anura Kumara Disanayake as the President of Sri Lanka is historic and unique. It is historic because it marks the first time the nation has trusted a party and leader with minimal politico-administrative experience and limited electoral reach to take on the challenging task of governance, even during more stable times. This is even more significant in these days of halting economic recovery following the multiple crises that rocked the nation and its consciousness two years ago.

It is also unique because, for the first time, the nation has elected a President with less than 50 per cent of the vote share, which had otherwise been the norm and precedent. While the law provides for what is euphemistically called second and third preference votes in case no candidate crosses the halfway mark, this mechanism had never been tested in the past. The lack of awareness meant that the outcome of the process was too insignificant to influence the final result in any meaningful way.

As the final results showed, Disanayake garnered less than 43 per cent of the vote share, while his two immediate runners-up together surpassed the 50 per cent threshold, albeit marginally. Already, there

is talk of first runner-up Sajith Premadasa's Samagi Balawegaya (SJB) and the second runner-up and outgoing President Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) forming an alliance for the parliamentary elections, which the new President has scheduled for 14 November. The fact that the SJB is the more popular breakaway faction of the UNP, the nation's Grand Old Party (GoP), makes a possible reunification, in some form, feasible—especially now that Wickremesinghe has retired from electoral politics. This could pose a significant challenge for the JVP-NPP coalition in the parliamentary elections.

Disanayake was one of only three MPs representing the JVP-led National People's Power (NPP) in the 225-member House. Encouraging and practising floor-crossing has long been a preoccupation of Sri Lankan parliamentarians. However, there is no way the new rulers could facilitate defections, as doing so would be contrary to the very principles of incorruptible political and administrative practices they have long championed while being a small part of a divided and alternating opposition.

This natural, and at times consciously cultivated, image of the JVP—more recently in alliance with the NPP—centres on 'principled politics'. This may have helped the party distance itself from its earlier image as a violent insurgent

group since its inception in the mid-1960s. However, the fact that JVP founder Rohana Wijeweera reverted to insurgent methods after briefly participating in mainstream democratic politics and contesting the 1982 presidential election made the party's post-insurgency mainstreaming efforts seem fragile, if not reversible. Their constant demand for a 'systems change' without clearly defining it did not help either.

Of, by and for 'change' The current government claims to be a government of, by and for 'change', as the JVP-NPP's slogan for the presidential election proclaimed. Ironically, this could remain true if they fail to secure a parliamentary majority. In such a case, it would result in a 'cohabitation government,' a model with which the nation has had limited success.

For instance, in 2004, President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga dismissed the government of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and dissolved Parliament two years before elections were due. The law now allows such a dissolution only six months before the expiry of Parliament's five-year term, compared to the previous four years.

Unacknowledged by them and unchallenged by the divided and dispirited opposition, which has already turned its focus to the parliamentary elections, Disanayake's maiden Prime Minister, Harini Amarasuriya

— only the third woman to hold this office after Sirimavo Bandaranaike — now holds the dubious distinction of being sworn in when all stakeholders knew she would not (have to) face Parliament even once. If the JVP were in opposition, they would have decried this as a constitutional violation, staged street protests and moved the Supreme Court on the matter.

As President, Disanayake has otherwise made a relatively strong start. Contrary to expectations, he has retained experienced bureaucrats in senior positions, acknowledging that his government is not yet wholly popular. His ministers, even if the alliance wins a parliamentary majority, would still need time and experience to adjust to their new roles. Among the undisturbed ministerial secretaries are those in the crucial ministries of finance and foreign affairs.

Blind men and the elephant

The stock market has shown faith in the new leadership. Unlike in 2005, when the JVP was part of a victorious presidential coalition, the market did not react negatively this time.

The new President has held detailed discussions with the Central Bank governor and his team, opting not to reshuffle them. After all, the government will need to negotiate more favourable terms with the IMF on the bailout package arranged by the outgoing administration.

This issue took on electoral significance, with the JVP-NPP leadership making firm promises to secure price and tariff reductions through such negotiations. For now, the IMF, World Bank, ADB, and other institutions have all pledged to work with the new government — whether or not the hard negotiations begin now, as Disanayake has promised, or must wait until after the parliamentary elections.

For the new leadership to survive — starting with the parliamentary elections — they must maintain the support of their traditional constituencies: farm labourers, trade unions and student unions. Added to this is the recent inclusion of the urban middle class, traditionally adversarial, but which has swung to the JVP this time. This complex web of expectations from various groups is akin to the story of the 'Blind Men and the Elephant.'

For now, the JVP-sympathetic schoolteachers' union has called on the new government to address their long-pending demands for pay rationalisation, among others. Additionally, there is the previous government's commitment to increase government employees' salaries by LKR 25,000 per month, alongside the new government's promise to raise farm subsidies by LKR 25,000, all of which the Disanayake government's budget for fiscal 2025, commencing 1 January, will need to accommodate.

Easier said than done Both President Disanayake and Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath have stated that Sri Lanka will maintain friendships with both India and China. Given the nation's geostrategic and geopolitical realities, such a balancing act is easier said than done. India's High Commissioner Santosh Jha was the first foreign dignitary to call on the President-elect and the new Prime Minister and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first world leader to congratulate the new government.

Barring a few stray and unsubstantiated social media posts, there have been no serious complaints about New Delhi interfering in the presidential election. This non-interventionist approach has long been India's policy, regardless of who is in power.

Nevertheless, India, as always, will continue to support the people of Sri Lanka, as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reiterated during the height of the economic crisis and mass Aragalaya protests two years ago. This commitment may soon be tested, given the expected Indian position at the upcoming UNHRC vote on a renewed/revised US-led resolution on a war crimes probe, just as the new government finds itself unprepared to address the situation or even establish contacts.

(The writer is a Chennai-based policy analyst and political commentator.)

Lung health: India's emerging concern

GOPICHAND KATRAGADDA

In India, discussions about health risks for the ageing population have long been dominated by heart disease concerns. Cardiovascular ailments have traditionally been viewed as the primary threat to our elderly. However, during a recent dinner conversation, Dr Sharan Patil of Sparsh Hospitals remarked, "The health issue with ageing is increasingly that of the lung, maybe even more than the heart." This simple yet profound statement underscores a growing realisation within the medical community: when considering mortality and quality of life, respiratory health — exacerbated by pollution, lifestyle, and environmental factors — is emerging as one of India's most pressing health challenges, especially among the elderly.

Respiratory distress, marked by difficulty in

breathing, is becoming more prevalent in India due to conditions like asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), pneumonia, and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). Symptoms such as wheezing, cyanosis (bluish skin due to lack of oxygen), and rapid breathing, often require urgent medical attention. Even heart failure can lead to fluid build-up in the lungs, known as pulmonary oedema, exacerbating respiratory difficulties.

The severity of respiratory distress cannot be overstated. Recently, I had the opportunity to learn about applied research by a start-up in the US focusing on providing molecular oxygen (oxygen therapy) for those experiencing respiratory distress. This start-up aimed to offer alternatives to ventilators — a need that was starkly highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic. Such innovations empha-

size the critical importance of addressing lung health proactively. Healthcare start-ups in India could similarly find opportunities to innovate in lung health solutions. Lung diseases such as COPD and asthma are increasingly affecting India's ageing population.

According to the Global Burden of Disease report, COPD is the second leading cause of death in the country, with over 55 million people affected. Urban pollution exacerbates this issue, particularly in heavily polluted cities, leading to a marked rise in respiratory distress cases. India is home to 21 of the world's 30 most-polluted cities, exposing millions to chronic air pollution that directly impacts lung health. Limited access to quality respiratory healthcare services can also lead to higher morbidity and mortality from lung diseases compared to heart diseases, which might have

more established care protocols.

To tackle the rising tide of lung disease, India must adopt a multi-pronged approach involving all sectors of society:

1. Government Policies: Stricter air quality regulations and promoting cleaner energy sources are essential. Public health campaigns focused on the risks of respiratory diseases and the importance of early intervention should be prioritised. Expanding access to healthcare services in rural and urban areas, particularly lung health diagnostics and treatment, is vital.

2. Healthcare Providers: Specialised lung care centres can provide focused asthma, COPD, and lung cancer treatment. Telemedicine and remote monitoring can help manage chronic conditions, providing care for those in under-resourced or remote areas.

3. Industries and Employers: Reducing industrial emissions and promoting workplace health initiatives can help mitigate the impact of pollution on lung health. Adopting cleaner technologies and ensuring compliance with environmental standards are necessary to reduce the strain on public health.

4. Start-ups and Innovation: Indian healthcare start-ups can explore innovative approaches to respiratory care. The challenges exposed during the Covid-19 pandemic highlight the need for accessible and effective treatments for respiratory distress.

5. Lifestyle Changes: Age-appropriate physical exercise, including walking, swimming, tai chi, and yoga, can significantly improve lung health. Coupled with proper nutrition and diet, these practices strengthen the respiratory system and enhance overall

well-being. Community programmes and senior centres can offer classes and workshops tailored to the elderly, promoting healthy lifestyles and social engagement.

As Dr Sharan Patil pointed out, the lung is now more of a concern than the heart with the aged in India. With rising cases of respiratory diseases worsened by pollution and lifestyle changes, India must focus on strengthening lung health initiatives. By adopting a comprehensive approach that includes government policies, healthcare improvements, technological innovation, and lifestyle changes such as yoga, we can protect and enhance lung health for millions, ensuring healthier, longer lives for India's ageing population.

It's time to breathe new life into our healthcare strategies and give our lungs the attention they deserve in an increasingly polluted world.

One Nation, One Election: Why this kolaveri?

PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

Hypothetically, imagine a certain political situation in 2029 where:

India's Prime Minister is from the Congress party (INC); Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister is from the Samajwadi Party (SP); Maharashtra's CM is from the Shiv Sena (UBT); Bengal's CM is from Trinamool Congress (TMC); Bihar's CM is from Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD); Tamil Nadu's CM is from the DMK; Madhya Pradesh's CM is from the BJP; Karnataka's CM is from the Congress; Gujarat's CM is from the BJP; Rajasthan's CM is from the Congress; Andhra Pradesh's CM is from the TDP; Odisha's CM is from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD); Kerala's CM is from Communist Party (CPM); Telangana's CM is from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS, now Bharat Rashtra Samithi); Assam's CM is from Asom Gana Parishad (AGP); Jharkhand's CM is from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM); Punjab's CM is from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

While this is purely hypothetical and for discussion purposes only, such a situation is not entirely unfathomable. Such a political situation is very plausible and in the realm of possibilities. It then means that 16 of the largest states of India can potentially be governed by Chief Ministers from 14 different political parties, with a Prime Minister at the Centre from a different party. These 16 states represent 90 per cent of the population of India, account for 80 per cent of India's GDP, and 90 per cent of all seats in Parliament.

Let that sink in — nearly 90 per cent of population and economy can be governed by political parties that have very little in common with each other. Regional parties that govern 12 of these states are state-specific parties and are not bothered by, or tied to, the politics of another state.

This is unheard of in any other democracy in the world. India is the only federal democracy where its federalism is worn on its political sleeves

and not just administrative. This is so astoundingly unique to India that it boggles the mind of most foreigners who do not quite grasp the political diversity of this country. But now, it seems even Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling BJP are not able to come to terms with the reality of India's political federalism.

The 'one nation one election' (ONOE) bogey mooted yet again by the Modi government belies their fundamental comprehension of India's diversity and federal structure. The reasons for the proposal are fallacious and shallow. ONOE is an answer searching for a question.

The government argues that India is in a 'permanent campaign' where India has had either a state or a national election every year for the last 37 years. Apparently, this is a drain on the financial exchequer and wastes resources, efforts and time of the government and political parties. The argument proposed is that an election held constantly in

some part of the country with a 'model code of conduct' distracts from governance and leads to policy paralysis.

This is a foolish argument. An election in one of India's states is not an election for the country as a whole. This whole idea conflates states and the Centre. There is a fundamental difference between the two. In our hypothetical situation of 2029 as presented above, why should Bengal governed by TMC be impacted if there are elections in, say, Tamil Nadu ruled by DMK, or in Punjab ruled by the AAP? There is no reason why governance in the country should be impacted when there are elections in some states. This whole argument that governance stalls because of continuous elections is an outrageous false bogey.

The national parties with a Delhi high command culture such as the Congress and the BJP are the only ones that may feel the pressure of constant elections because municipal or state elections held in any part

of the country involve their national leadership.

But that is neither India's problem, nor the states'. It is uniquely a problem for the 'national' parties if they feel distracted by state elections because they have a centralised structure where a few leaders are the campaigners-in-chief for the whole country. A TMC in Bengal or a TDP in Andhra Pradesh are not going to campaign or feel distracted from governance for an election in Rajasthan or Assam. So, why is the current model of each state having its own election schedule even a problem in the first place?

The problem of one or two 'national' parties is not the problem of the nation. If Modi or Rahul Gandhi feel compelled to campaign in every state across the country for state elections, that is the prerogative of the BJP or the Congress. That does not mean 'governance' is getting impacted because they choose to campaign for their party in every state. A Mamata Banerjee

or a Chandrababu Naidu or any other regional leader doesn't feel the need to campaign in elections beyond their states. The very foundational premise for ONOE is flawed because it confuses the problems of 'national' political parties as national problems of the country. Cost savings is the other bogey cited for ONOE. Various estimates by the Election Commission and NITI Aayog show that ONOE may at most save Rs 5 per voter per year. It is laughable to suggest that India's federal structure needs to be destroyed, and the Constitution amended to save this through ONOE. We can save that money, and much more, if all political parties agree to not indulge in competitive populism rather than breaking their heads to hold all elections together.

ONOE is a classic case of "for the BJP with a hammer of centralisation, everything looks like a 'one nation' nail". It is a ridiculously foolish distraction that the country can do without.

Swachh Bharat Mission: Success story of Urban Health Centre in Kalaburagi, bags Kayakalp Award 6 times

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

As the nation celebrates the fortnight-long Swachhata Hi Seva 2024, starting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 74th birthday on September 17, many success stories of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) are coming to the fore.

SBM, also known as Clean India Mission, started off on October 2, 2014, and in the past ten years, it has brought transformational changes in the lives of people and society.

Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) of Shivaji Nagar in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district is one such medical facility which has bagged the Kayakalp Award for the sixth consecutive term.

This year also, it has been selected for the top honours and is looking forward to an award under



the Swachh Bharat Mission's 'Best Urban Health Centre' category.

It is the only centre selected in Kalyan for the Kayakalp award, in recognition of its high-quality service in promoting hospital cleanliness, hygiene and infection control.

The hospital staff and health professionals are confident of getting the Kayakalp award this time too.

Speaking to IANS, Dr. Sandhya Rani Pauranik of Urban Primary Health Centre in Kalaburagi district explained the concept of the Kayakalp Award and also took pride in getting the honours, every year since 2017.

"We got awarded for the sixth consecutive time since 2017 in the Gulbarga division. The Kayakalp Award is a recognition which envisages hospitals

to stay clean and tidy all the time," she said.

'No patient should carry disease outside' remains one of the major focuses of Kayakalp's mission, she explained.

She further said that the award recipient gets a sum of Rs 2 lakh yearly and the hospital premises are also inspected by a team of doctors on a yearly basis.

Mehmood Sen, who works as health inspector at the UPHC said that the facilities are better and easily reachable, to people.

"A clean and tidy atmosphere at the hospital is an added benefit for patients," he said.

Nafisa Begum, who got transferred to Kalaburagi UPHC after 11 years of work at some village centre, said that this is a much better facility compared to one where she worked earlier.

"Cleanliness and sanitation are a big priority.

Patients also feel better in hygienic conditions. I want to convey to Modi government that we will match steps with the government in pursuing this dream," she told IANS.

The Kayakalp Award is an award given to public health facilities in India that demonstrate high levels of cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control. The award is given by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The award is given to two best district hospitals in each state, best two community health centres or sub district hospitals and one primary health centre in every district.

The parameters which decide a hospital's qualification for the award include hospital or facility upkeep, waste management, infection control and more.

Heart attacks, strokes account for 3.9 mn deaths annually in South-East Asia: WHO

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 28

Heart attacks and strokes are a global health challenge, accounting for 3.9 million deaths annually, in the South-East Asia Region, including India, said the World Health Organization on Saturday, ahead of World Heart Day.

World Heart Day is observed every year on September 29 to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVD), accelerating actions to prevent, detect early, and manage heart health. The theme this year is 'Use Heart for Action'.

"Cardiovascular diseases remain a significant global health challenge responsible for over 18 million deaths each year," said Saima Wazed, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia. "The burden is particularly heavy in the WHO South-East Asia Region, where CVDs account for 3.9 million deaths annually, pri-



marily due to heart attacks and strokes. This represents 30 per cent of all deaths in the region, with nearly half of these occurring prematurely, before the age of 70 years," she added. The heart plays a crucial role in pumping blood throughout the body, delivering oxygen and nutrients to tissues while removing carbon dioxide and waste. When its function is compromised, the body's performance declines, leading to serious conditions such as heart attacks, strokes, and heart failure. Wazed attributed the high burden

of CVDs to "modifiable lifestyle practices such as tobacco use, unhealthy diets, particularly those high in salt, physical inactivity, and alcohol consumption". In addition, drug treatment of hypertension, diabetes, and high lipids are necessary to reduce acute events of CVDs, she said. Further, in the South-East Asia Region, "one in four adults has raised blood pressure, and one in 10 has diabetes. Alarmingly, less than 15 per cent of people living with hypertension and diabetes are on effective treatment," Wazed said.

Telangana will strengthen healthcare system for women: CM Revanth Reddy

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, SEP 29

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Sunday that his government will strengthen the healthcare system for women.

He made the assurance after participating in the Pink Power Run 2024 organised by the Sudha Reddy Foundation and MEIL Foundation at Gachibowli Stadium to raise breast cancer awareness.

The Telangana government is committed to women's healthcare and would build more hospitals and strengthen the healthcare system for women, he said in his remarks on the occasion.

"We strongly believe that women's health is the foundation of the prosperity of family and the community. The measures taken by the organisation will help women to over-



come challenges in the future. Let us all take this programme forward," he said.

He appealed to all to work together to build a healthier and empowered future for Telangana women.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister felicitated Dr Kotha Ushalakshmi, a 91-year-old gritty breast cancer 'conqueror'. Dr

Ushalakshmi, a former professor of Gynaecology, has been the inspiration behind the formation of Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation, a not-for-profit breast cancer charity that has been championing a hugely impactful breast cancer advocacy campaign in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for the last 17 years.

Though diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 69, she fought the disease with extraordinary courage and fierce determination.

Inspired by her strong resolve to make a meaningful difference towards improving breast health care in India, Dr Raghu Ram, her only child, a renowned surgeon, relocated to India from the United Kingdom to give wings to his mother's dream. He has been spearheading several unique and pioneering initiatives under the auspices of the Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation, which has attracted national and international recognition. Dr Ushalakshmi has also been the inspiration behind KIMS-Ushalakshmi Centre for Breast Diseases at KIMS Hospitals in Hyderabad, which is South Asia's first, free purpose-built comprehensive Breast Health Centre.

Heart diseases rising among young, premenopausal Indian women

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

While males are generally more susceptible to heart disease than females, heart issues are now becoming increasingly common among young and premenopausal women in the country, health experts said on Sunday.

World Heart Day is observed every year on September 29 to raise awareness about the leading cause of death in India. The theme this year is 'Use Heart for Action'. According to the 'Global Burden of Disease Study', heart disease is a leading cause of fatality among Indian women, accounting for over 17 per cent of deaths.

"Women are generally protected till menopause. However, we are often-times nowadays, finding a lot of young women who are premenopausal, having heart attack, heart



disease and various other heart problems," Dr S Ramakrishnan, professor in the cardiology department at AIIMS-New Delhi, told IANS.

The increased risk is driven by high prevalence of risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes and dyslipidemia. Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is also a significant concern among women, increasing the risk of heart disease.

PCOS is a highly prevalent health condition seen

in women nowadays. It is characterised by weight gain, insulin resistance, pre-diabetes to diabetic conditions, excess of androgens.

According to Dr Arati Adhe Rojekar, Consultant Gynaecology at P.D. Hinduja Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Mahim, said that PCOS has a major impact on blood vessels and also on the heart.

"Obesity itself contributes to cardiac conditions by elevating bad cholesterol and triglycerides

levels in the body. Insulin resistance and excess androgens too elevate the cardiac risks," she added.

A recent study, published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, showed up to 51 per cent increased risk for CVD in women.

Dr. Sarita Rao, Sr. Interventional Cardiologist, Apollo Hospitals, told IANS women with PCOS, close to one in five in India, might suffer from metabolic syndrome (MeTS), a group of conditions like diabetes, abdominal obesity and insulin resistance, that could impact cardiovascular health.

The experts called for routine heart health checks to enable early diagnosis.

Women with PCOS should ensure they remain physically active and maintain a healthy diet so that they do not develop other lifestyle diseases, the experts said.

HOW HIGH CHOLESTEROL, MICROPLASTICS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO RISING HEART DISEASES

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 28

High cholesterol and microplastics are emerging as extremely dangerous risk factors for cardiovascular diseases, like heart attack and stroke, said experts on Saturday.

While cholesterol has traditionally been linked to an older population, recent years have shown a marked increase in cholesterol among youngsters.

This silent health concern often goes unnoticed, as high cholesterol typically does not show clear symptoms until serious damage has been done.

Speaking to IANS Dr. Preeti Gupta, Professor of Cardiology at Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi said that early screenings, and keeping cholesterol and LDL-C levels (bad cholesterol) in check, can make a big difference.

Regular lipid profile testing and staying on top of your health can help catch any warning signs before they become seri-



ous problems. "Elevated LDL-C levels are a significant contributor to coronary artery disease, which can lead to heart attacks and strokes. Monitoring and managing these levels through lifestyle changes and medication, if necessary, are key to preventing heart disease," Gupta said.

"For people with comorbidities like diabetes or hypertension, the lipid profile becomes even more crucial, as they are at higher risk of developing heart issues," she added.

According to recent guidelines from the Cardiovascular Society of India, LDL-C levels should be monitored regularly to ensure they stay within optimal ranges, particular-

ly in high-risk individuals. The lipid profile is one of the most important tests for assessing cardiovascular risk, as it provides a detailed view of cholesterol levels, including LDL-C (bad cholesterol), HDL-C (good cholesterol), and triglycerides.

Gupta recommended "starting the test at age 18 and to repeat every 4-6 years unless risk factors suggest more frequent testing".

Dr Vidya Suratkal, Cardiologist, Lilavati Hospital Mumbai, told IANS said that "high cholesterol levels in youngsters aged 19-24 can cause a 50 per cent spike in heart disease risk during middle age (35-50)".

"About 7 out of 10 youngsters visiting me are

having high cholesterol levels," he added.

The experts cited obesity, smoking, family history, genetics, thyroid problems, unhealthy diet, high blood pressure, sedentary lifestyles, and alcohol as the major risk factors for elevated cholesterol levels, which are putting the young hearts in danger.

Dr Sandeep Banerjee, Pathologist, Apollo Diagnostic Mumbai advised the youth "to do the lipid profile test every 8-9 months as recommended by the doctor and adhere to a well-balanced lifestyle that includes eating a nutritious diet, exercising, and sleeping well".

Meanwhile, the experts noted that microplastics in the bloodstream are also emerging as a hidden link to cardiovascular disorders.

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles less than five millimetres in size and are ubiquitously found in the environment and have infiltrated every part of human lives.

From oceans and soils to the food people eat and the water they drink, they have permeated the very core of the ecosystem.

Recent research reveals a concerning link between microplastics and human health, especially regarding their impact on the bloodstream, heart disease, and even neurological disorders.

"Once microplastics enter the bloodstream, they can trigger an immune response, leading to persistent inflammation.

This chronic inflammation has the potential to disrupt normal bodily functions, and over time, is strongly associated with a range of serious health issues, including cardiovascular diseases and neurological disorders," Dr. Praveen Gupta, Principal Director & Chief of Neurology, Fortis Hospital, told IANS.

The long-term impact of microplastic exposure is becoming a critical concern for public health.

2,500 new Indian sign language terms helping persons with disabilities

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

The country has introduced 2,500 new Indian sign language (ISL) terms covering subjects like mathematics, science and various academic fields, with an aim to enhance the existing ISL dictionary and support education.

In collaboration with four organisations, the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, has introduced these new terms, according to the government.

The ISL as a natural visual-manual language that fosters communication within both the deaf and hearing communities. ISL is not at all similar to Hindi, to English, or to any other spoken language in India. It has its own structure and is not a hand representation of any spoken language.

Since its inaugural celebration in 2018 as part of the International Week



of the Deaf., the Sign Language Day has served as a platform to raise awareness about the significance of sign languages in achieving international development goals and ensuring the full realisation of human rights for deaf individuals.

There are more than 70 million deaf people globally, with over 80 per cent residing in developing countries and using over 300 different sign languages.

The country has also developed 100 concept videos in ISL, designed for hearing-impaired children in the 6th grade. These

videos provide detailed explanations of subjects like math and science, using graphics and subtitles to promote inclusive learning.

To improve accessibility, the ISL dictionary is now available in 10 regional languages, making it easier for diverse communities to engage with ISL.

Moreover, the educational animated videos in ISL are focused on moral values and provide a new learning experience for hearing-impaired children, fostering an inclusive educational environment.

PM lays foundation stone, inaugurates Maha projects worth Rs 11,200 cr

AGENCIES
PUNE, SEP 29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation various projects in Maharashtra worth over Rs 11,200 crore via video conferencing on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister recalled the cancellation of his event in Pune due to bad weather two days ago and credited technology for Sunday's virtual event. Saying that Maharashtra is witnessing a new chapter in development, Modi mentioned the inauguration of the Pune Metro section of District Court to Swargate and laying of foundation stone for Swargate-Katraj Extension of Pune Metro Phase-1 on Sunday.

The Prime Minister laid



the foundation stone for the Savitribai Phule Memorial, which will include a skill development centre, a library, and other essential facilities.

"Devotees of Bhagwan Vitthal have also received a special present today," the Prime Minister said, referring to the inauguration of Solapur Airport to establish direct air connectivity to the city.

He informed that the terminal capacity has

increased and new services and facilities have been created for the passengers after the completion of the upgradation work of the existing airport, thereby increasing convenience for the devotees of Bhagwan Vitthal. He further added that the airport would also give a boost to businesses, industries and tourism and congratulated the people of Maharashtra for development projects. "Today, Maharashtra

needs big goals with new resolutions," the Prime Minister remarked, emphasizing the need to make cities like Pune a centre of progress and urban development.

The Prime Minister recalled that discussions about Pune Metro began in 2008 but its foundation stone was laid in 2016 when quick decisions were taken by his government.

Modi underscored the importance of development-driven governance in ensuring Maharashtra's progress, emphasizing that any disruption in this continuity may lead to significant loss for the state.

He highlighted various stalled projects, from Metro initiatives to the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train and critical irrigation projects for farmers, which were delayed before the advent

of the double-engine government.

The Prime Minister spoke about the Bidkin Industrial Area, a vital component of the Auric City conceptualized during the tenure of the then Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis.

The project, located on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor had faced obstacles but was revived under the leadership of the double-engine government headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The Prime Minister emphasized the pivotal role of women leadership in societal transformation. He paid tribute to Maharashtra's legacy of women empowerment, particularly the efforts of Savitribai Phule, who initiated the movement for women's education by opening first girls' school.

Piyush Goyal lauds PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' for highlighting non-political topics

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29



Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday praised the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', underlining how it has helped people connect with non-political topics and broaden their perspectives.

"The connection that PM Modi has with the people is remarkable. He not only addresses the public about government initiatives but also about non-political topics," Goyal said.

He highlighted that, on the last Sunday of every month, PM Modi shares his thoughts through 'Mann Ki Baat', focusing on subjects that go beyond politics.

"This initiative of the Prime Minister aims to boost the enthusiasm, spirit, and self-confidence

of the nation by discussing various subjects. I consider myself very fortunate that the insights we gain from 'Mann Ki Baat' expand our own perspectives, which we don't usually get, not even through the press," Goyal added, noting how the programme has inspired many to expand their initiatives across the country.

First aired on October 3, 2014, 'Mann Ki Baat' is set to celebrate its 10th anniversary this week. The platform has become a space where PM Modi addresses the nation, discussing key issues and sharing thoughts on topics

of national importance.

In the 114th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Modi reflected on the upcoming milestone, acknowledging the crores of listeners who have accompanied him on this journey. He added that the programme has consistently received support and contributions from people across the country.

Recalling the beginnings of the programme, which aired on Vijaya-dashmi, October 3, 2014, PM Modi noted the significance of its 10-year anniversary coinciding with the start of Navratri on October 3 this year.

Punjab CM Mann discharged from Fortis Hospital, back to work

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, SEP 29

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was discharged from Fortis Hospital in Mohali on Sunday and resumed official work.

On reaching his residence, he called a meeting to review preparedness for the procurement of paddy starting from October 1 against the backdrop of a call by commission agents to boycott it in view of their demands.

Also, rice millers have given a call to boycott the storage of paddy in their mills and milling on account of a shortage of space.

A day earlier, the hospital, where the AAP leader was undergoing treatment, said he responded well to the treatment for an increase in pulmonary artery pressure and all his vitals were completely



stable. "As suspected at the time of admission for tropical fever, his blood tests for leptospirosis came back positive. The Chief Minister has already been put on appropriate antibiotics.

All clinical features and pathological tests have shown satisfactory improvement," R.K. Jaswal, Director and Head, Department of Cardiology, Fortis Hospital, said in a statement.

The hospital on Friday said due to an increase in

pressure in the Chief Minister's pulmonary artery, there was pressure on his heart, leading to irregular blood pressure.

Mann was admitted to the hospital late Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Lal Chand Katarachak on Saturday held a review meeting with the top brass to procure 185 lakh metric tons of paddy. Expressing satisfaction at arrangements for its procurement, the minister said the

government is fully geared up for ensuring hassle-free procurement. The minister asked the top officials to consider all genuine issues of the rice millers, including the lack of space with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) which has also been raised with the Central government.

At the meeting, Principal Secretary, Food, Vikas Garg apprised the minister that the Union Ministry, in response to the state's demand for enough space for the delivery of rice, has given a written assurance for creating 40 LMT space by December 2024, while providing movement for 15 LMT by October-end. The minister directed the department to ensure the movement of stocks in close coordination with the FCI so that the required storage space is created for the delivery of rice in 2024-25.

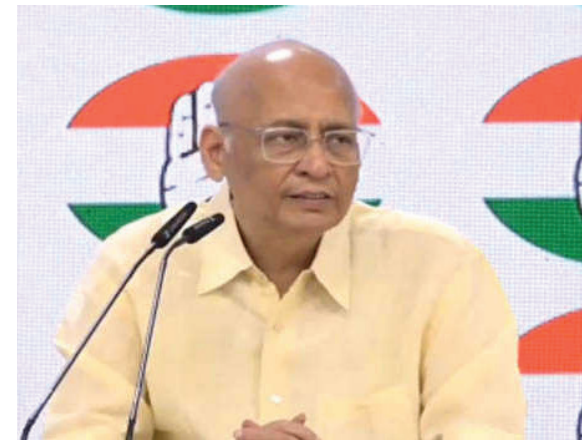
ELECTORAL BONDS: CONG DEMANDS RESIGNATION OF FM SITHARAMAN

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

After a Special Court in Bengaluru ordered filing of a First Information Report against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman over allegations of extortion related to electoral bonds, the Congress on Sunday demanded her resignation.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, senior party leaders Abhishek Manu Singhvi, along with Jairam Ramesh, said, "The day the electoral bond scam came to the fore, the Congress immediately demanded a Supreme Court-monitored inquiry through an Special Investigation Team and we still demand the same."

He said a level playing field is vital for a free and fair election and essential for democracy. But elec-



toral bonds attack the very foundation of the basic structure of the Constitution.

While accusing the Finance Minister of undermining the democratic system of the country, Singhvi said, "It is well-known that the Finance Minister cannot do it alone. It is also not in her jurisdiction. There are many number one from

schemes as "unconstitutional".

Under pressure from the apex court, the SBI made public the information related to electoral bonds.

He said that the BJP used four ways to extort the money and they were "prepaid bribery, post-paid bribery, post-raid and shell companies". Adding that till today the shell companies could not be identified.

"Through these four ways, BJP has collected donation worth more than Rs 6,000 crores in five and half years," Ramesh alleged.

He said that the Congress has been demanding a Supreme Court-monitored inquiry through an SIT as well as a JPC in this matter as this will reveal who has taken the most benefits from the electoral bond.

Second phase of Hyderabad Metro to cost over Rs 32,000 crore

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, SEP 29

Final touches are being given to Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the Hyderabad Metro Rail's second phase, comprising six corridors with a total length of 116.2 km and expected to cost Rs 32,237 crore, a top official said on Sunday.

This second phase includes the corridor from the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) to the proposed Fourth City, which is estimated to cost Rs 8,000 crore. The project is proposed to be implemented as a joint venture of the Telangana and the Central governments, like most other Metro Rail projects in other Indian cities,

said Hyderabad Airport Metro Ltd (HAML) Managing Director N.V.S. Reddy.

He has informed Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy that DPRs for all the corridors are being given final touches and that HAML is awaiting the traffic study report of the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) prepared for the Hyderabad Metropolitan Area by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

The traffic projections for Metro corridors have to be cross-checked with CMP, as a mandatory requirement for submission of DPRs for the Centre's approvals, he said.

DPRs for all these corridors will be finalised in the next few weeks for approval

of the state government and for forwarding them for the Centre's approval.

The Airport Metro alignment is now being finalised via Aramghar and the New High Court location on National Highway 44 (Bengaluru Highway) to reach Shamshabad Airport. After in-depth discussions, the Chief Minister approved the broad contours of Metro Phase II corridors.

Corridor IV will be the Airport Metro Corridor from Nagole-RGIA for 36.6 km. It will pass through L.B Nagar, Karmanghat, Owaisi Hospital, DRDO, Chandrayangutta, Mailardevpally, Aramghar, New High Court, and Shamshabad Junction on the National Highway. This

will be 7.5 km long.



Airport line will be connected to all the existing Metro lines at Nagole, L.B Nagar, and Chandrayangutta respectively. Out of the total length of 36.6 km, 35 km is elevated and 1.6 km is underground, with 24 metro stations including one underground station which is the Airport station.

Corridor V will cover 11.6 km and will be built as an extension of the

Blue Line from Raidurg Metro station to Kokapet Neopolis via Biodiversity Jn, Khajaguda Road, Nanakramguda Junction, Wipro Circle, Financial District, and Kokapet Neopolis. This will be a wholly elevated corridor with 8 stations.

The second phase also includes connectivity to the Old City. Corridor VI or Old City Corridor from MGBS to Chandrayangutta

will be 7.5 km long.

N.V.S. Reddy said that this corridor is being built as an extension of the Green Line from MGBS to Chandrayangutta. This 7.5 km line from MGBS travels via Darulshifa Junction, Mir Alam Mandi Road, Shalibanda Junction, and Falaknuma.

About 1,100 properties are getting affected by the road widening and Metro alignment. Notifications have been already issued for 400 affected properties and the rest are in progress. There are 103 religious, heritage, and other sensitive structures in this route and all of them are being saved through appropriate engineering solutions and adjustment of Metro pillar locations.

This is a wholly elevated metro corridor with about 6 stations.

Corridor VII is being built as an extension of the Red Line on the Mumbai highway. Starting from the existing Miyapur Metro station, this 13.4 km line up to Patancheru travels via Alwyn X Road, Madinaguda, Chanda Nagar, BHEL, and ICRISAT. This is a wholly elevated corridor with about 10 stations.

Corridor VIII is being built as an extension of the Red Line from L.B Nagar side on the Vijayawada highway. This 7.1 km corridor from L.B Nagar to Hayat Nagar goes over Chintalkunta, Vanasthalipuram, Auto Nagar and RTC Colony. This wholly elevated corridor will have

about 6 stations.

The Corridor IX is planned from the RGIA to the proposed Fourth City near Hyderabad via Mansapally Road, and the Outer Ring Road (ORR) stretch between Pedda Golconda exit and Raviryal exit. This line will have a length of about 40 km from Shamshabad Airport to the Skill University location in Fourth City. This will have about 2 km of the underground portion within the Airport area, an elevated portion of about 20 km, and an 'At Grade' (road level) portion of about 18 km. The 'At Grade' portion of 18 km from ORR Raviryal exit to Skill University will be designed as a part of the new green field 300 feet road.

Delhi CM, ministers to inspect roads; promise pothole-free roads by Diwali

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi said that all the cabinet ministers led by her will start inspecting the roads in the capital from Monday after AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal wrote a letter urging her to repair the damaged roads.

Government engineers and local MLAs will also

be present along with the ministers. After inspection, repair work on these roads will be started immediately.

The decision came after a meeting of all the ministers, chaired by the CM, was conducted at Delhi Secretariat on Sunday. Delhi Chief Secretary and officials of the PWD Department were also present during the meeting. A comprehensive review of 1400

kilometres of PWD roads was done.

During the meeting, it was discussed which roads of PWD are completely damaged and need to be rebuilt; which are the roads where some parts like 100-200 meters have to be repaired. Along with this, those roads were also discussed where there are potholes and they need to be repaired.

Laddu row: Is TTD Executive Officer's statement not enough, Jagan asks CM Naidu

AGENCIES
AMARAVATI, SEP 29

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has again questioned the claims by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu that adulterated ghee was used to make Tirupati laddus when YSR Congress Party was in power.

On Sunday, the YSR Congress Party Chief said that the statements of the Executive Officer (EO) of

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) appointed by Chandrababu Naidu's government debunk TDP President's claims.

"What is the meaning of this? Is this evidence not enough," asked Jagan Mohan Reddy to the Chief Minister in a post on "X". "Satyameva Jayate," added Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The former chief minister posted videos of the statements made by CM Naidu and TTD EO Shya-

mala Rao since July 18 when the TDP chief first claimed that animal fat was present in the ghee used for making laddu 'prasadam' at Sri Venkateswara temple.

Jagan Mohan Reddy cited the TTD EO's statement of July 23. Rao had said that TTD found vegetable fat mixed in the ghee and rejected two tankers.

On September 18, CM Naidu alleged that animal fat was used instead of

ghee in laddu preparation.

Two days after CM Naidu's allegation, the TTD EO made a statement. "After discovering that the ghee was adulterated, we rejected and sent four tankers back," Rao said.

The YSR Congress president also cited another statement made by CM Naidu on September 22. He had maintained that four tankers had already arrived and the ghee from

them was used.

After Jagan Mohan Reddy addressed a press conference on Friday, accusing CM Naidu of "tarnishing" the sanctity of Tirumala with his false allegation, the Chief Minister said, "We used the ghee, but the exact details of where it was used are irrelevant."

The YSR Congress leader also posted a video from his press conference to reiterate the allegation against CM Naidu.

EAM JAISHANKAR AMPLIFIES VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH, AS HE PRESENTS INDIA AS GROWTH MODEL

AGENCIES
UNITED NATIONS, SEP 29

While amplifying the voice of the Global South, External Affairs Minister (EAM), S. Jaishankar, presented India's social and economic "leapfrogging" as a model for the Global South to "provide hope and rekindle optimism" amid the gloom enveloping the world.

Speaking at the General Assembly's high-level meeting on Saturday, he focused on the dynamics of political and economic power that hobbles the developing countries and sketched alternative models while giving voice to the aspirations of the Global South.

While saying, "The world stands fractious, polarised and frustrat-

ed. Conversations have become difficult; agreements even more so," Jaishankar stayed away from delving into the most fractious issues -- Gaza and Ukraine -- that dominated discourse.

He merely said, "Ukraine or the conflict in Gaza, the international community seeks urgent solutions. These sentiments must be acknowledged and acted upon."

His criticism of the dominant world powers responsible for the inability to solve the problems was couched in diplomatic talk: "If we are to ensure global security and stability, then it is essential that those who seek to lead, set the right example."

This approach also avoided having to take sides on these issues where

India has maintained a delicate balance between the partisans.

The only overtly political statements were about Pakistan, exposing it as a purveyor of terrorism and warning it of retaliation for attacks.

Showing off a report card on the various programmes from providing clean water and energy to offering digital financial services and loans for entrepreneurs, especially women, he said, "Given the scale of transformation underway in India, each of these dimensions underline that the world's problems can indeed be tackled."

"Such leapfrogging possibilities, coupled with people-centric policies and visionary leadership, can be real gamechangers," he added.



He said that India's achievements like landing on the moon, rolling out its own 5G, sending vaccines worldwide, or developing fintech send a message to the world.

"A digital public infrastructure and a people's pharmacy are today examples of what India can readily offer," he said and differentiated India from the major technology driv-

ers of the world, adding, "It is also an alternative vision where technology is used to empower, not to dominate."

New Delhi gave the Global South an opportunity "to voice its shared concerns and come together" and for this "we have convened three Global South Summits, the most recent in August 2024," he said.

EAM Jaishankar had some harsh words for the dominant nations endangering peace and prosperity.

"Leaving no one behind means advancing peace, ensuring sustainable development and strengthening human dignity. This cannot be delivered by a UN paralysed when faced with division, conflict, terrorism and violence. Nor can it be advanced if access to fuel, food and fertiliser is jeopardised," he said.

That is "because trust has eroded and processes have broken down. Countries have extracted more from the international system than they have put in it, enfeebling it in the process."

Calling for reforming the global decision-making system, he said that progress cannot be achieved "by remaining anachronistic" with "large parts of the world cannot be left behind when it comes to deciding the key issues of our times."

"An effective and efficient UN, a more representative UN, and a UN fit for purpose in the contemporary era, is essential," he said making the case for Security Council reform without directly calling for it.

He directed four criticisms at China, but without naming it, on terrorism, its connectivity projects that cut through occupied Indian territories, and its predatory market policies.

"Any connectivity that flouts sovereignty and territorial integrity acquires strategic connotations, especially when it is not a shared endeavour," an apparent reference to China building roads across Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

"When capturing markets lacks restraint, it damages the livelihood and social fabric of others" and "over-concentration of production has hollowed out many economies, impacting their employment and social stability," he said, apparently referring to its state-subsidised manipulation of markets.

EAM Jaishankar also referred to China's role in protecting Pakistan-based terrorists from UN sanctions.

Without naming Beijing, he said, "The sanctioning of global terrorists by the United Nations should also not be impeded for political reasons."

Russia warns West against 'fight to victory with a nuclear power'

AGENCIES
UNITED NATIONS, SEP 29

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has warned the West of the danger of trying to "fight to victory with a nuclear power" like Russia and told the United Nations that it was senseless to ignore alternatives to Ukraine's peace proposals.



Addressing the UN General Assembly on Saturday, Lavrov slammed the backers of Ukraine who support Kyiv's peace proposal.

Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Nine months later Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced a 10-point peace plan to bring a just end to the war on the basis of the founding UN Charter and international law. Moscow rejected the plan.

"I'm not going to talk here about the senselessness and the danger of the very idea of trying

to fight to victory with a nuclear power, which is what Russia is," the Russian Foreign Minister said. "Equally senseless, the Western backers of Kyiv swearing that there is no alternative to negotiations based on the infamous peace formula."

Invoking Western allies' plans in the 1940s to "destroy" the Soviet Union, he accused the West of trying to deal a "strategic defeat" to Russia in Ukraine.

"The current Anglo-Saxon strategists are not hiding their ideas. For now they do, it's true, hope to

defeat Russia using the illegitimate neo-Nazi Kyiv regime, but they're already preparing Europe for it to also throw itself into this suicidal escapade," Lavrov added.

Russia is not increasing its nuclear arsenal and while it had suspended participation in the New START treaty with Washington, it would remain guided by the treaty until it expires in 2026, he said.

"We suspended our participation in it, but we did say that we will comply with the levels, and we will exchange some types of information with the

Americans," he added.

Lavrov also challenged the US over its support for Israel as the conflict with Lebanon's Hezbollah escalates and the war with Palestinian militants Hamas drags on in Gaza.

In a news conference at the UN, he said the killing of Hezbollah's leader on Friday was a "political assassination" and raised concerns that Israel may be seeking to draw Iran into a direct conflict.

"My perception is that there are those who are looking to provoke Iran, to subsequently provoke the US, and then to unleash a full blown war in the entire region there," Lavrov added.

Lavrov credited Iran's leadership for "behaving extremely responsibly" by not reacting to those provocations.

"It's important to just stop the bloodshed and stop using terrorist methods for political score settling," Lavrov said.

'There is no place in Iran or the Middle East that the long arm of Israel will not reach', says Netanyahu

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV, SEP 29

Following the death of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in a precision strike by Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a warning to Iran's Ayatollah regime and asserted that those who target Israel will face consequences and that no location in Iran or the Middle East is beyond Israel's reach. Netanyahu made his first public comments on Saturday after an Israeli airstrike killed Nasrallah, the leader of the Lebanon-based militant group Hezbollah, in Beirut. "There is no place in Iran or the Middle East that the long arm of Israel will not reach, and today you already know how true this is," he added.



Speaking from Israel Defense Forces head-

quarters in Tel Aviv on Saturday, Netanyahu said Israel's assassination of the Hezbollah leader "settled accounts with those responsible for the murder of countless Israelis and many citizens of other countries, including hundreds of Americans and dozens of Frenchmen."

The Israeli Prime Minister called Nasrallah's killing "a necessary condition for achieving the goals we

have set".

The Israeli Prime Minister was referring to tens of thousands of Israelis who have been displaced by cross-border fire in the north of the country. Last week, Israel made returning residents to their homes in the north an explicit war aim.

"As long as Nasrallah lives, he would quickly restore the capabilities we took away from Hez-

bollah," Netanyahu said. "That's why I gave the directive -- and Nasrallah is no longer with us," he added.

Netanyahu made no reference to a US-led ceasefire proposal for the Israel-Lebanon border in his remarks, which come just a day after he made a combative speech at the United Nations General Assembly, vowing to continue the fight with Hezbollah -- and swiping directly at Iran.

"I say to the Ayatollah's regime: whoever beat us, we will beat them," he said.

The Prime Minister said that Israel had arrived at a "historic turning point".

"We are determined to continue to strike at our enemies, return our residents to their homes, and return all our abductees. We do not forget them for a moment," he added.

NASA-SpaceX mission to bring back Sunita Williams on way to ISS 66 killed in landslides, floods in Nepal

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, SEP 29

The NASA-SpaceX spacecraft, carrying Crew-9 members NASA astronaut Nick Hague (commander) and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov (mission specialist), was on its way to the International Space Station (ISS) on Sunday, in a mission that aims to bring stranded Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams back to Earth in February next year.



The NASA-SpaceX mission safely reached orbit, after it was successfully launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. This mission is significant as

it marks the first human spaceflight to launch from Space Launch Com-

plex-40. "SpaceX Dragon spacecraft is on its way to the

International Space Station (ISS). The new crew arrives at the orbiting lab Sunday, Sept. 29, for a five-month science mission," NASA posted on X social media platform.

The targeted docking time is approximately 5:30 p.m. Sunday (3.30 am Monday India time), according to NASA.

The Crew-9 members will have two empty seats for NASA astronauts Barry Wilmore and Sunita Williams will fill when the spacecraft returns next year.

The Crew-9 was initially expected to launch on Thursday but was postponed due to poor weather conditions due to hurricane Helene, cur-

rently impacting the Gulf Coast of Florida.

Williams and Willmore travelled to the ISS on an eight-day sojourn on the faulty Boeing's Starliner. While the Starliner was declared unfit for human travel by NASA, and it returned safely to Earth, the astronaut duo are stuck in space.

For the first time since May 2020 test flight, SpaceX launched two astronauts to the ISS on a Dragon spacecraft.

In a bid to make room for Williams and Willmore in the orbiting lab, NASA had pulled out two other Crew-9 members -- commander Zena Cardman and three-time shuttle flier Stephanie Wilson.

AGENCIES
KATHMANDU, SEP 29

Landslides and floods induced by incessant rainfalls in Nepal had left 66 people dead and 60 others injured, the Home Ministry said.

Rishiram Tiwari, the Ministry's Spokesperson, said on Saturday in a statement that 69 people had gone missing, Xinhua news agency reported.

"The Kathmandu Valley suffered the highest loss with 34 deaths," Tiwari said, noting that more than 3,000 people had been rescued by security forces and the government had decided to provide free treatment to the injured and start a rehabilitation programme as



early as possible for those who lost their houses.

Several highways and bridges were destroyed in different parts of the country, and clearing the highways is the government's top priority, the Spokesperson said.

According to a Nepal police statement, almost all the highways, including those connecting the rest of the country with the

capital city of Kathmandu, had been obstructed due to the disasters.

Nepal's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, meanwhile, urged all the local governments to close the schools for three days starting from Sunday and decided to postpone all the examinations at the university level which had been scheduled until Tuesday.

Yemen's Houthis claim missile attack on Israel's Ben Gurion Airport

AGENCIES
SANAA, SEP 29

Yemen's Houthi group claimed that it had launched a missile attack on Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv in Israel.

In a statement aired by the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV on Saturday, the group's military spokesman Yahya Sarea said a "ballistic missile" was fired at Ben Gurion Airport "upon the arrival" of Israeli



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who returned to the country on Satur-

day after addressing the United Nations General Assembly on Friday.

Sarea vowed that the group "will continue to respond to Israel's crimes and will not hesitate to raise the level of escalation in support of the Gaza Strip and Lebanon."

Earlier in the day, the Israel Defense Forces said it successfully intercepted a surface-to-surface missile launched from Yemen, which triggered air raid sirens across central Israel, including in Tel Aviv, as reported by Xinhua news agency.

South Korea: Govt agencies discuss preparedness for Typhoon Krathon

AGENCIES
SEOUL, SEP 29

The South Korean Interior Ministry held a meeting on Sunday with relevant agencies to discuss preparedness for approaching Typhoon 'Krathon'.

Interior Minister Lee Sang-min presided over the meeting, where attending officials reviewed emergency plans and safety measures with Typhoon Krathon expected to affect the southern



island of Jeju and other southern regions, plus the

eastern province of Gangwon this week.

The Korea Meteorological Administration said the typhoon will likely pass near Taipei on Wednesday with a maximum wind speed of 37 metres per second in a 320-kilometre radius and begin having an impact on South Korea on Thursday.

The Interior Ministry called on regional governments, police and firefighting authorities to identify vulnerable areas ahead of time and evacuate residents as necessary.

National Centre of Excellence for AVGC sector to create 5 lakh jobs: Govt

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

India has the second-largest anime fan base globally and is projected to contribute 60 per cent to the worldwide growth in anime interest in the coming years. With the new National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for the AVGC-XR (animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality) sector, the industry is expected to create 5 lakh jobs, the government said on Sunday.

Boasting a growth rate of 25 per cent and an estimated value of Rs 46 billion by 2023 (as per a FICCI-EY report), the animation industry in India is thriving and offers a promising future for passionate



young talent, according to the government.

The AVGC-XR sector is set to be the future of the media and entertainment industry. In this regard, the Cabinet has approved the establishment of the NCoE for the AVGC-XR sector in Mumbai, as it aims to advance the creators' economy to ensure economic growth and

employment opportunity.

NCoE will be set up as a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013 in India with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), representing the industry bodies as partners with the government.

The centre aims to revo-

lutionise the AVGC sector and foster innovation in immersive technologies. It will be modelled after renowned institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

"India's animation sector is witnessing remarkable growth, driven by increasing demand for films, visual effects (VFX), gaming animation and engaging mobile content.

This surge presents exciting opportunities for skilled and enthusiastic animators," said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The NCoE focuses of creating Indian IP, leveraging our cultural heritage in new age and create a

multiplier effect in the industry.

The centre is modelled after premier institutions like IITs and IIMs. The centre will provide world-class infrastructure, state-of-the-art technology and specialised skills to build a strong talent pool.

Students will gain practical experience through industry-driven courses, ensuring they are job-ready upon graduation.

"By fostering partnerships between the central and state governments, academia, and industry, the NCoE will create a dynamic ecosystem for research, development, and innovation in immersive technologies. This is where India's next-gen creators will thrive," according to the ministry.

HDFC BANK LAUNCHES 400TH BRANCH IN KERALA

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 29



HDFC Bank has launched 400th branch at Vismaya, Infopark, Kochi in Kerala, strengthening the branch network in the state.

The new branch was inaugurated jointly by the CEO of Infopark Susanth Kurunthil and Dinesh P Thampi, VP & Kerala Head, Tata Consultancy services in the presence of Ahmed Zackaria, Branch Banking Head, Karnataka and Kerala, HDFC Bank.

The newly inaugurated branch, located at Vismaya, Infopark, is poised to serve the financial needs of the local community. This branch will offer cohesive banking services to the local community.

The expansion initiative is in line with the bank's

strategic vision for robust growth and strengthening its presence across the country.

HDFC Bank's journey in Kerala began in 1997 when the first branch was inaugurated in Kochi (Earlier known as Cochin). Since then, the bank has been providing banking services through multiple digital channels such as net-banking and mobile banking. About 70 per cent of its existing branches are in semi urban and rural locations.

"HDFC Bank has been a preferred banking partner for a wide section of customers including domestic, business, NRIs and many more. This reflects the trust people have placed in us over the years. We aim to strengthen this relationship further as we will continue to emphasise on creating a robust banking experience through its world-class financial products and services", said Ahmed Zackaria, Branch Banking Head - Karnataka and Kerala, HDFC Bank.

Piyush Goyal to interact with leading American and Indian CEOs in US

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is set to interact with leading American and Indian CEOs during his visit to the US next week and discuss investment avenues.

Minister Goyal will co-chair the India-USA CEO Forum with US Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo, in Washington DC, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement.

Both nations will discuss ways to generate sustainable economic growth, improving the business and investment climate and to deepen ties between the Indian and the American business communities.

Minister Goyal will interact with leading American and Indian CEOs and industry leaders and to highlight the vast opportunities for investment in India.

His interactions with business and industry leaders in a roundtable, organised by US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, will stress upon ways to further leverage the complementary strengths and synergies between the economies of India and US.

The minister will also chair a Young Business Leaders Roundtable and India-USA Gems and Jewellery Trade Roundtable.

Goyal and Secretary Raimondo will also discuss steps to Expand and Diversify Critical Minerals Supply Chains between

India and the US. The two sides are negotiating a MoU which intends to enhance bilateral collaboration to increase and diversify essential critical mineral supply chains and leverage their complementary strengths.

Minister Goyal will also meet the USTR Ambassador Katherine Tai in Washington DC, to discuss the ongoing collaboration under the Trade Policy Forum and ways to further add to two way trade between the two countries.

During his recent visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the CEOs of leading American tech companies in a roundtable in New York and discussed aspects relating to technology, innovation and more.

TALLY LAUNCHES TALLYPRIME 5.0

AGENCIES
KOCHI, SEP 29



With the continued vision to empower the backbone of the Indian economy - the fast-growing MSME sector; Tally Solutions has announced the global launch of the all-new TallyPrime 5.0, elevating its suite of connected services.

A leading technology company providing business management software, Tally brings a new paradigm in connected services with API-driven tax filing, enhancing business operations for the mid-mass segment both in India and globally.

The MSME sector in Kerala has witnessed significant growth in industries such as agro and food processing, garments and textiles, and hospitality.

Since 2022-23, the state has added over 2.75 lakh MSMEs, with more than 1 lakh new enterprises

established in 2023-24 alone. Kochi, the commercial and financial hub of the state, contributes the highest GDP in Kerala, driven by its rapidly expanding MSME sector.

Tally Solutions has been playing an instrumental role in supporting the MSME ecosystem in Kerala, empowering businesses to embrace digital transformation.

Tally has been actively fostering collaborations to strengthen the MSMEs, enabling them to streamline processes and boost

business growth.

The latest version with 'Connected GST' will serve as a consolidated interface for all online GST operations, without having to visit the GST portal.

This release further strengthens Tally's connected experience which includes e-invoicing and e-way bill generation capability, WhatsApp integration, etc.

Additionally, addressing the increasing demand in the Middle East and Bangladesh, TallyPrime 5.0 adds advanced multi-lin-

gual capabilities that will extend Arabic and Bangla language interfaces with phonetic support.

The new solution encapsulates an array of unique features including a direct connect to the GST portal which enables fast data upload/download, GSTRI return filing, new recon flexibilities, including GSTRI recon and GSTRI-3B recon features unique to Tally, Input Tax Credit (ITC) at risk identification and ledger creation.

The feature also supports end-to-end 'book-keeping to return filing', bringing an integrated experience.

With this new launch and other product pipeline initiatives, Tally is aiming to expand its current user base of 2.5 million+ by 50% over the next 3 years, while eyeing a CAGR growth of 30-40%.

Sharing his views, Anil Bhargavan, General Manager - South Zone,

Tally Solutions said, "Our latest release is specifically designed to ease GST filing, transforming it into a simpler and more efficient process for Indian businesses."

"Although API-based filing is still not widely adopted, we're set to change this trend. This new release will streamline the entire GST filing process, potentially saving MSMEs 60%-70% of their time and offering real-time visibility into their suppliers' GST status to protect their ITC."

MSMEs are seeking effective tech solutions for their operations, and TallyPrime 5.0 provides a simple, secure, and reliable solution.

It enhances business management with new features and builds on existing ones like e-invoice generation, user-friendly dashboards, WhatsApp integration, and Excel imports.

MARKET OUTLOOK: Q2 RESULTS, AUTO SALES, PMI DATA KEY FACTORS FOR NEXT WEEK

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

The Indian equity indices witnessed a sharp rally last week as Sensex and Nifty both made a new all-time highs of 85,978.25 and 26,277.35 respectively. Now, the market outlook for next week looks very positive, experts say.

The outlook for the market will be guided by movements in commodity prices, the US dollar index and key macroeconomic data from the US will also be pivotal in shaping the market's direction. Additionally, geopolitical developments will continue to be a key factor on the global stage.

On the domestic front, manufacturing and services PMI data, upcoming monthly auto sales data and quarterly results from companies could drive stock-specific movements in the near term.

Last week, the key benchmark indices, Nifty and Sensex continued their upward momentum for the third consecutive week, reaching fresh all-time highs. This rally was supported by the growing optimism about reducing borrowing costs by major Central banks including RBI after the US Federal Reserve cut key benchmark rate by 50 bps in the week ending September 20.

On Friday, Sensex closed at 85,571, down 264 points or 0.31 per cent. Nifty settled at 26,178, down 37 points or 0.14 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, metal emerged as the top performer, followed by auto. The PBoC (People's Bank of China) cut the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves by 50 basis points, the second reduction this year aimed at bolstering faltering economic growth.

On the domestic front, strong foreign inflows further bolstered market sentiment. In September, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) invested Rs

25,215.25 crore in the cash segment this month so far, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) invested Rs 25,214.25 crore in the cash segment.

Vishnu Kant Upadhyay, AVP of Research and Advisory at Master Capital Services said: "Nifty has delivered a strong weekly closing for the third consecutive month, now trading above 26,000. Market sentiment remains positive, with immediate resistance at 26,500, and a breakout above this level could propel the index towards 26,650."

"On the downside, key support is at 25,900, with a breach potentially triggering selling pressure

towards 25,600. Given the prevailing positive sentiment, we recommend a "buy on dip" strategy for traders looking to capitalise on any short-term correction," Upadhyay added.

Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart said: "Last week, Bank Nifty witnessed some profit booking around the 54,500 level. Immediate support levels are seen at 53,700, 53,300, and 53,000, with the bullish momentum persisting as long as it stays above the 53,000 mark. On the upside, resistance levels are marked at 54,500, 55,000, and 55,500."

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, SEP 29

India's primary market continues to boom, with three SME IPOs set to launch next week from September 30, and the market will see several main board IPO listings like KRN Heat Exchanges, which received massive subscriptions of over 200 times.

NeoPolitan Pizza & Foods SME IPO will open for retail investors from September 30 to October 4. Under this IPO, the company plans to raise capital of Rs 12 crore. This entire IPO will be a fresh issue, in which 60 lakh new shares will be

issued.

Paramount Dye Tec SME IPO, opens for subscription on September 30, 2024. Investors can bid for this IPO till October 3, 2024. Its issue size is Rs 28.43 crore. This entire IPO will be a fresh issue, in which 24.3 lakh shares will be issued.

Subscription of Subam Papers SME IPO will open to the general public on September 30, 2024, and close on October 3, 2024. The issue size of this IPO is Rs 93.70 crore. The issue is entirely a fresh issue of 61.65 lakh new shares.

Three main board companies will be listed on the National Stock

Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) next week.

Manba Finance will be listed on NSE and BSE on September 30. This IPO was open for retail investors from September 23 to September 25. The size of this IPO was Rs 150.84 crore and it was a completely fresh issue.

The allotment of KRN Heat Exchanger and Refrigeration is expected to be finalised on September 30. The listing of shares will be on NSE and BSE on October 3. This IPO was open for retail investors from September 25 to September 27. Its issue size was Rs 341.95 crore.

India aims to become \$3 trillion tourism economy by 2047

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 28

As India aims to become a \$3 trillion tourism economy by 2047, it is fast becoming one of the world's most sought-after travel destinations with 14.3 million international tourists in 2022 and \$17.6 billion in revenue.

The country saw 9.2 million foreign tourist arrivals in 2023, signifying a positive post-pandemic revival.

The tourism industry showed positive signs

of revival post-pandemic with a year-on-year increase of 43.5 per cent.

This year, foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) stood at nearly 47.8 lakh from January to June. In the month of June, foreign tourist arrivals stood at 7,06,045 compared to 6,48,008 in June 2023, registering a growth of 9 per cent.

According to the government, despite facing certain challenges along the way, the sector continues to flourish, fueled by various strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing

infrastructure, promoting sustainable practices, and enriching the overall visitor experience.

With a commitment to overcoming obstacles and leveraging opportunities, India is well on its way to becoming a leading global travel destination.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, as part of the 'Chalo India' campaign, the first 1,00,000 foreigners coming to India will get their visa on a gratis basis and the government will waive off the visa fee.

Retail loans by banks, finance companies in India may triple by 2030

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, SEP 29



Retail loans by banks and finance companies in India could triple by 2030, driving household leverage to 34 per cent by fiscal year 2031 from about 23 per cent at the end of 2024, according to a new report.

Finance companies will sustain loan growth stronger than the banking sector, which is expected to grow at 14 per cent, according to the S&P Global Ratings report.

The finance companies' loan book is unseasoned. Strong economic growth has supported retail repayment capacity.

"We see the strength in

retail lending as a competitive edge, with finance companies dominating in some retail products," said Geeta Chugh, credit analyst, S&P Global Ratings.

Generally, upper-layer finance companies have strong capital levels, which will support credit growth over the next two years and provide downside buffers.

Chugh added the recent actions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will curtail lenders' overexuberance, enhance compliance and safeguard customers.

Indian lenders' strong underwriting will support asset quality. This is reflected in their focus on

lending primarily to low-risk customers and generally low loan approval rates, the report noted.

Funding for finance companies remains sensitive to confidence levels, but companies with strong parentage have better access to competitive rates. Emerging co-lending models are easing funding pressure.

Rated and unrated finance companies have strong capital levels to support high loan growth, according to the report.

26 teams to compete in Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2024

AGENCIES
RANCHI, SEP 29

The 14th edition of the Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2024 is all set to take place from September 30th to October 10th, 2024 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astro-Turf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

As many as 26 teams will compete with each other to lift the trophy in the finals.

The top teams from each pool will qualify for quarterfinals which will be played on October 7th 2024, followed by the semifinals which will take place on October 9th, 2024.

The winners of semi-



finals will face-off each other in final whereas the losing teams in the semi-final will compete with each other for the bronze medal on October 10th,

2024. The opening day will feature five matches. Hockey Punjab will face off Hockey Jammu & Kashmir in Pool F. Hockey Maha-

rashtra and Hockey Chandigarh will compete with Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Hockey Arunachal respectively in Pool G. Uttar Pradesh Hockey will be taking on Hockey Gujarat in Pool H whereas Hockey Jharkhand will play against Hockey Rajasthan in Pool B.

Speaking on the opportunity, Hockey India President, Dilip Tirkey said, "We are extremely determined to develop the grassroots hockey talent and platforms like Junior Women National Championship helps the young athletes to showcase their skills and also helps them get experience of the top level tournament which further helps them at the

later stage in their sporting career.

We are excited to see the upcoming women hockey stars compete with each other in Ranchi from tomorrow onwards."

Secretary General of Hockey India, Shri Bhola Nath Singh also expressed his views, he said, "The Junior Women Hockey Championship does not only provide the budding athletes a crucial platform but also helps us identify and scout and nurture talent from a young age. I have no doubts about the success for the tournament and my wishes are with all the young players who are ready to participate in the tournament starting tomorrow in Ranchi."

'Mayank Yadav is hungry to perform', says coach Devender Sharma

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

As the rising pace sensation Mayank Yadav earned his maiden India call-up after being named in the squad for the three-match T20I series against Bangladesh, starting October 6, his coach Devender Sharma said the young pacer is eager to perform at his best after missing months of competitive cricket.

After a prolonged injury layoff, Yadav has been cleared by VVS Laxman, head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA), to play in the series. Sharma feels that his ward will make a strong impact on his India debut.

"I feel very proud of him. His selection in the



Indian team would have come earlier if he hadn't been injured. He was disappointed after missing most of the matches for LSG in IPL 2024, but with the help of NCA, he is fully fit and fine, running hard, and bowling with the same pace. For sure, he will put up a good performance with the ball. He is hungry

for it." The 21-year-old right-arm pacer's selection comes after months of recovery from a recurring abdominal strain that had sidelined him since the IPL. In the 2024 season, despite playing only four matches, Mayank made a huge impression with his raw pace, regularly clocking speeds of 155 kph.

Green Park Stadium's poor drainage system sparks outrage after no show on day three

AGENCIES
KANPUR, SEP 29

Despite a rain-free morning and bright sunshine later in the day, day three's play of the second Test between India and Bangladesh was called off without a ball being bowled at the Green Park Stadium.

The unexpected cause? A "wet outfield". Frustration grew as both teams remained at their hotel, while match officials inspected the field three times, all without covers. But there was no play, leading to two days now lost due to rain.

Shiv Kumar, the pitch curator of the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) maintained that everything was under control in Kanpur. But he admitted to having confusion regarding the match

officials' reservations. "They gave us three different time for inspection but never told us what is the issue. Which area was wet or whatever is the problem. I told them that you can start the match but if you have any concern let me know," he told IANS.

With the morning and lunch sessions already lost, match referee Jeff Crowe conducted multiple inspections, but the soggy patches on the field, particularly in the deep mid-wicket area near Pavilion C, left him unsatisfied.

The damp 30-yard circle also continued to concern, leading to the push of the pitch inspection to 2pm. Crowe, alongside reserve umpire Virender Sharma and TV umpire Rod Tucker, insisted on further delays, hoping for

sunlight to dry the affected areas before allowing play to resume.

Before the third inspection which was scheduled at 2pm, a senior ground official told IANS that the match officials wanted ground to dry up with natural light but were never told about the exact area of wet patch.

"Match officials have asked us to wait for the natural light then only we can continue the play. The pitch and another part of the ground are perfectly good, there are certain areas of concern but we can start the play."

"If they want to wait for the sunlight, then they should have given the next inspection time at 1pm, because a little sunlight is always here which will dry the concerned area in an hour. We have already lost



two sessions, next inspection at 2pm will lead us to call off the match," a ground official working at the stadium told IANS.

Spectators travelling from different parts of the state showed their frustration with the ground facilities at Green Park, leaving them disheartened and wanting UPCA to take good care of one of the oldest stadiums in the country, which has been

what use," said a fan from Fatehpur.

Another fan from Kanpur said, "Ye Green Park ko kuch ni milna chahie, yahan sab gaddbad chal raha hai. Mahaul aisa banate hain jaise kitni suvidhaein hain but they can't even conduct a match on a day when it was a proper sunny. Green Park shouldn't get a match, I am happy to travel to Lucknow or Varanasi but not Green Park."

The teams had played only 35 overs in the entire match so far, with Bangladesh standing at 107 for 3. The delay has sparked fresh criticism of the stadium's drainage system, with questions raised on its readiness to host international games.

When rain hampered the proceedings on day one, ground staff worked

to dry the surface by using sawdust and covering the field, but the efforts were futile. Even with 75 groundsmen working tirelessly, the wet patches stubbornly remained, disappointing the thousands of spectators in the stands, who have been eager to witness a Test match.

This isn't the first time such issues have emerged. Memories of the recent Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand in Greater Noida came flooding back—when poor outfield conditions led to the match being abandoned without a ball being bowled earlier this month.

The venue director, Sanjay Kapoor, assured before the game started that, "We guarantee a five-day match here at the Green Park Stadium and we have ensured that

everything is in place. We are prepared for rain but I assure you even if rain comes we will start the game in an hour or two."

The BCCI sources have suggested to IANS that the Green Park Stadium could lose out on hosting future international matches, with Lucknow's Ekana Stadium—a state-of-the-art facility with superior infrastructure—emerging as a preferred alternative.

Ekana Stadium has already hosted a Test match between Afghanistan and the West Indies, apart from being a home ground of Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL and hosting 2023 Men's ODI World Cup games. It is all set to host the upcoming Irani Cup game between Rest of India and Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai from October 1-5.

Women's T20 WC: We have prepared the best we can, says Heather Knight

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

England captain Heather Knight said her team has absolute clarity over how they want to perform in the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup, adding that they feel about being in a great spot after preparing in the best way possible.

England, the inaugural tournament winners in 2009, are in Group B of the competition to be held in Dubai and Sharjah from October 3-20. Alongside them in Group B are 2016 champions West Indies, South Africa, Bangladesh and Scotland.

"We are clear about how we want to do things and how we want to play. We have prepared the best we can and feel in a great spot. It's important not to change how we play because it's the World Cup with added pressure and added external expectation to be successful. It's about doing the best we can and approaching it

with a one game at a time mentality.

"T20 can be the most volatile and unpredictable of the formats so we need to get our mindset right, don't change things too much because it's a World Cup and we'll see how we go. We know there are top quality sides who will offer different challenges, and we are looking forward to getting started and making some memories," wrote Heather in her column for ICC on Sunday.

England come into the World Cup on the back of beating Pakistan 3-0 and thrashing New Zealand 5-0 at home. Their meticulous preparation also includes an ongoing training camp in Abu Dhabi, which Heather thinks should keep England in good stead, ahead of their tournament opener against Bangladesh on October 5. "It's been a great set up here that has allowed us to get used to the heat and conditions we will face.

Want players to adapt to different conditions in one place, says Laxman on BCCI CoE

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

VVS Laxman, the current head of BCCI Center Of Excellence, said he wants players to prepare for various challenges in their careers by adapting to different conditions at the newly-inaugurated facility in Bengaluru.

He added about his aim to upgrade the programmes run for various age groups in the new facility. The newly-inaugurated 40-acre facility has Ground A, which has 13 pitches made from Mumbai's red soil. Grounds B and C serve as dedicated practice grounds with 11 Mandya soil pitches and nine black cotton soil pitches from Kalahandi, Odisha.

The 45 outdoor net pitches for practice have been organised into nine clusters, and are made of Mumbai red soil, Mandya soil, Kalahandi black cotton soil, and concrete pitches, all separated by safety nets sourced from the UK.

"I think the programs

we run, because all the best performers, right from your under-15 for women and under-16 for boys, are selected by the national selectors. During the off season from April till September, we have various programs. Like we conducted close to 32 camps during this period for both boys and girls.

"So with this infrastructure, three grounds, usually we have these matches of these camps conducted in different parts of the country. With KSCA, we get the Alur ground to have some of these camps. Whereas here with three grounds here, we can have a lot more programs. These grounds can be used to have some India A series, which can be played on these surfaces here.

"The most important thing is, with three different kinds of soils here (for the pitches), what we want is for the players to know how to adapt to different conditions in one place, instead of them traveling from one city to other city. They can have the experi-



ence and exposure of playing in different soils and different kind of pitches at one place, which will enhance their performance," said Laxman to reporters in Bengaluru on Sunday.

He also spoke about the CoE's efforts of maintaining a balance between rehab and fitness goals of the players, especially who are in the national set-up. "A player getting injured is part and parcel of any sportsman's career. We will be fooling ourselves if you think that no one will

be easily found out. So if a player is fit, his/her fitness standards are improving day by day, I and we all believe that automatically their performance will also be enhanced; so both of them are very, very critical," he elaborated.

Laxman, who played 134 Tests for India, assumed the CoE head role in December 2021, and admitted to being very reluctant to take up this responsibility. But on embracing this position, he talked about how it has been such a satisfying and fulfilling experience to plan, think and brainstorm for readying the next generation of cricketers and coaches.

"You're dealing with not only the established international stars, but you're creating the bench strength, and that has been very, very fulfilling to see the amount of talent and potential at our disposal. I can say with a lot of confidence, barring couple of skillsets, that next 10 years, we got a lot of players who will make our country proud.

"So when you upskill yourself knowing what are the areas to work on, then only you can progress, because anyone who's stagnating and with amount of data and analytics which we have at our disposal, then a player can

Sri Lanka thrash NZ by innings and 154 runs; clinch 2-0 series win

AGENCIES
GALLE, SEP 29

Sri Lanka thrashed New Zealand by an innings and 154 runs to secure a resounding 2-0 series win on day four of the second Test in Galle on Sunday. With this comprehensive win, Sri Lanka improved its WTC point percentage to 55.55% and retained their third spot.

New Zealand who began the series by being



at third place in the WTC standings, have now slipped down to seventh position with a 37.5% point percentage. It also

means England, Bangladesh, and South Africa all jump by one place to be placed at fourth, fifth, and sixth spots respectively.

The main architects of Sri Lanka's win at Galle were debutant off-spinner Nishan Peiris, who finished with match figures of 9-203, and took 6-170 in the second innings. Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya finished with 9-181 from the game, and took 18 wickets in both Tests to be named Player of the Series at an average of 21.38.

Resuming from 199/5, New Zealand tried to

delay the inevitable as their overnight batters Glenn Phillips, and Tom Blundell slammed half-centuries, followed by Mitchell Santner hitting 67, but with Peiris and Jayasuriya taking out the remaining scalps, including the trio, the visitors' were bowled out for 360 in their second innings, after being shot out for 88 in the first essay and being made to follow-

'These accusations are intended to malign my leadership', PT Usha lashes out at IOA EC

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 29

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief PT Usha has hit back at the false and baseless allegations made by 12 IOA Executive Council (EC) members in a letter addressed to International Olympic Committee (IOC) Director of International Relations Jerome Poivey.

The 12 EC members,

which include Olympic medallists like Gagan Narang and Yogeshwar Dutt, Sehdev Yadav, etc., have written a letter to senior IOC official Jerome Poivey accusing the legendary athlete of running the organisation in an "autocratic" manner.

"These accusations are only intended to malign my leadership and the efforts of those

working diligently towards the betterment of Indian sports," PT Usha wrote in a letter.

"In my 45-year-long career as a sports person representing India at the highest levels of a competition, I have never encountered individuals so indifferent to the aspirations of our athletes and our nation's sporting future.

DC Poonch chairs DLRSC meet

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 29

In a significant move to enhance road safety measures in the Poonch district, District Development Commissioner, Poonch and Chairman of the Road Safety Committee, Vikas Kundal today chaired District Level Road Safety Committee (DLRSC) meeting at DC Office here.

The meeting witnessed participation from various departments crucial to implementing road safety measures.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the DC emphasized on the need for multi-faceted approach to road safety,



directing officials to focus on identifying and rectifying accident-prone areas, intensifying measures against drunk driving, curbing instances of rash driving, overloading, over speeding and preventing dangerous stunts on public roads. The DC

stressed on importance of regular road safety reviews and called for increased coordination between the Traffic Police, Roads and Transport Department and other relevant agencies. He urged officials to launch awareness campaigns targeting various

road user groups, including drivers, pedestrians, and students.

"Road safety is a shared responsibility," stated Vikas Kundal, adding that while we strengthen enforcement and improve infrastructure, it is equally crucial to cultivate a culture of responsible driving among our citizens.

During the meeting, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Poonch, Tara Mani, provided a comprehensive briefing on the initiatives undertaken by the Roads and Transport Department, highlighting efforts to implement safe driving measures and improve road infrastructure.

DC Samba reviews arrangements for upcoming Navratri, Dussehra festivals

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 29

In preparation for the upcoming Navratri and Dussehra festivals, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a high-level meeting with all key stakeholders to review arrangements for these holy festivals.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Vijay Sharma; ADC, Jagdish Singh; ACD, CMO, XENS, Tourist Officer and other district officers. Representatives from religious organizations were also



present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the representatives of religious organizations highlighted key concerns related to influx of devotees expected during the festivals.

In response to these concerns, Deputy Com-

missioner issued clear directives to all concerned departments to address these issues well in time.

The DC stressed on the importance of inter-departmental coordination to ensure that all arrangements are

completed in a timely manner. "Our priority is the safety, convenience, and comfort of devotees. It is essential that all departments work in synergy to create a joyous and peaceful environment for the celebrations," he stated.

Assembly Elections-2024

Returning Officer Thanamandi refutes allegations raised by Independent Candidate

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 29

The Returning Officer Thanamandi refuted the allegations raised by Independent Candidate Muzaffar Iqbal Khan regarding booth capturing, calling them baseless and unsupported by any factual evidence. The polling process was transparent and all procedures were followed as per established norms. Polling agents were present at the start of polling and voters were properly identified by officials before casting their votes.

The same complaint was raised by Independent Candidate from AC Thanamandi, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan to the observer during the scrutiny of election documents. The Observer, Tikam Chand Bohra, thoroughly reviewed the complaint and conducted a detailed

cross-checking process. This involved examining Micro Observer reports and cross-verifying key documents, including Form 17C and the ASD (Absentee, Shifted and Dead) list.

The scrutiny conducted on P+1 day, in the presence of contesting candidates and their representatives, revealed no discrepancies or adverse findings in the polling process. The ASD list and Form 17C were cross-checked, and everything was found in order.

As for the claim of bogus voting at Polling Station No. 124 Chowakian (C), the list of absentee, deceased, and out-of-state voters submitted by Muzaffar Iqbal Khan was found to be inaccurate. Individuals he listed as deceased, such as Rubina Koser (Serial No. 327) and Kulsum Begum (Serial No. 704), were confirmed to be alive, and Zahir Ahmed

(Serial No. 236) is not listed on the electoral roll.

Allegations that some voters were out of the country or state were also refuted by local sources, confirming that individuals like Mohammad Kabir (Serial No. 237), Irfan Ahmed (Serial No. 254), Aurangzeb (Serial No. 341), and Liaquat Ali (Serial No. 158) were present at their polling stations on the day of voting. Many voters, including those studying or working outside the district, state, or even country, returned home to participate in the election, which was held after a gap of several years.

Based on these examinations, it was confirmed that no irregularities, including booth capturing, took place at the polling stations. Law enforcement officials were on duty throughout polling day and maintained

strict vigilance to ensure smooth conduct at the polling stations.

Both Police Observer Dr. Vishnu Khant and General Observer Tikam Chand Bohra visited the majority of polling stations in Tehsil Darhal, including those where the allegations were raised, and found no signs of unlawful activities. These stations were identified as critical, and additional security measures were implemented, involving the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

In conclusion, all claims raised by Muzaffar Iqbal Khan are without merit. The polling process was conducted with transparency and fairness, and no instances of booth capturing or irregularities were found. The enquiry, observer reports and official documents all validate the integrity of the polling process.

Assembly Elections-2024: Div Com Jammu reviews polling day preparedness in Samba

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 29

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today conducted an extensive review of the final arrangements for the upcoming elections in Samba District.

The visit focused on monitoring the operational readiness and logistical framework essential for the seamless execution of polling day.

The District Election Officer (DEO) Samba, Rajesh Sharma, accompanied by senior officers, briefed the Divisional Commissioner on the comprehensive measures being put in place for the upcoming polls. The review covered crucial aspects such as the dispatch of polling parties, establishment of collection centers, transport logistics and the provision of other necessary infrastructure required for effective polling operations. During his visit, the



Div Com inspected the Election Control Room, which will serve as the center for managing real-time polling operations and addressing any emerging challenges on Election Day. The control room is equipped to handle various election-related issues and ensure swift resolutions to maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

A detailed inspection of the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) cell was also conducted, where the Divisional Commissioner

was given a thorough briefing on the operations and protocols being followed by the teams stationed there.

In addition to reviewing the electoral preparations, the Divisional Commissioner also took stock of the law and order situation in the district. In coordination with senior law enforcement officials, he assessed the security arrangements being put in place to ensure a peaceful and incident-free polling environment.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com empha-

sized the importance of meticulous planning and seamless coordination among all departments involved in the electoral process. He stressed that the successful conduct of free and fair elections is paramount and requires unwavering commitment from all stakeholders.

The visit was attended by key district officials, including SSP Samba, Vinay Kumar, ADC Samba, Jagdish Singh, Nodal Officer MCC, Gurpreet Singh, and other nodal officers responsible for various election-related duties.

Inter-District Division Level Tournament Kho-Kho AAG Girls concludes at GDC Bhandarwah



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 29

The Inter-District Division Level Tournament in the discipline of Kho-Kho under the AAG Girls tournament concluded, here at Government Degree College Bhandarwah. The tournament was organized under the patronage of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K UT, Rajinder Singh Tara, and District Development Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, with the able guidance of Joint Director Ved Parkesh and the supervision of DYSS Officer Doda, Sunil Kumar.

As many as 320 student players participated in the Inter-District Division

Level Tournament Kho-Kho AAG Girls, hailing from various districts of Jammu Division.

The main objective of this tournament was to select the best players in Kho-Kho for their further participation in the UT level Inter-Division competition. The matches were witnessed by a good gathering of students and sports enthusiasts.

In the final matches: Under-14 Kho-Kho: Winner up Udhampur; Runner up Doda, Under-17: Winner up Udhampur; Runner up Doda and Under-19: Winner up Udhampur; Runner up Doda.

Later, Suresh Kumar, ZPEO Doda, along with Rajan and Vikram Singh

Chandel, presented trophies and certificates to the winning and runner-up teams in the presence of staff members.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Doda involved staff from all cadres to make this tournament successful, emphasizing the significance of promoting indigenous sports. District Doda, the host of this prestigious event, left no stone unturned in ensuring top-notch facilities and an excellent arena for the competition.

The matches were officiated by a panel from the technical committee of the Department of Youth Services and Sports.

#JKASSEMBLYPOLLS2024

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Alternatives to your "EPIC" card

<p>Alternative No. 1 Indian Passport</p>	<p>Alternative No. 7 Driving License</p>
<p>Alternative No. 2 Permanent Account Number (PAN)</p>	<p>Alternative No. 8 Health Insurance Smart Card <small>Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour</small></p>
<p>Alternative No. 3 Unique Disability ID Card <small>Issued by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI</small></p>	<p>Alternative No. 9 Smart Card <small>Issued by MCI under NPS</small></p>
<p>Alternative No. 4 Service Identity Cards with Photograph <small>Issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSU/Public Limited Companies</small></p>	<p>Alternative No. 10 Passbook with photograph</p>
<p>Alternative No. 5 MGNREGA Job Card</p>	<p>Alternative No. 11 Official ID Cards <small>Issued to MP/MLA/MP/MLA</small></p>
<p>Alternative No. 6 Pension Document with Photo</p>	<p>Alternative No. 12 Aadhaar Card</p>

Chief Electoral Officer
J&K

Ceo Jammu Kashmir

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Courtesy: Chief Electoral Officer, J&K

DIP/J-1997-P/24
Date: 29-9-24