

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Kangana Ranaut reveals why she was forced to sell her 32 crore Mumbai office



NATIONAL | 7

Amit Shah announces: One nation, one election in BJP's current term

INTERNATIONAL | 8

EU chief unveils her new team after a long and bumpy road; women get top roles



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BRIEFLY

LG Sinha wishes PM Modi on his 74th birthday

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday wished the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on his 74th birthday. "Warm birthday wishes to Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji. I pray for your good health & long life. Your exemplary commitment & dedication to serve citizens inspire us all. May the nation continue to achieve greater heights of progress & development under your dynamic leadership," LG wrote on his official X handle.

Jammu Police urges media fraternity to refrain from sharing speculative versions on Bohri mysterious death case

JAMMU, Sep 17 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday urged media fraternity to desist from speculative reporting on Bohri mysterious death case in Jammu district. In a handout, the Jammu Police said that it is diligently investigating the Bohri mysterious death case. We urge all media outlets and journalists to avoid premature conclusions or speculations about the case as such reports are hampering the ongoing investigation and also lead misconceptions among the public. We kindly request media fraternity for cooperation and patience. Our investigative team is working vigorously to uncover all the facts. Your responsible reporting is essential in maintaining the integrity of the investigation, reads the statement.

KU postpones all exams scheduled on Sep 24, 25, 30

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): In view of upcoming assembly elections, the University of Kashmir (KU) Monday postponed all the examinations scheduled to be held on September-24, 25 and September-30 respectively.

Turn to page 9

Cong will ensure Jammu and Kashmir gets back Statehood: Kharge

NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said his party guarantees the rights of Jammu and Kashmir and will ensure it gets back the status of a full-fledged state.

Tagging screenshots of the seven guarantees promised by the Congress ahead of the assembly elections, Kharge said in a post on X that the party would "give new energy to the youth" by filling one lakh government jobs.

"The Congress guarantees the rights of Jammu and Kashmir. We will get J&K the status of a full-fledged state," he said in his post in Hindi.

Kharge also highlighted the party's promise of free treatment of Rs



25 lakh for every family and a super-specialty hospital in every district. He said this will create a healthy society.

"Dr Manmohan Singh's plan for rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits will be expanded. Constitution-based rights of OBC class will be secured," Kharge said.

Woman heads of families will get financial protection of Rs 3,000 every month, he said. Kharge also high-

lighted the promise of food security for every member of the family with 11 kg grain.

In its manifesto for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir released on Monday, the Congress has promised a slew of welfare measures for farmers, women and the youth.

The highlight of the manifesto — Haath Badlega Halaat — is insurance for all crops against natural calamities

and a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 72 per kilogram for apple.

The manifesto was released by AICC media and publicity department head Pawan Khara and PCC president Tariq Hameed Karra at the party office in Srinagar.

"We will provide additional financial support of Rs 4,000 for landless, tenant, and land-owning farming households per year. We will also arrange 99-year leases to landless farmers cultivating state land," Khara had said.

He said a Rs 2,500 crore fund will be set up for all district-level irrigation projects to ensure 100 per cent irrigation for farmers in Jammu and Kashmir.

Turn to page 9

Jitendra Singh dismisses Congress' Statehood promise for J&K as "Fake Narrative"



JAMMU, Sep 17 (Agencies): Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday dismissed Congress's claim to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as a "fake narrative," noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already promised statehood will be restored after the elections.

"The Congress manifesto carries no credibility and people will not

take it seriously. They have started demanding statehood, which is a fake narrative because the PM has already said that statehood would be restored after the elections. The Congress and the National Conference think they will create a false narrative that the statehood is restored because of their pressure. But that is not going to work," Singh said.

Assembly polls are being held in Jammu and Kashmir in three phases. The first phase of voting will be held on September 18, the second on September 25 and the third on November 1. Votes will be counted on October 8.

Atishi to take over as New Delhi CM as Kejriwal resigns



NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Senior AAP leader Atishi will be the new chief minister of Delhi, the party unanimously agreed on Tuesday after Arvind Kejriwal proposed her name as his successor in a meeting of the party's legislators.

Kejriwal, who was released from jail on Friday, announced on Sunday that he would resign from the post and would only return if

Turn to page 9

"Not God's decision": Omar Abdullah on Amit Shah's Article 370 remark



SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that nothing

is impossible and that the verdict given by the Supreme Court on Article 370 abrogation can be overruled

by a large bench in future. He was referring to Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks about Article-370.

The former Chief Minister said that the decision of abrogation was made by the people in the Parliament and not by the God, news agency KNO reported.

Yesterday, in a rally in Jammu, Amit Shah said that the Article 370 is

Turn to page 9

Kashmiri Pandits urge action on longstanding issues, say Politicians see us merely as voters

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): With the first phase of assembly elections set to be held on Wednesday in Jammu and Kashmir, the Kashmiri Pandit community is raising urgent calls for action on their long-standing issues of unemployment and housing.

Nearly 35 years after the mass exodus of

1990, many in the community feel that political parties have repeatedly failed to address their concerns.

Babloo Ji Butt, a representative voice of the community, expressed frustration over the unmet promises of political leaders.

"For Kashmiri Pandits, it feels like the old saying: 'Hathi ke

daant khane ke kuch aur, dikhane ke aur.' For decades, we have heard only lofty claims. We have become accustomed to empty assurances, and it seems that political leaders see us merely as voters," Butt lamented.

Despite the challenges, Butt emphasised that relationships between

Turn to page 9

Eid-e-Milad being celebrated with religious fervor Today

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), is being celebrated with religious fervour across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. The largest congregation is expected to be held at Hazratbal shrine. The devotees would have a glimpse of the holy relic after every congregational prayer.

Besides Hazratbal, large congregational prayers are expected to be held at Khanqah-



e-Maula, Asarisharif Kalashpora, Jenab Sahib Soura, Lal Bazar, Pinjura Shopian, Khiram Sirhama Anantnag (Islamabad), Seer

Hamdan, Kaba Marg Qaimoh, Ahmshrief Bandipora and Hazrat Janbaz Wali Baramulla. A festive look

Turn to page 9

Jammu & Kashmir ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2024

ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTS TO PROVE YOUR IDENTITY AT POLLING BOOTHS

LIST OF ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTS

01. Aadhaar Card
02. MGNREGA Job Card
03. Indian Passport
04. Smart Card Issued by RGI under NPR
05. Driving License
06. PAN Card
07. Pension document with photograph
08. Passbooks with Photograph issued by Bank/Post Office
09. Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour
10. Service Identity Cards with Photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt/PSUs/Public Limited Companies
11. Official Identity Cards issued to MPs/MLAs/WLCs
12. Unique Disability ID (UID) Card issued by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt

DIPU-1929-P/24

Courtesy: CHIEF ELECTROAL OFFICER UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of my beloved mother **Smt. Gouri Shouri Bhat** W/o Late Sh. Jia Lal Bhat R/o Anagam Bandipora Srinagar at present H.No. 213 Suraksha Vihar Paloura Top Phase-2nd Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 20th September 2024, at Muthi Ghat at 8:00 AM Near Directorate of School Education.

Grief Stricken:
Son and Daughter in law
 Sh. Chuni Lal Bhat & Late Smt. Shama Bhat
 Sh. Pyare Lal Bhat & Smt. Basanti Bhat
 Sh. Buhon Lal Bhat & Smt. Safa Bhat

Daughters & Sons in Law
 Smt. Amrita Wakhoo & Sh. Raj Nath Wakhoo
 Smt. Jiga Pandita & Sh. Kuldeep Pandita

Grand Son & Grand Daughter in Law
 Sunny Bhat & Neeta Bhat
 Amit Bhat & Sona Bhat
 Rahul Bhat
 Rohit Bhat & Shreya Bhat

Grand Daughter & Grand Son in Law
 Upesana Koul & Sunil Koul
 Debba Mahajani & Sameer Mahajani
 Priyanka Koul & Arun Koul
 Arnie & Soumya Khot
 Megha & Sh. Tikraj Ji

M: 91914976606, 9796271751, 7006276434, 9419814106



Smt. Gouri Shouri Bhat

TENTH DAY & UTHALA

It is very sad that **Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta**, Praant Seva Pramukh, Vishwa Hindu Parishad Jammu Jammu and Kashmir passed away on Wednesday, September 11. It was God's will. May God grant him a place in his Lotus feet.

The **TENTH DAY** tribute and **UTHALA** will be held on Thursday, September 19 from 12 Noon to 1 PM at Grand Kesari Resort, Simbalwala.

Grieving family
Wife - Vimla Gupta (Praant Saha Sanyojika)
Son & Daughter in law:-
 Vikas Gupta AEA & Kirti Gupta
 Vishal Gupta & Supriya Gupta

Daughter and Son in law:-
 Vandana Gupta and Jagdish Gupta

Bhai and Bhabhi:-
 Dr. CP Gupta & Nirmala Gupta
 Late Shesha Kumar & Late Geeta Devi
 Dr. Kewal Krishan Gupta & Neelam Gupta
 Bharat Bhushan Gupta & Neera Gupta (Pink)

Grand Children:-
 Mansha, Sakshat, Kamakshi, Abhay, Udhay, Vidushi



SHRI ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA

Aay Kay Trading Corp
Vishal Trading Corp
Udhay Trading Corp
Kay Gee Agro
CONTACT NO: 9419123702, 9419155394

10TH DAY

RADHA SWAMI
 With Profound Grief & Sorrow We Inform the sad demise of **Sh. Ram Lal Ji S/o Sh. Kamru Ram R/o Bharat Nagar Jakhani Udhampur (New Star Tailoring House Court Road Udhampur)**

10TH DAY SATSANG Wednesday 18/09/2024 at 12:00 noon Sansar Palace Jakhani Udhampur

GRIEF STRICKEN:
 Wife **Smt. Veena Devi**
Son and Daughter in law
 Sh. Amit Bhardwaj & Smt. Rimpay Thappa
Daughter and Son in law
 Sh. Ajay Kumar NT & Smt. Priyanka Bhardwaj

Brothers: Sh. Parkash Ram, Late Sh. Des Raj, Sh. Baldev Raj, Sh. Vijay Kumar

Grand child : Mahira Bhardwaj

Whole Bogal family



SH. RAM LAL JI

BHOG AND ARDASS

It is whole heartedly that like last year this year also the annual day in memory of **Sant Thakur Bhai Rocha Singh Ji Maharaj** is being performed in Ward No. 4 Sant Rocha Singh Ji Nagar, Sant Rocha Singh Ji Market. All are requested to come and attend the following programme.

Arambh Sri Sukhmani Sahib Path on 18.9.2024 at 9:00 AM
Kirtan & Ardass: 12:00 Noon
Guru Ka Langar onwards

GRIEF STRICKEN:
 Mahant Sukhdev Singh
 Chairman
 Sant Rocha Singh Ji Trust (J&K)
 N. No. 941914519
 S. Manjeet Singh Sudan
 Sr. Advocate J&K High Court Jammu
 Legal Advisor
 Sant Rocha Singh Ji Trust J&K

Mahant Varinder Singh (Pink)
 Vice Chairman
 Sant Rocha Singh Ji Trust JK
 Kundan Lal Sharma, (Publicity Secy)
 Sant Rocha Singh Ji Trust JK - 9419607902
 Feroz Hussain Shaw, Executive Member
 Sant Rocha Singh Ji Trust JK
 S. Gurdeep Singh State Gen. Secy
 Sant Rocha Singh Ji Trust JK - 8082143860



Sant Thakur Bhai Rocha Singh Ji Maharaj

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Lila Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Dwarka Nath Magotra R/O 756-A Gandhi Nagar Jammu

TENTH DAY will be performed on 17th Sep. (Tuesday) 11 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 18th sep. 2024 12.30 PM at our residence 756-A Gandhi Nagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN
 Sh. RAJINDER SHARMA and NISHA SHARMA
 VIJAY SHARMA and DEEPA SHARMA
AND ALL FAMILY MEMBERS
9419204000 / 9419186197



Smt. Lila Sharma

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our father **Sh. Rakesh Gupta** of Sarajan Dakki, Jammu on 10-09-2024

TENTH DAY will be performed at Devi Dwara Mandir, Malhotra Mohalla near Babli di hatti on 18-09-2024 at 11:00 am

GRIEF-STRICKEN
 Sunita Gupta (Wife- retd. HA Estate Deptt)
Son & Daughter-in-law
 Er. Anurag Gupta & Gunjan Gupta- CA inter (Daughter & Son-in-law in UK)
 Er. Anusha Saxena & Er. Sagar Saxena
Grandson- Aashrith Gupta
MOB: 9419707221, 9797192177



SH. RAKESH GUPTA

OBITUARY/10TH DAY

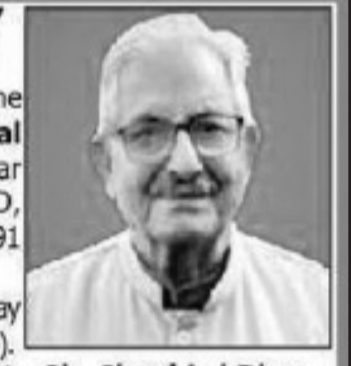
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Chuni Lal Dhar** original resident of Lal Nagar Chanapora, Srinagar at present 174-D, Pocket-A, Mayur Vihar Phase 2, East Delhi-91 on Friday 13th September 2024.

10th Day shall be performed on Sunday 22nd September 2024 at Murad Nagar (UP). Assembly will be held at our residence at 11 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN
 Smt. Jaya Dhar & Sh. P.N. Dhar - Sister-in-law & Brother
 Smt. Jai Kishori Raina - Sister
 Smt. Girja Parimoo - Sister
 Smt. Anjali & Sh. Umesh Dhar - Daughter-in-law & Son
 Smt. Anjali & Sh. Vinod Khushu - Daughter & Son-in-law

Grand Children: Arushi, Yatharth, Ishita, Parth

Mobile - 9910084954, 9717198866, 9818333475



Sh. Chuni Lal Dhar

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that the **TENTH DAY KRIYA** of our beloved **Late Sh Om Prakash Thappa** R/o Muthi, Jammu will be performed on 18 September 2024 at 11:00 AM in Village Muthi, at their residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN
 Santosh Kumar- Wife
Son's & Daughter's in Law
 Neelam Kumar (Finance Deptt) & Pradeepika Sharma
 Rakesh Sharma & Sushma Sharma
 Rajesh Kumar Thappa (Addl. Adv. Gen) & Patibha Sharma (Advocate)

Daughter's & Son's in law
 Rekha Sharma & Kuldeep Mishra
 Nirmal Sharma & Shakti Sharma

Grand Children: Er. Kartik Sharma, Er. Maheshwar Sharma, Brijeshwar Sharma, Hideshwar Sharma, Sourav Sharma, Sahil Mishra, Dr. Kritika Sharma, Akashhara Sharma, Sakshi Mishra, Tanvika Sharma



LATE SH OM PRAKASH THAPPA

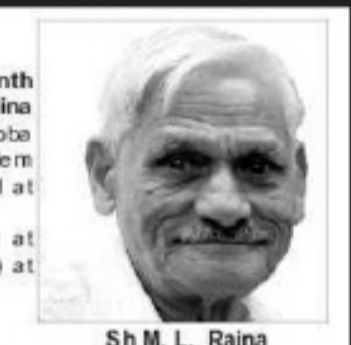
10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that **Tenth Day Kriya** of our beloved **Late Sh Mohan Lal Raina** S/o Late 2nd Lal Raina erstwhile R/o Purshiyar Habba Kadal Sgr and presently at Tower A-3 Flat 523 Hem Sagar Appartments Greater Noida (UP) will be held at Murad Nagar (UP) on 18th Sep 2024 Wednesday.

Condolence cum Prayer meeting will be held at Community Hall Hem Sagar Apprts G Noida (UP) at 12.30 PM.

Grief Stricken :
 Smt. Dulari Raina Wife
 Mr. Chaman Lal Raina & Phoolo Raina Brother & Bhabhi
 Mrs. Usha Raina W/o Late A.K Raina Bhabhi
 Sandeep Raina & Vanita Raina (Son & Daughter in law)
 Seema Dhar & Raju Dhar (Daughter & Son in law)

SAMAST RAINA, KOMAL DHAR, SWATI DHAR (GRAND CHILDREN) & RAINAS, BHAT'S, DHAR'S, RAZDHAN'S, HAKHOO'S & TIKU'S



Sh M. L. Raina

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

We are deeply saddened by the untimely demise of **Sh. Rakesh Sharma** S/o Lt. Sh. Tara Chand Sharma, R/o H.No. 12, Lane No. 7, Opp. Bal Ashram Vard Mandir, Karam Nagar, Jammu on 9 Sep.

10th Day shall be performed at 11:30 AM on 17 Sep (Tue), at our residence.

Kriya will be performed at 12:00 Noon on 18 Sep (Wed), at our residence.

Uthala will be performed from 4:00-5:00 PM on 20 Sep (Fri), at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
 Smt. Anju Sharma (Wife)
 (Daughter & Son-in-law)
 Ishara Sharma & Sahil Khindri
 Sharmista Sharma (Daughter)

Brothers and Bhabhis
 Col. Ravi & Smt. Divya Sharma
 Lt. Sh. Ashok & Smt. Manju Sharma
Sisters and Brothers-in-Law
 Lt. Smt. Veena & Sh. Lalit Sharma
 Smt. Sumta & Sh. Kailash Sharma
 Smt. Seema & Sh. Joginder Sharma

Brothers-in-Law and Sisters-in-Law
 Lt. Sh. Ashok & Smt. Rita Sharma
 Sh. Anun & Smt. Vandana Sharma
 Sh. Sanjeev Manmota & Smt. Sushma Sharma

Sisters-in-Law and Brothers-in-Law
 Smt. Shakti & Sh. K. L. Sharma
 Smt. Neelam & Sh. Ram Sarup Sharma



SH. RAKESH SHARMA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

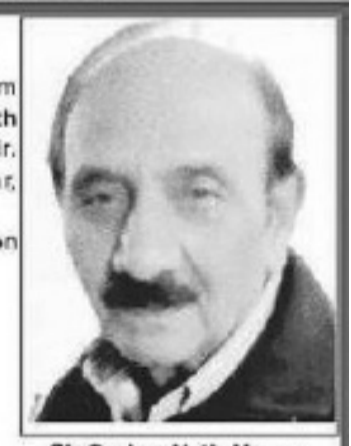
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Omkar Nath Mussa** originally resident of Mattan Kashmir. Presently H No. 37, Lane No. 3 Bharat Nagar, Bantatalab Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 21-09-2024 at 9:00 am.

Grief Stricken :
 Vijay Devi (Wife)
 Sanjay Mussa & Anju (Son & Daughter in law)
 Rahul Mussa & Suhani (Son & Daughter in law)
 Ankit Mussa & Shiply (Son & Daughter in law)
 Arti Khar & Dr. Vinod Khar (Daughter & Son in law)
 Usha Ji & Sh. Ashok Ji Mussa (Sister & Brother in law)

Grand Children : Swastik, Suhana, Hardik, Rubani, Kavya, Anshika, Anshana

9149518330, 9419225122



Sh Omkar Nath Mussa

OBITUARY / 10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Uma Shree Bhat** (Bhabhi) Wife of Late T.N Bhat, resident of Fatehpura, Anantnag at present residing at Tata Primanti, Sector 72 Gurgaon, left for her heavenly abode on 15 September.

10th Day shall be performed on 24 September 2024 at Gauni Shankar Mandir in Gurgaon.

GRIEF STRICKEN
 Sushma Mujoo (9891948532-WhatsApp Call only)
 Prof. J. L. Bhat (8825021983)
 Dr. P. Bhat (9418035869)
 Phoolo Bakshi (8847347448)

Bhat Family (Fatehpura, Anantnag)
 Kamal Ji Fotedar (94191 86890)
Fotedar Family (Mattan)



Uma Shree Bhat

10TH DAY KRIYA/OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt. Soom Rani Ambardar** (Kaushalya ji) W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath Ambardar original resident of Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag at present Butta nagar Paloura Jammu on 14/09/2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 23/09/2024 at Muthi Ghat 8:00 AM.

Grief Stricken :
 Smt. Rajni and Sh. Ashok Kumar Ambardar.
 Smt. Nancy W/o Lt. Sh. Shuban Krishan Ambardar
 Smt. Vijay Ambardar W/o Lt. Sh. Sham Sunder Ambardar
 Smt. Veena Raina and Sh. Anoop Ambardar
 Smt. Anupama and Sh. Sanjay Goja
 Smt. Anjali and Sh. Deepak Raina
 Mr. Sunny Ambardar
 Ms. Nishu Ambardar and Mr. Rohit Raina.

Children:
 Rohit, Ankit, Ridhu, Shuhul, Vinku & Divu.

"Mourning from the family and the Malun Parivar will be held at Community Hall-1, Butta Nagar"

Contact Details : 9419121396, 95968 68866, 91496 81564



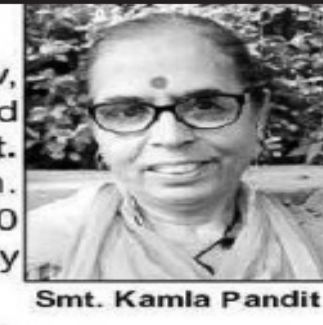
Smt. Soom Rani Ambardar (Kaushalya ji)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kamla Pandit** W/o Lt. Sh. Lassa Pandit R/o H.No. 140 Lane No.3 sector-2, Dream City Muthi Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education on 19/09/2024 at 09:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Pandit's, Koul's, Maratha's and Raina's
Mob. No. 9419684700, 6005042626



Smt. Kamla Pandit

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, we share the painful and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Omkar Nath Khar Ji**, S/o Late Sh. Soom Nath Khar, originally from Mattan, Anantnag, Kashmir, at present behind IBP Petrol Pump Hall, Mortha, Kathua, J&K. He left for his heavenly abode on 9th September 2024, leaving behind an irreplaceable void in our lives.

THE TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 10:00 AM at Bowli, near Ramila Ground, Kathua.

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS:
 Smt. Suran Khar (Wife)
 Archana Khar & Amit Ratra (Daughter & Son-in-law)
 Anshika Khar & Akash Ratra (Daughter & Son-in-law)
 Anshika Raina (Grand Daughter)
 Smt. & Sh. Ashok Khar (Brother & Bhabhi)
 Smt. & Sh. Veer Ji Khar (Brother & Bhabhi)
 Smt. Mohini Pandita (Sister)
 Smt. & Sh. Rajni and Moti Lal Mukhi (Sister and Brother-in-law)

CONTACT NUMBERS: 9999127411, 9906071070, 9766227986, 9858204077



SH. OMKAR NATH KHAR

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. SUMAN GUPTA** W/O SH. SOOAN GUPTA R/O WARD NO. 10, HOUSE NO. 12, SURPUR WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 8TH OF SEPTEMBER (FRIDAY).

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 15TH OF SEPTEMBER (SUNDAY) AT LAXMI NARAYAN MANDIR, VAIJAPUR.

SATSANG - 10:30 AM TO 12:00 NOON. KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE 10/10, HOUSE NO. 12, SURPUR AT 12:30 NOON ON 18TH OF SEPTEMBER (WEDNESDAY).

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
 SH. SHODDAGAR GUPTA (HUSBAND) DEPT. PRESIDENT N.C. VAIJAPUR
 SH. RAJ CHAND GUPTA (JETHU)
 SMT. SUNITA GUPTA (SHEKULIPUR GUPTA) (JETHANI & JETHU)
 ANSH GUPTA (SON)
(DAUGHTERS & SON-IN-LAW)
 NEHA & SUNNY NAL DITRA
 HARSHITA NEHU, DODRA
(SON'S & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW)
 RAKESH & MONICA GUPTA
 ARUN & BHAVANA GUPTA
 VARUN & REEMAG GUPTA
 AJAY & SHIKHA GUPTA

CONTACT NO. - 9419138118, 7008610377, 9419332795, 9419735533, 9419235803, 9418178976.



SMT. SUMAN GUPTA

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Jammu Kashmir Polls: 24 Lakh Voters to decide fate of 219 candidates in 24 Constituencies

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): As Jammu and Kashmir gears up for its first of three-phase of polling in the Assembly elections on September 18, there is a flurry of activity across 24 constituencies in seven districts, where 219 candidates are in fray. With dispatch centres and polling stations fully operational, officials are ensuring that every detail is meticulously addressed to provide a seamless voting experience for the 23.27 lakh eligible voters.

In the Lok Sabha polls, BJP and Congress have direct contest in Ladakh and Jammu. In the rest of four seats in erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, there are too many local and regional stakeholders.

The Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are set to be handed over to the polling parties, who will head to their respective polling stations today. "This is the dispatch day ahead of the voting, and we are fully prepared," an election official stated, noting that each polling station is equipped with essential amenities such as drinking water, ramps, and wheelchairs to accommodate voters with disabilities.

To ensure the election runs smoothly and securely, extensive training has

been provided to all polling staff, including zonal and sector magistrates, along with police officers. The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have been deployed across the districts to maintain law and order during polling.

The Model Code of Conduct is being strictly enforced, with political rallies and public meetings prohibited as the silence period began 48 hours before voting day. "We are expecting a huge voter turnout," said another election official, emphasising the efforts made to encourage public participation.

The authorities have taken significant steps to ensure inclusivity, with a variety of special polling stations set up. "We have established pink polling stations manned by women officers, green stations managed by persons with disabilities, and unique booths in areas with a high tribal population," said the official.

Outreach efforts have also been in full swing, with 100 per cent distribution of voter slips to eligible voters. Additionally, home voting was arranged for specially-abled and senior citizens, which saw a high level of participation. The election observers are continuously monitoring the process to ensure transparency

and efficiency.

A total of 3,276 polling stations have been established in key constituencies such as Pampore, Tral, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, Kishtwar, and Doda. The first phase will see over 14,000 polling staff deployed across these areas. Of the 23.27 lakh voters, 11.76 lakh are men, 11.51 lakh are women, and 60 identify as third gender. Additionally, 1.23 lakh young voters between the ages of 18 and 19 will be participating, alongside 28,309 voters with disabilities and 15,774 elderly voters aged over 85.

Polling will take place from 7 am to 6 pm, and a mock poll will be conducted before voting begins. Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) such as drinking water, electricity, and toilets will be available at all stations, with specific provisions for elderly and specially-abled voters, such as wheelchairs and separate queues.

In an effort to raise awareness and promote civic engagement, the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme has been active across the region. This comprehensive initiative, led by the Election Commission of India (ECI), aims to ensure maximum voter participation

by conducting outreach through print, electronic, and social media, as well as street plays and other community-driven activities. Notably, green polling stations have been introduced to spread awareness about environmental issues, while pink stations focus on encouraging women voters.

Speaking on the preparations, Chief Electoral Officer PK Pole urged voters to take part in the election: "The Election Commission of India is committed to providing all basic facilities at 100 per cent of polling stations and ensuring a smooth voting experience. I appeal to all eligible voters to participate in this monumental celebration of democracy."

Meanwhile, it has been revealed that more than 40 per cent of the 908 candidates contesting the elections are running as Independents, a reflection of the heightened political dynamics in Jammu and Kashmir. The first Assembly elections since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 have drawn widespread interest, with a rise in the number of Assembly seats from 87 to 90 after the delimitation exercise of 2022.

This election sees the second-highest number of Independent candidates in Jammu and Kashmir's

history, with 365 contenders running without party affiliation. The Sopore constituency leads the way, with 22 candidates in total, 14 of whom are Independents. Other constituencies with a significant number of Independent candidates include Sonawari in Bandipora, where 11 of the 20 candidates are running independently.

Conversely, four constituencies, namely Budhal, Kangan, Ramangar, and Srigufwara-Bijbehara, have no independent candidates. In the Srigufwara-Bijbehara seat, three candidates are contesting, including Iltija Mufti, daughter of PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti.

This election is set to be a landmark in J&K's political history. With over 14,000 polling personnel ready to serve the electorate and meticulous preparations in place, the region is poised for a crucial democratic exercise. As the first phase of voting commences, all eyes will be on Jammu and Kashmir, watching the unfolding of this historic electoral process.

Results for the three-phase elections will be declared on 8th October, and the outcome is eagerly awaited by all, especially considering the political landscape reshaped post-Article 370.

Five Drug peddlers arrested in South Kashmir: Police

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): In its ongoing efforts to eliminate the drug menace from society, Jammu and Kashmir police arrested five drug peddlers in Anantnag and seized a substantial quantity of psychotropic/contraband substances from their possession.

In a significant operation, a police team from PS Mattan during naka at Bumzoo Mattan, intercepted an Innova vehicle bearing registration number JK02DK/9333 with three persons on board, a police spokesman said in a statement.

During the searching of the vehicle, 11 bottles of Codeine Phosphate, 80 Dolo-T tablets, 70 OMODOL tablets, good quantity of Beer and Alcohol and a cash amount of Rs 11,500/- were recovered. The three accused persons identified as as Lateef Ahmad Shah son of Mohammad Qasim Shah resident of Mattan,

Ayaz Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Amin Bhat resident of Seer Hamdan, and Rayees Ahmad Malik son of Gh Mohammad Malik resident of Sarnal Payeen, Anantnag have been arrested on the spot. The contraband along with the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized, police said.

"In another action, a police team from Police Station Anantnag at a checkpoint established near Wazir Bagh Park, Anantnag intercepted an auto bearing registration number JK01AK-7694. The auto, coming from Bangdar towards Mehandi Kadalwas searched, leading to the recovery of a good amount of illicit liquor.

The accused driver identified as Riyaz Ahmad Dar son of Gh Qadir Dar resident of Zadipora, Anantnag was arrested and the auto used in the commission

of crime was also seized," police said.

Moreover, a Police team from Police Post Sangam during naka checking at Kudangan Marhama apprehended an individual identified as Noor Mohammad Ganie son of Ab Rahim Ganie resident of Marhama, who was carrying a bag with a significant quantity of alcohol. The accused was arrested and the contraband was seized on the spot, the statement reads.

"All the accused persons have been arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Cases under relevant sections of law have been registered in respective Police Stations and further investigation have been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society," the statement reads.

Peace is key to progress and success: Anurag Thakur



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Anurag Thakur, Member of Parliament from Himachal Pradesh and former Union Minister, credited the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government at the Centre.

Speaking at a public function in Ward No. 43, Nanak Nagar, Bahu constituency, in support of BJP candidate Bikram Randhawa, Thakur highlighted the significant changes in J&K since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Thakur noted that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A has ushered in a new era of democracy and development in the region. He emphasized that the overwhelming support for BJP in Block Development Council and District Development Council elections, as well as in parliamentary elections, reflects the public's approval of these changes

and their rejection of dynastic parties.

Expressing confidence in BJP's electoral victory, Thakur stated that the Modi government has eliminated terrorism, restored peace, and ensured calm borders in J&K. He mentioned that the lives of innocent people have been saved, and the focus has shifted to investment, tourism, and employment.

The youth, previously manipulated by political parties, are now embracing technology and contributing to the vision of a developed India and excelling in Olympic games.

Highlighting the development projects initiated by the BJP government, Thakur mentioned the establishment of IIT, IIM, two AIIMS, eight medical colleges, nursing colleges, and engineering colleges in J&K.

He also spoke about Jammu becoming an IT hub and the ongoing investments amounting to Rs 75,000 crore. Infrastructure projects like the

Katra-Delhi Expressway, the construction of four-lane highways, and the world's highest railway bridge were cited as exemplary achievements.

Thakur also outlined several promises for the future, including eradicating terrorism, empowering women through the "Maa Saman Yojna," creating 50,000 new jobs under the Pandit Prem Nath Dogra scheme, providing Rs 3,000 education travel allowance and Rs 10,000 coaching fees for students, free laptops/tablets, and Rs 10,000 for farmers under the Annadaata scheme. Other promises included healthcare under Ayushman Yojna, free housing for the poor, a Rs 3,000 monthly pension, better transportation with a metro for Jammu, clean water, free electricity, reduced electricity tariffs for farmers, a 20% quota for Agniveers in government jobs, quick resolution of complaints, 10,000 km of new roads, the safe return of Kashmiri Pandits, promotion for SC and ST castes, and immediate justice and security for terrorism victims.

Thakur urged the public to vote for BJP by pressing the lotus symbol, ensuring a strong and dynamic voice in the assembly through Bikram Randhawa.

CCI Jammu delegation calls on Dr. Jitendra



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry accompanied by Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General and Rajesh Gupta, Secretary met Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister in Prime Minister's Office and apprised him about the issues/problems being faced by Trade and Industry here.

During interaction Arun Gupta briefed Dr. Jitendra Singh about the implications of the recent order of J&K Labour Department regarding mandatory observance of "Close Day" practice by Shops/Business Establishments. We have discussed the said issue with the Chief Secretary UT of J&K with whose intervention the

said order has been kept in abeyance. We want that this matter should be resolved and closed once for all.

Arun Gupta further said that there are a number of issues/problems being faced by Trade and Industry, but we think that this is not proper time to highlight the same in view of the ongoing elections. We expect to have another meeting after the formation of a popular government here, where in we shall raise/discuss in detail the problems/issues relating to trade and industry. We are sure that your good offices will use your good offices to resolve the same.

Dr. Jitendra Singh assured that after elections we shall sit together for resolve all the pending issues related to trade and industry here.

Several join Cong in presence of Sawhney

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Several new members officially joined the Congress party on Monday in the presence of senior Congress leader and Congress-NC candidate, Yogesh Sawhney, ex-MLA Jammu East and Former Minister J&K.

Serving as a significant boost for the Congress party in the Jammu East constituency, the event marked a show of confidence from the people in the Congress party's ability to address local issues and deliver effective governance. The new members, hailing from various backgrounds, expressed their belief that the Congress is well-positioned to handle the pressing challenges faced by the people of Jammu East.

Welcoming the new members, ex-MLA Jammu East Yogesh Sawhney emphasized the importance of unity and collective effort in addressing the concerns of the people.

"Congress party has always been committed to serving the people, and today's inclusion of new members strengthens that commitment. The issues of unem-



ployment, infrastructure, and civic problems need immediate attention, and we are confident that together, we can bring about meaningful change," Sawhney stated.

He further highlighted the Congress party's long-standing dedication to upholding democratic values and working towards the welfare of all sections of society.

"The people of Jammu East need a party that understands their struggles and is capable of providing tangible solutions. Congress party, with its vast experience and inclusive policies, is that party. Our new members joining today recognize this and are ready to contribute to this cause," Sawhney added.

The new members pledged their support, noting that they believed

in the party's vision and leadership. They expressed optimism that, under such able guidance, party would effectively address the issues plaguing the constituency, including economic stagnation and infrastructural development.

Sawhney supported the statement adding that the people of Jammu have constantly suffered on multiple accounts through the last ten years and it is high time to get the power back in the hands of the people themselves.

Their aspirations and expectations have not been met at all by the BJP led governance and all their failures have been accompanied by a lack of intent to rectify or give remedy. Hence, there is no scope of redemption for them, said Sawhney.

With vote power people can safeguard their interests: DPAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Hitting hard at National Conference (NC), Congress, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) for increasing public miseries during their respective rules, senior Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leader and former JMC Councillor, Sobat Ali Chowdhary has said that vote is the ultimate power with the people of this country provided by the Constitution to safeguard their interests.

Sobat Ali, who is also DPAP candidate from Bahu-Gandhi Nagar Assembly Constituency said that soon the people of Jammu and Kashmir will vote against all the traditional political parties in the upcoming Assembly elections as these parties are responsible for making the life of common people in J&K miserable.

Addressing a public gathering in Digiana area of Bahu Constituency on Tuesday while campaigning, the DPAP leader said if voted to power, DPAP under the leadership of Ghulam Nabi Azad,



former Chief Minister of J&K and chief of DPAP will work overtime to resolve the issues of the people.

He further said that Azad Saab is known for the double shift work culture during his tenure as Chief Minister of J&K.

"Everyone is familiar with the menace of drug addiction prevailing in Jammu, daily problems of poor water and power supply, insanitary conditions almost everywhere, damaged and non-functional street lights, bad roads and much more but so far no concrete solution has been reached to all such issues," he maintained adding: "A strong, determined and serious leadership is needed for establishing welfare measures and for promising normal life to all in J&K."

Sobat Ali urged the people of Bahu Constituency to give him a chance to serve as he has a remarkable road map for the welfare and progress of the Constituency.

"Every single vote in favour of DPAP candidate will usher progress and welfare in J&K," he continued urging all to come out on the day of polling and press the button of bucket for his success.

After this, Sobat Ali met the people of Bhatindi, Rajiv Nagar, Kalika Colony and Malik Market by visiting door-to-door and listened public problems.

On this occasion many people joined DPAP and were welcomed into the party by Sobat Ali.

The people gathered on the occasion assured Sobat Ali of full support from Bahu Constituency.

IIM Jammu inaugurates eleventh batch of Capacity Building Program

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICC), launched the eleventh batch of the Capacity Building Program on Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) at Bharat Classroom, Jagti.

This initiative aims to establish 22 SBDUs across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, empowering entrepreneurs and strengthening institutions for entrepreneurship development. The event was inaugurated by Prof.

B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

In his address, Prof. Sahay highlighted the vast opportunities for He encouraged participants to leverage government schemes like the J&K Yuva Scheme, in which IIM Jammu is actively involved, aiming to create over 1.4 lakh jobs. Stressing the value of hard work, humility, and ethical practices, he shared success stories of industrialists like the Ambanis and Birlas.

He also emphasized that no work is too small and urged participants to dream big while using the five-day program to learn from established entrepreneurs and faculty. He expressed confidence in their potential to build a

healthy business ecosystem in the U.T. of J&K, contributing to the Union Territory, society, and the nation.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized the institute's focus on entrepreneurship and job creation through the SBDU project. He encouraged participants to use the five-day program to gain insights, collaborate, and spark new ideas, highlighting its value for their career growth.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional lamp lighting, followed by the Campus Audio Visual of IIM Jammu. Brief introductions from the participants offered insights into their back-

grounds and aspirations, enriching the diverse tapestry of the program.

Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Centre for Small Business Development, IIM Jammu, in his address, provided an overview of the program, setting the stage for an enriching journey of learning and growth. Present on the occasion were Dr. Garima Saini, Program Director, IIM Jammu, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer (CIO), IIM Jammu and Naren Karunakaran, Consultant, SBDU, IIM Jammu.

The program aims to refine their abilities, enabling them to play a crucial role in realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, as envisioned

by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Garima Saini, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

The event culminated with the national anthem, symbolizing unity and collective aspirations. The event was coordinated by the Small Business Development Unit Team, IIM Jammu. The Capacity Building Program on Small Business Development Units by IIM Jammu sets the stage for transformative growth, empowering aspiring and existing entrepreneurs to realize their dreams and contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of the nation.

EDITORIAL

Special Campaign
for Swachhata

The Special Campaign 4.0 for Swachhata represents a significant initiative by the Government of India to enhance cleanliness and sanitation across the country. As part of the broader Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), this campaign aims to address critical gaps in urban and rural sanitation, promote public health, and reinforce the culture of cleanliness. Monitoring the progress of this campaign involves a comprehensive assessment of various parameters, including implementation effectiveness, public participation, and the achievement of key milestones.

Special Campaign 4.0 is designed to build upon the successes of previous phases by targeting specific areas that need further attention. The objectives of the campaign include improving sanitation infrastructure and services in both urban and rural areas; increasing community involvement in cleanliness drives and encouraging responsible waste management practices; strengthening the capabilities of local authorities and stakeholders to manage sanitation activities effectively; promoting awareness about hygiene practices and the importance of maintaining a clean environment.

To achieve these goals, the campaign employs various strategies, including organizing cleanliness drives, upgrading sanitation facilities, and conducting training workshops. Local bodies, including municipal corporations and panchayats, are tasked with executing these initiatives, with support and oversight from state and central authorities.

Effective monitoring is crucial to ensure that the campaign's objectives are met and to identify areas for improvement.

The mechanisms are employed to track progress which include Local authorities are required to submit periodic reports detailing the activities undertaken, challenges faced, and progress achieved. These reports help in assessing whether the campaign is on track and if any corrective actions are needed; Senior officials and representatives from the central and state governments conduct field visits to inspect the implementation of sanitation activities. These inspections provide firsthand insights into the ground realities and help in evaluating the effectiveness of the campaign; Data on various aspects of sanitation, such as waste collection efficiency, the condition of sanitation facilities, and public participation levels, are collected and analyzed. This data helps in measuring the impact of the campaign and identifying trends; Engaging with the community through surveys, feedback forms, and public consultations allows for the collection of opinions and suggestions from the people directly affected by the campaign. This feedback is valuable for assessing the campaign's success and addressing any concerns raised by the public; Key performance indicators (KPIs) are established to evaluate the campaign's success. These metrics include the percentage of areas covered by sanitation facilities, the amount of waste processed, and improvements in public health indicators.

The Special Campaign 4.0 has achieved several milestones since its inception. Upgrades to sanitation infrastructure, such as the construction of new toilets and waste management facilities, have been implemented in various regions. There has been a noticeable increase in public participation in cleanliness drives and waste segregation practices. Awareness campaigns have successfully educated communities about hygiene practices and the benefits of maintaining cleanliness. However, the campaign also faces challenges that need to be addressed. Limited financial and human resources can hinder the timely execution of sanitation projects; Sustaining long-term community engagement and behavior change remains a challenge; Some areas still lack adequate sanitation facilities, requiring continued investment and attention.

To build on the progress of Special Campaign 4.0, several steps can be taken: Strengthening Partnerships: Collaborating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector partners can enhance resource mobilization and expertise. Scaling Best Practices: Identifying and replicating successful initiatives in different regions can help in achieving uniform progress across the country. Innovative Solutions: Embracing innovative technologies and solutions can improve efficiency in waste management and sanitation services.

The Special Campaign 4.0 for Swachhata is a critical effort to advance cleanliness and sanitation in India. Monitoring its progress through effective reporting, inspections, data analysis, and public feedback is essential for achieving its objectives. While the campaign has made significant strides, ongoing efforts and adjustments are necessary to overcome challenges and ensure sustained improvements in sanitation and public health.

I.N.D.I.A. bloc faces a vacuum: Who'll fill Yechury's shoes?

By: Shikha Mukerjee

Good intentions are never enough. The leaders of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance need to get down to the business of figuring out what to do as Sitaram Yechury's passing creates a vacuum for a coalition that has fiercely competitive partners, not all of whom are amenable to the processes of adjustment and accommodation necessary to deliver the outcome they collectively desire. Also Read - Aakar Patel | If Modi adopts Vajpayee's line, he'll get more space to govern Advertisement Having forged itself as a unity of disparate parties with a primary agenda of defeating the BJP and ousting Narendra Modi from power, the I.N.D.I.A. bloc has reached only halfway there. Its partners need to encircle the Centre currently under Mr Modi in his third term, by winning more states if it has to fulfil its commitment to defending multi-party and inclusive democracy, secularism, federalism and the principles and rights guaranteed by the Constitution, not least of which is the separation of powers between the judiciary, legislature and executive. Also Read - Sanjaya Baru | A very Hyderabad boy who became an icon of the Left in politics, it is only rarely that the larger goal supersedes short-term interests. Dealing with tricky situations through dialogue was Yechury's strong suit; because more often than not neither he nor the CPM that he headed had any vested interest in those fights. Within the I.N.D.I.A. bloc, parties more often than not have vested interests that invariably reveal itself during elections. Also Read - Kishwar Desai | Kate's new video captivates UK; 'dynamic pricing' for concerts too These are skills and competencies

that I.N.D.I.A. as a bloc has to find a way of replacing. There is a vacuum in its ranks that has the potential of weakening the alliance by creating disruption. Unlike the United Progressive Alliance in 2004 and 2009, the I.N.D.I.A. bloc is not led by the Congress. As a party it is too big and not many of the 28 parties of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc are prepared to accept its leadership of the collective. Also Read - Anita Kalyan | Is hung House likely in J-K? Kamal Nath on comeback path The Congress Party is always suspect. It is perceived by its partners as ambitious, sometimes domineering, inexperienced in a collegial mode of operation where consultations are a part of reaching decisions on the one hand and timing is the other. The experience between the launch of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc in 2023 and as it is now is that its major sponsor, Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United), has walked out. Having invited parties in opposition to the BJP to unite in 2022 "I'll urge all parties, including the Congress, to get together and then they (BJP) will lose badly", Nitish Kumar did a somersault by quitting the alliance with the RJD in Bihar and joining forces with the BJP. The reason was his ambition versus the distrust of the other parties within the I.N.D.I.A. bloc about his intentions and his commitment to the cause. The problem of a gap between the intentions and commitments of individual leaders and the common cause has not gone away. The differences within the bloc that become visible during elections do affect how well it does against the BJP. In Haryana, where the Assembly polls will be held on October 5, the failure of the Congress and the AAP to strike an alliance has the potential of turning a near-certain win into a less certain outcome. The decision by the Congress and

National Conference to engage in "friendly" fights in five of the 90 Assembly seats in J&K will make a difference in a tightly-fought battle that has enormous significance for both the Opposition and the BJP. The I.N.D.I.A. bloc owes Yechury a lot more in constantly championing its cause and working at it as tirelessly as he did in bolstering and rebuilding morale and the CPM's geographical spread against a formidable and abundantly resourceful organisation like the BJP. The bloc is a coalition representative of the middle ground or median voter in Indian politics. To keep so many partners unified to fulfil one purpose even as differences erupt on a regular basis is difficult. Just how complicated the exercise of accommodating the diversity of aspirations and opinions in a country where the multiplicity of political parties reflects not only differences over ideology, policy and strategy but also personal preferences is obvious. Yechury performed a critical role in India's disorderly politics by functioning as a centripetal force; he brought the energies of bickering parties together by keeping the focus on the primary task, which was to defeat the BJP. It is unlikely that the CPM will throw up a leader who will continue to play the balancing role within the I.N.D.I.A. bloc. His loss is as big for the I.N.D.I.A. bloc as it is for the CPM. He was the big hitter for the coalition and his party. As general secretary, Yechury was the party's clean-up man, enabling it to punch way above its weight in constructing a national alliance to defend despite repeated failures to win elections in its strongholds of West Bengal, keep the BJP at bay in Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal. He was as much a leader of the Left as he was paradoxically a pillar that

upheld the shaky middle ground against the right-wing, communally divisive, authoritarian persona of Narendra Modi as the BJP's star campaigner and boss, backed up by the RSS. His absence creates a vacuum as much for the CPM, which is unprepared to replace its general secretary, and the I.N.D.I.A. bloc where he played a balancing role in maintaining the equilibrium. The I.N.D.I.A. bloc owes Yechury a lot more in constantly championing its cause and working at it as tirelessly as he did in to strengthen the middle ground representing the median voters against the BJP. In order to do this, he succeeded in getting the CPM on board in a coalition of which the Congress is a key partner. As a result, the I.N.D.I.A. bloc had, through Yechury's presence and support, a strong bulwark from the Left against a formidable and abundantly resourceful organisation like the BJP. To keep so many partners unified to fulfil one purpose even as differences erupt on a regular basis is difficult. The leadership question within the CPM will affect how the Left-centrist parties engage in the next few months when crucial elections are due in Maharashtra and Bihar. It needs political imagination, intuition, commitment, patience and hard work to convert an idea into the beginnings of a desired reality. Yechury had it. He successfully brought together and kept together the Congress, the Trinamul Congress and the CPM at the national level, despite these parties being sworn enemies in Kerala and West Bengal. Finding another adhesive to get the Opposition parties to remain consistent in their battle against the BJP is the I.N.D.I.A. bloc's challenge.

How to prepare for JEE Main 2025 at home

By: Vijay GarG

One of the most competitive engineering entrance exams in India is the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main, which determines admissions to esteemed universities such as the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and acts as a gateway to the JEE Advanced for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Effective study methods, strategic planning, and commitment are necessary for JEE Main preparation. A growing number of students are choosing to study for this difficult exam from home because of the accessibility of online resources.

Understanding the exam structure and syllabus

The syllabus and exam structure must be understood before beginning any preparation. JEE Main comprises two papers: Paper 1 is for applicants aiming for a BE or BTech, while Paper 2 is for those pursuing a B Arch or B Planning. The more widely used Paper 1 is divided into three sections: Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics, each of which is given equal weight. The questions are objective in nature, and wrong responses will result in a negative mark.

Establishing and following a study routine that is well-organized is crucial. Time management and discipline are much more important when you're prepping from home. To prevent burnout, a solid study schedule should be reasonable and incorporate pauses.

The process of making a study

plan

1. Daily objectives: Break down your curriculum into digestible chunks and establish daily goals. As an example, set out particular hours every day for every subject so that you cover everything in a methodical manner.

2. Weekly revisions: Set aside a day each week to review the material you have read. This aids in information retention and the identification of weak points.

3. Mock exams: Make sure to arrange frequent mock exams into your calendar. To replicate the conditions of an actual exam, these should be completed in a timed setting.

Self assessment and regular practice

To grasp the JEE Main course, one must practice consistently and evaluate oneself. This entails completing as many practice exams and question papers from prior years as you can.

Practice Techniques:

- Timed Practice: To increase accuracy and speed, practice constantly under time constraints.

- Error Analysis: Examine your errors and determine where you went wrong by analyzing them after each test. This aids in preventing similar mistakes from happening again.

- Pay Attention to Weak Areas: Recognize your areas of weakness early on and devote more time to these subjects. To answer any questions, consult internet resources.

Building strong fundamentals
Instead of focusing on memorisation, JEE Main questions are renowned for assessing concep-

tual knowledge. Therefore, it is essential to develop solid foundations in mathematics, physics, and chemistry.

Methods for developing conceptual clarity:

- NCERT books: These are the finest for laying the groundwork for fundamental understanding, particularly in Chemistry. Before going on to more advanced content, make sure you comprehend every idea in your NCERT textbooks.

- Interactive learning: To better understand difficult subjects, especially in physics, make use of visual aids like movies and simulations.

- Problem solving: Rather than relying solely on formula memorization, regularly practice solving conceptual problems. This will facilitate the application of your knowledge in many settings.

Staying motivated and managing stress

It can be mentally draining to study for the JEE Main at home. It's critical to maintain motivation and practice good stress management.

- Create short-term goals: Divide your preparation into manageable tasks, and treat yourself when you cross them off. This will help you stay motivated. You feel accomplished and inspired as a result of this.

- Peer interaction: Participate in online study groups to exchange materials, encourage one another, and discuss any doubts you may have.

- Physical activity: To maintain the health of your body and mind, make time for physical activity each day. Yoga and

other easy workouts can help lower stress.

Managing exam stress:

- Mindfulness techniques: You can maintain composure and attention by engaging in activities like deep breathing and meditation.

- Balanced diet: Sustaining concentration levels requires eating a diet rich in nutrients and well-balanced.

- Sleep: Make sure you receive seven to eight hours of rest each night. A lack of sleep can make it difficult for you to work well.

Staying updated with exam notifications

It's critical to keep up with the most recent JEE Main exam updates. Check the National Testing Agency (NTA) website frequently for information on application forms, exam dates, and curriculum and pattern changes.

It takes a disciplined strategy, efficient use of internet resources, and regular practice to prepare for JEE Main at home. You can improve your chances of passing the exam by being aware of its structure, planning a sensible study program, and maintaining your motivation. Never forget that your most valuable resources on this road are persistence and self-belief. It is possible to succeed in JEE Main from the comfort of your home if you have the correct approach and frame of mind.

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SMVDU hosts US based alumnus for talk on Biotechnology and Career Advancement

Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 17: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) continued its distinguished Alumni Talk Series with an enriching session featuring Dr. Abijeet Mehta, a prominent Postdoctoral Scholar at UC Berkeley (USA).

Known for his pioneering research in biosensors for cancer immunotherapy, Dr. Mehta captivated students and faculty alike with his insights into career progression in biotechnology and the evolving global landscape of scientific research.

The event, co-hosted by the Office of International and Alumni Affairs and the School of Biotechnology, brought together students, faculty, and research scholars eager to gain from Dr. Mehta's experience. His presentation, titled "From Classroom to Cutting-Edge Research: Navigating a Career in Biomedical Sciences," covered critical aspects of transitioning from academia to industry, interdisciplinary skill development, as well as his experiences and critical ups and downs that played a pivotal role in his professional journey.

Dr. Mehta also delved

into his cutting-edge research on developing biosensors for cancer treatment, which has positioned him at the forefront of the field.

Faculty members and students engaged in a lively discussion, seeking Dr. Mehta's advice on research opportunities, and building a successful career in biomedical sciences.

The session provided attendees with practical insights into the biotechnology research industry, as well as strategies for navigating professional challenges and seizing new opportunities.

Moderated by Ujjasvi

Sharma, a student from the School of Biotechnology, the event was smoothly coordinated by Yuvraj Singh Pathania, Alumni Student Coordinator.

Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Associate Dean of International and Alumni Affairs, concluded the session by highlighting the significance of alumni interactions in bridging the gap between education and professional success.

Dr. Vinod Singh (Asst. Prof., SoBT) also addressed the event. Dr. Ratna Chandra (Head, SoBT) and Dr. Yugal Khajuria (Dean of International

and Alumni Affairs) in their message emphasized the university's commitment to providing students with a global perspective through such valuable talks.

This talk is part of a broader initiative by SMVDU administration under the leadership of Prof. Pragati Kumar (Vice Chancellor, SMVDU) to foster a robust alumni network and empower students to achieve excellence in their careers.

The session was met with enthusiastic praise from participants, leaving them motivated to explore new avenues in biotechnology.

Rich Harvest hosts educational fair cum career counselling

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: RHS hosted an Educational Fair cum Career Counselling event in the school premises. The event aimed to provide students with valuable insights into various career paths and educational opportunities.

The Head of the Institute Anita Bhatia accorded a warm welcome to the Chief Guest Dr Samar Dev Singh Charak--Secretary Dogra Educational Trust, Dheeraj Sharma--CEO Quantica, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak--Managing Director of RHS and Ruchi Charak--Director RHS.



The Managing Director advised the students to remain focused and clear any doubts regarding their career choices.

The Chief Guest Dr Samar Dev Singh Charak--a renowned Educationist--inaugurated the event emphasizing the importance of informed career choices and exploration of opportunities.

The fair featured:- Exhi-

bitations from renowned universities and colleges, interactive career counselling sessions, Guidance on scholarship opportunities.

11th and 12th students interacted with the experts to seek advice and networking opportunities so that they could be empowered to make informed decisions about their future.

HDFC Bank targets income boost for 5 lakh marginal farmers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: HDFC Bank has set a goal to increase the income of 5 lakh marginal farmers earning less than ₹60,000 annually by 2025, as part of its corporate social responsibility initiative, Parivartan. This announcement comes as the Bank commemorates 10 years of Parivartan, which has already positively impacted the lives of over 10 crore people across India. The Bank's focus on rural development reflects its continued commitment to fostering sustainable growth and uplifting vulnerable communities.

Since its inception in 2014, Parivartan has grown into one of India's largest CSR programmes, active in 28 states and 8 Union Territories. It has made significant strides in key areas

such as education, skill development, healthcare, and financial inclusion, aligning its efforts with 9 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Launched in 2014, HDFC Bank 'Parivartan' was established with the vision to contribute to the socio-economic development of communities across India. With CSR expenditure of over INR 5,100 crore over the last decade, Parivartan has consistently aimed to empower individuals by creating sustainable livelihoods, fostering sustainable development, and creating real-life change.

"Today, business performance for profit making enterprises stands redefined. Social impact is an integral part of business performance. HDFC Bank Parivartan comprises multiple programmes with a focus on giving

back to the community as well as supporting sustainable development," explained Kaizad M Bharucha, Deputy Managing Director, HDFC Bank.

In FY23-24 alone, HDFC Bank Parivartan has engaged with over 150 NGO partners and implementing agencies. "We believe that collaboration is key. Economic and financial wellbeing of society is what every responsible lender should aspire for. Our commitment to this principle is underscored in our CSR programme. Unequivocally, the business of banking is underpinned by trust and as a responsible lender, and the Bank stands committed to contributing to nation-building," he added.

The Bank's Parivartan initiatives focus on 5 key areas of Rural Development, Promotion of Education, Skill Training and

Livelihood Enhancement, Healthcare and Hygiene, and Financial Literacy and Inclusion. These pillars are also aligned with the 9 out of 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The CSR programme is designed not only to create targeted impact through Focused Development Programmes, but also enable sustainable growth, especially in rural India, through the Holistic Rural Development Programme.

"With over 65% of India's population residing in rural areas, we strongly believe that inclusive development can only be attained when the prosperity and livelihood in villages keeps pace with the growth. We prioritise rural areas for our programme and currently 70% of our programmes are being implemented

in such areas," said Ms. Nusrat Pathan, Head - CSR, HDFC Bank.

Since its inception, HDFC Bank Parivartan has reached over 9,270 villages and more than 10 lakh households. The bank's social outreach covers 85 out of the 112 aspirational districts in India, focusing on empowering marginalized communities, especially women, through targeted interventions.

"Our initiatives encompass capacity building, the promotion of financial literacy, credit and entrepreneurial endeavours, along with enhancing skills for agricultural and related practices. Under the overarching theme of capacity development and creation of livelihoods, we have established separate goals for individual and institutional enhancement," said Bharucha.

Hindi book 'Swarg Ka Marg' released

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Raj Rishi Sharma is a well-known and famous writer. So far, All India Radio has published many of his books and compositions in various magazines, compilations, and broadcasts. He has demonstrated his ability through his writing work in many genres of literature. He mainly writes in Hindi, Dogri, and English genres. He also has a special place in Hindi novel writing besides writing inspirational literature.

Raj Rishi Sharma is known for his deep insight into the human mind, practical lifestyle, and spirituality. Interested in psychology, and philosophy, Raj Rishi Sharma has dedicated his life to exploring the depths of the human psyche and propagating the knowledge acquired through his writings. His works have inspired countless

individuals to embark on a journey of self-discovery and personal development.

In this series, he has presented a new book, 'Swarg Ka Marg' (Inspirational), for his intelligent readers.

This book 'Swarg Ka Marg' is such a creation that it would not be an exaggeration to call it 'Swarg Ka Marg'. Through this book, those things have been discussed and analysed, which can reveal their path which is not difficult either. The concept of 'Swarg Ka Marg' mainly originates from a story of the Mahabharata period. According to this story, Shri Krishna had given his devotee Yudhishtir a ladder to go to heaven but rather told the way to reach the 'Road to Heaven', through which one could go to the gates of heaven.

The basis of 'Swarg Ka Marg' is a religious story. It is considered important

in Hinduism, and this story is also described in religious epics, Puranas, and Vedas. According to the story of 'Swarg Ka Marg', this is a path, that leads a man to God and attainment of eternal happiness and salvation after death. But from a contemporary point of view, it can also be taken as an inspirational statement and example.

The author Raj Rishi Sharma has described various aspects of the subject 'Swarg Ka Marg' in this book based on his extensive experiences and research results. This book will enlighten you on important issues, make you aware, provide useful sensitivity, and help in achieving this path.

The book 'Swarg Ka Marg' is published by Rajarshi Publications, Jammu. It can also be purchased from Amazon, Flipkart, and the author. Contact the author: rajrishiashirna334@gmail.com.

Ajeet appeals voters of Nagseni Paddar Constituency to vote on merit

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Sep 17: Ajeet Bhagat, Senior Leader and Spokesperson of the Chenab Valley Zone for the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, has issued a fervent appeal to voters in the Nagseni Paddar Constituency to cast their votes based on merit. Bhagat specifically urged voters to scrutinize the credentials of Sunil Sharma, the former MLA, by asking for his "report card" before making their decision.

Bhagat criticized Sharma for allegedly benefiting from lucrative contracts in power projects that he claims have not only employed youth from outside the Union Territory but have also led to the exploitation of local resources. He questioned how many contractors from Paddar have become wealthy since 2014, implying that a few have gained signifi-



cantly at the expense of the local youth. According to Bhagat, Sharma's tenure has resulted in numerous false promises, leaving many local youth ineligible for government jobs due to their age being rendered overage by the delays.

He highlighted that Paddar, once renowned for its substantial army recruitment, has seen no such recruitment in the past decade. Bhagat lamented the lack of local employment opportunities in the power projects, questioning the actual benefits derived from these initiatives for the Paddar community.

Bhagat further criti-

cized the BJP's ten-year rule, questioning why the party is now promising development when it has shown little achievement in its tenure. He accused the BJP of exploiting Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities and urged the public to reject the BJP's fear-mongering tactics, which he described as "rag of Khatra and Darr" sung by Sharma.

In a rallying cry, Bhagat endorsed Pooja Thakur as the "Iron Lady" of the election, claiming she is blessed by Maa Chandi and Maa Sheetalai and is poised to drive out corrupt and deceitful politicians. He urged the voters to support Thakur, asserting that if any local resident is currently jobless, it is a direct result of Sharma's and the BJP's failures. Bhagat warned against "experimenting" with politicians who he accused of being "PhD holders of lies."

Independent candidate from Marh Mohan Lal Kaith intensifies door to door campaign



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Independent candidate from Marh Mohan Lal Kaith has intensified his door to door campaign by engaging with the voters and listening to their genuine issues.

Mohan Lal Kaith along with kins, friends and supporters covered areas like Mulke Chack, Bhure Chack, Ganeshu Chack, Phallian Colony, Gandu Chack, Ghau Manhassan, Rathua, Patiyali Chack, Qazi Tokerian and Panjore.

During interaction with locals, he directly engaged with them, discussing pressing issues such as installation of smart meters, irregular power supply and poor infrastructure of govt schools.

Kaith appealed people to vote and support him wholeheartedly in the scheduled assembly elections. He assured them that, if elected, he would prioritize reversing these harsh measures and be a strong advocate for their concerns in the political arena.

Dimple attends grand Eid-ul-Milad-un-Nabi procession

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, participated in a grand Eid-ul-Milad-un-Nabi procession that drew thousands of Muslims in Jammu. The procession, which began at Masjid Sarwal Chowk, wound its way through various parts of Jammu, including Janipur High Court, before concluding.

During the event, Dimple addressed the gathering, offering prayers for peace, normalcy, and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir as a state. He also prayed for the end of terrorism in the region, seeking blessings from Prophet Muhammad for a peaceful and harmonious environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his speech, Dimple emphasized the impor-



tance of following the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, particularly those related to love, communal harmony, and brotherhood. He urged people to embrace these values to foster a sense of unity and peace across the region.

Dimple used the occasion to send a strong message to the international community, asserting that the people of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of their religion, desire to live in peace and harmony.

He appealed to communal forces to cease the violence and allow the region to experience stability and tranquility.

The procession saw participation from a diverse group of individuals, including prominent figures such as Molvi Riyaz Ahmad and Advocate Rizvi, as well as many others from different religious backgrounds. Their collective presence underscored a shared commitment to peace and communal harmony.

SVEEP Rally energizes GCOE Campus

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Govt. College of Education hosted a vibrant and impactful SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) rally, aimed at boosting voter awareness and engagement among students. This initiative, part of a broader national effort to enhance democratic participation, was marked by enthusiastic student participation and insightful activities.

Series of engaging activities, were organized based on "International Peace Day" "Swachhta Abhiyan", "Ozone Day Celebration"



and "SVEEP Campaign". Rally was organized in collaboration with District Social Welfare Office, Jammu where students and faculty members made awareness on "Importance of casting their votes" along with plantation and cleanli-

ness drive in the college campus. The rally began with an energizing procession through the college grounds, featuring banners, placards, and spirited chants emphasizing the importance of voting. Students from various departments

came together, showcasing their commitment to fostering a culture of civic responsibility.

Principal, Govt. College of Education Dr. Jyoti Parihar emphasized the significance of the rally, stating, "Our goal is to empower our students

with knowledge and inspire them to take an active role in the democratic process. Events like these are crucial in shaping informed and responsible citizens."

Sunil Kumar (Specialist in Financial Literacy) and Khusboo Kapthre (Gender Specialist) were Special Guest from Social Welfare Department. Dr. Shubhra Jamwal (SVEEP Nodal officer), Prof. Sarita Dogra (NSS PO) Prof. Shalini Sharma (Nature Club Convener), Prof. Rajinder Kour (M. Ed coordinator) were organized the event.

Prof. Satish Sharma, Prof. Roopa, Prof. Kiran were present on this occasion.

GDC Ramgarh organizes Cleanliness Drive

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Sep 17: The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit-Prabha of Government Degree College Ramgarh organized 'Cleanliness Drive' marking the beginning of 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign initiated by the Government of India to promote the importance of cleanliness and sanitation in the country.

The drive was carried out in the College premises. The entire programme was carried out under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

NSS program officer Prof. Brham Dutt coordinated the whole event. In the beginning, he briefed the volunteers



regarding the importance of cleanliness and encouraged them to always keep the surroundings clean. He also said that this activity provided a great opportunity to the College to perform its social responsibilities for the society at large.

Further he said that Mahatma Gandhi believed that 'cleanliness is next to godliness'. Numerous students, including NSS volunteers, actively participated in the

cleanliness drive. Faculty members and other college employees also joined the campaign, demonstrating their commitment to maintaining a clean and hygienic environment.

During the cleanliness drive, students and staff used various tools such as brooms and khuspas to clean both indoor and outdoor areas of the college. They collected the waste and disposed of on a designated site.

Salman Khan issues official statement regarding alleged US tour, warns legal action against 'fraudulent use' of his name

Salman Khan recently took to his social media handles to clarify regarding the fake news being spread about his alleged US tour. The actor stated that neither him nor anyone from his team have organised any upcoming concerts in USA for 2024. Salman also warned that he might take legal route against those misusing his name for any 'fraudulent purposes.'

Salman Khan cautions fans against fake news

The actor cautioned his fans and followers against buying tickets for any of his upcoming US tours. He mentioned that he has no plans to travel to US for any of his tours. Salman's note in his tweet post read, "This is to inform that neither Mr. Salman Khan nor any of his affiliated companies or teams are organising any upcoming concerts or appearances in the USA in



2024. Any claims suggesting that Mr. Khan will be performing are completely false. Please do not trust any emails, messages, or advertisements promoting such events. Legal action will be taken against anyone found falsely using Mr. Salman Khan's name for fraudulent purposes."

Salman Khan's acting career Salman made his Bollywood debut with Sooraj Barjatya's Maine Pyar Kiya. He later featured in popular films like Saajan, Love, Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!, Karan Arjun, Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, Hum Saath-Saath Hain and others. He also

worked in popular movies like Tere Naam, Dabangg, Ek Tha Tiger, Bajrangi Bhaijaan and Bharat.

Salman Khan's upcoming projects

Salman was last seen in Tiger 3 directed by Maneesh Sharma. The film is a part of Aditya Chopra's spy universe comprising War 2, Alpha and other future spin-offs. The actor will be next seen in Sajid Nadiadwala's action-thriller Sikandar. The film is directed by AR Murugadoss and features Suniel Shetty, Rashmika Mandanna and others in pivotal characters. Salman also has Karan Johar's The Bull and YRF's Tiger Vs Pathaan in the pipeline.

Salman is soon expected to shoot for Bigg Boss 18 after wrapping the schedule of Sikandar.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan bags Best Actress award at SIIMA



The latest edition of South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA) 2024 saw Aishwarya Rai Bachchan clinching the trophy for Best Actress in a Leading Role (Critics). She won the award for her performance in Mani Ratnam's film Ponnin Selvan 2.

Aishwarya was accompanied by her daughter Aaradhya during her winning moment. Several pictures from the ceremony surfaced online. In the visuals, one can see Aaradhya capturing the special moments of her mom while she received the award on the stage at the ceremony, which was held in Dubai.

Kabir Khan presented the award to Aishwarya. In her acceptance speech, she said, "Thank you so very much SIIMA for honouring me with the award. It means the world to me because this was a movie so close to my heart, Ponnin Selvan, directed by my guru Mani Ratnam. And honouring my work for the best actress as Nandini is actually celebrating the work of the entire team."

The mother-daughter duo even walked the red carpet. Aishwarya took selfies with her fans who gathered outside the venue. Aishwarya's co-star Chiyaan Vikram also took home Best Actor (Tamil) award at SIIMA 2024. Ponnin Selvan 2, directed by Mani Ratnam, is the sequel to the 2022 film. Actor Kamal Haasan lent his voice to the film's narration. Oscar-winning music composer AR Rahman has composed the music for the film.

Shakira got 'creepy vibes' while performing live at Miami club and left the stage abruptly

Columbian singer Shakira, 47, was forced to cut her performance short at a LIV Miami nightclub in Florida after an incident involving inappropriate fan behaviour.

The global superstar, known for her iconic dance moves, was dancing to her latest single 'Soltera' when she noticed fans allegedly filming under her dress.

In a video circulating online, Shakira is seen pausing mid-dance, clutching her skirt with both hands and shaking her head disapprovingly at the crowd.

She then resumed her performance before gesturing towards the individuals responsible and ultimately leaving the stage.

Once off-stage, Sha-



kira was met by security and greeted by fans in the VIP area.

The incident sparked outrage on social media, with many condemning the incident. One fan tweeted, 'Truly disappointing behaviour. Artists deserve respect and privacy,' while another wrote, 'Shakira leaves the stage after

people were filming under her dress whilst she was dancing to her new single. People are GROSS.'

Other comments included, 'Shakira can't even enjoy and dance to her own song,' and 'It's wild how some guys can single-handedly ruin a great experience with their creepy vibes.'

Kangana Ranaut reveals why she was forced to sell her 32 crore Mumbai office

Days after her co-production and maiden solo directorial Emergency's release was stalled, actor-filmmaker Kangana Ranaut sold off her Mumbai bungalow, used as the office of her production house Manikarnika Films, for 32 crore. In an interview with agency, Kangana revealed why she took that decision.

What Kangana said "Naturally, my film was supposed to release. I put all my personal property on it. Now that it's not released, so anyway, that's what properties are for - for times of crisis," Kangana said.

The said property is situated in Pali Hill, Bandra, a prime area of Mumbai. Kangana bought the property for 20 crore in 2017 and started her office of Manikarnika Films there in 2019. It came under the scanner in 2020 when



parts of it were demolished by BMC because of alleged structural violations. Kangana said she deserved compensation for the demolition,

but said she gave up on the idea because it's taxpayers' money. Kangana also bought a new office space in Andheri for 1.56 crore.

About Emergency

Emergency, co-produced by Manikarnika Films and Zee Studios, was scheduled to release in cinemas on September 6. Taking to X, Kangana wrote on that day, "With a heavy heart I announce that my directorial Emergency has been postponed, we are still waiting for the certification from censor board, new release date will be announced soon, thanks for your understanding and patience."

The film, a biographical political thriller, delves into the life of Indira Gandhi, who imposed a 21-month emergency period from 1975 to 1977. Kangana plays the former prime minister in the movie. Emergency has been embroiled in controversies for some time now including facing backlash several Sikh groups. Zee Entertainment

Enterprises, the co-producer company of the Emergency, had approached the Bombay High Court seeking the release of the film and a censor certificate. A petition was filed in the Bombay High Court, claiming that the CBFC had arbitrarily and illegally withheld the censor certificate of the film.

The Bombay High Court had said that it is unable to direct the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to issue the certificate as it would contradict the MP High Court order. The Court had also asked the CBFC to take a decision by September 18. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for September 19. While the film has been certified now with a few cuts, a new release date hasn't been announced by the makers yet.

Zeenat Aman confidently claims 'born to be flamboyant'

Veteran actress Zeenat Aman, dubbed as the 'Queen of Instagram', has shared pictures from her latest photoshoot which she did in Goa.

On Tuesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared two pictures in which she can be seen donning a beautiful outfit which consists of a gown paired with a Zebra print cape.

The actress also penned a long note in the caption, and shared how she collaborated with designer Tania Alfonso Fadte, who had earlier styled Priyanka Chopra Jonas for a magazine cover.

The veteran actress wrote, 'Just call me a Bird-of-Paradise. Born to be flamboyant and ever-ready to take wing. As a self-professed homebird, there is something just so wonderful about home-brewed ideas and projects. The ease and comfort of these are unparalleled. On this last visit to Goa, @zanuski and @carapiranha invited over their talented friends @tanifadte and @taralouphoto for a morning of dress-up at

@birdsongmoira.'

She further mentioned, 'Tania, an exceptionally gifted stylist who just dressed Priyanka Chopra for her gorgeous Vogue India cover, managed to borrow stunning outfits for the shoot in record time, and helped direct this vision. Tara, for her part, shot me guerrilla style with a single assistant, minimal equipment and the sweetest disposition. The six of us traipsed about the empty villa, finding beautiful spots to shoot in, endured the mercurial weather - rain, sunshine, rain - and wrapped up in time to eat a homemade lunch of dahi kadhi chawal.'

The actress also shared that she did her own hair and make-up in the exhausting humidity of Goa given it's a coastal state.

'Any flaws in the pictures are of my making - I did my own hair and makeup, while fighting a losing battle with the humidity! On this note, I'd love for you to leave me a comment on any fashion faux pas you may have made. Believe me, we've all been there,' she added.



Sunny Deol finds motivation in great outdoors

Actor Sunny Deol shared a combined glimpse as he travels to explore the beauty of nature.

Sunny, who has 3.9 million followers on Instagram, posted a reel in which the actor spoke about his motivation as he witnessed the essence of travelling through various locations.

The 'Apne' fame actor also wrote a caption, 'My Motivation: Spend as much time with Mother Earth as possible' with emojis of mountains and trees.

At the start of the video, Sunny said, "Feeling good. Feeling top of the world. Have a great day" and ended with a flying kiss for his die-hard fans.

Later, the video shows Sunny driving in his winter avatar as the actor is seen wearing a cap, brown coat, and his all-time classy shades as he travels near the snowy mountain path.

The next shot shows a glimpse of the waterfall and later again the clip focuses on the winter background as Sunny eats a roll filled with delicacies. Later, the



clip moves forward as Sunny travels to various locations, simultaneously showing mother earth's beauty.

The video also featured Sunny along with his better half Pooja Deol. In the segment, Pooja is seen throwing snowballs at Sunny. They share a moment of love and joy.

Furthermore, the reel showcased the star exploring other mesmerising locations as he

completely delves into the air of such a soothing and calm phase of life.

Sunny also shared many glimpses while playing with snow which signifies the actor's love for the places that are located in the hilly regions.

In the final segment, Sunny shared pictures with kids, his father, legendary actor Dharmendra, a group of travellers and the flag of

India which was made on the rock and ended the video while eating his favourite sweet dish Jalebi.

Soon after Sunny's breathtaking post went viral, fans and celebrities, including his brother actor Bobby Deol, showered their love in the comments section.

Bobby commented with the numerous heart emojis on the post.

'Udan Patola' fame actor Poppy Jabbal wrote, 'This brought my smile back' with heart emojis.

Sunny is currently gearing up for his next film 'Border 2' which is a sequel to his 1997 film 'Border', helmed by LOC Kargil fame director JP Dutta. As for now, actors Varun Dhawan and Dillip Dosanjh have been roped in for the highly anticipated sequel.

Apart from 'Border 2', Sunny will also become part of 'Lahore 1947' alongside actress Preity Zinta. The film has been bankrolled by legendary actor Aamir Khan under the banner of Aamir Khan Production, which will be helmed by 'China Gate' fame director Rajkumar Santoshi.

Women empowerment key to Odisha's development: PM Modi

Launches Odisha government's Subhadra Yojana, railway, national highway projects worth over Rs 3,800 crore

BHUBANESWAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said women empowerment is key to development of Odisha, asserting that the third NDA government at the Centre, in its first 100 days, has taken a slew of steps for their welfare.

Addressing a rally in Bhubaneswar, he said the promises made by the BJP before the election this year were being fulfilled at a "rapid pace".

"In the first 100 days of the third NDA government, major steps were taken for upliftment of the poor, farmers and youth along with the empowerment of women.

"Women's empowerment is key to Odisha's development,"



PM Modi said after launching the state government's flagship Subhadra Yojana, a women-centric scheme of the Odisha government.

Under the scheme, all eligible beneficiaries between the age

group of 21-60 years would receive Rs 50,000 over a period of five years between 2024-25 and 2028-29.

"As promised, we opened Ratna Bhandar at Puri's Jagannath temple after coming to

power in the state," he said.

PM Modi also announced that the Centre has decided to add 75,000 medical seats in the country.

"In the first 100 days of the third NDA government at the Centre, we decided to build 3 crore pucca houses for poor people."

PM Modi unveiled railway and national highway projects worth over Rs 3,800 crore in the state.

Modi laid the foundation stones and dedicated to the nation railway projects worth Rs 2,871 crore in the state.

He also launched national highway projects worth Rs 1,000 crore at a programme at Janata Maidan here.

Amit Shah announces: One nation, one election in BJP's current term



NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday confirmed government plans to implement the 'one nation, one election' strategy in this very term of the BJP-led NDA government.

"It will happen in this term itself," said Shah answering a question on whether one nation one election will become a reality anytime soon.

Top government sources had said on Sunday that the plan would be rolled out in this term.

The one nation one election idea got a boost when in March 2021 the parliamentary standing committee on law and justice backed it saying, "Holding simultaneous elections

will reduce the burden on exchequer, expenditure of political parties and ensure that human resources are utilised optimally. It will reduce voters' apathy towards frequent elections and rather enthuse them, which will ultimately enhance participation in the electoral process."

The panel added that common electoral rolls were necessary to make simultaneous elections a reality.

Headed by BJP's Bhupender Yadav, the panel argued that elections around the year — whether for local bodies, state Assemblies or the Lok Sabha — put a strain on the state machinery and created hurdles in governance.

"Our country remains

in election mode throughout the year. We are of the view that the idea of 'one nation, one election' is not new to our country as the first three General Elections (1952, 1957 and 1962) were held simultaneously," said the panel.

Holding simultaneous elections would entail amendment to the Constitution to have fixed terms for local bodies, legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha.

Amendments would also be required for common electoral rolls. "But common rolls will be good for the democratic health of our country as these will lessen the burden on exchequer. Wider consultation with all political parties should be held to reach a consensus," the report said.

The government then set up a committee under former President Ram Nath Kovind to examine the issue. The Kovind panel submitted its 18626 page report to President Droupadi Murmu in March.

Congress-led INDIA bloc opposition resisted the plan in its depositions before the Kovind committee.

Rajnath Singh on Arvind Kejriwal's resignation: If he had any morality...

NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in an interview with agency, reacted to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's resignation announcement and said that the latter would ultimately have to face the "court of the people" in the upcoming elections.

"If Kejriwal had any sense of morality, he would have resigned the day allegations were raised, and he was jailed," Singh said. He expressed confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would form the next government in the Delhi Assembly elections.

Kejriwal, who was granted bail in the liquor policy case last week, sent shockwaves through Delhi's political circles after announcing on September 15 that he would resign in two days.

Turning to the national front, the Defence Minister emphasised India's growing global stature. He asserted, "India's image has strengthened worldwide, and no one can shake the confidence of our nation on the global stage."

Singh highlighted several achievements of the Narendra Modi government in its first 100 days,

including progress in the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the PM Awas Yojana, and innovations like the "Drone Didi" program.

The minister also accused Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi of damaging India's reputation abroad. "While Rahul Gandhi continues to speak against India in foreign lands, the confidence of the Modi government will keep rising," he said.

However, Singh added that if the Opposition presents good suggestions, the government would be open to accepting them.



He also praised the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for its democratic structure. "The Modi government takes everyone along," he said.

Singh expressed optimism about BJP's electoral prospects in other states as well, predict-

ing a BJP government in Jammu and Kashmir soon.

He also projected a victory for the BJP in Haryana, stating, "We are going to form the government in Haryana for the third time, and we expect to win more seats than last time."

'Worse than we thought': SC on CBI's shocking findings in Kolkata horror case, hearing underway

NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): The CBI was investigating if there was complicity of any other persons in the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata last month, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

After perusing the CBI's latest status report on the progress of investigation, a Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud, however, said that making a disclosure about the line of CBI's investigation would jeopardise the probe.

"Making a disclosure today of what the CBI is investigating will jeopardise the process, the line, which is taken by the CBI is to unearth the truth.

The SHO has been arrested himself, we have seen status report and the CBI has responded to all of the issues we have raised, including whether the challan was given, what was the process of PMR (post-mortem report), whether evidence was destroyed, if any complicity by other person, etc," the CJI said.

The Bench said, "There is genuine concern by the father of the deceased in regard to certain specific leads in investigation is obtained, we will not reveal his letter, it's confidential. We will say these are very valuable inputs for the CBI. They are handicapped themselves at this point in time by the five-

day delay, but they should also look at this to ensure this is obtained."

After a counsel pointed out that the jeans and undergarments of the victim were not taken, the CJI said, "What the CBI has revealed in the report is worse, really disturbing, what you are flagging is of utmost concern, we ourselves are concerned, the CBI has flagged it for us."

After Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI, complained that Wikipedia has not removed the name and photo of the victim, the CJI said, "We will pass an order, the name and photo cannot be there."

The hearing is still underway. The Bench, which had on September 9 flagged a missing post-mortem challan, is also likely to examine the document likely to be submitted by the West Bengal government.

Surprised over the missing challan of the victim's body when it was handed over for post-mortem, the Bench — which on August 18 took suo motu cognisance of the horrific incident that triggered nationwide doctors' protest — had on the last date of hearing asked the state government to produce the crucial document on September 17.

The post-mortem challan is a crucial document, which would have entries regarding

the articles and material sent along with the body for autopsy.

The junior doctors in West Bengal have been on strike since August 9 when a badly injured body of a post-graduate trainee doctor was found in the seminar room of the RG Kar Hospital, Kolkata.

The Kolkata Police initially registered a case of unnatural death and arrested Sanjay Roy — a civic volunteer the next day. However, acting on a petition filed by the victim's parents, the Calcutta High Court on August 13 transferred the probe to the CBI, expressing dissatisfaction over the investigation conducted by the Kolkata Police.

The CBI questioned Dr Sandip Ghosh, former Principal of RG Kar Medical College and then arrested him in a corruption case and the rape and murder case.

The top court had pulled up the Kolkata Police over the delay in registering an unnatural death case after the junior doctor's body was found at the hospital, calling it "extremely disturbing".

Noting that protest can't be at the cost of duty, the top court had asked the West Bengal doctors protesting against the rape and murder of a colleague of theirs at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata to report back to work by 5 pm September 10.

Rahul Gandhi extends birthday greetings to PM Modi

PM Modi's birthday: Many other leaders from the opposition parties extended greetings to Prime Minister Modi on his birthday.

NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi extended birthday greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 74th birthday on Tuesday.

"Happy Birthday PM Narendra Modi ji. Wishing you a long and healthy life," Rahul Gandhi posted on X.

Many other leaders from the opposition parties extended greetings to Prime Minister Modi on his birthday. Indian National Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge posted on X, "Best wishes to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji on his birthday. May he be blessed with good health and long life."

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said, "Heartiest birthday wishes to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji. I wish you a long and healthy life."

"Warmest birthday wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Wishing you a long life with enduring health in the years ahead," Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK



Stalin posted on X.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders extended birthday wishes to PM Modi. Union Minister JP Nadda said, "I extend my heartiest congratulations on his birthday to Narendra Modiji, the successful Prime Minister, who is dedicated every moment to realising the mantra of 'Antyodaya', dedicated to the service of the nation and the upliftment of the people." Commending PM Modi's leadership, Nadda said that the goal of building a "developed India" has become the resolve of every person.

"Under your leadership, our goal of service, good governance and development is taking a concrete shape. Your leadership and guid-

ance are always an inspiration for millions of BJP workers. I pray to God for your long life and good health. Best wishes! #HappyBday-Modiji," Nadda said. Uttarakhnd CM Pushkar Singh Dhami said, "Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji on his birthday, who has glorified Maa Bharati on the global stage, who has given concrete form to the dream of Antyodaya and poor welfare through revolutionary decisions and public welfare policies, who is our guide, source of inspiration for crores of workers, an ardent devotee of Baba Kedar."

Two children among five dead in factory explosion in Firozabad, 11 hospitalised

FIROZABAD (UP), Sep 17 (Agencies): Five persons, including two children and a woman, were killed in a sudden explosion at a firecracker godown-cum-factory in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad district, a police official said on Tuesday.

Eleven persons were injured in the incident, they said.

Police said the explosion happened in the factory located in the Naushera area under Shikohabad police station limits on Monday night, "Five persons includ-

ing two children were killed in the explosion, which had taken place in a firecracker godown-cum-factory. Eleven persons were injured in the incident," Circle Officer Shikohabad Praveen Tiwari told agency.

Deepak Kumar, IG, Agra range, who reached the incident spot late on Monday night for inspection had told agency that a team of fire and police departments, and the district administration are engaged in relief work under supervision of the superintendent of police



and CMO officials, he said. According to local resi-

dents, around 10.30 pm, there was a sudden blast

in the firecracker godown due to which the walls of the

building collapsed and about seven people of the same family living in it got buried under the debris.

According to information obtained from the district hospital, the deceased who have been identified are Meera Devi (45), Aman (20), Gautam Kushwaha (18) and Kumari Ichha (3). The identity of one of the deceased child is yet to be ascertained, police said.

The bodies of the deceased were sent for postmortem and the injured have been

hospitalised, the official said. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the accident that took place at the firecracker godown in Shikohabad area of Firozabad district, according to UP government.

The chief minister has directed the district administration officials to provide them proper treatment to the injured and has directed the district administration officials to reach the spot and expedite the relief work, it said.

Israel says halting Hezbollah attacks is now a war goal as officials warn of a wider operation

Israel says that halting Hezbollah's attacks in the north in order to allow its residents to return is now an official war goal as it considers a wider military operation in Lebanon

JERUSALEM, Sep 17 (Agencies): Israel announced Tuesday that halting Hezbollah's attacks in the north in order to allow its residents to return is now an official war goal, as the country considers a wider military operation that could ignite an all-out conflict.

Israeli officials have repeatedly threatened to take heavier military action to halt the near-daily attacks, which began shortly after the outbreak of the nearly yearlong Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Israel has regularly launched airstrikes in response and has targeted and killed senior Hezbollah commanders. As recently as last month it appeared a full-blown war was imminent.

The tit-for-tat strikes have displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border. Hezbollah has said it would halt the attacks if there is a cease-fire in Gaza, but those talks have repeatedly bogged down. The United States has pressed for restraint even as it has rushed military aid to Israel, warning its close ally that a wider war would not achieve its goals.

Israeli media have meanwhile reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considering firing Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and replacing him with a politician seen as far more hawkish. That would be the biggest leadership shake-up in Israel since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack triggered the war in Gaza and set off wider regional tensions.

The announcement on Lebanon came after Israel's security Cabinet met late into the night. It said the Cabinet has "updated the objectives of the war" to include safely returning the



residents of the north to their homes. "Israel will continue to act to implement this objective," it said.

U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein, who has made several visits to Lebanon and Israel to try to ease tensions, met with Netanyahu on Monday.

Hochstein told the prime minister that intensifying the conflict with Hezbollah would not help achieve the goal of returning Israelis to their homes, according to a U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private talks.

Hochstein said Netanyahu risked sparking a broad and protracted regional conflict if he moved forward with a full-scale war in Lebanon and said the Biden administration remained committed to finding a diplomatic solution in conjunction with a Gaza cease-fire or on its own, the official said.

Netanyahu told Hochstein that residents cannot return without "a fundamental change in the security situation in the north," according to a statement from the prime minister's office.

It said that while Netanyahu "appreciates and respects"

U.S. support, Israel will "do what is necessary to safeguard its security."

Defense Minister Gallant has meanwhile said the focus of the conflict is shifting from Gaza to Israel's north. He told U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin this week that time is running out for an agreement with Hezbollah, saying "the trajectory is clear."

Hezbollah has said that while it does not want a wider war it is prepared for one.

Raed Berro, a member of Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc, said Monday that the militant group "is ready for confrontation and has a lot in its pocket to deter the enemy and protect Lebanon in case Netanyahu thinks of expanding the war."

The war in Gaza began when Hamas launched a surprise attack into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people and taking another 250 hostage. Militants are still holding around 100 captives, a third of whom are believed to be dead, after releasing most of the rest during a cease-fire last year.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 41,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's

Health Ministry, which does not specify how many were fighters but says just over half were women and children. The Israeli bombardment and ground invasion has devastated large areas of the densely populated enclave and driven around 90% of its 2.3 million residents from their homes.

Iran supports Hamas, Hezbollah and other militant groups across the region, which have carried out strikes on Israeli and U.S. targets in solidarity with the Palestinians. A missile launched by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels on Sunday set off air raid sirens in central Israel without causing casualties. Israel has hinted at a military response.

Israel and Iran traded fire directly for the first time in April, and Iran has threatened to avenge the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in an explosion in its capital in July. The targeted killing was widely blamed on Israel, which has not said whether it was involved.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent most of this year trying to broker an agreement in which Hamas would release the hostages in exchange for a lasting cease-fire, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the release of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

President Joe Biden endorsed the framework of the agreement in May and the U.N. Security Council backed it days later. But since then, both Israel and Hamas have accused each other of making new and unacceptable demands, and the talks appear to be at an impasse.

EU chief unveils her new team after a long and bumpy road; women get top roles



BRUSSELS, Sep 17 (Agencies): European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen put women in many of the top roles of her new team in her next five-year tenure at the head of the bloc on Tuesday after many EU member states had been reluctant to live up to her demand for gender parity.

Von der Leyen put six women among the eight top positions in her team. She and foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas were already agreed on by government leaders, but she added Spanish Socialist Teresa Ribero to lead the green transition on top of becoming the competition and anti-trust czar. Three other women were also named as vice presidents.

After French heavyweight Thierry Breton resigned and openly criticized von der Leyen for allegedly "questionable governance" on Monday, von der Leyen gave former Prime Minister Stephane Sejourne the industrial portfolio.

It left France with a strong voice in the Commission, and many saw Breton's shock resignation more as a removal by von der Leyen of one of her most open internal critics after exerting pressure on French authorities.

Compounding such problems was the defiance of many of the 27 member states as von der Leyen struggled to get anywhere close to gender parity on her Commission team — they staunchly refused to give her a choice between a male and a female candidate.

She said that originally, EU nations only proposed 22% female candidates before she started to push for more.

"So I worked with the member states

and we were able to improve the balance to 40% women and 60% men. And it shows that -- as much as we have achieved -- there is still so much more work to do," von der Leyen said.

If she could not get full gender parity in numbers, von der Leyen made sure they were more than well represented in the top jobs.

After days of secret talks with individual European governments about their picks, von der Leyen huddled with the leaders of the political groups at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, to discuss the makeup of her college before making the final announcement.

Even if the Commission's makeup has hardly become the talk of bar rooms or barber shops across the vast EU of 450 million people, it has enthralled the upper echelons of politics and bureaucracy, as they sought to boost one candidate or undermine another.

The Commission proposes legislation for the EU's 27 member countries and ensures that the rules governing the world's biggest trading bloc are respected. It's made up of a College of Commissioners with a range of portfolios similar to those of government ministers, including agriculture, economic, competition, security and migration policy.

The Commission is to start work on Nov. 1, but speculation is rife that it might not get down to business before January.

A former German defense minister, von der Leyen has been pressing smaller countries to change their minds. In recent weeks, a man who was the preferred candidate of the government in Slovenia withdrew and a woman was proposed in his place.

She decides which country gets which portfolio, and some of them, like those involving trade or finance or EU enlargement, are coveted by certain countries. Plum jobs like the post of vice president — the commission has seven of these — are also much sought after.

"I'm a rapist, she did not deserve this": Man who let 50 men rape his wife

AVIGNON, Sep 17 (Agencies): "I am a rapist," a 71-year-old Frenchman accused of drugging his wife so he and scores of strangers could assault her told a court Tuesday, returning to the dock after being ill for around a week.

Dominique Pelicot used a cane as he slowly entered the courtroom in the southern city of Avignon, before sitting on a blue armchair to give him enough comfort to take part in the hearings.

"I am a rapist, like the others in this room," Pelicot said, referring to the 50 other defendants in the mass trial -- men he allegedly recruited online to rape his then-wife Gisele Pelicot.

"They all knew" that he was inviting them to rape her, he said.

But he added: "She did not deserve this."

Dominique Pelicot is accused of administering anti-anxiety drugs to Gisele over a period of almost a decade, from 2011 to 2020.

While she was unconscious, he would rape her and recruit dozens of other men he met online to do the same.

Dominique Pelicot has admitted the charges, but Tuesday is the first time he has spoken at any length since the trial began on September 2.

The court may also hear more from Gisele Pelicot, who was present in the courtroom alongside Dominique's brother Joel.

Beatrice Zavarro, the defendant's lawyer, told AFP on Monday that he was suffering from "a clot in the bladder" and the beginning of a kidney infection.

But a medical exam ordered by the presiding judge found that he was in a fit state to appear in court, avoiding a delay of weeks or even months to the hearings.

Adjustments would be made to the "sequencing of the hearings" and Dominique Pelicot would get "regular rest", Zavarro said, adding that the health complaints were not an attempt by her client to escape justice.

Dominique Pelicot's testimony will be decisive for the 50 other men aged 26 to 74 on trial, four of whose cases are set to be heard in the coming days.

Some of the accused have admitted that he told them he was drugging his then-wife, while others claim they believed they were participating in a swinger couple's fantasy.

The case has prompted outrage across France, with thousands demonstrating in cities at the weekend to demand an end to rape and support Gisele Pelicot.

She requested that the trial be open to the public to raise awareness about the use of drugs to commit sexual abuse.

"Thanks to you I have the strength to see this fight through to the end," Gisele told demonstrators.

Budapest and Poland's Wroclaw reinforce their river banks ahead of more flooding in central Europe

WARSAW, Sep 17 (Agencies): Soldiers dropped sandbags from military helicopters to reinforce river embankments and evacuated residents as the worst flooding in years spread Tuesday to a broad swath of Central Europe, taking lives and destroying homes.

Heavy flooding has affected a large part of the region in recent days, including the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria. There have been at least 16 deaths reported in the flooding, which follow heavy rainfall across the region.

Other places are now bracing for the flood waves to hit them, including two central European gems: Budapest, the Hungarian capital on the Danube River, and Wroclaw, a city in southwestern Poland on the Oder



River, its old town filled with architectural gems.

Hungary's government of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán deployed soldiers to reinforce barriers along the Danube, and thousands of volunteers assisted in filling sandbags in dozens of riverside settlements.

In Budapest, authorities closed the city's lower quays, which are expected to be breached by rising waters later in the day. The lower half of the city's iconic Margaret Island was also

closed.

In Wroclaw, firefighters and soldiers spent the night using sandbags to reinforce river embankments. The city zoo, located along the Oder, appealed for volunteers to fill sandbags on Tuesday morning.

"We and our animals will be extremely grateful for your help," the zoo said in its appeal.

The city said it expected the flood wave to peak there around Friday, though some had predicted that

would happen sooner. Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk met with a crisis team early Tuesday and said there are contradictory forecasts from meteorologists.

Tusk's government has declared a state of natural disaster across the affected region of southern Poland.

To the south of Wroclaw, residents spent the night fighting to save Nysa, a town of 44,000 people, after the Nysa Klodzka River broke its banks the day before. The town mayor Kordian Kolbiarz said 2,000 "women, men, children, the elderly" came out to try to save their town from the rising waters, forming a human chain that passed sandbags to the river bank.

"We simply ... did everything we could," Kolbiarz wrote on Facebook. "This chain of people fighting for our

Nysa was incredible. Thank you. We fought for Nysa. Our home. Our families. Our future."

In the Czech Republic, waters have been receding in the two hardest-hit, northeast regions. The government approved the deployment of 2,000 troops to help with clean-up efforts. The damage is expected to reach billions of euros.

The Czech government also scrambled to help local authorities organize regional elections on Friday and Saturday as several schools and other buildings serving as polling stations have been badly damaged. However, a planned evacuation of some 1,000 in the town of Veseli nad Luznicí could be postponed as the waters had not reached critical levels so far.

Casualties in Myanmar push Southeast Asia's death toll from Typhoon Yagi past 500

BANGKOK, Sep 17 (Agencies): Floods and landslides in Myanmar triggered by last week's Typhoon Yagi and seasonal monsoon rains have claimed at least 226 lives, with 77 people missing, state-run media reported Tuesday. The new figures push the total number of dead in Southeast Asia from the storm past 500.

The accounting of casualties has been slow, in part due to communication difficulties with the affected areas. Myanmar is wracked by

a civil war that began in 2021 after the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Independent analysts believe the ruling military controls much less than half of the country's territory.

Typhoon Yagi earlier hit Vietnam, northern Thailand and Laos, killing almost 300 people in Vietnam, 42 in Thailand and four in Laos, according to the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance. It said 21 people

were killed in the Philippines, with another 26 missing.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said on Monday that an estimated 631,000 people may have been affected by flooding across Myanmar. There were already 3.4 million displaced people in Myanmar at the beginning of September, according to the U.N. refugee agency, mostly because of war and unrest in recent years.

Heavy rains from the typhoon and the seasonal monsoon brought widespread flash floods to Myanmar, especially the central regions of Mandalay, Magway, Bago and the Ayeyarwaddy Delta; the eastern states Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon; and the country's capital, Naypyitaw.

Some flooded areas have started to see water levels recede but others in the Shan and Kayah states remain critical.

More than 160,000 houses have been damaged and 438 temporary relief camps have been opened for more than 160,000 flood victims, Myanmar Alinn reported. The military government announced that nearly 240,000 people have been displaced.

Myanmar Alinn said 117 government offices and buildings, 1,040 schools, 386 religious buildings, roads, bridges, power towers, and telecom towers were damaged by the floods

in 56 townships.

It also said nearly 130,000 animals were killed and more than 259,000 hectares (640,000 acres) of agricultural land were damaged by the floods.

The U.N.'s humanitarian affairs agency said food, drinking water, medicine, clothes, dignity kits, and shelters are urgent needs for the flood victims but alleviation efforts are hampered by blocked roads, damaged bridges and ongoing armed

clashes.

Vice Senior Gen. Soe Win, the second-ranking member of Myanmar's ruling military council, said the country had received relief aid from other countries, and some humanitarian assistance from the Association of Southeast Asia, will arrive soon.

Soe Win, speaking at a meeting of the National Disaster Management Committee on Monday, said that the extent of flooding in the capital

was unprecedented, and cleaning and rehabilitation activities in the flooded areas began Thursday as the water level declined.

Myanmar experiences extreme weather during the monsoon virtually every year. In 2008, Cyclone Nargis killed more than 138,000 people around the Irrawaddy River delta. The then-military government was harshly discredited when it delayed acceptance of outside aid.

Harmanjot Singh of Jodhamal School wins Best Conference Paper Award in Japan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Harmanjot Singh, a young and a brilliant researcher from Jodhamal Public School, Jammu has achieved a significant milestone in the world of mathematics and computational sciences by winning the "Best Conference Paper Award" at the 7th IEEE International Conference on Knowledge Innovation and Invention (IEEE ICKII 2024), an annual event that brings together leading researchers, academics, and industry professionals to discuss cutting-edge developments in knowledge innovation, invention, and technological advancements from across the globe.

His paper, titled "Hyperbolic Distance Optimization Algorithm for Orbital Trajectories" was recognized as the Best among numerous submissions presented at the Conference held in Nagoya, Japan.

The award-winning paper delves into groundbreaking research on optimization models



and algorithms in hyperbolic geometry, specifically focusing on orbital trajectories. Harmanjot Singh has been relentlessly pursuing this innovative research for the past two years and has authored two significant research papers in this domain. His first research paper, titled "Transcendental Equations for Nonlinear Optimization in Hyperbolic Space" was recently published in the MDPI Engineering

Proceedings, an international research journal renowned for its rigorous publication standards. This paper has been indexed by Google Scholar, marking a remarkable achievement for Harmanjot at such a young age.

It is pertinent to mention that MDPI, headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, is one of the world's largest publishers of scientific journal articles and is well-known for its strict ethical policies on originality and zero tolerance for plagiarism, data falsification, and inappropriate authorship credit.

In addition to his recent accomplishments, Harmanjot Singh's paper was also selected for presentation at the prestigious 2023 IEEE 5th Eurasia Conference on IoT, Communication, and Engineering, which took place in Taiwan on October 27, 2023. His research was highly appreciated, leading to his invitation as a speaker by the American Mathematical Society at the Joint Mathematics Meetings 2024, the world's largest Mathematics Research Conference,

held in San Francisco, USA, on January 4, 2024.

Harmanjot Singh, already a recipient of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, India's highest civilian honour for outstanding achievement by individuals under the age of 18, continues to blaze a trail of success. His ongoing research in hyperbolic geometry and its applications in optimization algorithms is poised to make significant contributions to fields like space exploration, computational sciences, and mathematical innovation.

As Harmanjot continues his journey, he serves as an inspiration to young scientists and researchers around the world, showcasing the power of perseverance, curiosity, and a commitment to excellence.

Nandan Kuthiala, Trustee, Arati Kuthiala, Director, Girish Kumar, Principal, and Amita Arora, Vice Principal of Jodhamal Public School wished Harmanjot uninterrupted success and are confident that he will continue to make us proud.

GDC Bishnah observes Ozone Day



Top News Report

BISHNAH, Sep 17: "The NSS Wing, in collaboration with the Eco-Club and the Department of Environmental Science (EVS), observed Ozone Day by organizing a poster-making competition and extempore speeches on the theme of Ozone Day "Advancing Climate Change" today on Tuesday.

The event was successfully conducted under the

leadership of Dr. Shalu Samyal, Principal of the college.

Thirteen students participated in the competition, while twenty attendees joined the function.

In Poster making students expressed their opinions in the preservation of Ozone Layer and during the extempore session, four students shared their insightful views on preserving the ozone layer. The students thoroughly enjoyed

the competitions and enriched their knowledge.

Prof. Sania Hamid delivered a motivational speech, urging students to actively work towards preserving our planet. The entire program was meticulously coordinated by Dr. Geeta Lakhotra.

The members of Eco club Dr. Sunil Kumar Saliada, Prof. Shivani Raina, Dr. Shiv Kumar Khajuria contributed a lot in making this event a grand success.

3 days 14th annual global conference on cardiovascular care begins in Mohali

Top News Report

MOHALI, Sep 17: The 3 days 14th annual global Cardiomerion conference on cardiovascular care commenced on a high note here on Tuesday bringing together around 400 leading experts in cardiovascular care from around the world.

The conference, which was inaugurated by chief guest Dr Atul Sachdeva along with Dr. Deepak Puri, global chairman of Cardiomerion, marked the beginning of what promised to be an insightful and impactful event.

In his address he highlighted the growing menace of lifestyle diseases, metabolic syndrome, fatty liver and cardiovascular correlation.

Dr. Surabhi Puri, from AIIMS Delhi an organizing secretary of Cardiomerion highlighted the core objectives of Cardiomerion.

She emphasized the organization's commitment to promoting awareness, advocating prevention, ensuring early diagnosis, and providing comprehensive, cost-effective cardiac care.

In his address, Dr. Deepak Puri emphasized that this year's conference would focus on advancing comprehensive and cost-effective strategies for cardiovascular care, particularly in



the light of the evolving landscape of disease management in the post-COVID-19 era.

He also outlined the conference's commitment to exploring both conventional and unconventional therapies, with a particular emphasis on primordial and primary prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

Dr. T.S. Mahant, the esteemed patron of the conference shared the guidelines for surgical management of congenital heart defects and explained when we should go for total correction vs palliative shunts and why.

The first day's program also included a series of expert presentations by Dr. S.S. Sodhi, president of IMA Mohali on comprehensive update on 'guideline-directed medical therapy for heart failure'.

Dr. Tomoko S. Kato, director of heart failure at Kurume University, Kyushu, Japan, delivered insights on heart transplant recipient selection and pre-operative evaluation.

Dr. Nidhi Puri dean AIIMS Bilaspur presented the embryological basis of congenital heart defects.

Dr. T.S. Mahant, the esteemed patron of the conference shared the guidelines for surgical management of congenital heart defects and explained when we should go for total correction vs palliative shunts and why.

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In his address to students and faculty of Bhagwan Din Dube Inter College, the HLG called

Ozone Day celebrations held at GDC Nagrota

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Sep 17: GDC Nagrota marked its footprint by celebrating World Ozone day on Tuesday and showcased a documentary to the students released by MOEF. This documentary elaborated on use of Refrigerators, Air conditioners in a judicious way both at work place and at home.

It also urged the citizens of the country to adopt ecofriendly options of cooling as much as possible and properly maintain air conditioners so as to avoid leakages. This year's theme is: Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is one of the world's most successful international environmental treaties.

Agreed in 1987 to protect the ozone layer, it is now a recognized and powerful climate action tool.

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.

The phase out of controlled uses of ozone depleting substances and the related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change.

Furthermore, it has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the Earth. The program was organized by Eco Club Sangrakshak of the College.

LG Mishra attends 126th Founder's Day Celebration at Bhawan Din Dube Inter College in Paharpur

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 17: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) attended the 126th Founder's Day Celebration at Bhawan Din Dube Inter College in Paharpur, Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh as the chief guest.

In his address to students and faculty of Bhawan Din Dube Inter College, the HLG called

education one of the most important aspects of life followed by health.

He stated that learning processes help to develop students' personality and enable them to become good citizens of the nation. He highlighted the personality traits of the great man Bhawan Din Dube and advised the students to emulate them.

Highlighting the job profile of teachers to provide the best possible edu-



cation to the students through the correct attitudinal approach to become good citizens of India, the HLG asked the management to promote the college to make it a teaching and learning centre. He also mentioned that the District Magistrate, being the ex-officio chairman of the college's management committee, should guide the management in promoting the college towards its development.

FROM PAGE 1

Cong will ensure Jammu and Kashmir gets back Statehood: Kharge

For the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, the party promised an unemployment allowance of up to Rs 3,500 per month for one year to qualified youths.

The party has promised to fill one lakh vacant government posts by issuing a job calendar within 30 days.

The manifesto states that the party will revive special border recruitment for police, fire brigade and forest protection force. It also promises to revive the scheme for allotment of 30 per cent construction work-related contracts to unemployed engineers' groups.

"We will simplify the verification process for all government jobs, passports and other purposes by making them time-bound and simplified to check undue harassment," the manifesto reads.

"The long night has ended and a new dawn is upon us. Haath badlega Jammu aur Kashmir ke haalaat. The Congress will heal the wounds," Khara said.

Atishi to take over as New Delhi CM as

Kejriwal resigns

people give him a certificate of honesty. Atishi is a key face of the party as well as the government and holds multiple portfolios, including finance, education and PWD.

"Not God's decision": Omar Abdullah on Amit Shah's Article 370 remark

history and will never be part of India's constitution again.

"Three previous decisions taken by the Supreme Court have been changed by three-judge bench and it also can be changed by the seven-judge bench in future," Omar said.

He added that the Home Minister should focus on the situation in Jammu where terrorism is on rise.

"You can blame us for the reasons where we are responsible, but the Centre is directly ruling J&K for the last ten years, now who is responsible for the situation in Jammu," he said.

Kashmiri Pandits urge action on longstanding issues, say Politicians

see us merely as voters

Kashmiri Pandits and Muslim communities remain strong, even as many Pandits have settled outside the region. "Home is still home," he asserted.

He highlighted the ongoing issues with the Prime Minister's package, which promised 6,000 jobs and construction of housing quarters for displaced Pandits. While 2,500 quarters have been completed, another 2,500 remain unfinished after four years, leaving many families in rented accommodations.

"If the government truly wanted to bring us back, they could have done so within a year," he said, criticising both central and regional parties for their lack of action.

Sunita Bhan, another member of the community, echoed Butt's sentiments, saying that political leaders only remember Kashmiri Pandits during election season.

"If they genuinely wanted to help us, initiatives could have been enacted much earlier," she said, pointing out that many children of Kashmiri Pandits have left Jammu and Kashmir in search of better opportunities.

She also criticised the inadequate salary of Rs 20,000 under the PM package, calling for an increase to support families.

The sentiments of disillusionment are shared by many in the community, who feel overlooked once elections conclude. Yet,

there remains hope among the younger generation for a secular Kashmir where Hindus and Muslims coexist harmoniously.

Yatin Pandita, another Kashmiri Pandit, emphasised the need for employment opportunities and effective rehabilitation policies. "Development must encompass all sectors, and the government should create jobs. Our youth deserve platforms to showcase their talents," he said, adding that many still live in rented accommodations despite the promises made.

Srinagar is set to go to the polls on September 25, with a total electorate of 7,74,462, including 3,86,654 male voters, 3,87,778 female voters, and 30 individuals from the third gender.

The district comprises eight assembly constituencies: Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Chanapora, Zadibal, Eidgah, and Central Shalteng.

As the elections draw near, the Kashmiri Pandit community remains hopeful that their voices will be heard, and their demands for rehabilitation and employment finally addressed.

Eid-e-Milad being celebrated with religious fervor Today

prevailed in Srinagar for the past several days as many shrines and through-

fares were decorated and illuminated with fluorescent lights while religious flags and bunting were hoisted atop many buildings and vehicles to celebrate the birth day of the prophet.

Devotees converged at the shrine that houses the holy relic of the holy Prophet for Shab Khwani or night long prayers.

People offered prayers and recited Durood (praises of the Prophet) at the shrine for atonement of their sins. People could be seen engrossed in prayers while seeking refuge in Almighty Allah's greatness.

KU postpones all exams scheduled on Sep 24, 25, 30

Assistant Controller of Examination at KU said that it will notify fresh dates of exams separately.

"It is notified for the information of all concerned candidates that all University examinations scheduled to be held on 24-09-2024, 25-09-2024 and 30-09-2024 have been postponed. Fresh dates shall be issued separately," the order reads.

Earlier on Thursday, KU postponed all the examinations scheduled to be held on September-17 and 18.

Pertinently, the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are scheduled to be held in three phases—commencing from September-18.

Kavinder criticizes Congress manifesto as 'Bunch of Lies'

BJP worked tirelessly to bring peace, prosperity, opportunities to J&K people

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, today slammed the Congress Party's recently released manifesto for the J&K Assembly elections, calling it a "bunch of lies" and accusing the party of making false promises that it has repeatedly failed to fulfill.

Speaking at the meeting held here today, Kavinder Gupta pointed out that the Congress, which has held power for several decades both at the Centre and in the state, has a dismal track record of failing to deliver on previous promises made in their election manifestos. "The Congress is trying



to mislead the people of Jammu and Kashmir yet again, with a manifesto full of unrealistic pledges. They haven't delivered in the past, and now they expect voters to trust them again with the same empty promises," he stated.

The senior BJP leader called the Congress' new manifesto an attempt to confuse voters and mask its long history of failures.

"The irony is hard to miss. After being in power for decades and contributing to the stagnation of development, the Congress now promises miracles if they are voted back. People of J&K are well aware of their history of broken promises," he added.

Kavinder Gupta further criticized the Congress for failing to address its involvement in various

scandals during its tenure for 55-60 year in the country. "If Congress is serious about serving the people, it should first explain the massive scams that happened under its rule. From looting billions to failed governance, the people of J&K will not be fooled anymore," he remarked.

Contrasting the Congress' record with that of the BJP, Kavinder praised

his Party's efforts under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, which he said have led to significant development and progress in Jammu and Kashmir. "The BJP has worked tirelessly to bring peace, prosperity, and opportunities to the people of J&K. Our achievements on the ground will overshadow the Congress' hollow attempts to regain power," he affirmed.

The former deputy Chief Minister appealed to the voters of Jammu and Kashmir to not fall prey to the Congress and other political parties' "deceptive tactics" and to support the BJP in its mission to continue the region's transformation under the Modi government in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Randhawa exposes Congress, NC decades-long deception, assures the BJP's victory in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Vikram Randhawa, BJP MLA candidate for Bahu Constituency, lambasted the Congress and NC for deceiving the people of J&K for decades.

He confidently asserted that the public will no longer fall prey to their false promises and that the BJP will form a majority government in the region. He stated during the door-to-door campaign in Belicharana, Raipur Satwari, and adjoining areas of Bahu Constituency.

Vikram Randhawa also lambasted the Congress party's manifesto for J&K, calling it an illusion designed to deceive the public. He emphasized that the Congress party has a history of making false promises and has done nothing concrete for the region's development.

Randhawa stated, "The Congress manifesto is a mere eyewash, trying to fool the people of J&K with unrealistic promises. They have consistently failed to deliver on their commitments, and this manifesto is no exception."

He said do not fall prey to Congress' illusions. They are trying to deceive



you with false promises. The BJP is committed to transparent governance and development. We will work tirelessly to ensure J&K's prosperity."

Randhawa stated, "The Congress and NC have exploited J&K's trust for far too long. This time, the people will not be fooled. They will vote for the BJP, and we will form a government with a clear majority."

He highlighted the Modi government's numerous initiatives benefiting J&K. Randhawa emphasized that the Modi government has brought unprecedented development to J&K, citing examples such as the creation of new jobs and industries, improved connectivity and transportation, enhanced healthcare facilities, increased access to education, and skill development.

During the door-to-door

campaign, he assured the public that the BJP will continue to work tirelessly for J&K's progress, saying the Modi government has laid the foundation for a prosperous J&K. We will build upon this foundation, ensuring that every citizen benefits from our initiatives."

Randhawa expressed confidence in the BJP's victory, stating, "The people of J&K have seen through the Congress and NC's deception. They will vote for the BJP, and we will form a government that truly represents their aspirations." The BJP has a proven spectacular track record of development and successful governance. We will not make false promises like the Congress party and others. Our BJP manifesto is a realistic and achievable vision for J&K.

SKIMS hosts first Principal's Conclave

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 17: The Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) hosted its inaugural Principal's Conclave, the official inauguration of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) Cell Network, and a Continuing Medical Education (CME) event.

This landmark event saw the active participation of Principals from all Medical Colleges across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Prof. Shiv Kumar Sarin, President NAMS was the chief guest of the function with administrative Secretary of Health & Medical Education J&K, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah as guest of honour and Dr. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS & EOSG as chief host of the function.

Pertinently to mention govt. of J&K has constituted a high powered committee under the chairmanship of Director SKIMS for principal, GMC Srinagar and principal, GMC Jammu are also the members including other govt. dental and unani colleges.

Dr. Abid Rasheed Shah in his opening remarks welcomed all the members of the meeting and

emphasized the need for a clear roadmap to improve patient care, academics, and research in medical institutions.

He urged institutions to identify gaps and create actionable plans to enhance the quality of academic research, focusing on producing impactful research that addresses regional problems.

Dr. Shah committed to supporting the discussed initiatives and ensuring the prompt resolution of identified issues, praising the SKIMS team led by Dr. Ganie for organizing the symbolic event.

Prof. Shariq R. Masoodi, Dean of Medical Faculty SKIMS welcomed the dignitaries and set the tone for the meeting and briefly highlighted the importance of the principal's conclave, providing a critical platform for discussing ways to enhance medical education, research, and healthcare services in the region.

The Principal's Conclave, chaired by Dr. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS & EOSG, while chairing the meeting, welcomed all the principals, nodal officers, SKIMS faculty, and other attendees.

He expressed gratitude to Shri Atal Dulloo, worthy chief secretary and Dr.

Syed Abid Rashid for giving the opportunity to lead the building college initiative of J&K Government.

He assured that his team, in collaboration with all stakeholders, would develop a strategic plan to address the deficiencies through a scientific approach of SWOT analysis approach. This plan will focus on identifying gaps, securing funding, and devising effective solutions.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Ifat Hassan Shah, Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal/Dean GMC Jammu, Dr. Ruby Reshi, Principal GMC Baramulla, Dr. Rukhsana Najeeb, Principal GMC Anantnag, Dr. Surinder K Atri, Principal GMC Kathua, Dr. Amarjeet Singh Bhatia, Principal GMC Rajouri, Dr. Rakesh Bahl, Principal GMC Doda, Dr. Mrityunjay Gupta, Principal GMC Udhampur, Dr. Khurshid A Wani, Principal GMC, Handawara, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Shah, Principal/Dean GDC Srinagar, Dr. Parveen A Lone, Principal/Dean IGGDC Jammu. All participating principals expressed a strong commitment to working together to elevate healthcare infrastructure

and services in J&K.

They thanked Director SKIMS and his team for creating a valuable forum for dialogue and action. This brainstorming ended up in a plan of action for providing a comprehensive white paper to the government.

Following the conclave, all dignitaries participated in the inaugural session of the NAMS J&K Ladakh Network at the SKIMS auditorium.

Dr. Shiv Kumar Sarin inaugurated NAMS network and highlighted NAMS's initiatives, activities, and its global network that facilitates academic research, exchange programs, collaborations, and prestigious fellowships.

A CME event focused on antimicrobial stewardship held under the banner of NAMS India featured a series of insightful presentations and discussions chaired by Dr. Ajaz A Malik, Convener NAMS, SKIMS, Dr. Sanaulah Shah, Prof & Head General Medicine, SKIMS, Dr. Bashir A Fomda, Prof & Head Microbiology, and Dr. Anjum Fazil, Prof & Head Community Medicine.

The presentations aimed at enhancing understanding and implementation of antimicrobial

stewardship practices.

The inauguration of the NAMS network at SKIMS represents a significant step forward. All participating medical colleges will establish similar NAMS cells, fostering a network of excellence.

Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie convener of J&K Ladakh Chapter extended his appreciation to the principals and organizers, coordinators of the event, including Dr. Ajaz A Malik, convener NAMS SKIMS, Dr. Gowhar Mufi, Department of Pediatric Surgery, Dr. Syed Mudassar Qadri, Department of Medicine, Dr. Mir Mohammad Hussain, Department of Medical Oncology, and Dr. Suhail Mantoo, Department of General Medicine, Dr. Zubaida Rasool, Department of Pathology including Dr. G.H Yattoo, Head Hospital Administration and Dr. Imtiyaz A Wani, Scientist 2, SKIMS, Vaqar Gani Tantray, Scientist C, SKIMS.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Aiffa Aiman from the Department of Pathology. Dr. Aiman expressed gratitude to all speakers, participants and other technical and other staff for their valuable contributions and engagement throughout the CME.

Stage set for Phase I as over 23.27 lakh voters prepare to cast ballots on Sept 18

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 17: With the stage set for the first phase of the 2024 General Elections to the Legislative Assembly, scheduled for September 18, the fate of 219 candidates will be determined by over 23.27 lakh voters.

The first phase of the Legislative Assembly Elections 2024 will cover 24 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) across seven districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

These include Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, and Kulgam in the Kashmir Division, Doda, Ramban, and Kishtwar in the Jammu Division.

In the Kashmir Division, 16 ACs are up for election: Pampore, Tral, Pulwama, Rajpora, Zainapora, Shopian, DH Pora, Kulgam, Devsar, Dooru, Kokernag (ST), Anantnag West, Anantnag, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Shangu-Anantnag East, and Pahalgam. Meanwhile, in the Jammu Division, 8 ACs—Inderwal, Kishtwar, Padder-Nagseni, Bhadarwah, Doda, Doda West, Ramban, and Banihal—will also go to the polls.

According to the latest electoral rolls, 23,27,580 lakh voters are eligible to cast their ballots in this phase, comprising 11,76,462 lakh male voters, 11,51,058 lakh female voters, and 60 third-gender voters.

Underlining the significance of the role to be played by the youth of Jammu and Kashmir in strengthening the democracy, as many as 5.66 lakh youths are eligible to vote in phase-1 of the Assembly Election.

Youth voters are a significant demographic, with 5.66 lakh eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 29, including 1,23,960 lakh voters aged 18 to 19. Among these, 10,261 are male and 9,329 are female are first-time voters.

This phase will also see participation from 28,309 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and 15,774 voters above the age of 85.

With this, 64 candidates are fray in Anantnag district, followed by 45 in Pulwama district, 27 in Doda district, 25 in Kulgam district, 22 in Kishtwar district, 21 in Shopian district, while 15 are contesting in Ramban district.

In Kishtwar district, 9

candidates are fray in 48-Inderwal AC; 7 candidates in 49-Kishtwar AC; while 6 are contesting in 50-Padder-Nagseni AC.

In Doda district, 10 candidates are in fray 51-Bhadarwah AC; 9 candidates in 52-Doda AC; and 8 candidates are contesting in 53-Doda West AC.

In Ramban district, 8 candidates are contesting in 54-Ramban AC; while 7 candidates will contest in 55-Banihal AC.

Similarly, in Pulwama district, 14 candidates are fray in 32-Pampore AC; 9 candidates in 33-Tral AC; 12 candidates in 34-Pulwama AC; and 10 candidates are contesting in 35-Rajpora AC.

In Shopian district, 10 candidates are fray in 36-Zainapora AC and 11 candidates are contesting in 37-Shopian AC.

In Kulgam district, 6 candidates are fray in 38-DH Pora AC; 10 candidates in 39-Kulgam AC; and 9 candidates are contesting in 40-Devsar AC.

Finally, in Anantnag district, 10 candidates are fray in 41-Dooru AC; 10 candidates in 42-Kokernag (ST) AC; 9 candidates in 43-Anantnag West AC; 13 candidates in 44-Anantnag AC; 3 candidates in 45-Srigufwara-Bijbehara AC; 13 candidates in 46-Shangu-Anantnag East AC; and 6 candidates are contesting in 47-Pahalgam AC.

The Doda district has recorded a total of 3,10,613 registered voters, including 1,60,057 males, 1,50,521 females, and 8 transgender across three Assembly constituencies. A total of 534 polling stations are spread across these constituencies, ensuring that every registered voter has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

The Anantnag district comprises of seven Assembly Constituencies with 6,67,843 electorates which includes 3,36,200 males, 3,31,639 females, and 4 transgender voters. A comprehensive network of 844 polling stations has been established across the district.

The Ramban District has registered a total of 2,24,214 voters across its two Assembly constituencies, includes 1,16,019 male voters, 1,08,193 female voters, and 1 transgender voter. A total

of 365 polling stations are spread across the two Assembly constituencies, ensuring that every registered voter has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Shopian District is divided into two Assembly constituencies, with a total of 2,09,062 registered voters, includes 1,04,894 males, 1,04,161 females, and 7 transgender voters. To facilitate the voting process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 251 polling stations across both constituencies.

The Pulwama district has registered a total of 4,07,637 voters, including 2,02,475 males, 2,05,141 females, and 21 transgender across its four Assembly constituencies. ECI has established 481 polling stations throughout the district.

The Kulgam district comprises three Assembly constituencies, with 3,28,782 registered voters, including 1,64,852 male, 1,63,917 female and 13 transgender voters. A comprehensive network of 372 polling stations has been established by the ECI for free, fair and transparent elections.

The Kishtwar district, with three Assembly Segments, a total of 1,79,374 electors, including 91,935 male and 87,435 female, and 4 transgender voters are poised to exercise their right to franchise. To facilitate the voting process, the ECI has established 429 polling stations across the District.

To facilitate the voters for smooth and hassle free electoral participation, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 3276 polling stations with 100% web-casting across 24 Assembly Constituencies. These include 302 Urban Polling Stations and 2974 Rural Polling Stations.

To enhance voter participation, there will be 24 polling booths managed by women, known as Pink Polling Stations, 24 polling stations manned by specially abled persons and 24 polling stations manned by youths. Also, there will be 24 green polling stations in order to spread message about environmental concern and 17 Unique Polling stations.

The voting will take place from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Big boost for Congress in Marh, ex-MLA's son openly supports Mula Ram

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: In a notable political development in Marh, Dr. Virender Pal Lakhotra, the son of the late Sat Pal Lakhotra, a respected MLA from Raipur Domana, has openly pledged his support for Mula Ram, the Congress candidate for the upcoming elections.

This endorsement is expected to significantly boost Mula Ram's campaign and sway public opinion in favour of the Congress party in the Marh block.

Dr. Lakhotra, who holds considerable influence within the Batwal community in the Marh region, has been vocal about his dissatisfaction with the current ruling party, BJP.

In a bid to intensify the election campaign, Mula Ram has been actively engaging with voters across various villages in Marh.

He has addressed multiple meetings in key areas, including Sandwan, Jaffer Chak, Saharan, Patanayal, Shezadpur, Chouhan Chak, Rattanpur, Gangochak, Chatta Gujra, Nagbani, and Kulley Halqa.

These interactions are designed to connect with voters on a personal level, address their concerns, and present the Congress party's vision for the future.



Welcoming the support, Mula Ram, expressed his strong discontent with the current BJP administration's handling of smart meters and taxes in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The issues related to smart meters and taxes are being 'locked in BJP offices,' indicating that the party is avoiding or mishandling these critical matters that reflect widespread frustration among the people of Jammu and Kashmir regarding the BJP's policies," Mula Ram said.

Mula Ram criticized the BJP for making life increasingly difficult for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

He pointed out that the implementation of smart meters and the taxation policies have exacerbated the hardships faced by ordinary citizens.

Smart meters, intended to provide more accurate billing and reduce energy theft, have instead become a source of significant inconvenience and finan-

cial strain for many je said adding that similarly, new tax regulations have added to the burden on the populace, contributing to a sense of discontent and injustice.

The former Minister urged voters to express their dissatisfaction by teaching the BJP a lesson in the upcoming elections.

Dr. Lakhotra's support for Mula Ram is seen as a strategic move to consolidate votes against the BJP. By leveraging his community influence, Lakhotra aims to galvanize voters who are disillusioned with the current government's performance.

The campaign has garnered further support from several notable figures. Madan Lal Bhagat, former BDC chairman of Phallian Mandal, Charanjeet Singh, Balkar Singh, Bhushan Sharma, Ghar Singh, former corporator of Akalpur, and Er. Rajinder Kumar Happy have all spoken in favor of Mula Ram. Their endorsement adds weight to the

Congress campaign and reinforces the message of change and accountability that Mula Ram is promoting.

The collective efforts of these prominent individuals and the increasing discontent with the BJP's governance are creating a strong momentum for Mula Ram's candidacy.

The Congress party is positioning itself as a viable alternative to the

current administration, promising to address the issues that have been overlooked and improve the quality of life for the residents of J&K.

As the election approaches, the support from influential figures like Dr. Lakhotra and the active campaigning by Mula Ram and his supporters are likely to play a crucial role in shaping the electoral outcome in Marh.

Kissan Congress will support party candidates in assembly elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Kisan Congress also entered the fray to give impetus to the campaign of the Congress party in the assembly elections being held in Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of 10 years.

In the meeting held at the Srinagar party office, Deepak Sharma, National General Secretary of Kisan Congress of All India Congress Committee, Bharat Priye, Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Kisan Congress and Sayeed Haroon, President of Kashmir Division of Kisan Congress, met the President of Jammu

and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee, Tariq Hameed Karra.

In the meeting, the role of Kisan Congress in the assembly elections was discussed and it was decided that all the leaders will campaign in favor of Congress candidates of their area.

Their objective will be to make people aware about the schemes and achievements launched by the Congress government in the interest of farmers. Apart from this they will also create awareness about the losses suffered by farmers due to the policies made by the BJP government.

India-Bangladesh Test series: Indian players sweat it out in muggy conditions with high-intensity drills

Rohit Sharma and Co had another extensive training session in the build-up to the first Test against Bangladesh with all 16 squad members turning for practice at the Chepauk

CHENNAI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma and Co had another extensive training session in the build-up to the first Test against Bangladesh with all 16 squad members turning for practice at the Chepauk. After a day off, the squad members took part in their third training session since their arrival here last week. The first Test begins on Thursday.

As it is often the case, Virat Kohli was among the first set of batters to hit the nets. In the adjacent net was southpaw Yashasvi Jaiswal as both he and Kohli faced Jasprit Bumrah and home hero R Ashwin. The next set of batters included skipper Rohit, Shubman Gill and Sarfaraz Khan, the last named player arriving here after taking part in the second round of the Duleep Trophy in Anantapur. The captain focussed on playing spinners, keeping Bangladesh's slow bowling attack in mind.

India will have two more practice sessions scheduled before the series opener against Bangladesh, who are riding on the confidence of their series sweep



in Pakistan.

The Chennai surface usually favours the spinners and there is a likelihood of India going into the game with three spinners and two pacers. The spinners expected to feature are Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav while Bumrah and Siraj will share the workload in the pace department. Axar Patel, despite his impressive all-round returns across formats, may have to sit out.

On the batting front, Rishabh Pant is expected to make his

Test return after a gap of almost two years.

Fielding coach T Dilip was impressed with the intensity of the unit despite the punishing Chennai weather. "Today, the idea was to get everyone together for a team drill with two segments to it. Taking humidity into account, we made sure that the volume was less but intensity was more," Dilip said.

"We split teams into two groups and had competition in catching. It was Virat's team that won today," he added.

Dilip, the only support staff from Rahul Dravid's team who is part of Gautam Gambhir's entourage, also spoke about players coping extreme weather and giving it their all during the session.

"Overall, I feel it was a fantastic session, considering the overhead sun. One great part about this team is throughout all stations the intensity was top notch in this weather," Dilip said. Banishing second season blues

After a stellar first season, Yashasvi Jaiswal is looking to beat the second season blues. And the youngster gets to face Jasprit Bumrah in the nets to ensure that he stays on his toes. During net session, Bumrah repeatedly made short work of the Mumbai youngster, often sending his off-stump cartwheeling. Jaiswal would hope that his sketchy form in the nets wouldn't be carried in the opening Test against Bangladesh. Jaiswal scored 1000-plus runs in his first 9 Tests, with 700 plus coming against England in a single series.

Team working on mental strength: Harmanpreet Kaur



MUMBAI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Indian players have been working on their mental strength for a "long time", which should help the team in overcoming hurdles, said skipper Harmanpreet Kaur ahead of the upcoming women's T20 World Cup next month.

India, who finished as runners-up in the 2020 edition of the tournament, are placed in Group A along with six-time winners and defending champions Australia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

Kaur said that the Indian players have

been working on the mental aspect to bring out their best in crucial moments.

"We have been working on mental strength for a long time. The last three-four overs are the most crucial. T20 cricket is not a small format, at the end of the day, you are playing 40 overs," Kaur said.

"In the last four-five overs, the team that is mentally strong wins the match. We have been focusing on this for a while. If we can remain mentally stable in those final five overs, we can execute what's best for us."

India's performances in summit clashes have featured in discussions given the team lost in the 2020 final by 85 runs to Australia, while England had pipped them by a mere nine runs in the 2017 ODI World Cup final.

Even in the 2022 Commonwealth Games, Australia eked out a nine-run win to clinch the gold medal despite a spirited show with the bat from India in the final, with Kaur's team settling for the silver.

"We are working on those aspects, and hopefully, we will overcome this hurdle in the tournament," she said.

India's campaign begins on October 4 against New Zealand followed by the clash against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 6.

India, who lost to Sri Lanka in the women's Asia Cup final earlier this year, will take on the team from the island nation on October 9 and each of their first three group stage matches will be played in Dubai.

5-0 to Australia: Nathan Lyon tips Border Gavaskar trophy clean sweep vs India

SYDNEY, Sep 17 (Agencies): Australia spinner Nathan Lyon has made the bold prediction that the hosts will complete a clean sweep of the Border Gavaskar Trophy, which will start in November this year. India have been able to retain the title over the last 10 years, including famous series win down under in 2018-19 and 2020-21. Australia's last clean sweep in the series happened in 2011.

Speaking to Alyssa Healy on the Willow Talk podcast, Lyon said that he had been thinking about BGT since the time he saw England tour India early this year. The spinner also said that he has had an eye on the series for a long time now and went on to reveal his prediction.

"It's been 10 years since we have won the Border-Gavaskar



Trophy. I started thinking about this series when England were over in India, watching them to go about it. I love the game and I will watch a decent Test match but I have eyes on this series for a long time now. My prediction is 5-0 to Australia," Lyon told Alyssa Healy on the 'Willow Talk' podcast.

We need big runs Lyon also sent a message to the Australian batters to score big runs

against a formidable Indian bowling lineup. The spinner wanted the likes of Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, and Travis Head to get big scores like 180 and 200 instead of 101 or 107.

"We need big runs. We need the guys, who are talented enough to get the hundred. The likes of Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, and Travis Head, all the top order. I don't want 101

or 107, I want 180 and 200," Lyon said in the same interaction.

Lyon is the leading wicket-taker in Border Gavaskar trophy with 121 wickets from 27 matches at an average of 31.56. This will be the first time India and Australia will take part in a 5-match Test series. The first Test will start on November 22 in Perth.

India's tour of Australia 2024-25 Schedule

First Test at Perth Stadium in Perth - November 22 to 26.

Second Test at Adelaide Oval in Adelaide - December 6 to 10 (Day-Night).

Third Test at The Gabba in Brisbane - December 14 to 18.

Fourth Test at the MCG in Melbourne - December 26 to December 30.

Fifth Test at the SCG in Sydney - January 3 to January 7, 2025.

Happy birthday R Ashwin: List of records he can break in Bangladesh test series



CHENNAI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Ravichandran Ashwin, one of India's finest off-spinners in international cricket, celebrates his 38th birthday today, September 17, Tuesday. Known for his sharp cricketing mind and versatile skills, Ashwin has been a key player for India, especially in red-ball cricket. With over 500 international wickets to his name, he is not only a dominant bowler, but also a reliable lower-order batter. Ashwin's contributions in crucial matches have

earned him numerous accolades. His tactical approach and ability to adapt have made him one of the most respected cricketers globally.

Ashwin returns to international cricket after a long break for the two-match Test series against Bangladesh, starting on September 19. The Test opener will be played at Ashwin's home ground, the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. As Ashwin gears up for the contest, some significant records await him, making his birthday extra special.

With a history of success in home matches, he will lead India's spin attack, looking to further cement his legacy in the longest format of the game.

Milestones awaiting Ashwin

Ravichandran Ashwin is on the brink of achieving major milestones in international cricket. With 455 wickets from 183 innings in India, Ashwin is just 22 wickets away from surpassing Anil Kumble's record for the most wickets in international cricket played at home. Kumble, who took 476 wickets in 204 innings, has held this record for a long time, but Ashwin is set to close the gap during this series.

Ashwin is also chasing another milestone in Tests against Bangladesh. He currently has 23 wickets in 11 innings and needs just 9 more to overtake Zaheer Khan's record of 31 wickets. If

Ashwin achieves this, he will become the highest wicket-taker in India vs. Bangladesh Test matches.

Additionally, Ashwin shares the top spot with Nathan Lyon for the most five-wicket hauls in World Test Championship (WTC) history, with 10 each. One more five-wicket haul will give him the solo lead in this category.

In terms of overall wickets in WTC history, Ashwin, with 174 wickets, is just 14 away from surpassing Lyon's 187. He has a real opportunity to claim both records with two more Tests to play in the current WTC cycle.

In the WTC 2023-25 campaign, Ashwin currently has 42 wickets. He needs only 10 more to surpass Josh Hazlewood, who leads the cycle with 51 wickets. This race for the top spot is one to watch as the series progresses.

Arjun Tendulkar impresses with ball ahead of Ranji Trophy 2024-25



Later in the second innings, Arjun continued from where he left off and scalped 4/55 to further bundle out KSCA XI for 121 and set up a massive win for his team.

He had a below-par domestic season for Goa in 2023-24 as he scored just 258 runs from 11 innings at an average of 23.45 with two half-centuries in the Ranji Trophy. He also scalped nine wickets from as many innings at an average of 44.66.

Earlier, he failed to leave an impact in the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023-24 as well, scoring just 37 runs from five innings and picked ten wickets from six matches at an average of 30.20. The left-arm seamer had a good outing in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy where he managed to scalp 11 wickets from seven innings at an average of 23.81.

Arjun's stint in IPL so far After making his debut in the Indian Premier League 2023 for Mumbai, Tendulkar was retained by the franchise for the 2024 season as well. However, he could only make one appearance for his team against LSG where he leaked 22 runs from 2.2 overs and had to leave the over midway due to an injury.

Arjun has played five matches for MI so far and has picked three wickets and scored 13 runs. He will be eager to put up better performances in the upcoming domestic season and the IPL, if he gets retained by MI.

With Virat Kohli-MS Dhoni reference, ex-India star highlights Shubman Gill's biggest quality

Shubman Gill is among prominent players who will be rested for the three-match T20I series against Bangladesh starting October 7.

NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Former India batter Aakash Chopra has backed young batter Shubman Gill to become the next big thing in world cricket, praising the youngster for his excellent game awareness. Gill, who made his India debut in 2019, was recently elevated to the leadership role in white-ball cricket, having established himself as a vital cog in the team across formats. Chopra feels Gill has the instincts to understand the pulse of the game, which was also the case with former India captain MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli when they first burst onto the scene.

"The biggest quality of Shubman is that he understands the pulse of the game. Some players



are very quick to understand. Some understand eventually. Some never understand. So, the greats you see, they understand very quickly. So, Virat Kohli understood the pulse of the game very quickly. Mahendra Singh Dhoni understood the pulse of the game very quickly," said Aakash in a podcast with Raj Sha-

mani. "Shubman Gill understands the pulse of the game. He understands 100% where the game is going. Where can I go? Where can I take it? How can it run according to me? He is absolutely brilliant. He is top-class about himself," he added.

Meanwhile, Gill is among prominent play-

ers who will be rested for the three-match T20I series against Bangladesh starting October 7 as part of BCCI's workload management policy. Gill, India's No.3 in Test matches, is a vital cog in the team's top-order alongside Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Yashasvi Jaiswal and is expected to play all 10 Tests this season. Apart

from Gill, a few more important players will also be rested keeping the three-Test series against New Zealand in mind.

India will start their upcoming international season with a two-Test series against Bangladesh in Chennai from September 19 followed by the second match in Kanpur starting September 27. "Yes, Shubman will be rested for the Bangladesh T20I series. If you look at the fixture, the three T20Is will be played on October 7 (Gwalior), 10 (Delhi) and 13 (Hyderabad). Now first Test vs New Zealand starts October 16.

"So with a turnaround of three days, it is important to give Gill a break," a BCCI source told agency on the condition of anonymity.

BSP hopeful to win many seats in assembly elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Bahujan Samaj Party is also contesting strongly in the assembly elections being held in Jammu Kashmir after 10 years and the party is hopeful that the party will win many seats in these assembly elections.

With the announcement of assembly elections in Jammu Kashmir, Raja Ram and Dr. Avtar Karimpuri, in-charge of Jammu Kashmir Bahujan Samaj Party is continuously camping in Jammu Kashmir and state president Darshan Rana is also reaching every assembly constituency and campaigning for the party candidates and creating enthusiasm in them. He is continuously visiting meetings with party workers and instilling enthusiasm in the workers.

Experts believe that Bahujan Samaj Party is working strongly on the ground level to wave its flag in Jammu Kashmir this time and a public relations campaign is being run in every assembly constituency and party candidates have also been asked to speed up the election campaign.

The Bahujan Samaj Party is eyeing those assembly seats where the party candidates are very strong and the party has won in these areas or is close to victory! Sources claim that where the party had performed well in the District Development Council elections, the party is working day and night to ensure victory.

According to information received from sources, the party is going to hold many big rallies to strengthen the party in the assembly

elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Let us tell you that in the 1996 assembly elections, the Bahujan Samaj Party created a stir in Jammu politics by winning four assembly seats.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman from Bhaderwah Assembly, Sagar Chand from Kathua, Ramchandra Bhagat from RS Pura and Sonmath from Samba had won.

After this, in the elections held in the year 2002, the Bahujan Samaj Party was successful in winning one assembly seat, but now in the assembly elections of the year 2024, the party has once again geared up completely and in the changed environment of Jammu and Kashmir, some big leaders of the party can reach Jammu to give momentum to the election campaign through

big public meetings and will show their full strength to win the seats.

If sources are to be believed, Bahujan Samaj Party has entered the election fray with a complete strategy in the assembly elections and the senior leaders of the party are constantly engaged in making strategies to ensure the victory of the party.

The party is eyeing the assembly seats of Kathua, Samba and Jammu.

At present, the situation will be clear only after the results of the assembly elections on October 8, how much magic the Bahujan Samaj Party can do in Jammu and Kashmir! But seeing the preparations of the party, such speculations are being made that the party can do a big miracle in the 2024 assembly elections.

NSS SMVDU donates creative charts, notebooks at Govt School Kakryal

Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 17: NSS SMVDU Katra volunteers organized a visit to Govt. Primary school in Kakryal village under Panthal block.

NSS SMVDU volunteers organized different activities in nearby schools time to time. This time NSS volunteers donated creative charts for classrooms of the school that will help

students in learning basic concepts in a better way. Notebooks were also distributed to all the students. Card board based study items were also donated to the school authorities so that students can learn basic concepts by playing with these cards. Fruits were also distributed to all the students by the volunteers for their better health under the campaign Rashtriya Poshan Maah.

Students were very excited after receiving so many things and also displayed their cultural talents. NSS student coordinator Sadhvi Sharma coordinated the whole event.

NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar was also present during the event. School authorities thanked NSS team for various donations. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragti Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers.

Shalimar Paints Strengthens Regional Presence with Premium Product Launch in Pahalgam



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Shalimar Paints Ltd., a pioneer in the Indian paints industry with a legacy of over 120 years, has strengthened its presence in Jammu and Kashmir by showcasing a range of premium products at a dealers' meet in Pahalgam. The highlight of the event was the paint company's revolutionary HERO range of products, developed after years of extensive research to offer durability and eco-friendly solutions tailored to evolving consumer needs.

Shalimar Paints is expanding its presence in Jammu & Kashmir with new depots and products designed to meet the growing demand for high-quality, innovative, and durable solutions that can withstand extreme temperatures.

At the heart of the recent event in Pahalgam was the HERO range, a powerful line designed to meet these specific needs. Offering exceptional durability and eco-friendly solutions, the HERO range caters to consumers who prioritize both high performance and environmental sustainability.

Shalimar Paints, India's oldest paint brand, is expanding its focus on wood coatings under the "CareWood" brand within the decorative segment. Building on its existing Melamine category, the company is broadening the CareWood portfolio to serve both popular and luxury markets. In Jammu

& Kashmir, known for its preference for premium wood coatings, Shalimar Paints is set to launch 2K Polyurethane (2KPU) in three variants tailored to the luxury segment. Additionally, to address the super-luxury market, the company is considering introducing polyester wood coatings in the region.

These advanced product lines underscore the company's commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions that align with regional needs and preferences, reinforcing its market position while demonstrating dedication to supporting and expanding within key regional markets.

"We believe in building strong bonds with partners and providing a first-hand experience of the products to enhance their understanding and confidence in our offerings. Jammu and Kashmir is a strategically important market for us due to its dynamic and discerning consumers," said Kuldip Raina, Director, Sales & Marketing, Shalimar Paints.

"Reflecting our dedication to durability and lasting beauty, our HERO range stands as a testament to innovation and sustainability, while our full spectrum of wood finishes and coatings addresses needs ranging from stylish aesthetics to enduring protection. This launch in Pahalgam underscores our commitment to addressing local needs while strengthening our market presence," he further added.

LIC appoints Infosys to build its NextGen Digital Platform

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 17: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has undertaken a digital transformation programme named DIVE (Digital Innovation and Value Enhancement). Under DIVE, LIC aims to significantly boost its digital platform with an aim to provide superior experience to its customers, field force, partners and employees.

LIC has appointed Infosys to build its new state-of-art NextGen Digital Platform which will be an integrated end-to-end digital insurance solution to provide excellent Services to its customers, Business life-cycle management and operational activities for sales intermediaries and digital front-end platform for branch employees.

The NextGen Digital Platform will be modular, flexible, cloud-native, and have platform-driven architecture which will be capable of quickly adopting innovative technologies, new products and features. This platform

will form the foundation for building high value business applications such as the Customer & Sales Super Apps, Portals and Digital Branch for LIC.

Shri Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO & MD, LIC, said, "Our vision is to transform LIC into a technology enabled organisation providing life insurance solutions. We look forward to our partnership with Infosys in creating world class digital solutions and providing best-in-class experience for all our stakeholders including customers and sales intermediaries."

Highlighting on the need for digital transformation, CEO & MD of LIC, Mohanty said, "Today we are living in a digitally connected era where customers expect their needs to be met instantly whether during on-boarding or post sales service. Technology can help us generate greater insights about our customers and by leveraging India's advanced digital eco-system to help us serve better."