

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-249 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Apni Party's Muntazir Mohiuddin withdraws his nomination from Budgam seat

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): Apni Party candidate from Budgam assembly segment, Muntazir Mohi-Ud-Din on Monday withdrew his nomination papers to "give people chance to opt for the deserving candidate."

"There are many big names in the electoral fray from Budgam constituency, who can play big role in the assembly for the people," Muntazir said, adding that he had decided to withdraw his nomination papers today, reported news agency.

It is to be noted that the former chief minister and National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi are among the ten candidates, who are contesting for the seat.

### Apni party to support Taj Mohiuddin from Uri as chief Bukhari says they're on lookout for more independents to back

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): Jammu Kashmir Apni Party chief, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Monday said that his party will support the former minister and the independent candidate from north Kashmir's Uri, Taj Mohiuddin in the forthcoming elections in J&K.

While confirming his support, Bukhari said that his party is identifying constituencies where they will support independent candidates for "the well being of people."

"We will consolidate with the independent candidates where ever necessary for the public wellbeing," Bukhari said as per news agency.

Taj Mohiuddin thanked Apni Party for its support.

### Three houses damaged in fire incident at Srinagar's Noorbagh area

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): At least three residential houses were damaged in an

## Sonam Wangchuk urges PM Modi to act on Ladakh's demands

NEW DELHI, Sep 9 (Agencies): Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday to include Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, granting law-making powers to local people to protect their land and cultural identity.

On September 1, Wangchuk and around 75 volunteers embarked on a foot march from Leh to New Delhi to request the Centre to resume dialogue with Ladakh's leadership regarding their demands.

At a virtual press conference, Wangchuk said he has not received a response to the memorandum of demands submitted to the prime minister during the lat-



ter's visit to Dras for the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas in July.

Wangchuk also said the creation of five additional districts in Ladakh could be "indirectly linked" to their protest.

"However, we still do not know if these districts have been granted decision-making powers," he said, adding that it would be unfortunate if that is not the case.

"Ladakh is an ecologically-fragile region facing industrial and climate-related challenges. I urge the prime minister to include it in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to safeguard the autonomy of its people," Wangchuk said.

He said through the march, he aimed at drawing the attention of world leaders and the global community

to the severe impacts of climate change in the region.

Responding to a question from agency, Wangchuk said the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil have only been granted authority to spend development funds. "The people of Ladakh want law-making powers too," he added.

Wangchuk acknowledged that a single march would not resolve the issue. "We want the Centre to resume discussions on the demands of the Ladakhi people," he said.

Wangchuk said he has no intention of joining politics and that the

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### Two terrorists killed as Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Rajouri

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): The army on Monday claimed to have recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition from the two infiltrators it earlier said it killed in Laam area of Nowshera sector in Jammu's Rajouri.

Quoting defence sources, news agency NVI reported that the recovery includes two Ak-47 rifles, one M4 carbine with vision device, a pistol, eight grenades, assorted ammunition, personal clothing and edibles.

Earlier, in a night long operation, two terrorists were killed as they tried to infiltrate from Lam area of Nowshera

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### BJP appoints Sat Sharma as working president for party in J-K



SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): In a bid to pacify its leaders, the BJP on Monday assigned new responsibilities to its leaders who were denied tickets.

The former minister Sat Sharma has been appointed as working president and former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh as campaign in-charge.

As per the party communication, Sat Sharma, party's former president and minister in BJP-PDP government, has

been reappointed as J&K BJP's working president. He represented Jammu West constituency in the last assembly but he was replaced by Arvind Gupta as candidate.

Former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh has been appointed as head of party's campaign committee. He was MLA from Kathua district's Billawar constituency, but the party fielded Satish Sharma in the segment. Moreover, party appointed former minister Sukhmandan Choudhary as vice-president of campaign.

Another former deputy CM Kavinder Gupta has been appointed as head of election management committee. He was aspirant of the party ticket from Bahu constituency.

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### BJP's opposition to our manifesto shows NC is headed in the right direction: Omar Abdullah



SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) vice president and former chief minister J&K, Omar

Abdullah on Monday said that the BJP's opposition to their election manifesto shows that National Conference is headed towards right direction.

He urged people to go through the manifesto of the party, and claimed they would like it as compared to the manifestos made public by other political parties. Talking to media per-

sons on the sidelines of an election rally in Banihal, the NC vice president said had BJP praised their manifesto, it would have pushed him into fear, but their opposition makes them aware that they are headed in the right direction.

"Had BJP praised our manifesto, it would have pushed me into

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### Husband, wife critically injured in Kulgam accident

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): A husband-wife couple was critically injured in a road accident on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in J&K's Kulgam district on Monday, police said.

Police said that the accident occurred at the Malpora Chowk on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Kulgam when the scooty which the couple was riding was hit by a tempo.

Both the husband and wife suffered serious head injuries in the accident.

"They were shifted to the government medical college (GMC) hospital in Anantnag town for treatment. The couple has been identified as Sajad Ahmad Naikoo and his wife, Flory Jan," a police official said, adding that a case has

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### Congress to release manifesto in next 3 days: PCC Chief Karra

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): The Indian National Congress (INC) is all set to release the party's much awaited manifesto for the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir within the next



three days. Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief, Tariq Hameed Karra while confirming that the manifesto will be released in next two

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### Daisy Raina becomes first Kashmiri Pandit woman to fight Assembly elections in J-K in 3-decades

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): A woman Kashmiri Pandit is said to contest in the forthcoming Assembly polls in J&K. This would be the first time in almost thirty-years that a woman from KP community is fighting elections in Kashmir.

Daisy Raina, who worked in a private company in Delhi, and has also served as a



sarpanch of Frisal village in south Kashmir's Pulwama is a lone candidate fielded by the Republican Party of

India (Athawale), which is an ally of the BJP in the NDA alliance. Ms Raina will be contesting from the Rajpora Assembly constituency in Pulwama. She says, she "was compelled to contest elections by the youth who want her to be their voice," NDTV reported.

"The youth forced

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## Sheikh Rashid's party proxy of BJP, claims Mehbooba

ANANTNAG, Sep 9 (Agencies): PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday accused jailed MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party of being a proxy of the BJP, and warned the people of Jammu and Kashmir not to come under the influence of such parties.

Her remarks came a day after PDP candidate from south Kashmir's Shopian assembly segment Yawar Shafi Bandy was injured in an alleged attack by the workers of the Awami

Ittehad Party (AIP), which is led by Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, in Belpora area of Shopian.

"Our candidate was going to his constituency, some workers associated with AIP assaulted them, even our candidate Yawar Bandy was beaten and he is fighting for his life, his ribs broken, his condition is serious," Mehbooba claimed while addressing a press conference in Khanabal area of Anantnag district. Rashid defeated



former chief minister and National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah from the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency earlier this year.

The PDP chief questioned how the AIP was organising resources and candidates when

their chief was behind the bars.

"I want to know that Rashid is in jail. (PDP founder) Mufti (Mohammad Sayeed) took 50 years to form the party, we still do not have resources to field candidates everywhere. Who is behind his (Engineer's) organisation as their candidates are fielded everywhere, wherefrom is the funding coming? Wherefrom are they getting such courage to engage in hooliganism?" she added.

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## REMEMBRANCE



LATE SH. MANOHAR LAL MAHAJAN  
1-4-1938 to 9-9-2006

About 18 years has passed since you left us for heavenly abode, but the fragrance of your love, affection and memories will always remain alive in our hearts and minds.

We miss you very much and do feel your presence around us every moment of our life with your loving memories. We missed you every day and prayed to Almighty to rest your soul in peace.

### DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

#### SON AND DAUGHTER IN-LAW

Sunil Mahajan and Neena  
Rajiv Mahajan and Anita  
GRAND CHILDREN  
Dr. Sushant Mahajan (J.K.A.S)  
Vaneeka  
Sukant Mahajan (Engineer)  
Ayoosh (Major Indian Army)





## EDITORIAL

SVEEP  
Activities

The Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative is a crucial program implemented by the Election Commission of India (ECI) aimed at increasing voter awareness, promoting voter participation, and fostering informed electoral decisions. Since its inception in 2009, SVEEP has evolved into a comprehensive voter education program that targets various demographics, including first-time voters, women, rural populations, urban youth, marginalized groups, and persons with disabilities (PwDs). Through a variety of outreach activities, campaigns, and educational drives, SVEEP seeks to empower citizens to exercise their democratic rights responsibly and participate in free and fair elections. The primary goal of SVEEP is to encourage higher voter turnout and ensure that elections are inclusive, participatory, and transparent. SVEEP encourages eligible citizens to register as voters, particularly those who may have missed earlier opportunities, such as first-time voters and those from marginalized communities. SVEEP raises awareness about the importance of ethical voting practices, urging voters to make informed decisions based on candidates' qualifications, policies, and performance rather than being influenced by money, fear, or favoritism. By educating voters about the electoral process, voting procedures, and the significance of each vote, SVEEP helps to demystify elections and empower citizens with the knowledge they need to participate actively. SVEEP designs tailored campaigns for different demographic groups, including women, PwDs, elderly citizens, first-time voters, and urban non-voters, to address the unique challenges and barriers they may face. SVEEP implements a wide range of activities to engage citizens and encourage electoral participation. These activities are carried out at the national, state, and district levels, leveraging partnerships with civil society organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, and media outlets. SVEEP conducts extensive voter awareness campaigns through print, electronic, and social media platforms. These campaigns include public service announcements, short films, jingles, posters, and brochures designed to spread key messages about voter registration, polling dates, and the importance of casting a vote. SVEEP organizes voter registration camps in collaboration with local administration and non-governmental organizations. These drives are often conducted in colleges, universities, and rural areas to target first-time voters, young citizens, and those in remote locations who may not have easy access to registration facilities. Educational workshops and seminars are held in schools, colleges, and community centers to spread awareness about the electoral process. These events provide hands-on training on how to register to vote, how to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), and how to identify polling stations. SVEEP also utilizes cultural events such as street plays, rallies, contests, and quiz competitions to engage with the public. These events are popular in both urban and rural areas and help communicate voter awareness messages in an entertaining and easily digestible format. Special initiatives are undertaken to ensure the participation of women and PwDs in the electoral process. These include providing accessible polling stations, training polling officers in inclusivity, and deploying mobile apps that offer voter assistance. Additionally, campaigns encourage women to register and vote independently and assert their electoral rights. Schools and colleges are vital partners in SVEEP activities. The Election Commission partners with educational institutions to create awareness among young voters, especially those eligible for the first time. Youth-focused programs like 'Campus Ambassadors' and Electoral Literacy Clubs encourage students to take active roles in promoting voter awareness. SVEEP campaigns often include "voter pledge" activities where citizens commit to exercising their vote and encouraging others to do so. The pledge is promoted widely through media channels and in person at campaign events, strengthening the culture of voting in the community. One of the significant aspects of SVEEP is its effort to educate the public about the use of EVMs and VVPATs. Demonstration camps are held in public places and educational institutions to familiarize voters with the voting machines, making the process less intimidating, especially for first-time and elderly voters. SVEEP's initiatives have significantly impacted voter turnout and participation in Indian elections. The outreach campaigns, voter education, and awareness efforts have helped increase voter registration and reduced the gender gap in electoral participation. The program's success in promoting informed voting has also contributed to more ethical electoral practices, with voters becoming less susceptible to coercion and inducements. Moreover, SVEEP has been instrumental in reaching remote and marginalized communities, ensuring that elections in India are more inclusive than ever. The focus on involving youth, women, PwDs, and the elderly has created a more engaged and informed electorate, laying the foundation for stronger democratic practices. SVEEP is a critical component of India's electoral framework, ensuring that every citizen is aware of their electoral rights and responsibilities. By fostering voter education, encouraging participation, and promoting ethical voting, SVEEP plays a pivotal role in strengthening India's democracy. As it continues to evolve, SVEEP will remain central to the Election Commission's efforts to ensure free, fair, and inclusive elections.

## 'Act East' policy demands relook, but stabilise N-E

By: Manish Tewari

The Act East Policy (AEP) has been one of New Delhi's most enduring and consistent foreign policy strategies since the end of the Cold War. Initially launched as the Look East Policy, it primarily focused on strengthening economic and strategic relations with Southeast Asian nations. Over time, this approach has evolved into a broader strategy, including deeper engagements with East Asian countries like Japan and South Korea, and addressing the economic and strategic needs of India's Northeastern region by promoting cross-border economic ties. However, recent political instability in neighboring Bangladesh and Myanmar has raised serious concerns about the policy's effectiveness, indicating that a significant reassessment may now be necessary. Also Read - Bhopinder Singh | Trying to breach the glass ceiling: Can gender be made irrelevant? Advertisement A Sudden Shift in the Neighborhood: The political landscape in Bangladesh underwent a dramatic change with the ousting of Sheikh Hasina's government in August 2024. Her administration, long viewed as a stable and friendly neighbour to India, fell amidst widespread protests. For India, which had fostered a strong relationship with Hasina's government, this development marks a significant setback. This shift has strained diplomatic relations between the two countries and cast doubt on several critical infrastructure and connectivity projects vital to India's strategic interests. Also Read - Shobhaa De | Does anyone give a damn for rape victims in India? The immediate fallout from this political turmoil includes the suspension of train services and the stoppage of goods and people moving across the India-Bangladesh border. A more pressing concern for India is

the possibility that the new leadership in Bangladesh might shift its alignment towards China or even, ironically, Pakistan whose deprivations in the first place led to the creation of Bangladesh. These are nations with which India shares complex and often adversarial ties. The interim government in Bangladesh, now headed by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, may be less willing to sustain the close cooperation that previously existed between Bangladesh and India. Such a shift could result in a geopolitical realignment that negatively impacts India's security and economic interests. Also Read - Farrukh Dhondy | UK should check social media use to spread hatred, instigate violence Navigating relations with the interim government could be difficult for India. The Yunus administration has hinted at a potential reevaluation of the bilateral relationship, suggesting that Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) previously signed with India might be reviewed or even cancelled if they are deemed unfavorable to Bangladesh. This, along with increased scrutiny of Indian-funded projects and renewed discussions on contentious issues like the Teesta water-sharing treaty, highlights the complexities India faces in preserving its strategic interests in the region. Also Read - Indranil Banerjee | Hunt for scapegoats won't improve future of B'desh The Dilemma of Engagement in Myanmar: The strategic and economic significance of Myanmar to India is considerable, especially for advancing India's influence in Southeast Asia through the Act East Policy (AEP) and strengthening ties with Asean countries. However, political turmoil in Myanmar, stemming from the military's takeover in February 2021, poses a serious challenge. On February 8, 2024, the Indian government decided to terminate the Free Movement Regime (FMR)

with Myanmar after fencing the border to bolster internal security and maintain the demographic balance in the Northeastern states. The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, linking Manipur in India's northeast with Mae Sot in Thailand via Mandalay and Bagan in Myanmar, is a crucial project. While approximately 70 per cent of the highway has been completed, progress on the remaining 30 per cent has stalled due to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar. Similarly, the ambitious trans-Asian railway link, intended to connect New Delhi with Hanoi, has made little tangible progress. Furthermore, the future of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, designed to link the eastern Indian port of Kolkata with Sittwe in Myanmar's Rakhine state by sea, is also in jeopardy. The recent capture of Paletwa by the Arakan Army has further complicated the situation, casting doubt on the completion of this strategically vital project. The Northeast Region on Edge: The northeastern region of India is of immense strategic importance due to its unique geographic location, bordering Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal, and Bangladesh. This pivotal position makes the region a gateway to Southeast Asia, placing it at the heart of India's AEP. However, ongoing ethnic tensions in Manipur, often referred to as India's "gateway" to Southeast Asia, threaten to derail India's ambitious plans under the AEP. These conflicts have far-reaching implications for the Northeastern region, which has historically been plagued by ethnic strife and insurgencies. The instability spilling over from neighboring countries, coupled with the influx of refugees from Myanmar and the potential for similar movements from Bangladesh, has intensified tensions in states such as Mizoram and Manipur. The Indian government's decision to suspend the Free Movement Regime (FMR), which

facilitated the movement of people across the India-Myanmar border, not only underscores security concerns but also disrupts the social and economic lives of border communities. For India's vision of a "shared destiny" under the AEP to succeed, stability in the northeastern states is essential. The future of the AEP extends beyond improving infrastructure; it hinges on fostering peace and trust both within the region and with neighboring countries. Navigating a New Reality: Given these challenges, it is evident that India's Act East Policy needs a comprehensive reassessment. The policy's core components of economic engagement, connectivity projects and strategic alliances are increasingly strained by shifting political and security dynamics in the region. The recent political upheavals in Bangladesh and Myanmar, combined with persistent tensions in India's Northeast, highlight the need for a more adaptable and nuanced approach. India must reevaluate its traditional alliances and explore new strategies that include broader political engagement, humanitarian considerations, and a recalibrated approach to regional cooperation. By doing so, India can better protect its interests and ensure that the Act East Policy remains effective in an increasingly volatile environment. India's Act East Policy has the potential to significantly alter the geopolitical and geo-economic landscape of the region, especially in light of rising Chinese influence. Rooted in the principle of a "shared destiny," the AEP emphasises equal roles for all nations. The northeastern region of India is crucial to this policy, and its future success is heavily dependent on achieving peace, stability and development in these states. Addressing these needs is essential for ensuring that the Act East Policy continues to advance India's strategic interests.

## Trying to breach the glass ceiling: Can gender be made irrelevant?

By: Bhopinder Singh

The countries of the Indian-subcontinent can pride on putting women leaders into high office long before the rest of the world. The world's first elected woman Prime Minister was Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka (which was then Ceylon) in 1960. India's "Iron Lady" Indira Gandhi emerged soon afterwards, in 1966. Other pathbreakers in the region were the first elected woman Prime Minister in a Muslim country, Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan in 1988, and were followed by Bangladesh's Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wajed in 1991 and 1996 respectively. Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi has been the virtual leader of the masses, though her victory in 1990 was disallowed and her party took over as late as 2015. Even Nepal has had Bidya Devi Bhandari as its President in 2015. Also Read - Manish Tewari | 'Act East' policy demands relook, but stabilise N-E Advertisement However, the global champion of democracy and all kinds of progressive movements, the United States of America, has not had a woman in the top job. While women have made it to the posts of vice-president (Kamala Devi Harris), secretary of state (Condoleezza Rice, Madeline Albright and Hillary Clinton), Speaker of the House of Representatives (Nancy Pelosi) and even as presidential candidates (Hillary Clinton won nearly three million more popular votes than Donald Trump in 2016, but still lost in the electoral college) -- they

didn't make the final cut for the Oval Office as POTUS. The United States remains amongst the 113 countries worldwide that have not had women in the top position. Also Read - Shobhaa De | Does anyone give a damn for rape victims in India? One of the metastasizing theories of gender discrimination and sexism that is frequently bandied about is that countries with strong militaristic culture and nuclear wherewithal are naturally averse to women at the top. This holds good not just for the United States but also for Russia and China, the other claimants for "superpower" status. Implicit in this flawed logic is that women would not be "tough enough" in difficult situations, that might lead to declaring war. But this theory is negated by the examples of Israel's Golda Meir (Yom Kippur War 1973), India's Indira Gandhi (Bangladesh War 1971) or even Britain's Margaret Thatcher (Falklands War 1982). So many others, such as Angela Merkel, Jacinda Arden, Tsai Ing-wen, etc, held their own and navigated their countries with a rare combination of nerves of steel, decisiveness, and empathy, all rolled in one. There hasn't been a credible reason posited for women's denial, except undeniable discrimination. Also Read - Farrukh Dhondy | UK should check social media use to spread hatred, instigate violence It is with this backdrop that Hillary Rodham Clinton reignited the hope of breaking the "highest, hardest glass ceiling" at the recent Democratic National Convention in Chicago last month.

Punting on Kamala Harris to defeat the ultra-macho appeal of Donald Trump, Hillary recalled the collective journey of American women: "Together, we've put a lot of cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling". And then she went on to the larger significance: "When a barrier falls for one of us, it clears the way for all of us". She then alluded to a so-far missing piece of the American Dream to suggest: "On the other side of that glass ceiling is Kamala Harris raising her hand and taking the oath of office as 47th President of the United States". However, it is an angularity that hasn't been pitched aggressively enough by Kamala herself: perhaps she doesn't need to state the obvious and may tactically pitch the same in the final stages, to win over the fence-sitters. Right now, she is focusing on the winning with the "prosecutor versus felon" theme that reiterates the fact that Mr Trump has been formally indicted in multiple jurisdictions and convicted of 34 felonies. It seems to be working, as she is statistically ahead. Also Read - Indranil Banerjee | Hunt for scapegoats won't improve future of B'desh Earlier, "electability" had been a code phrase for convenient male preference. But with a reassuring record as vice-president in the shadow of a perceptibly shaky President Joe Biden, Kamala can flex her performance for the top job. She has already started getting under the skin of Donald Trump with statements like: "In those roles I took on perpetrators of all kinds: predators who abused women, fraudsters

who ripped off consumers, cheaters who broke the rules for their own gain. So, hear me when I say, I know Donald Trump's type". This has left Mr Trump with no choice but to up the ante in retaliation and create even more space for more damaging "self-goals". Mr Trump personifies the term "abuse of power", and history is instructive that the more power he has been afforded, the more people (especially women) he has hurt. His known treatment and commentary of women have been the original peek into his abuse of power. In a wounded and polarised world, Kamala Harris brings personal experience of so many societal prejudices -- race, ethnicities, immigration, religion, colour and gender -- as someone who has endured the same. She could affirm for gender, like President Barack Obama managed for race. Conversely, voting for Kamala on account of her gender is also sexism -- therefore, traction for her should really be because she is inherently more qualified, competent and likely to manage to govern America more effectively. In an ideal world, gender should not be a part of the conversation, and by defeating Mr Trump she will instil the "normalcy" of such expectations. By not over-emphasising on gender, Kamala is confidently pitching her opinions, policies and experiences -- this by itself should be enough, though sadly isn't, given the regressive beliefs of some people. Therefore, the importance of shattering that glass ceiling. Eventually, how Kamala Harris will fare as President will have nothing to do with gender.



## The adventures of Kamiya Jani

*Nothing is impossible, says Kamiya Jani, who was awarded the Best Travel Creator title for her digital channel Curly Tales*

From being the daughter of an auto-rickshaw driver to India's leading travel content creator, Kamiya Jani's life has been nothing short of an amazing adventure! Turning her love of travel, delicious food and heartfelt conversations into a passionate venture, Jani has been cruising through life with her favourite playlists and a bagful of travel dreams.

Presently associated with premium brands like Starbucks, Cox & Kings, JW Marriott, Japan Tourism and Royal Orchid, Kamiya's digital travel channel Curly Tales is among the top 10 Facebook video pages in India, with monthly views of over 45.4 million. This travel platform has over three million monthly visitors.

In 2022, Kamiya was honoured with The Best Food Influencer of The Year award by Exhibit Magazine. She was awarded Best Travel Creator for Curly Tales by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024. "I'm a visual storyteller. All stories interest me; but travel stories haunt me till I don't share them on social media!" smiles Kamiya.

Discovering her true calling When she switched to Curly Tales, Kamiya was already a mother of a three-year-old daughter Zaina. However, unlike many Indian women who lock their personal dreams in a suitcase once they become moms, Kamiya used her maternity leave to discover her true calling—travelling!

"My pregnancy was a difficult time physically and emotionally. But it taught me something — that I could not stay confined at home!" I decided on taking a



sabbatical, to explore the world!" reveals Kamiya.

She pursued her travel dreams with a simple thought—if not now, then when? So, it was while juggling her job as an anchor, part-time mommy and her passion to travel the world, that she got an idea to start Curly Tales!

Passion for globetrotting Rather than travelling solo, she ideated on sharing her globetrotting experiences through engaging videos. After quitting her full-time job as an anchor with a business news channel in 2017, Kamiya poured her passion for travelling into her personal blog, Curly Tales.

"Ever since childhood, I've had this strong desire to see this beautiful world. By 18, I had seen quite a few places in India in a limited budget. So, after having worked as a pro-

ducer and news anchor in with ET NOW, Bloomberg TV and CNBC TV18 for 10 years, I felt that I should pursue my passion to travel the world," recalls Kamiya. During Covid, when we all were confined to our homes, she introduced the pathbreaking concept of armchair travel. "While sitting in the safety of their houses, we made people explore new places virtually," she quips.

While Curly Tales takes viewers on a journey through off-beat locations, Kamiya's popular show Sunday Brunch With Kamiya Jani hosts celeb interviews, wherein, Kamiya invites renowned personalities for a brunch. In free-flowing conversations, they discuss their journey, their passion for travel and their food experiences.

The road ahead And today, Curly Tales is

undoubtedly on of India's top food and travel content platforms. Amidst her astounding success, however, Kamiya gives the girl-next-door vibe, calling herself a local wanderer in the city of dreams!

Navigating her way through inspired storytelling, Kamiya has till date travelled 40 countries and 153 cities. Next in her wish-bucket is her desire to conduct a content creation guide for aspiring travel bloggers. She's also launching her video series India in Motion—a pioneering exploration of India's elevated travel infrastructure.

Success mantra Envious of Kamiya's job? Want to make moolah while chilling out and exploring the world? Well, follow into Kamiya Jani's footsteps, with these on-the-go tips!

Have a Plan B: Making a strong Plan B before taking the plunge is the smart thing to do.

Discipline is the key: On my work trips, I start my day at 6 am and end it at 11 pm! Following a routine really helps taking things forward.

Take the plunge: Don't wait for the big moment. Just to go out there with your mobile phone and a selfie tripod and create content.

Embrace your shortcomings: The most important rule is to remind yourself constantly that you cannot have everything all the time and that's absolutely okay.

Weigh the risks involved: Assess the situation completely before setting out to pursuing your passion. Creative vision must be bolstered with an ability to see things as they stand.

## Manju Jaidka releases poetry anthology A World in Flames



The TS Central State Library in Sector 17, Chandigarh was abuzz with literary enthusiasm as it hosted a vibrant book discussion celebrating the illustrious career of Manju Jaidka, a renowned academic and poet. This event marked the 50th anniversary of Professor Jaidka's academic journey, coinciding with the

release of her latest poetry anthology, titled A World in Flames.

Jaidka, former Chair of the English Department at Panjab University and past Chairperson of the Chandigarh Sahitya Akademi, has been an important contributor to the literary and academic life in the region. After five decades of enriching the literary land-

scape, she has decided to retire from an active teaching career, making this event a farewell to a significant chapter of her life.

The discussion featured insights from distinguished academics, including Professor Anirudh Joshi, formerly of Panjab University, and Professor Roshan Lal Sharma from CUHP, Dharamshala. Their thoughtful analysis of A World in Flames illuminated the depth of Jaidka's work. The session was expertly moderated by Aradhika Sharma, whose engaging style facilitated a lively and insightful conversation.

Neeza Singh, the librarian who has been instrumental in organising a series of literary events, served as the event host. Her dedication to making the TS Central State Library a cultural hub was evident throughout the proceedings.

A World in Flames — Jaidka's third poetry collection — is a bilingual anthology featuring poems in both English and Hindi (Sulagata Sansar), reflecting her ability to bridge linguistic and cultural divides. The collection draws inspiration from the devastating forest fires in Himachal Pradesh, exploring themes of environmental destruction, human impact, and nature's response.

## Patralekha says, she lets her natural flair for acting take over on the sets

Portraying a real incident on reel is a tough enough task any day but when it is a hijacking being relived on screen, it gets all the more challenging. Little wonder then, actress Patralekha aptly claims that the experience of enacting an air-hostess in Netflix's latest series IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack was 'intense'.

Directed by the talented Anubhav Sinha, the series recreates the 1999 hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane on way from Nepal to India. "It is not everyday that one gets to recreate such emotions. It was difficult to enact the mental as well as emotional turmoil that the passengers and crew members must have gone through, but I took it up as a challenge and enjoyed the overall experience. The intensity of the role was telling," says Patralekha, whose latest digital film Wild Wild Punjab made a mark too.

Patralekha made her acting debut with Citylights in 2014, while her first web series was Bose: Dead/Alive (2017). She has also been a part of films, including Nanu Ki Jaanu (2018), and the web series Mai Hero Boll Raha Hu (2021) as well as Aar Ya Paar (2022).

Regarding the preparations for her role in The Kandahar Hijack, or for that matter any other that she essays, Patralekha says, "I believe my intuition and feelings flow on the sets, so when I essay a particular character there is not much pre-thinking. Although there are reading sessions, but on the sets I go with my spon-



taneity. Natural flair is important for me and I trust my instinct."

Working with Sinha must have been a learning experience, right? "Of course, it was. In fact, it was a dream come true for me as he is a very gifted director. Although the script is the Bible, he lets his actors 'be' and perform in their own space. Also, as the topic was intense and not much fun happened on the sets, we really enjoyed the food that Anubhav sir often got for us," she recalls.

If it was such a serious affair, challenges would have sure presented themselves? "Yes, there were many. Most of all, working in a tight space with so many people as well as junior artistes was quite a task. As I am a bit claustrophobic, it was not the happiest situation for me, but it is all worth the effort once the result is fruitful," she shares. Hailing from Shillong, Patralekha has completed a decade in the industry along with her co-actor Vijay Varma, with whom she has collaborated

earlier in the series Cheers. "During the last decade, we have grown as actors and working together is always fun. But there is a long way to go yet."

Patralekha, whose ranking jumped from #180 to #30 on IMDb's popularity list since the release of this series, credits the OTT for providing more opportunities to artistes, "It's a good space to be in and the talent pool has become wider. The competition too has increased, but there is more work now. At least I definitely got more work since the advent of OTT and am thankful for that." Ah, are we missing something? Personal front? Being the wife of the super-talented Rajkumar Rao, whose latest film Stree 2 was a huge hit, does work go home? "Yes, we often have discussions on our projects. I seek his advice on particular scenes and how to go about them. So does he. It's wonderful to have a talented soul around as your life partner." Well, two to tango!

## Mariah Carey speaks out for first time after the loss of her mother and sister

Mariah Carey spoke out after her mother, Patricia and sister Alison recently died in August. She posted a video on Instagram, including her rehearsing for her upcoming shows in China and Brazil on Sunday, September 8. In the video, Carey sang a slow version of her hit track It's Like That released back in 2005. In the video, she said, "We'll see you soon, China." Previously, she informed People that her mother and sister died on the same day.

Mariah Carey speaks out after her mother & sister's death

The post's caption read, "Back at work" along with her words of gratitude for the love and support shown by the fans. The caption continued, "It's been a couple of rough weeks, but I appreciate every-



one's love and support so much and I can't wait to see my fans in China & Brazil. Love you!"

On August 27, the

singer announced that both her mother and sister died on the same day, the previous weekend. In a statement, she

revealed to People, "My heart is broken that I've lost my mother this past weekend. Sadly, in a tragic turn of events, my sister lost her life on the same day." She continued, "I feel blessed that I was able to spend the last week with my mom before she passed. I appreciate everyone's love and support and respect for my privacy during this impossible time."

Patient advocate, David Baker who knew Alison said that she "had a tough life" before she died in her home in New York. He said, "We saw it coming, but it's still a shock. She got ill fairly quickly and a month later, she's gone."

Mariah Carey's estrangement from her family

The All I Want for Christmas singer was estranged from her

family including her mother and sister before their deaths. She revealed in her memoir, The Meaning of Mariah Carey that her relationship with her mother "has caused me so much pain and confusion." She wrote in the memoir, "For my sanity and peace of mind, my therapist encouraged me to literally rename and reframe my family. My mother became Pat to me, Morgan my ex-brother and Alison my ex-sister ... I had to stop expecting them to one day miraculously become the mommy, big brother and big sister I fantasized about."

Her brother, Morgan told in a statement to the media outlet, "I'm praying for them and hope they are finally at peace. We were five, and now we are two," after the death of his mother.

## Tamannaah Bhatia says South films are more 'rooted' than Bollywood

Tamannaah Bhatia is basking in the huge success of her last release Stree 2. The actor, who has worked in Hindi as well as Tamil and Telugu films in her career, opened up about her career on Raj Shamani's podcast. The actor shared that according to her, films in the South choose to tell more 'rooted' stories hence they work so well with the audience.

In the new interview, when the host asked Tamannaah to share her opinion on what makes Bollywood films different than the ones made in South, she said, "The difference I have par-

ticularly noticed is that South films talk more in terms of their geographical locations. I think their content is translating globally primarily because they are trying to tell rooted stories."

She added, "They don't work from the standpoint of choosing... segments in people. They go for basic human emotions, related to mother, father... revenge on brother, sister... stories that tend to tell many more stories about basic human emotions through different storytelling formats. They are also very much concerned about putting their perspective



the way it is. They are not trying to service different kinds of people.

They are trying to only tell what they know fully. That has really worked, I

think, for the South." Tamannaah also added that many a times in Bollywood, the films are made for the sake of 'everybody's consumption' which might not work well. She heaped praises on Laapataa Ladies and said how it has been spoken so well about the people.

On the work front, Tamannaah was last seen in Vedaa, which also released around Stree 2. Directed by Nikkhil Advani, it had John Abraham and Sharvari Wagh in lead roles. She'll star next in Odela 2 (Telugu) and the web series Daring Partners (Hindi).

## PM Modi, UAE Crown Prince meet in delhi, hold bilateral talks

*This is the first time India is officially engaging with the next generation of royalty and government from the UAE, highlighting the importance India gives to its ties with the UAE.*

NEW DELHI, Sep 9 (Agencies): The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi has met Prime Minister Narendra Modi today in New Delhi as he begins his first official trip to India as the Crown Prince. The two leaders have begun talks to further bilateral ties between India and the UAE.

PM Modi received Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the Hyderabad House, where they will hold talks.

This is the first time India is officially engaging with the next generation of royalty and government from the UAE, highlighting the importance India gives to its ties with the UAE.



Apart from meeting the PM, the Crown Prince will also call on President Droupadi Murmu. He is also scheduled to visit Mumbai tomorrow, where he will participate in a Business Forum in which top business leaders from both countries will participate. Since the landmark visit by PM Modi to UAE in August 2015, the first by an Indian Prime Minister

in 34 years, bilateral relations between the two countries have elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

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India is the UAE's second-largest trading partner, while the UAE is India's largest trading partner in the Arab world. Total trade between India and the UAE is projected to reach USD 100 billion by the end of the decade. The bilateral trade between the two countries in 2022-23 was about USD 85 billion, according to official data.

The UAE is also among the top four investors in India in terms of Foreign Direct Investments or FDI in 2022-23.

## MoD HAL ink Rs 26K crore contract for 240 Sukhoi engines



NEW DELHI, Sep 9 (Agencies): In a boost to being self-reliant, the Ministry of Defence (MoD), on Monday, signed a Rs 26,000 Crore contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to produce 240 engines for the fleet of Sukhoi 30-MKI fighter jets in the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The Sukhoi uses a 'AL-31FP' engine designed in Russia. Public Sector giant HAL – the Ministry of Defence holds a majority stake in it -- will produce the engines at its plant at Koraput, Odisha.

HAL would supply 30 aero-engines per annum as per the contractual delivery schedule. The supply of all

240 engines would be completed over the period of next eight years, the MoD said on Monday.

The engines will have an indigenous content over 54 per cent, enhanced due to indigenisation of some key components of aero-engines. HAL plans to take support from the country's defence manufacturing ecosystem, involving MSMEs and public and private industries.

The Cabinet Committee on Security, had, on September 2, okayed a proposal for procurement of 240 engines to power the Sukhoi-30 MKI jets. The IAF has 272 of these jets of Russian parentage and form the biggest fleet of the IAF jets.

In the past HAL and its suppliers had been supplying sub-parts of the engines and the servicing and overhaul of the engines is done at Koraput.

With Russia being involved in a conflict with Ukraine the supply of engines was suffering, sources said adding, the Sukhoi fleet has some planes that are now more than 20 years old. Engines of a jet are changed after a certain number of flying hours.

The Sukhoi – a twin engine jet -- is one of the most powerful and strategically-significant fleet of IAF. The supply of these aero-engines by HAL would meet the fleet sustenance requirement of IAF to continue their unhindered operations and strengthen the defence preparedness of the country.

The contract was inked by the senior officials of MoD and HAL in the presence of Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari.

## Kolkata rape-murder: SC directs CBI to file fresh status report by September 17

NEW DELHI, Sep 9 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday directed the CBI to submit a fresh report by September 17 on the probe in the rape and murder case of a postgraduate medic at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud perused the report filed in a sealed cover by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI.

"A status report has been filed by CBI, it appears that investigation is in progress, we direct the CBI to file fresh status report...We don't want to guide the

CBI on its investigation," the bench said.

Mehta told the bench also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that the probe agency has decided to send forensic samples to AIIMS for further investigation.

The apex court also directed a senior officer of the West Bengal government's Home department and a senior CISF officer to ensure all three companies of the CISF, which are deputed for security at the RG Kar Hospital, are given accommodation.

It also directed that all requisition, security gadgets needed by the CISF should be handed over to it today.

At the outset, the West Bengal government told the top court that 23 people have died as doctors are on strike protesting the rape and murder of the postgraduate medic.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the West Bengal government, submitted a status report filed by the state health department.

"A status report has been filed. The state health department has filed a report. Twenty-three people have died as doctors are on strike," Sibal told the bench.

The hearing is still underway.

On August 22, the apex court had torn into the Kolkata Police over

the delay in registering the unnatural death of the woman doctor, who was raped and killed at the RG Kar Hospital, calling it "extremely disturbing", and questioned the sequence of events and the timing of its procedural formalities.

The top court had earlier constituted a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other health care professionals.

Termining the incident as "horrific", the apex court had excoriated the state government over the delay in filing the FIR and allowing thousands

of people to vandalise the state-run facility.

The alleged rape and murder of the junior doctor in a seminar hall of the state-run hospital has sparked nationwide protests.

The medic's body with severe injury marks was found inside the seminar hall of the hospital's chest department on August 9. A civic volunteer was arrested by the Kolkata Police in connection with the case the following day.

On August 13, the Calcutta High Court ordered the transfer of the probe from the Kolkata Police to the CBI, which started its investigation on August 14.

## 2 children killed after SUV carrying school students overturns in Jodhpur

JODHPUR, Sep 9 (Agencies): At least two children were killed after an SUV carrying school students overturned in Rajasthan's Jodhpur city. As a result of the accident, nine others

were also injured. Following the accident, the 11 children were rushed to the Government District Hospital in Phalodi, where the two victims were declared brought dead.

Of the nine injured, two children were referred to be treated in Jodhpur due to their critical condition.

The children are said to be students of the Desert Public School.



## Mamata Banerjee denies offering money to doctor's family, calls it slander

KOLKATA, Sep 9 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday dismissed allegations that the Kolkata Police offered bribe to the parents of the trainee doctor who was raped and killed at a state-run hospital in Kolkata. Banerjee called the accusations slander against her government, asserting that no money was ever offered to the parents.

The father of the 32-year-old doctor alleged last week that the Kolkata Police attempted to cover up the case and offered them money to keep quiet.

"The police, from the very beginning, tried to hush up the case. We were not allowed to see the body and had to wait at the police station while the body was taken for a post-mortem examination. Later, when the body was handed over to us, a senior police official offered us money, which we immediately declined," the father had alleged. Countering this, the Chief Minister



on Monday said, "I have never offered money to the deceased doctor's family, this is nothing but slander".

"...I had told the parents that money can never compensate for a life, but if they ever feel they want to do something meaningful in memory of their daughter, they could reach out to me, as the government stands by their side," she said.

Banerjee added that Kolkata Commissioner of Police, Vineet Goyal, offered to resign after the protests, "but we need someone who knows law and order ahead of Durga Puja".

She also alleged a "conspiracy by the Centre," involving the left parties.

After the parents' allegations added fuel to

criticism against Mamata Banerjee's government over its handling of the incident, the Trinamool Congress released a video in which the father appeared to refute the bribery allegations.

In the video, the trainee doctor's father can be heard saying, "These are baseless rumours; we have not said anything about attempts being made to bribe us by police officials. This is a blatant lie".

A second-year post-graduate medical student was raped and murdered inside the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College on August 9. A civic volunteer, the sole accused, was arrested the next day. The CBI, which is probing the case, is in the final stage of the investigation.

## PM Modi's 'abject failure' in Manipur is unforgivable: Kharage

NEW DELHI, Sep 9 (Agencies): Amid escalation in violence in Manipur, the Congress on Monday demanded that Chief Minister N Biren Singh be immediately dismissed and the Union government take full responsibility of the sensitive security situation.

It also said the Supreme Court-mandated Manipur Commission of Inquiry must expedite its probe.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "abject failure" in Manipur is "unforgivable".

The opposition party's assertions come amid fresh violence in which at least five people were killed in the state's Jiribam district on Saturday.

According to police, militants entered the house of a person and shot him dead in his sleep. Following the murder, there was a heavy exchange of fire between members of the warring communities, leading to the



deaths of four armed men.

Ethnically diverse Jiribam, which was earlier largely untouched by the ethnic clashes in Imphal Valley and adjoining hills, erupted in violence after a 59-year-old man belonging to one community was killed allegedly by militants of another community in June.

In a post on X, Kharage said, "PM Modi's abject failure in Manipur is unforgivable.

Former Manipur Gov-

"BJP's Manipur CM who has set a record in shamelessly brazening out his rank incompetence has reportedly demanded the transfer of the 'Unified Command' to the state government," he said.

Kharage said the unified command oversees security operations in Manipur and is currently handled by a team of Union Home Ministry officials, the state security adviser and the Indian Army.

"Just like the PM, it looks like the Union Home Minister has also given up on his Constitutional responsibility to ensure security in Manipur, and is busy politicking and addressing rallies in elections going states," Kharage said.

Drone and rocket-propelled grenade attacks have begun, and this is now turning out to be a national security threat, he said.

In such a serious situation, the BJP seems to enact a resignation drama, he added.

Kharage said the Congress demands that the

Manipur CM should be immediately dismissed.

The Union government must take full responsibility of the sensitive security situation and there should be a massive crackdown on all kinds of insurgent groups, with the help of the state forces, he said.

"The Supreme Court mandated and monitored Manipur Commission of Inquiry into ethnic violence must expedite its investigation.

Modi government must not misuse CBI, NIA and other agencies investigating the violence," Kharage demanded.

Attempts to foster peace and normalcy must start immediately by taking all political parties, representatives and civil society member of every community on board, he said.

"People of Manipur are asking, why doesn't Modi ji want to end violence in the state?" Kharage said.

Clashes between Meitei and Kukis left over 200 people dead and thousands homeless since May last year.

## Storm deaths in Vietnam rise to 59 and flooding sweeps away a bus carrying 20 people

HANOI, Sep 9 (Agencies): A bridge collapsed and a bus was swept away by flooding Monday as more rain fell on northern Vietnam from a former typhoon that has caused at least 59 deaths in the Southeast Asian country, state media reported.

Nine people died during the typhoon, which made landfall in Vietnam on Saturday before weakening to a depression, and 50 others died during the consequent floods and landslides. The water levels of several rivers in northern Vietnam were dangerously high.

A passenger bus carrying 20 people was swept into a flooded stream by a landslide in mountainous Cao Bang province Monday morning. Rescuers were deployed but landslides blocked the path to where the incident took place.

In Phu Tho province, rescue operations were continuing after a steel bridge over the engorged Red River collapsed Monday morning. Reports said 10 cars and trucks along with two motorbikes fell into the river. Three people were pulled out of the river and taken to the hospital, but 13 others were missing.

Pham Trung Son, 50, told VExpress that he was driving on the bridge on his motorcycle when he heard a loud noise.



Before he knew what was happening, he was falling into the river. "I felt like I was drowned to the bottom of the river," Son told the newspaper, adding that he managed to swim and hold on to a drifting banana tree to stay afloat before he was rescued.

Typhoon Yagi was the strongest typhoon to hit Vietnam in decades when it made landfall Saturday with winds up to 149 kph (92 mph). It weakened to a tropical depression Sunday, but the country's meteorological agency has still warned the continuing downpours could cause floods and landslides.

On Sunday, a landslide killed six people including an infant and injured nine others in Sa Pa town, a popular trekking base known for its terraced rice fields and mountains. Overall,

state media reported 21 deaths and at least 299 people injured from the weekend.

Skies were overcast in the capital, Hanoi, with occasional rain Monday morning as workers cleared the uprooted trees, fallen billboards and toppled electricity poles. Heavy rain continued in northwestern Vietnam and forecasters said it could exceed 40 centimeters (15 inches) in places.

Initially, at least 3 million people were left without electricity in Quang Ninh and Haiphong provinces, and it's unclear how much has been restored.

The two provinces are industrial hubs, housing many factories that export goods including EV maker VinFast and Apple suppliers Pegatron and USI. Factory workers told agency

that many industrial parks were inundated and the roofs of many factories had been blown away.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh visited Haiphong city on Sunday and approved a package of \$4.62 billion to help the port city recover.

Yagi also damaged agricultural land, nearly 116,192 hectares where rice is mostly grown.

Before hitting Vietnam, Yagi caused at least 20 deaths in the Philippines last week and four deaths in southern China.

Chinese authorities said infrastructure losses across the Hainan island province amounted to \$102 million with 57,000 houses collapsed or damaged, power and water outages and roads damaged or impassable due to fallen trees. Yagi made a second landfall in Guangdong, a mainland province neighboring Hainan, on Friday night.

Storms like Typhoon Yagi were "getting stronger due to climate change, primarily because warmer ocean waters provide more energy to fuel the storms, leading to increased wind speeds and heavier rainfall," said Benjamin Horton, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore.

## Israeli strikes in Syria leave 14 dead and more than 40 wounded, says Syrian state media



DAMASCUS, Sep 9 (Agencies): The number of people killed in overnight Israeli strikes in Syria has risen to 14 with more than 40 wounded, Syrian state media said Monday morning.

Israeli strikes hit several areas in central Syria late Sunday, damaging a highway in Hama province and sparking fires, Syrian state news agency SANA said. The initial death count reported by the Masyaf Nation-

al Hospital in western Hamas province was four.

SANA, citing hospital head Faysal Haydar, said 14 were killed and 43 wounded. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based war monitor, said at least four of those killed were civilians.

One of the strikes targeted a scientific research center in Maysaf and others struck sites where "Iranian militias and experts are stationed to devel-

op weapons in Syria," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Local media also reported strikes around the coastal city of Tartous.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of war-torn Syria in recent years, but it rarely acknowledges or discusses the operations. The strikes often target Syrian forces or Iranian-backed groups.

Israel has vowed to stop Iranian entrenchment in Syria, particularly since Syria is a key route for Iran to send weapons to the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Hezbollah has been clashing with Israeli forces for the past 11 months against the backdrop of Israel's war against Palestine people and Hamas, an ally of Hezbollah in Gaza.

## Plane carrying 48 passengers skids off Indonesia runway, several injured

JAYAPURA, Sep 9 (Agencies): A plane with 48 people aboard skidded off the runway in Indonesia's remote eastern region of Papua on Monday, police said, injuring several passengers. The Southeast Asian archipelago has a poor aviation safety record, and Papua is covered in mountainous terrain where flying is hampered by frequent poor weather.

The ATR-42 aircraft belonging to Trigana Air was taking off from an airport in the remote Yapen Islands regency to Papuan capital Jayapura on Monday morning when it skidded off the runway.

The flight was carrying



42 passengers, including a baby, and six crew. "Praise God everybody survived and has been taken to a hospital for a health check-up," local police chief Ardyan Ukie Hercahyo said in a statement.

"We are investigating the incident and coordinating with related parties to ensure this will never happen again." The local search and

rescue agency said in a statement that some passengers were injured and traumatized by the incident.

Indonesia relies heavily on air transport to connect its thousands of islands, but Papua is a particularly difficult area to reach.

In 2015, a Trigana Air plane crashed there, killing all 54 people on board.

## China announces joint naval, air drills with Russia

*China's Defense Ministry has announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine*

BEIJING, Sep 9 (Agencies): China's Defense Ministry on Monday announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine.

The ministry said the "Northern United-2024" exercises would take place in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk farther north, but gave no details.

It said the naval and air drills aimed to improve strategic cooperation between the two countries and "strengthen their ability to jointly deal with security threats."

The notice also said the two navies would



cruise together in the Pacific, the fifth time they have done so, and together take part in Russia's "Great Ocean-24" exercise. No details were given.

China has refused to criticize Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, now in its third year, and blamed the U.S. and NATO for provoking President Vladimir Putin.

While China has not directly provided Russia with arms, it has become a crucial economic lifeline as a top customer for Russian oil and gas as well as a supplier of electronics and other items with both civilian and military uses.

Russia and China, along with other U.S. critics such as Iran, have aligned their foreign

policies to challenge and potentially overturn the Western-led liberal democratic order. With joint exercises, Russia has sought Chinese help in achieving its long-cherished aim of becoming a Pacific power, while Moscow has backed China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and elsewhere.

That has increasingly included the 180-kilometer (110-mile) wide Taiwan Strait that divides mainland China from the self-governing island democracy that Beijing considers its own territory and threatens to invade.

Based on that claim, the Taiwan Strait is Chinese. Though it is

not opposed to navigation by others through one of the world's most heavily trafficked sea ways, China is "firmly opposed to provocations by countries that jeopardize China's sovereignty and security under the banner of freedom of navigation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing on Friday.

Mao was responding to a report that a pair of German navy ships were to pass through the strait this month for the first time in more than two decades. The U.S. and virtually every other country, along with Taiwan, considers the strait international waters.

## South Korean truth commission says it found more evidence of forced adoptions

SEOUL, Sep 9 (Agencies): A South Korean commission found evidence that women were pressured into giving away their infants for foreign adoptions after giving birth at government-funded facilities where thousands of people were confined and enslaved from the 1960s to the 1980s.

The report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Monday came years after The Associated Press revealed adoptions from the biggest facility for so-called vagrants, Brothers Home, which shipped children abroad as part of a huge, profit-seeking enterprise that exploited thousands of people trapped within the compound in the port city of Busan. Thousands of children and adults — many of them grabbed off the streets — were enslaved in such facilities and often raped, beaten or killed in the 1970s and 1980s.

The commission was launched in December 2020 to review human rights violations linked to the country's past

military governments. It had previously found the country's past military governments responsible for atrocities committed at Brothers. Its latest report is focused on four similar facilities in the cities of Seoul and Daegu and the provinces of South Chungcheong and Gyeonggi. Like Brothers, these facilities were operated to accommodate government round-ups aimed at beautifying the streets.

Ha Kum Chul, one of the commission's investigators, said inmate records show at least 20 adoptions occurred from Daegu's Huimangwon and South Chungcheong province's Cheonseongwon in 1985 and 1986. South Korea sent more than 17,500 children abroad in those two years as its foreign adoption program peaked.

Ha said children taken from inmates at Huimangwon and Cheonseongwon were mostly newborns, who were transferred to two adoption agencies, Holt Children's Services and

Eastern Social Welfare Society, which placed them with families in the United States, Denmark, Norway and Australia. Most of the infants were transferred to the agencies on the day of their birth or the day after, Ha said, indicating that their adoptions were determined pre-birth.

While the facilities' records say some of the women submitted memos expressing their consent to give away their children, other records indicate women were being pressured to do so, Ha said. A 1985 inmate record from Huimangwon flags a 42-year-old inmate with supposed mental health issues for "causing problems" by refusing to relinquish her child. Officials later note that she eventually did.

"It's difficult to accurately determine how many more adopted children there might have been in other years," Ha said, citing the commission's limitations in staff. For Huimangwon, Ha said, the commission was only



able to look through its inmate records from 1985 and 1986 and still found 14 adoptions. A further six adoptions were linked to inmates at Cheonseongwon.

At their peak, Huimangwon had about 1,400 inmates and Cheonseongwon 1,200. That was still smaller than the population at Brothers, which exceeded 3,000.

Holt and Eastern did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the commission's findings.

Through documents obtained from officials, lawmakers or through public information

requests, the AP in 2019 found direct evidence that 19 children were adopted out of Brothers between 1979 and 1986, and indirect evidence suggesting at least 51 more adoptions.

About 200,000 South Koreans were adopted to the United States, Europe and Australia in the past six decades, creating what's believed to be the world's largest diaspora of adoptees. Most of the adoptions occurred during the 1970s and '80s, when South Korea's then-military leaders were focused on economic growth and saw adoptions as a tool to reduce

the number of mouths to feed, erase the "social problem" of unwed mothers and deepen ties with the democratic West.

The commission has also been conducting a separate investigation into the cases of 367 Korean adoptees in Europe, the United States and Australia, who suspect their biological origins were manipulated to facilitate their adoptions. It's expected to release an interim report on that later this year.

The commission also identified other human rights problems at the four facilities it highlighted on Monday, which also included Gaengsaengwon in Seoul and Seonghyewon in Gyeonggi province. The facilities' death tolls were high — the 262 inmates who were reported as dead from Gaengsaengwon in 1980 accounted for more than 25% of the facility's population that year, Ha said.

Nearly 120 bodies of Cheonseongwon inmates were provided

to a local medical school for anatomy practice from 1982 to 1992, the commission said. Most of the bodies were transferred to the school on the day the inmates were declared dead or the day after, and there are no indications that the facility made efforts to transfer the bodies to relatives, according to the commission, which didn't identify the school.

Huimangwon, Seonghyewon and Cheonseongwon also regularly received inmates transferred from Brothers, suggesting a "revolving-door" labor-sharing scheme between facilities that likely increased profit and prolonged the inmates' confinements, the commission said.

The population at South Korea's vagrant facilities peaked in the 1980s as the then-military government intensified roundups to beautify streets ahead of the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympic Games held in Seoul. South Korea transitioned to a democracy in the late 1980s and has

long stopped its practice of grabbing homeless people, the disabled and children off the streets and confining them.

Brothers closed in 1988, months after a prosecutor exposed its horrors. Seonghyewon now runs welfare programs for homeless people in the city of Hwaseong, while the three other facilities have changed their names and the services they provide. None of those facilities immediately released comments following the commission's report.

"The four confinement facilities had been allowed to continue their operations without receiving any public investigations even after 1987," when Brothers was exposed, said Lee Sang Hoon, one of the commission's standing commissioners. "It's significant that we have comprehensively revealed the details of the human rights violations at (other) vagrant facilities across the country that had been concealed for 37 years."



# CEO SMVDSB inaugurates Telemedicine Studio at SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 9: In a significant step towards enhancing healthcare services for devotees and the local community, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), today inaugurated a state-of-the-art Telemedicine Studio at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Kakryal.



The Telemedicine Studio is a result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between SMVDSB, Hewlett Packard Enterprise India Private Limited (HPEIPL) and Hewlett Packard (India) Software Operation Private Limited (HPSO) on April 6 this year as per the directions of Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt Governor, JK-UT and Chairman, SMVDSB. The MoU aimed to install

nine cloud-enabled state-of-the-art Health ATMs along the revered Vaishno Devi pilgrimage track and one Telemedicine Studio at Katra.

The newly established Telemedicine Studio at SMVDNSH is designed to facilitate real-time consultation with doctors on the Vaishno Devi track and medical experts in SMVDNSH Hospital. This innovative initiative provides instant access to specialized medical

healthcare delivery on the track besides, allow patients to receive expert medical opinions and follow-ups from specialists located at SMVDNSH.

## Former hockey players participate in friendly match

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 9: In a vibrant celebration of sportsmanship and camaraderie, former hockey players from Jammu and Kashmir came together today for a friendly hockey match held at Bhour School Stadium.

The match saw enthusiastic participation from several former hockey players, including Jaswinder Singh Kuku, P.P. Singh, Parveen Singh, Vijay Kumar, Kuldeep Singh, Iqbal Singh, Ranjit Singh Tara, Pramjeet Singh, Kamaljeet Singh, and Inder Pal Singh Ritti.

## People are yearning for basic amenities under BJP rule: Ajeet Bhagat

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Sep 9: Ajeet Bhagat of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, slammed the BJP's proxy government in Jammu and Kashmir for failing to ensure equitable development across the region.



In its election manifesto, the National Conference has pledged to implement the National Food Security Act, ensure food security for all citizens, and increase free rice from 5 kg to 10 kg per person per month.

women from economically weaker sections, providing one lakh jobs to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, 12 cylinders per family per year and free 200 power units for every household", he said.

## FROM PAGE 1

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Defence sources said that both the infiltrators were foreigners and their identity and affiliation is underway.

### BJP appoints Sat

### Sharma as working president for party in J-K

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### BJP's opposition to our manifesto shows NC is headed in the right direction: Omar Abdullah

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### Daisy Raina becomes first Kashmiri Pandit woman to fight Assembly elections in J-K in 3-decades

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## Take Mountain Dew's Sip of Courage for opportunity to win a wild card entry to Kaun Banega Crorepati

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 9: Mountain Dew, a brand synonymous with courage, has launched an exciting collaboration with the renowned game show Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC), offering consumers a chance to secure a wild card entry into the show's 16th Season.



takes courage to win it! Commenting on the partnership, Akankshaa Dalal, Category Head, Mountain Dew, PepsiCo India, said, "Mountain Dew has always been about celebrating courage and victory in the various 'hot seat' situations that one can face in life.

QR code till 30th September. By scanning the code, they will be directed to a WhatsApp bot where they can enter the 16-digit code found behind the label, provide demographic details, and answer a qualifying question.

## GGM Science College organizes awareness campaign "Save Tree Save Life"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 9: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) in coordination with Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Cell and Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) of GGM Science College Jammu organized an awareness campaign titled "Save Tree Save Life" aimed at promoting the conservation of medicinal plants and raising awareness about their critical role in healthcare and biodiversity.



ing, habitat loss, and climate change. These plants, he said, have been a vital part of traditional medicine systems for centuries and continue to provide the basis for many modern pharmaceuticals.

hands-on learning experience for the students. Demonstrations were provided on how to identify, grow, and care for medicinal plants such as neem, tulsi, aloe vera, and ashwagandha, which hold immense health benefits.

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### manifesto in next 3 days: PCC Chief Karra

three days. "The manifesto was being prepared keeping in view the Jammu angle as well as the Kashmir angle," Karra said, adding that it will be released in the next three days.

### Sheikh Rashid's party proxy of BJP, claims Mehbooba

The former chief minister alleged that the government has come up with new proxy parties like the AIP. "I want to ask the government, if you have again come up a proxy party, Engineer Rashid's party, when all your other proxy parties have failed, you have brought Engineer Rashid's party to the fore, and you are supporting them fully with funds and everything, then tell us clearly that others parties do not have to contest elections," she said.

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### Husband, wife critically injured in Kulgam accident

been registered in this incident at the Mir-bazaar police post. "The tempo driver has been arrested and the tempo has been seized," the official added.

### Congress to release

### resources? The people have to think about it," she said.

She alleged when the other 'proxy' parties failed in the Parliamentary elections, the government came up with new "proxy parties".

"They broke the PDP and made several proxy parties, but when their other proxy parties failed in the Parliamentary elections, they have now brought Engineer Rashid's party. So, I warn the people of Kashmir that all the other parties than the PDP, NC and Congress, are backed by some power, including Rashid's party. They want to harm the cause of J-K," she added.

On a question about former Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Waqar Rasool Wani's reported remarks that NC has "sucked the blood" of the people, she said the alliance between the NC and Congress is not based on principles.

### Three houses damaged in fire incident at Srinagar's Noorbagh area

early morning blaze at Noorbagh area of Srinagar city on Monday, officials said. An official said that an early morning blaze at Noor Bagh, Srinagar, damaged at least three residential houses while the fire was brought under control later.





# NSS volunteers attend First Aid Training

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 9: A one day First Aid and Youth Red Cross Camp was organized under the joint aegis of NSS Unit of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Jammu and Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu.

During this period various activities were organized for the volunteers. In the camp, the volunteers were given first aid training by the Red Cross Society regarding the treatment of heart attack, brain stroke and angina. Red Cross Society instructor Dr. Kavita Nijhon told the volunteers about CPR.

She explained the process of giving CPR to a



person if he has chest pain. She told that if the heart stops beating or blood stops then giving CPR is the first aid.

During this, students were also told about the immediate treatment to be given to a person injured in an accident. She too explained about the treatment given to stop excessive bleeding

in an accident.

She said that timely first aid given to the injured person in an accident plays the biggest role in saving his life. She said that in such a situation, a cotton cloth should be tied tightly on the bleeding spot. An attempt should be made to stop the bleeding by pressing

the pressure point.

Red Cross Field Officer Veronica formed the Red Cross unit in the campus. During the camp, students were also given information about first aid and assistance to be given to an accident victim in case of head injury.

She emphasized that head injury is the biggest cause of death in road accidents. In such a situation, if the injured person gets proper treatment on time, the chances of saving his life increases.

Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra said that the NSS unit of the campus is doing commendable work for the mental and social development of the students.

He said that NSS develops the feelings of patience, service to others, service to society and country, hard work and working in a group among the students. Students should participate in nation service by joining NSS. He said that by joining NSS, students can do social service along with studies.

The guests were duly welcomed by Dr. Shweta Sood. The program was conducted efficiently by NSS Program Coordinator Dr. Yogendra Dixit and vote of thanks was given by NSS Program Officer Maninder Singh. Volunteers and other students of the NSS Unit were present on this occasion.

# Vivek Bali for ensuring employment opportunities, addressing social concerns

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 9: Vivek Bali, a political leader, said the stone pelting issue, which was once a major concern, has largely subsided.

The BJP's vision for a new Kashmir is taking shape, and we're witnessing a significant decline in such incidents. This positive development is a testament to the efforts made by the government and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Vivek Bali said youth are drifting towards drugs due to lack of job prospects. If we provide them with gainful employment, there's no need for them to look elsewhere, including Delhi.

Employment opportuni-



ties will not only address the drug menace but also unleash the potential of our youth, enabling them to contribute positively to society.

Regarding my suspension from the JDU J&K State General Secretary post, I am surprised to say that I did not receive any show-cause notice, and the order has been

passed without explanation. I am unsure about the reasons behind this decision.

On the issue of stone pelting, I believe a nuanced approach is necessary. I request Home Minister that a committee should be formed to review such cases, and those willing to reform should be given a chance. We must strive for rehabilitation, not mere punishment. By doing so, we can ensure that our youth are guided towards a constructive path.

Bali said we will continue working towards a brighter future for our youth, ensuring employment opportunities and addressing social concerns. Our commitment to the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir's citizens remains unwavering.

# Holy Chhari Yatra departs on Oct 2, Darshan will be on first Navratra



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 9: The 42nd Holy Chhari Yatra of Shiv Sena (UBT) will depart from the famous Shri Raghunath Ji temple of Jammu on October 2 in the form of a Shobha Yatra.

Following the mythological form, the Holy Chhari Yatra will reach Maa Ke Darbar via Kaul Kandoli, Deva Mai and on the eve of the first auspicious Navratra Chhari Poojan darshan will be performed.

In a press conference held today at the party state central office, state head Manish Sahni said that the 42nd Chhari Yatra for Shri Mata Vaishnodevi will depart

from the famous and historical Shri Raghunath Ji temple of Jammu on October 2 as a Shobha Yatra. After receiving the blessings of the first Darshan at Kol Kandoli and the second Darshan Deva Mai, it will depart towards Katra and on the first auspicious Navratra, the Chhari Poojan and Maa ke darshan will be performed at Maa Ke Darbar.

Sahni has appealed to the devotees to become a part of the Yatra and seek the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi.

Along with this, Sahni appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha (who is the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno

Devi Shrine Board) to create Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra Circuit by connecting the famous and historical temples of Jammu and Katra on the lines of Lord Shri Ram Temple Yatra Circuit in Ayodhya and for this, start special bus service from Jammu Railway Station and Main Bus Station so that the devotees get the opportunity to visit these temples and the economy of the Jammu division gets a boost.

On this occasion Vikas Bakshi (General Secretary), Balwant Singh (Vice President), Raj Singh (President Kamgar Wing), Rohan (President Jammu City), Mangu Ram (Secretary) were present.

# Inspector Tsewang Namgyal demise condoled

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 9: It is with profound sadness that we report the tragic loss of Inspector Tsewang Namgyal, a dedicated leader of the UT Disaster Response Force (UTDRF), who lost his life during a rescue operation in the Indus River near Khaltisi.

The mission, which aimed to save a minor girl who had drowned, saw the UTDRF boat capsize. Despite the brave efforts of the team, Inspector Namgyal succumbed to the challenges of this perilous situation, has given his life in line of duty.

Inspector Tsewang Namgyal was a stalwart figure in disaster response, having played a pivotal role in numerous rescue operations. His unwavering commitment and courage were evident in every mission he undertook, often putting his own safety at risk to save others. His exemplary service has been a beacon of hope in many crises.

We at LAHDC extend our heartfelt condolences to Inspector Namgyal's family and colleagues. Chairman/CEC, Adv.

Tashi Gyalsong, LAHDC, Leh, has conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family and recognized Inspector Namgyal's invaluable service and sacrifice.

In honor of Inspector Namgyal's bravery, LAHDC will provide an ex gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh to his family. Additionally, Rs 1 lakh will be given to those seriously



injured in the incident.

CEC has also urged the UT Administration to extend an ex gratia payment and award the highest recognition for his distinguished service, for he was also a decorated police officer.

We are grateful for the courageous efforts of all involved and extend our sincere thanks to the rescuers who risked their lives in this difficult situation.

# Sawhney slams government over faulty Smart Meters in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 9: Former Minister of J&K and Ex-MLA of Jammu East, Yogesh Sawhney, on Monday issued a sharp statement condemning the government for the severe problems caused by the installation of faulty smart meters across Jammu city.

He criticized both the government and the local administration for their failure to address the rising concerns of the locals, who are bearing the brunt of these flawed devices. "Smart meters, which were introduced under the guise of modernization, have instead caused undue hardships to the people of Jammu," said Sawhney.

The senior Congress leader said that the residents, during his visit to Jammu East, have reported a range of issues

stemming from the faulty smart meters, including inaccurate readings leading to inflated bills. There have even been incidents of smart meters catching fire, putting both lives and property at risk.

Furthermore, the harsh enforcement of bill payments has added to the woes of citizens. Power connections are being cut with barely 12 hours' notice in cases of non-payment. The implementation of smart meters against all public grievances and then the subsequent failure to address or alleviate these genuine concerns of the people completely goes against and undermines the principles of a welfare state as outlined in the Indian Constitution.

He emphasized that while Congress party fully supports technological advancement, it cannot back policies that harm

the very people they are meant to benefit. "Technology should be a tool that improves lives, not something that worsens them."

The current implementation of smart meters has created more problems than it has solved," Sawhney stated. Immediate action needs to be taken to rectify the issues caused by these devices and focus on the welfare of the citizens rather than on punitive measures such as cutting power connections.

It is very clear that current regime is not ready or willing to implement these steps. He added that the government's indifference towards the concerns of the people reflects a lack of commitment to welfare policies. A fair and humane approach to resolving the growing power crisis in Jammu, and BJP government is not ready to do that.

# Painting & Photography competition held at Govt SPMR College of Commerce

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 9: In line with the directives of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu & Kashmir, Government SPMR College of Commerce organized a vibrant Painting and Photography Competition on Monday, as part of a broader initiative to promote electoral literacy among youth ahead of the upcoming J&K Legislative Assembly Elections 2024.

This event was conducted under the guidelines set by the Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) and aimed to encourage maximum participation of first-time voters and foster a sense of civic responsibility among students.

A total of 30 students enthusiastically participated, showcasing their artistic skills by painting walls, creating posters, and capturing thought-provoking photographs.

The event highlighted the theme of "Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy" with students expressing their interpretations of democratic values and the importance of voting through creative media.

The entries were evaluated by a panel led by Dr. Deepshikha Sharma and her team, who assessed the paintings and photographs based on creativity, relevance to the

theme, and execution. The top three students in wall painting were Pranav and Jaismine, Sonakshi and Bhoomi and Varsha, Vivek and Sumit and in Poster making Competition, Muskan gets first prize, Siddharth bagged 2nd and 3rd prize was won by Kiranjeet who were awarded certificates of excellence in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

Principal Dr. Rajinder Singh graced the occasion and appreciated the efforts of the participants, faculty, and organizers in making the event a success.

He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in educating and motivating the youth to exercise their voting rights.

The entire event was efficiently coordinated by Prof. Rajni Sharma, Dr. Ridhi Sharma, Prof. Rishu Mahajan, Dr. Mamta Rani and Ravi Kumar.

This event is part of a series of activities initiated by the college under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, as directed by the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, to boost electoral participation among the youth. Further activities planned include street plays, debates, quizzes, film screenings, and social media campaigns,

all aimed at spreading electoral awareness.

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