

BRIEF NEWS

Indian Embassy Urges Citizens To Leave Lebanon Amid Escalating Violence

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The UN Office for the

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IT Dept To Hold Special Drive To Address Taxpayers’ Grievances In J&K In Oct

The Income Tax Department will hold a special drive in the first week of October to address the grievances of taxpayers in Jammu and Kashmir.

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Terrorism Won’t be allowed to stage comeback, it has been buried: Amit Shah

Terrorism has been buried and won’t be allowed to stage a comeback, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday while addressing a rally here.

Promising a terror-free region under the BJP regime, Shah alleged that the National Conference-Congress alliance would impose Pakistan’s agenda if it comes to power.

Shah, who is spearheading the BJP’s election campaign, said assembly elections are taking place in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir without Article 370. The Narendra Modi-led government, Shah said in his address, had fulfilled the dream of party’s patriarch Syama Prasad Mukherjee in August 2019 when it abrogated Article 370.

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President Murmu visits Siachen base camp



NEW DELHI SEPT 26

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday visited the Siachen base camp and told soldiers posted at the world’s highest battlefield that all citizens salute their bravery.

Addressing the troops, she said in difficult situations like heavy snowfall

and minus 50 degrees temperature, they present extraordinary examples of sacrifice and tolerance in protecting the motherland.

The President said that as the supreme commander of the armed forces, she felt very proud of them and that “all citi-

zens salute their bravery”. “They face severe weather conditions. In difficult situations like heavy snowfall and minus 50 degrees temperature, they remain deployed at their front with full devotion and vigilance. They present extraordinary exam-

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Srinagar’s Dal Lake no longer Dull: Vice President

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26

Amid Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said the Dal lake in Srinagar was “dull” when he went there in 1990 but is now teeming with tourists, while pointing out that Article 370 is no longer applicable to the region.

Addressing the 83rd foundation day celebrations of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dhankhar recalled his visit to Srina-



gar in 1990 as a Union minister, when he stayed in a hotel near the Dal lake.

“Everything was dull. D-U-L-L. Not even 20 souls could be seen on the road. A state of dejection and hopelessness,” the vice

president said.

He said the Rajya Sabha, which he presides over as its chairman, was informed last year that two crore tourists had visited Jammu and Kashmir.

Dhankhar pointed out that Article 370, which was envisioned as a temporary provision of the Constitution, is no longer there.

“Article 370, the only article labelled as temporary and which was taken by some people, including

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11 ACs of Jammu District ready for polls on October 1  
Over 12 lakh voters set to exercise their right to franchise in 1,494 polling stations

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, SEPT 26

Eleven Assembly Constituencies (ACs) of district Jammu are all set for polls with over 12 lakh voters going to exercise their right to franchise on October 1, during the third and final phase of General Elections to the Legislative Assembly.

The district comprises eleven Assembly Constituencies namely Bishnah (SC), Suchetgarh (SC), R.S. Pura-Jammu

South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh (SC), Akhnoor (SC) and Chhamb, with a total of 12,00,977 voters; 6,19,066 male, 5,81,887 female and 24 third gender voters.

For smooth and hassle-free facilitation of voters, ECI has established 1,494 polling stations across the district with 609 urban polling stations and 885 rural polling stations.

To foster maximum

voter participation and facilitate voters, dedicated polling stations have been established across district for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), Polling booths managed by women as Pink Polling Stations, Polling Stations manned by youths, Green Polling Stations and Unique Polling Stations.

Among all the eleven Assembly Constituencies of the district, 74-R.S. Pura-Jammu South AC has highest number of

LG chairs 20th University Council meeting of SKUAST

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, SEPT 26

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the 20th University Council Meeting of SKUAST Jammu at Raj Bhawan, today.

The meeting was attended by Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Sh Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr. BN Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu; Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir;



Prof. P.L. Gautam, Pro-Chancellor, Career Point University Hamirpur; Dr. M.C Sharma, former Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly; Prof Anil Kumar, Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu and other senior officers, in person and through virtual mode.

The University Council headed by Lt Governor deliberated on addressing key challenges in agriculture and allied sectors alongwith taking the research and innovation from Lab to the Field to increase productivity.

The Lt Governor stressed that the University should adopt modern

and sustainable agriculture practices and put more focus on developing interface with the farming community and implementation of e-office.

The meeting also appreciated the performance of the University under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).

The Council gave in-principle approvals to various agenda points presented during the meeting including adoption of UGC based qualification for the post of the Assistant Registrar, Assistant Comptroller and ICAR norms for posts of Subject Matter Specialists.

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DM Jammu orders closure of Educational institutions on Sept 30

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, SEPT 27

The District Magistrate (DM) of Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya has ordered the closure of all educational institutions in Jammu District on September 30 in order to assist the youth voters and parents in casting their votes at their native places.

Omar blames centre for low voter turnout in second phase of J&K Assembly Polls

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, SEPT 26

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the low voter turnout in Srinagar district during the second phase of voting for Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls was perhaps a people’s reaction to the Centre trying to project normalcy in the union territory.

His remarks came after the second phase of polling on Wednesday saw a voter turnout of over 56 per cent while the first



phase held on September 18 saw an estimated 61.38 per cent voter turnout.

“To be honest, I was expecting higher turnout because there was no boycott call, there were attacks, there were no threats or intimidation of the voters.

I feel the Centre is also responsible for this. They tried to present the high voter turnout as signs of normalcy and as if the people had accepted the revocation of Article 370. Maybe this was a reaction from Srinagar because people of Srinagar do not want to send wrong signals,” Abdullah told reporters in Uri border town of Baramulla district.

The former chief minister, who is a candidate from Ganderbal and

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Ensure BJP’s victory with thumping majority to see PoJK’s merger with India: Yogi

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, SEPT 26

BJP’s face in Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath Wednesday while batting for the BJP candidates in fray for the third and last phase of Assembly polls slated for October 1, Wednesday said that people of J&K must ensure BJP’s victory with thumping majority to see Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir’s (PoK’s) merge with Indian Union.

“You have to ensure BJP’s victory in the ongoing Assembly polls with a huge majority. If we win with a majority, you will see PoJK will become part



of the Indian union soon,” Yogi thundered from the Stage while addressing a rally in Ramgrah, Vijaypur in Jammu.

He said that the ongoing Assembly polls in J&K are historic in nature and the “results will be a slap on the faces of NC, PDP and

Congress. “In 1990, these parties supported Pakistan and terrorism. Now when Prime Minister Modi has eradicated terrorism from J&K soil, these parties are advocating revival of terrorism

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Domestic violence act applicable to every woman irrespective of religious affiliation: SC

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, SEPT 03

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is a civil code that is applicable to every woman in India irrespective of her religious affiliation or social background, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice N Kotiswar Singh said the 2005 legislation was applicable to all women for more effective protection

of their rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

“The Act is a piece of civil code which is applicable to every woman in India irrespective of her religious affiliation and/or social background for a more effective protection of her rights guaranteed under the Constitution and in order to protect women victims of domestic violence occurring in a domestic relationship,” the bench said.

The apex court deliv-

ered its verdict on an appeal filed by a woman challenging an order of the Karnataka High Court in a matter related to the grant of maintenance and compensation.

The woman had earlier filed a petition under section 12 of the Act which was allowed by a magistrate in February 2015 granting Rs 12,000 as monthly maintenance and Rs 1 lakh towards compensation to her.

The top court noted that

the husband had filed an appeal against the order which was dismissed by the appellate court on the ground of delay.

It noted that later, he filed another application under section 25 of the Act, which deals with duration and alteration of orders, before a magistrate but the same was dismissed.

The bench said thereafter, he filed an appeal

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Indian Embassy Urges Citizens To Leave Lebanon Amid Escalating Violence

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on Wednesday said that 200,00 people have been displaced in Lebanon since Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel nearly a year ago, drawing Israeli retaliation. According to Lebanon’s health minister, 51 people were killed and 223 wounded Wednesday in Israeli strikes.

In an advisory posted on social media platform X on Wednesday, the Indian embassy said, “As a reiteration of the advisory issued on 1 August 2024 and in view of the recent developments and escalations in the region, Indian nationals are strongly advised against travelling to Lebanon till further notice.”

“All Indian nationals already in Lebanon are also strongly advised to leave Lebanon. Those who remain for any reason are advised to exercise extreme caution, restrict their movements, and remain in contact with the Embassy of India in Beirut through our email ID: cons.beirut@mea.gov.in or the emergency phone number +96176860128,” it said. (Agencies)

IT Dept To Hold Special Drive To Address Taxpayers’ Grievances In J&K In Oct

The initiative is aimed at providing a platform for taxpayers to raise their concerns and seek timely resolution to issues related to income tax matters,” an official release said.

It said the drive will be conducted in two phases from October 3 to 5 and October 7 to 10 at the Aaykar Bhawan at Rajbagh here. Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, J&K, Vikram Sahay will supervise the camp.

“The Income Tax Department is committed to fostering a positive and collaborative relationship with taxpayers. By providing a dedicated platform for grievance resolution, the department aims to enhance taxpayer satisfaction and promote a smoother tax filing experience,” Sahay said.

Understanding the need for prompt and efficient redressal of taxpayer concerns, the department is pursuing this special drive that shall focus on resolving various grievances, including rectification of assessments, duplicate PAN issues, e-Nivaran queries and grievances, he added. (Agencies)

President Murmu visits Siachen base camp

ples of sacrifice and tolerance in protecting the motherland,” Murmu said.

She told soldiers that all Indians are aware of their sacrifice and bravery and “we respect them”, according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Dressed in Indian military uniform, Murmu also paid tributes at the Siachen War Memorial.

The Memorial, she said, is a symbol of the sacrifice of soldiers and officers who have been martyred since the Indian Army began Operation Meghdoot on the Siachen Glacier on April 13, 1984.

Under Operation Meghdoot, the Indian Army established its full control over the glacier.

The President said since the commencement of Operation Meghdoot, “the brave soldiers and officers of the Indian armed forces have ensured the security of this region”.

Lt Governor of Ladakh Brigadier B D Mishra had received President Murmu on her arrival at Thoise airfield.

Murmu is the country’s third president to have visited Siachen base camp, located in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the others being A P J Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind. While Kalam visited in April 2004, Kovind went to the base camp in May 2018.

The Siachen glacier is at a height of around 20,000 feet in the Karakoram mountain range. It is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where soldiers have to battle extreme cold, high winds and frostbite among other severe weather conditions. (Agencies)

Ensure BJP’s victory with thumping majority to see PoJK’s merger with India: Yogi

here again,” said Yogi, who is the star campaigner of BJP for J&K.

He said Pakistan’s condition at present is horrific. “The country is falling apart. Rate of one kg Atta in Pakistan costs Rs 500. On the contrary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives 80 Crore people of India free ration and 60 Crore are getting free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh which has been enhanced upto Rs 7 lakh. “Paksitan is a sinking ship,” he said.

He said it was because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s efforts that the Kartarpur corridor was thrown open. “Today, J&K is known as the tourism capital instead of terrorism capital,” Yogi said.

Yogi said that earlier, Amarnath Yatra was facing threats but today devotees all over the country are coming with the slogans of “Bham Bham Bhohay” and taking the fragrance of Lord Shiva to all parts of the country. “Lakhs of people are coming to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine,” he said.

Lashing out at NC, Congress and PDP for ruining J&K for 70 years, Yogi said that it was the PM Modi led government that gave voting rights to West Pakistan Refugees and Valmikis, who were deprived of these rights by those who ruled J&K. “These were the parties who supported terrorism in 1990 and enjoyed vacations in Europe and England when Kashmir was boiling,” Yogi said in an obvious reference to National Conference chief Dr Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah.

The UP Chief Minister, who is the chief campaigner of BJP for J&K, said that huge turnout in J&K is scripting a new history and those opposing BJP will be given a befitting reply. He sought votes for the BJP candidates in fray. (KNO)

Over 90 percent of terrorism has been eradicated after

abrogation of Article 370: Athawale

election will support the BJP Government.

He said his party will promote tourism, build hospitals, roads, and bridges and will address the issue of electricity bills besides providing jobs to unemployed youth and fight against the drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir. He said his party would rehabilitate the youth who did not want to join militancy.

Athawale appealed to voters to elect their candidates in the Assembly elections.

Domestic violence act applicable to every woman irrespective of religious affiliation: SC

before the appellate court, which allowed it and remanded the matter to the magistrate with a direction to consider his application by giving an opportunity to both parties to adduce their evidence.

It noted that aggrieved by the order, the woman approached the high court which dismissed her plea in April last year and directed the magistrate to consider the application filed by the man under section 25 of the Act.

In its verdict, the apex court referred to section 25 and said it was evident that an aggrieved person or a respondent as defined under the Act can seek for alteration, modification or revocation of an order made under the provisions of the Act if there was a change in the circumstances as per sub-section (2) of section 25.

The bench said a magistrate, while exercising discretion under section 25(2) of the Act, has to be satisfied that a change in the circumstances has occurred, requiring to pass an order of alteration, modification or revocation.

It noted a change in the circumstances under the Act may be of either a pecuniary nature, such as a change in the income of the respondent or an aggrieved person, or it could be a change in other circumstances of the party paying or receiving the allowance which would justify an increase or decrease of the maintenance amount ordered by the magistrate.

“The phrasing of the provision is wide enough to cover factors like the cost of living, income of the parties, etc. Further, a change in the circumstances need not just be of the respondent but also of the aggrieved person,” the top court said.

“However, for the invocation of section 25(2) of the Act, there must be a change in the circumstances after the order being passed under the Act,” it said, adding, “Thus, an order for alteration, modification or revocation operates prospectively and not retrospectively”.

The bench said the husband cannot seek its retrospective applicability so as to seek a refund of the amount already paid as per the original order.

The bench set aside the orders of the high court and the first appellate court and dismissed the application filed by the man.

“However, liberty is reserved to the respondent (man) herein to file a fresh application under section 25 of the Act, if so advised,” it said. (AGENCIES)

Indian Embassy Urges Citizens To Leave Lebanon Amid Escalating Violence

Lebanon’s health minister, 51 people were killed and 223 wounded Wednesday in Israeli strikes.

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Omar blames centre for low voter turnout in second phase of J&K Assembly Polls

Budgam segments, also said it was a mistake to invite the foreign diplomats to observe the polling in Kashmir.

“The Centre made another mistake by inviting the diplomats. Maybe they wanted to showcase higher voter turnout in Srinagar as a sign of major change. The people of Srinagar did not want that they be used in this manner, so they voted in lesser numbers. However, I am thankful to those who came out to vote, irrespective of who they voted for,” he said.

A delegation of diplomats from 16 countries, including the U.S., Norway and Singapore, on Wednesday observed the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Abdullah, who is campaigning for party candidates in the segments going to polls in the third phase on October 1, said the districts of Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara have been high voter turnout areas traditionally and there was no reason for it to be any different this time.

“Traditionally, Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara have enthusiastically participated in the polling in the past elections. I am hopeful that they will do the same this time as well. I would be a little selfish and hope that they vote for the National Conference and wherever NC has not fielded a candidate, they should vote for Congress,” he added.

While five districts of Budgam, Ganderbal, Reasi, Poonch and Rajouri witnessed a turnout of more than 60%, the eight assembly segments of Srinagar district registered an abysmal 29.81%

voter turnout on Wednesday. (Agencies)

Srinagar’s Dal Lake no longer Dull: Vice President

those who had taken an oath under the Constitution, to be permanent, is no longer there,” he said.

“The state of the nation today is beyond my dreams. I never imagined. I did not conceive of the Bharat that it is today,” Dhankhar said, comparing the present-day situation with that of the 1990s.

The vice president said the 1990s were a period when India had to pledge its gold with Swiss banks to sustain its financial credibility as forex reserves had plunged to USD 1 billion and financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, issued directives to India in the garb of advisories.

“Now, the IMF says India is the most-favoured global destination for investments and opportunity, and the World Bank calls India a role model on digitisation,” he said.

Dhankhar said the 1990s were also an era of middlemen on the corridors of power, corruption was rampant and only a person with pedigree could get access to opportunities.

“Now, the power corridors are fully sanitised. The middleman has disappeared.... All transactions take place digitally, without a human interface. That is the change I never imagined,” he said.

The Vice President expressed satisfaction that recognition for the scientific community has increased significantly.

“Soothing to note that in the last few years, recognition for the scientific community has gone up. It has gone up in several ways, including the Government being very serious about it, and the Prime Minister’s heart and soul are deeply in the scientific community,” he said. (Agencies)

Terrorism Won’t be allowed to stage comeback, it has been buried: Amit Shah

Shah said whoever spreads terror in Jammu and Kashmir will get his answer at the gallows. “I want to ask you whether (Parliament attack convict) Afzal Guru should have been hanged or not. The NC-Congress are now saying he should not have been hanged...,” Shah said.

“They want to release stone pelters and terrorists. Omar Abdullah gave up these dreams because you cannot do it. It is the duty of courts and we have enforced such laws that nobody will dare to hurl a stone anymore,” the minister said at the rally in Udhampur district’s Chenani area.

He is scheduled to address five rallies in Udhampur, Kathua and Jammu districts today.

The third and final phase of elections in Jammu and Kashmir on October 1. Elections in third and final phase on Oct 1. (Agencies)

11 ACs of Jammu District ready for polls on October 1

der voters. To facilitate the voters, 139 polling stations have been established in this constituency; 131 urban polling stations and 8 rural polling stations.

72-Bishnah (SC) Assembly Constituency comes next with 1,19,988 registered voters; 63,385 males, 56,602 females and 1 third gender voter. To ensure smooth electoral process, 139 polling stations have been established across the constituency, of which 18 are urban and 121 are rural polling stations.

Similarly, 73-Suchetgarh (SC) Assembly Constituency has 1,13,449 voters, among which 59,727 are males, 53,720 females and 2 transgender voters. A total of 128 rural polling stations have been set up in the constituency for smooth and hassle-free voting process.

Likewise, 79-Jammu North AC has 1,11,811 voters; 57,213 males, 54,595 females and three third gender voters. To facilitate the voters of this constituency, 117 polling stations have been set up, including 87 urban and 30 rural polling stations.

76-Jammu East AC has a total of 1,07,213 voters; 54,021 are males, 53,189 are females and 3 third gender voters. In order to ensure a participatory voting process, 153 polling stations have been established in the constituency, including 131 urban and 22 rural stations.

Likewise, 78-Jammu West AC has 1,06,252 voter population, of which 53,811 are males and 52,441 are females. For smooth voting process, 118 polling stations have been established, including 112 urban and 6 rural polling stations.

82-Chhamb AC has 1,06,035 voter population; 54,295 are males and 51,740 are females. 165 polling stations have been set up in the constituency, with 8 in urban areas and 157 in rural areas.

77-Nagrota AC has 96,007 registered voters, with 49,735 males and 46,272 females. The ECI has set up 145 rural polling stations in this constituency.

81-Akhnoor (SC) Assembly Constituency has 95,386 voters, comprising 48,954 males, 46,430 females and 2 third gender voters. To facilitate voting, 127 polling stations have been established, with 12 in urban areas and 115 in rural areas.

80-Marh (SC) Assembly Constituency, with the lowest voter count, has 93,598 registered voters, including 48,640 males, 44,957 females and 1 third gender voter. The constituency has 114 polling stations, with 12 in urban areas and 102 in rural areas.


Interestingly, the upcoming elections are set to be a coming-of-age moment for 47,963 first-time voters. These young voices are spread across the district, with 82-Chhamb AC leading the pack with 5,647 new voters, while 78-Jammu West AC has the lowest count at 2,801.

Jammu's senior citizens, who comprise nearly 18% of the total electorate, are poised to play a pivotal role in the upcoming elections. These 2,15,338 voters, aged 60 and above, bring their wealth of experience to the polling booths. However, it is the centenarians who truly embody the spirit of enduring democracy. Jammu boasts 404 voters between 100-109 years old, 29 super-centenarians aged 110-119 and remarkably, six voters who have lived through over 120 years of India's history.


Meanwhile, all arrangements are being put in place for a smooth and peaceful polling in the district where voting is taking place on October 1. Currently, a number of voter awareness programmes are underway in various parts of the district to generate interest among the electorate regarding importance of exercising the franchise and to maximize the voter turnout.

LG chairs 20th University Council meeting of SKUAST

Dr. BN Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu presented the progress report of the University. He apprised the meeting that the University has made significant improvement in research, patents and publications.



UT of Jammu & Kashmir  
Women Industrial Training Institute (Bhalesa)  
Skill Development Department  
Our motto "Skill hands secured future"



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MIS code : GR0100048

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**Extension notice for Admission 2024-25/26**

*In reference to letter no DSD/401/Trgs/2024/e-7464052/2450-2539, dated: 24-09-2024 of Directorate of skill development department J&K, due to poor response in Counseling cum Selection Notice and closing date of admission for Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) course, Applications are again invited from interested candidates for left out seats for undergoing training in this Institute for the session 2024-25/26. The admission for these leftover seats shall be carried on 1<sup>st</sup> Come 1<sup>st</sup> Serve basis till 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024, 3.00pm.*

The selected candidates need to submit the following documents in original for completion of admission process

- 13. Marks Certificate of Qualifying Examination.
- 14. Date of Birth Certificate.
- 15. Domicile Certificate
- 16. Category Certificate (SC/ST/Ex-serviceman/Physically Handicapped/EWS) if any.
- 17. Aadhar Card.
- 18. Affidavit to the effect that the trainee is not enroll In any institute/ not engaged In any Govt. /Private sector. (If needed/asked for)

No:-ITI / BL / Trgs /3/5-320

Dated:- 25/09/2024

DIP/J-5164/24 Dt: 26-09-2024

Superintendent  
Govt. Women Industrial Training Institute,  
Bhalesa

## District Election Office Kathua hosts special SVEEP Nukkad Natak in Jasrota, Hiranagar ACs



**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
As part of the ongoing efforts to raise awareness for the upcoming assembly elections, the District SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Cell of District Election Centre Kathua conducted a series of Nukkad Natak in Jasrota and Hiranagar Assembly constituencies. The renowned NATRANG group of Jammu, known for its impactful and socially relevant performances, was invited to stage these Nukkad Natak. The vibrant and captivating performances of the artists attracted large crowds at both the venues. The first Nukkad

Natak was held at Government Higher Secondary School Budhi in Jasrota A s s e m b l y Constituency. The school's open grounds provided a platform to the artists to spread the message about the power of voting, targeting particularly first-time voters and the general community members. Through interactive and humorous skits, the NATRANG artists shed light on the significance of each vote in shaping a strong democratic process. The second Nukkad Natak took place in the bustling Main Bazaar area of Hiranagar Assembly Constituency. The performance attracted a diverse audience, ranging from

students and local business owners to daily commuters and shopkeepers. The Nukkad Natak at Hiranagar focused on debunking myths about voting and explaining the voting process, encouraging voters to make their voices heard by participating in the democratic exercise. The audience praised the efforts of the SVEEP Cell and the NATRANG group, emphasizing the role of such creative endeavors in spreading the message of electoral participation. "These street plays are not just performances but are tools to educate and engage the electorate", said a local youngster in Hiranagar. The Nukkad Natak

also incorporated messages of ethical voting, highlighting the dangers of malpractices such as vote-buying and coercion. Artists interacted with the audience post-performance, encouraging them to spread the message to their families and friends and explaining the importance of casting an informed vote. District Nodal Officer Neeraj Bhargav said "The District SVEEP Cell has lined up several more such initiatives in the coming days as the elections draw closer. These initiatives are a part of the larger mandate to make the election process inclusive and ensure that no eligible voter is left behind". "The overwhelming response from the public in both Jasrota and Hiranagar shows that people are ready to be part of the change, and we are hopeful that this enthusiasm will translate into higher voter turnout in the upcoming elections" added District Nodal Officer, Neeraj Bhargav.

## RMMC, Govt. Ayurvedic Hospital celebrate Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
In collaboration with Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre, Udhewala, Jammu and Project Poshan ICDS, a holistic nutrition awareness and growth monitoring camp under Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024 organized by Govt. Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu wherein Swami Yajnadarhananda, Dr. Vandana Dogra, Medical Superintendent GAH Jammu, Dr. Aruna Bhat Deputy Medical Superintendent GAH delivered awareness lecture on "the principles and practices of Holistic Nutrition and Ayush based dietetics". S w a m i Yajnadarhananda, Secretary Ramakrishna Mission appreciated



the initiative taken by ministry of women and child development and also promise to take part in the activities in future. A team of doctors comprising Dr. Arun Gupta, Medical Officer, Dr. Sukhpreet, Medical Officer examined 106 children assessed their growth monitoring using Poshan Calculator. Suvarn Prashan

drops were also provided on the Pushya Naskhatra for physical and mental well-being of children. Free medicines and nutritional supplements were also provided to the pregnant women and children. A yoga session was also organized for women wellness IEC material on Anemia Prevention Millets was also distributed among the benefi-

ciaries. The ultimate goal of Rashtriya Poshan Abhiyan is to achieve improvement in key nutrition parameters for both children and women, making it a people's movement, or Jan Andolan. By leveraging technology, targeted approaches, and convergence, the program aims to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, and anaemia among young children, women, and adolescent girls. For other information contact us on number 9596984032. R a m a k r i s h n a Mission, Jammu provides cultural, educational and medical services following the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda.

## Fashion Show organized by CU Jammu as a part of SHS campaign

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
Central University of Jammu in collaboration with Student For Development (SFD) organized a unique and inspiring fashion show as part of the nationwide Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 (SHS 2024) campaign. The event highlighted the importance of sustainability and environmental conservation by showcasing creative outfits and accessories crafted from waste and discarded materials. The event was lauded by the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain. He praised the creativity and dedication of the participants in promoting the message of



cleanliness and waste management. He stated that "This initiative reflects not only the talent of our students but also the university's commitment to sustainability and the larger mission of Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 campaign". Dr. Neeta Rani, Dr. Kiran and Lt Dr. Pankaj Mehta coordi-

nated the event, ensuring its success. The fashion show, which brought innovative designs to the runway, stood as a testament to the power of upcycling and the potential of turning discarded materials into something beautiful and purposeful. Prof. Ritu Bakshi and Dr. Nancy Mengi graced the event

as judges. The nodal officer for the event, Prof. Richa Kothari, commended the efforts of both the organizers and participants, noting how the show effectively merged fashion with an environmental cause. The designs, ranging from accessories to everyday wearable, were all made

## Trend of 2 phases of elections clearly indicate BJP Govt in J&K: Tarun Chugh

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
The BJP National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh, on Thursday said that the large voter turnout in 2 phases and the trends clearly indicate that BJP is going to form its government in J&K and forces supporting terrorism and separatism have been rejected by the people. This was stated by Chugh during a press conference at BJP media center, here today. BJP's C h i e f Spokesperson, Advocate Sunil Sethi, spokespersons, Abhijeet Jasrotia, Arun Gupta, Vineet Joshi, and Media In-Charge, Dr. Pradeep Mahotra were also present at the press conference. He said, "For the past month, we have been actively



campaigning, and under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and I can say with full confidence the people of J&K are with PM Modi, whose principle is Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas" Tarun Chugh said that the people have accepted the Prime Minister's message, which is reflected in the large voter turnout. Earlier the voting percentage ranged between four and eight percent, today it has increased to

sixty percent, and the credit for this goes to Modi government, Chugh said. He described it as a victory for democracy, stating, "People coming out of their homes to vote is a victory for democracy, and this is proof of the public's trust in the country's constitution." Chugh criticized family-based politics in Jammu & Kashmir, stating, "The era of family-run parties is coming to an end and now, the decision

will be made by the people, not by a member of a specific family," he said. He said that Omar Abdullah and Rahul Gandhi are "confused" and claimed that they are trying to mislead the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He also claimed that when Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah was the Chief Minister, and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was the Union Home Minister.

## Jammu Kashmir to get first Dogra Hindu CM: Sham Sharma

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
Maintaining that time is ripe to have a Dogra Hindu Chief Minister from Jammu for the first time in the history of Jammu Kashmir, senior BJP leader and party nominee for Jammu North constituency, Sham Lal Sharma today said that Jammu people have made up their mind and giving clear verdict to BJP in the current elections to form its exclusive Government. Addressing a series of public meetings at various locations in Akhnor and Jammu North constituency here, Sham said that there is a strong wave of BJP in Jammu Kashmir, especially in Jammu region and peoples' jubilant mood clearly indicates that BJP is sweeping in Jammu region and forming its Government with a Dogra Hindu Chief Minister. It was a decades old dream of Jammunites to have a Hindu Chief Minister from this region, and now it is an appropriate time to fulfil this dream in reality, Sham asserted. Calling Congress, NC and PDP as power hungry parties, Sham said that these three parties



always misused the powers and cheated the people with their wrong policies. They discriminated against the Jammu people in all fields, deprived them from development and other basic rights. Jammu people always remained at the mercy of Kashmiri leadership which treated people of this region as second class citizens. Now after the abrogation of Article-370, the entire scenario has been changed and domination of valley based polity will not be acceptable any more. People of Jammu have suffered badly for want of improved basic facilities like education,

health, road, power, tourism and drinking water infrastructure even after seven decades of independence, but now the time has come to re-write history by electing a Chief Minister from Jammu, Sham noted. Holding Congress and National Conference (NC) fully responsible for spreading militancy and uncertainty in Jammu Kashmir, he said that due to poor governance, anti-people and anti-India policies of these two parties, the situation went out of control resulting in deaths of thousands of innocent people, including security forces during the past over three decades.

Both these parties promoted communalism, nepotism and dynasty traditions which created restless among the people. Their anti-people policies proved fatal and gave birth to separatism and militancy in Jammu Kashmir which caused destruction and lawlessness. He appealed to the people to reject Congress, NC and PDP in the current elections and support BJP wholeheartedly to form its next government for restoration of complete peace, tranquillity, holistic development and strengthening the democracy at the grass root level.

## JU organises 5th Kunwer Viyogi Memorial Lecture

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
The Departments of Dogri and English, in collaboration with the Kunwer Viyogi Trust, hosted the 5th Kunwer Viyogi Memorial Lecture today at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium. The event was graced by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest, with Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh as the keynote speaker. The theme of the lecture, "Naya Jammu - Preserving Legacy, Language, Culture, and Education," sparked insightful discussions around pivotal questions: When will Jammu take true ownership of Dogri? When will 'Jammuriyat' (the spirit of Jammu) take precedence? Addressing the concern that Dogri might face extinction without active citizen involvement, Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh, Founder of Delhi Public Schools Jammu, Katra, Nagbani, and Leh, emphasized that



Dogri's essence extends beyond just language—it's embedded in the people, their food, fashion, and a shared responsibility to protect this heritage. She passionately remarked, "Imagine a language that is the very heartbeat of its people—that is Dogri. Today, we gather not only to celebrate this beautiful language but also to honor Sahitya Akademi Awardee Kunwer Viyogi, who lived and breathed Dogri." At the event, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu,

underscored the deep connection between patriotism and cultural identity. Drawing from Kunwarani Ritu Singh's insights, he reflected on the idea that a heart without love for one's homeland is like stone, emphasizing that true patriotism transcends geographical boundaries and is rooted in a region's values, culture, language, and traditions. Prof. Rai urged the people of Jammu to embrace their cultural heritage and called on educational institutions to lead the way in cultivating this cultural pride.

He highlighted the University's initiatives to promote Jammu's rich culture and heritage through various clubs and activities. He pointed to the success of the inaugural event, Dogar Darpan, which celebrated Dogra culture, followed by the focus on Pahari culture in the second year. This year's theme, "Jammuriyat," will bring forth a series of events that showcase the region's vibrant history, heritage, and arts. Prof. Rai also informed about the launch of the University's

# Massive voter turnout in 2 Phases signifies rejection of BJP’s hollow policies: Rattan Lal

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), said that the National Conference and Congress got massive response in the first two phases of the ongoing Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir signifies a clear rejection of the BJP’s hollow and anti people policies . The high voter participation is a testament to the people's demand for change and their overwhelming support for the National Conference-Congress alliance. The provincial president was speaking during election campaign rallies in support of NC candidate Rajesh Pargotra for Vijaypur Assembly constituency here today at Birpur and Purmandal. Rattan Lal Gupta underscored that the electorate



has come out in large numbers to vote for the Alliance, recognizing it as the only viable option for restoring development, peace, and stability in the region. "People are voting in support of the National Conference because they want change, and that's why they are coming out in such large numbers to cast their votes," he stated.

The National Conference remains devoted to the welfare and progress of the people, continuing the legacy of service and integrity, he added. The Provincial President expressed particular confidence in the results from the first two phases of Assembly polls, predicting a clean sweep for the National Conference and Congress. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir have overwhelmingly endorsed the National Conference and Congress. Vision and manifesto," he said. He said that the BJP has betrayed the people of Jammu and Kashmir over the last 10 years, failing to fulfill its promises and leaving the region in a state of neglect. The BJP’s hollow policies have only deepened the challenges faced by the common people, leading to widespread frustration and disillusionment, he added.

## PM Modi’s upcoming visit to boost Election Campaign, Strengthen Party Cadre in J&K: Nitish Mahajan

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
**JAMMU:** Nitish Mahajan, Co-incharge of the Social Media Department, BJP, Jammu & Kashmir, today expressed optimism that the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu on September 28 will provide a significant boost to the BJP’s election campaign and greatly enhance the morale of the party cadre ahead of the Assembly polls in the Union Territory. While campaigning in support of BJP candidate in Jammu, Nitish Mahajan highlighted that PM Modi's visit comes at a crucial time when the state gears up for the upcoming Assembly elections. He emphasized that the Prime Minister's presence in Jammu will energize the party workers and supporters, inspiring them to work harder to ensure the BJP's success in the region. "PM Modi's leadership and vision have always motivated the people of Jammu & Kashmir, and his visit will further solidify the party's position in the upcoming elections," he said. Nitish also pointed out that PM Modi's focus on Jammu & Kashmir's development and welfare



schemes will resonate with the people, helping the party to effectively communicate its message of progress and stability. "The Prime Minister's visit will not only give a major thrust to the BJP's election campaign but will also reaffirm the people's faith in the party's commitment to the development and prosperity of the region," he added. The senior BJP leader urged all party workers to actively participate in the event and make it a grand success. He expressed confidence that PM Modi's visit would serve as a pivotal moment in the election strategy, positioning the BJP as the front-runner in the forthcoming Assembly polls in Jammu & Kashmir.

## Bali Bhagat denounces Congress’s betrayal of National Interests & Alliance with anti-national forces

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat launched a scathing attack on the Congress party during public meetings held in Friends Colony and the Sehora area of Talab Tillo, supporting BJP candidate Arvind Gupta for the Jammu West constituency. He condemned Congress for its apparent alignment with anti-national elements and its recent alliance with the National Conference for the upcoming Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir. "By forming an alliance with the National Conference, Congress has once again shown its willingness to support an anti-national agenda," he stated. He emphasized that this alliance undermines the efforts made by the BJP to bring peace and stability to the region. The former Minister also recalled a controversial statement made by Congress leader Haji Sagheer Saeed Khan, who purportedly said, "If Congress comes to power, we will end the violence



caused by the BJP. The people who are jailed for terrorism would be released. Those who are killed in the name of terrorism, their families would be compensated with Rs 1 crore." He continued, "Furthermore, those BJP leaders who ordered the Indian Army to encounter people would be hanged under Congress rule." "This is the mentality of Congress and its leaders," Bali Bhagat said, highlighting the troubling implications of such statements on national security and communal harmony. "Under the leadership of the

BJP, we are committed to protecting the interests of our nation and ensuring that those who threaten our peace are dealt with firmly. The Congress party's reckless rhetoric endangers the very fabric of our society," he concluded. Prominent BJP leaders, including Mandal President Keshav Chopra, Chaman Lal Bhagat, Arun Dubey, Vikas Gupta, Babloo Chand, and Deepak Kumar, were present to show their support for Arvind Gupta and to rally the community against the Congress party's divisive politics.

## BJP committed for stable, secure, & prosperous future of J&K: Dr. Parneesh

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, Convenor of Department of Training, BJP J&K, today intensified the door-to-door election campaign in support of Arvind Mahajan, BJP's candidate for the Jammu West constituency. The initiative aims to engage directly with the voters, highlighting the party's vision and commitment to development under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, while interacting with residents of Jammu West, emphasized the transformative impact of BJP's policies in the region. He pointed out that under the guidance of the Modi government, Jammu and Kashmir



has witnessed unprecedented growth in infrastructure, healthcare, and education. "BJP is not just a political party, it is a movement for change, a movement for progress, and Arvind Mahajan is the perfect representative for continuing this legacy in Jammu West," he said.

The door-to-door campaign was met with enthusiasm from the local residents, many of whom expressed their support for BJP's vision of a prosperous and developed Jammu & Kashmir. Dr. Parneesh accompanied by local party workers and volunteers,

listened to the concerns of the people and assured them that the BJP remains committed to addressing issues related to basic amenities, employment, and social welfare. Arvind Mahajan, the BJP candidate for Jammu West, is a well-respected figure known for his dedication to public service and commitment to uplifting the community. Dr. Parneesh said and reiterated that Arvind Mahajan's election would bring about a new era of development and progress in Jammu West. He urged the public to come out in large numbers and vote for the BJP to ensure a stable, secure, and prosperous future of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Adv. Purnima urges Jammu people to join PM Modi’s rally on Sept 28

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
Adv. Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson for the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, is calling on the residents of Jammu to actively participate in the upcoming rally addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 28 at MA Stadium in Jammu. This rally marks a crucial moment as the BJP gears up for the forthcoming Assembly polls, emphasizing the party's commitment to progress and development in the region. In a statement issued here today, Adv. Purnima said, "This is an excellent opportunity for the people of Jammu to come together and show their unwavering support for PM Modi and the BJP's vision for a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister's visit is not just an event; it is a reaffirmation of our commitment to the people, their aspirations, and the development initiatives that have transformed our region." said that the rally is expected to draw thousands of supporters, providing a platform for citizens to engage directly with the Prime Minister and hear about the significant achievements of the BJP-led government. She highlighted



the importance of this rally in mobilizing public sentiment and strengthening the party's campaign as the Assembly elections approach. "Let us all come out in large numbers to make this rally a resounding success. It is our chance to collectively reinforce our support for the policies that have positively impacted our lives, from improved infrastructure to welfare schemes aimed at uplifting the marginalized," she added. Purnima invites all citizens, especially the youth and women of Jammu, to join the rally and make their voices heard. Together, let's take a step towards a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir, she added.

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
Senior BJP leader and contesting candidate for Jammu West Constituency, Arvind Mahajan, came down hard on the Congress for its decades of misgovernance, accusing it of abandoning the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a series of meetings in several localities of West constituency, Arvind Mahajan highlighted how Congress leaders failed to deliver on their promises, leaving the region in a state of backwardness while their leadership reaped personal gains. "Congress has always prioritized its own interests over the development and prosperity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. For decades, they kept this region deprived of opportunities, neglecting infrastructure, industry, and employment. The BJP, under the visionary leader-



ship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has set a new course for Jammu and Kashmir, bringing peace, development, and dignity to its people," he said. Arvind praised PM Modi for his transformative initiatives like the abrogation of Article 370, the massive infrastructure projects across the region, and enhanced focus on empowering youth and women. "PM Modi has brought an era of accountability and

transparency, where the resources of Jammu and Kashmir are now used for the benefit of its citizens, not for the coffers of corrupt politicians," he added. The senior BJP leader further emphasized that the BJP's vision for J&K is clear — to make it a thriving region where every citizen enjoys equal opportunities, economic growth, and security. He outlined key priorities such as bolstering local industries,

improving educational institutions, and expanding healthcare access. Appealing to the voters, Arvind Mahajan urged them to make a decisive choice in the upcoming Assembly polls. "It's time to reject the divisive politics of Congress and embrace the forward-looking, development-oriented vision of the BJP. Together, we can build a Jammu and Kashmir that shines as a beacon of peace and prosperity in the entire country," he said. Among those who were present included Lal Singh Arya, National President SC Morcha, Ex-MLA Neelam Langeh, K.K. Digra, Ex-MLA, Jeet Angral, Ramesh Kumar, Anil Angral, Gulshan Kumar, Swarn Samyal, Tarun Angral, Kaka ji, Mohit, Vishwa Mittor, Pankaj Kumar, Deepak Sharma, Hem Raj, Sanjeev Malhotra, Rena Devi, and Vicky.

## Women Empowerment will be implemented in Letter & Spirit if Congress voted to power in J&K: Tony

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 26**  
Taranjit Singh Tony, senior Congress leader and contesting candidate for the Bahu constituency in the upcoming Assembly polls, emphasized that women empowerment will be implemented in letter and spirit if Congress is voted to power in Jammu and Kashmir. He criticized the BJP's proxy government in J&K for neglecting the welfare of women and failing to deliver on its promises. Addressing a series of meeting in Bahu constituency, the senior

Congress leader said, "The BJP-led administration has done nothing meaningful for the progress and empowerment of women in the region. It's high time for change, and that change will only come through Congress, a party that has always stood for the welfare and upliftment of women." Tony urged the women of J&K to come forward and support him and the Congress Party in the Assembly polls, assuring them that if elected, Congress will introduce policies that prioritize their rights, education, financial independence, and overall welfare. He reiterated the

Congress party's long-standing commitment to social justice and gender equality, promising that the party will deliver on its promises to women. "Women are the backbone of society, and their empowerment is crucial for the progress of our region. I appeal to the women of J&K to place their trust in Congress, as we are determined to bring about real change," he said. He called for the active participation of women in the political process, stating that only through collective efforts can a better, more inclusive future be secured for the people of J&K.

# 5 | Jammu Rising NEWS

## KBC 16 Gets Its First Crorepati From Jammu And Kashmir's Akhnoor

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, SEPT 26

The latest episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) season 16 saw a thrilling moment as 22-year-old Chander Prakash, a UPSC aspirant from Jammu & Kashmir's Akhnoor, became the first crorepati of the season.Hosted by the legendary Amitabh Bachchan, the show is a beloved quiz-based program where participants answer increasingly difficult questions to win large sums of money. The first episode of KBC 16 was aired in August year and Chander Prakash is the first contestant to bag the crorepati title.Chander Prakash's story is one of immense courage and perseverance. Since birth, he has dealt with numerous health complications, including a severe blockage in his intestine. He has undergone seven surgeries so far, with his doctors recommending an eighth. Despite this, Chander never allowed his medical issues to hinder his ambitions. He is currently preparing for the highly competitive UPSC exam, aspiring to serve the nation in the future. His participation in KBC showcased his indomitable spirit, and his appearance on the show quickly won the hearts of viewers.On Wednesday's rollover episode,the episode began with a warm welcome from Amitabh Bachchan, who praised Chander's determination and tenacity. Chander's backstory of facing health struggles was briefly revisited, setting the stage for a gripping episode as he faced his next set of questions on the road to becoming a crorepati.The first question posed by Bachchan that day was worth Rs 3,20,000: "A 'Yokozuna' is the highest rank attainable in which contact sport?" Confident in his knowledge, Chander selected Option B) Sumo Wrestling and won the amount with ease. His quick decision-making and



calm demeanor impressed both the audience and the host.Next up, Chander he successfully answered seven questions in a row in the "Super Sandook" segment. He said he would repay loans that his parents had taken for his medical treatment. Chander continued to answer questions confidently, reaching a sum of Rs 12.5 lakh. Amitabh Bachchan then presented him with the question for Rs 25,00,000: "Which of these is a 21st-century 'superfood' rich in omega-3 fatty acids, that was cultivated by the Aztecs more than 500 years ago?" Chander selected Option D) Chia Seeds, which turned out to be the correct answer.The next question, worth Rs 50,00,000, tested Chander's knowledge of mythology:According to the Padma Purana, with whom did Lord Krishna wage a battle over the fate of Chitrashena?" Unsure of the correct answer, Chander decided to use his first lifeline, "Video Call A Friend." However, the response he received did not fully satisfy him, leading him to use another lifeline, the "Audience Poll." With the audience's help, he selected Option B) Arjuna, which was the right answer. The audience once again stood to applaud him, and Chander described the mo-

ment as a dream come true.Chander then faced the Rs 1 crore question, which was: The largest city in which country is not its capital but a port with an Arabic name that means 'abode of peace'?" After deliberating and applying logic to narrow down the possible answers, Chander used the "Double Dip" lifeline.He chose Option C) Tanzania, and to his immense relief, it was the correct answer. Chander had officially become the first crorepati of Kaun Banega Crorepati season 16. He also bagged a gift from Hyundai, Venue SUV.Facing the Rs 7 Crore Jackpot QuestionHaving reached the Rs 1 crore mark, Chander was presented with the jackpot question for Rs 7 crore: Who was the first recorded child born to English parents in North America in 1587?" Unfortunately, Chander had already exhausted all three of his lifelines, and he admitted that he did not know the correct answer. Rather than risk losing his winnings, Chander decided to quit the game, a choice that Bachchan fully supported. Before leaving, Chander was asked to take a guess, and he selected Option A) Virginia Dare, which turned out to be the right answer.

## A seminar on Anemia Mukta Bharat organized...

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, SEPT 26

Anemia Mukta Bharat is an initiative launched by the Government of India to combat anemia, particularly among women and children. A Seminar on Anemia was organised by Vichar Kranti Manch International, Sarv Uthan Trust & Mission Happiness, which is a condition characterized by a deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin in the blood, leading to reduced oxygen transport. The chief Guest was Dr Kasturi Lal Gupta, Retired Principal Govt Medical College Jammu and Chairman Senior Citizens Service Support Club, was Presided over by Maj Gen S K Sharma, Gen Secy SCSS, Guests of Honour were S/Sh Ashok Gupta, Vice President VKMI, KS Samyal ,Advisor, Kailash Langar, A Social Activist, Abhinandan Jain, FA VKMI, Mrs Anju Bansal, Swar Kokila, Nursing Dass Sharma, top class Dogri poet, HC Vaid, President Shivalik, Bharat Vikas Parishad, the seminar was hosted by Sh Ashok Gupta, Former J&K Drug & FoodController.The main Speaker was Dr Shreyansh kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, President VKMI & Chairman Indian Yoga Association, he explained in details the Causes, Symptoms & treatment od Anemia through yoga and Home Remedies, said that this can cause fatigue, weakness, and other health problems.Causes of Anemia:\*Iron Deficiency: The most common cause of anemia, often due to inadequate intake of iron-rich foods.\*Vitamin Deficiency: Lack of vitamins like B12 and folic acid.\*Chronic Diseases: Conditions like kidney disease or cancer can interfere with red blood cell production.\*Blood Loss: Heavy menstruation, gastrointestinal bleeding, or trauma can



lead to anemia.\*Genetic Disorders: Conditions like sickle cell anemia and thalassemia affect red blood cell production.\*Malnutrition: Poor diet lacking essential nutrients.#Symptoms of Anemia:Fatigue and weakness,Pale or yellowish skin,Shortness of breath,Dizziness or lightheadedness,Cold hands and feet,Irregular heartbeats,Chest pain,Cognitive issues, such as trouble concentrating etc.#Treatment Through Yoga:Yoga can help manage anemia by improving blood circulation, enhancing oxygen levels, and boosting overall health. Some helpful yoga poses include:\$ Sarvangasana (Shoulder Stand): Improves blood circulation and balances the body's systems.\$ Halasana (Plow Pose): Stimulates abdominal organs and promotes better digestion, aiding nutrient absorption.\$ Paschimotanasana (Seated Forward Bend): Helps improve digestive fire, allowing better absorption of nutrients.\$ Shavasana (Corpse Pose): Reduces stress, promoting relaxation and recovery.#Pranayama (Breathing Exercises): Especially Anulom Vilom and Kapalabhati, enhance oxygen supply, revitalizing the body.Home Remedies for Anemia:Beetroot Juice: A powerful blood purifier rich in iron. Consuming beetroot juice daily helps increase hemoglobin.Spinach: An iron-rich vegetable. Adding spinach to your diet, in the form of soups or salads, helps combat anemia.Dates and Raisins: Both are high in iron and help to increase hemoglobin levels. Consuming soaked dates and raisins in the morning can be beneficial.Pomegranate Juice: This fruit contains iron, vitamins, and other minerals that help increase hemoglobin levels.Sesame Seeds: Soak black sesame seeds in water and make a paste. Mix it with honey and consume to boost iron levels.Fenugreek Leaves: Regular intake of fenugreek, both as leaves and seeds, helps to maintain iron levels in the body.Honey and Lemon: Drink a mixture of honey and lemon in warm water to improve iron absorption.Gooseberry (Amla) with Honey: Amla is rich in vitamin C, which helps in the absorption of iron.

cises): Especially Anulom Vilom and Kapalabhati, enhance oxygen supply, revitalizing the body.Home Remedies for Anemia:Beetroot Juice: A powerful blood purifier rich in iron. Consuming beetroot juice daily helps increase hemoglobin.Spinach: An iron-rich vegetable. Adding spinach to your diet, in the form of soups or salads, helps combat anemia.Dates and Raisins: Both are high in iron and help to increase hemoglobin levels. Consuming soaked dates and raisins in the morning can be beneficial.Pomegranate Juice: This fruit contains iron, vitamins, and other minerals that help increase hemoglobin levels.Sesame Seeds: Soak black sesame seeds in water and make a paste. Mix it with honey and consume to boost iron levels.Fenugreek Leaves: Regular intake of fenugreek, both as leaves and seeds, helps to maintain iron levels in the body.Honey and Lemon: Drink a mixture of honey and lemon in warm water to improve iron absorption.Gooseberry (Amla) with Honey: Amla is rich in vitamin C, which helps in the absorption of iron.

## Hindi Fortnight Concludes in Central Sanskrit University

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, SEPT 26

Hindi Fortnight, 2024 was celebrated from 14 to 26 September, 2024 under the aegis of the Official Language Cell of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Kot- Bhalwal, Jammu. On the occasion of the concluding programme, Dr. Jaiprakash Verma, Director of IGNOU Regional Center Jammu, speaking on the occasion said that Hindi has been playing an important role in the development of the concept of Indianness since the independence movement till today. We can create Hindi folklore by identifying the factors hindering the development of this language. We should try to make Hindi global from local. Also, everyone should make collective efforts to ensure that Hindi is used more and more in office work. Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor, Associate Director and Saraswat Guest of the program said thatLanguage has an amazing power. It connects us to each other. Language is not just a language, it is also a medium of expression of society, culture, history, identity of the nation and its future goals. On this occasion, Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra, in his presidential address, congratulated all the winning students, teachers and employees, and while giving good wishes, called upon everyone to continuously strive for the



prosperity and upliftment of Hindi, and participate in various competitions and activities held from time to time. By taking part in different events helps in honing your expression, skills and talent.The concluding program was inaugurated by Dr. Anay Mani Tripathi with Vedic invocation. The guests were welcomed by Dr. Rishiraj, Head of the Department of Education. The report of Hindi Fortnight was read by Dogri Professor Kamal Kishore. He said that various types of competitions like essay writing, antakshari, speech, song, debate and writing etc. were organized in the university campus for students, teachers and employees. All

the teachers, employees and students of the campus participated enthusiastically and made commendable contribution in the successful organization of all the competitions under Hindi Fortnight. On the occasion of the closing ceremony, the winners of various competitions, students, teachers and staff were honored by the guests by giving them prizes and certificates. Dr. Sarvesh Tripathi expressed a deep sense of gratitude to everyone for their active participation in making the program successful. All the teachers, staff and students were present on this occasion. The program was efficiently conducted by Dr. Rekha Mishra.

## SVEEP: Musical tunes inspire voter turnout at JU event



JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, SEPT 26

An enthralling mega cultural SVEEP event was held today at Central Park, Jammu University, aimed at encouraging voter participation for the upcoming October 1 elections in the district. The event featured musical

performances by popular singers Juhi Singh, Vanshika Jaral and Punjabi artist Sangram Hanjra, who energised the crowd, particularly the youth, urging them to actively engage in the voting process. Present at the event were General Observer Abhinav

Chandra, District Election Officer Sachin Kumar Vaishya, ADDC Sher Singh, ADC Shishir Gupta, SVEEP Nodal Officer Dr. Vikas Sharma, along with several other district officers. DEO Sachin Kumar Vaishya emphasised the importance of casting votes and called on eligible voters to participate in large numbers, particularly the first time voters in the electoral process. He also reassured voters of the Election Commission of India assured facilities at polling stations. General Observer Abhinav Chandra highlighted the significance of the upcoming election, and called upon everyone to participate. To further inspire voter turnout, a SVEEP election song was also released during the event.

## DEO Kishtwar reviews Counting Day preparations

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, SEPT 26

District Election Officer (DEO) Rajesh Kumar Shavan, accompanied by SSP Abdul Quayoom, today visited the proposed venue for the counting of votes for Assembly Election.

The team also inspected the strong rooms at Kendriya Vidyalaya, where the polled Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) from the recent Assembly Election have been securely stored. During the inspection, the DEO meticulously assessed the three-tier security system in place, ensuring that every protocol is being followed with utmost precision.

The inspection included a detailed examination of the log Register, CCTV cameras, and the control room. The DEO emphasized the importance of maintaining a flawless security setup round the clock. The key focus of the inspection was to take stock of the Counting centers to be established adjacent to the strong room for the counting day.He was satisfied with the



preparations made by the ROs with the assistance of PWD. Later, the Officer held a comprehensive interactive meeting with Master Trainers including District Level Master Trainers (DLMTs) and Assembly Level Master Trainers (ALMTs) in preparation for the upcoming counting day on October 8, 2024, under the Assembly Elections. The meeting focused on fine-tuning the district's prepared-

ness to ensure a smooth and efficient counting process. He lauded the role played by the Master trainers for training the staff and polling parties who exhibited the full accuracy of the procedure. He extended the congratulations to the Master Trainers on behalf of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) J&K, acknowledging their pivotal role in the successful conduct of the Assembly Elections across the district.

DEO further instructed Election Naib Tehsildar Kishtwar, Angrez Singh Jasrotia, to closely coordinate with the MTs to initiate training sessions for the staff involved in the counting process, strictly adhering to the Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines. The key aspects discussed during the meeting included the training of manpower for counting duties.

the establishment of a media cell for real-time dissemination of counting updates, a detailed road and traffic management plan, and of victory processions in the town if any post counting etc. The DEO emphasized the importance of meticulously refining all preparations to ensure that the counting day operations are conducted with the highest level of efficiency and transparency. The election authorities have been directed to fine-tune all necessary arrangements, ensuring that every detail is in place for a successful and orderly counting process.

## GCW Gandhinagar celebrated Gandhi Jayanti by organizing an Essay Writing competition and a Seminar.

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, SEPT 26

In a dual event to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti, the Department of English at Government College for Women, Gandhinagar, Jammu, hosted a seminar on "Gandhi's Vision for a Sustainable Future" and an essay writing competition on the theme "Relevance of Gandhi's Principles in Today's World." Both events highlighted the enduring relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings in addressing contemporary issues such as sustainability, social justice, and environmental conservation.

The events were held under the patronage of college Principal Dr. S.P. Saraswat, who emphasized the importance of adopt-

ing Gandhian principles for a sustainable future. Prof. Archana Bakshi, Head of the Department of English, reflected on Gandhi's advocacy for self-reliance and sustainable practices, noting how his ideals continue to inspire environmental movements.

In the seminar, students from various streams presented their views on how Gandhi's vision of balancing economic progress with environmental stewardship can address modern sustainability crises. Topics such as eco-friendly living, reducing consumerism, and applying Gandhian principles to environmental challenges were discussed.

Alongside the seminar, an essay writing

competition was organized to explore the ongoing relevance of Gandhi's principles of truth, non-violence, and simplicity in addressing modern societal challenges such as inequality and environmental issues. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across academic streams.

Faculty members Dr. Naresh Sharma, Dr. Jyoti Dutt, Dr. Shakun Mahajan, Dr. Chetna Mahajan, Dr. Kiran Kalra, Dr. Rippy Bawa, and Dr. Suman Bala were actively involved in organizing the event. Dr. Rippy Bawa welcomed the audience. Pratishtha from Semester V managed the proceedings, and Dr. Chetna Mahajan delivered the vote of thanks.

EDITORIAL

Celebrating World Pharmacy Day

World Pharmacy Day, observed every year on September 25th, is an opportunity to celebrate the vital role that pharmacists and pharmacy professionals play in ensuring public health. As one of the key pillars of healthcare, the pharmacy profession often operates behind the scenes, yet its impact is profound and far-reaching. This year's theme, "Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems," underscores the essential function that pharmacists perform in enhancing healthcare systems worldwide. Pharmacists are not only responsible for dispensing medications but also serve as accessible health advisors, providing valuable guidance on drug interactions, preventive healthcare, and chronic disease management. In many parts of the world, pharmacists are often the most readily available healthcare professionals, serving communities where doctors and hospitals may be limited. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of pharmacists was underscored. As the healthcare system strained under the pressure, pharmacists were on the frontline, ensuring that critical medications were available and that patients received accurate information. They played a key role in supporting vaccine distribution and counseling patients about the pandemic's evolving challenges. Yet, despite their crucial contributions, pharmacists are often overlooked in discussions about healthcare reforms and policy decisions. This neglect stems partly from the misconception that their role is purely transactional—limited to dispensing drugs rather than encompassing a more holistic approach to patient care. One of the key challenges facing the pharmacy profession is the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular illnesses. Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to combat these issues through medication management, patient education, and health screenings. Their proximity to patients offers a unique advantage in early intervention and long-term care. Moreover, the rise of digital health tools and telemedicine provides pharmacists with new opportunities to expand their roles. By integrating technology into their practice, pharmacists can provide virtual consultations, monitor patients remotely, and ensure adherence to medication regimens, thus becoming even more integral to healthcare delivery in the digital age. World Pharmacy Day is not only a time to celebrate past achievements but also an opportunity to look forward. In many countries, pharmacists still face challenges such as inadequate recognition, underutilization, and a lack of investment in training. There is a pressing need for governments and health organizations to further integrate pharmacists into the healthcare system, enabling them to fully utilize their expertise in clinical care and public health initiatives. As we commemorate World Pharmacy Day, let us take a moment to appreciate the critical work pharmacists do—work that ensures the safe and effective use of medicines, supports patient well-being, and strengthens the healthcare systems upon which we all rely. The pharmacy profession is essential, and its contributions to global health should be recognized, respected, and nurtured.

VIJAY GARG

India is another name for hopes and possibilities. India is a country which has shown the way to the world with the torch of knowledge for ages. Our Vedas and Upanishads are equally relevant even today after thousands of years, which tell us the ways to achieve fame by following the path of religion along with moral values. Even when the world was constantly fighting between justice and injustice, fame and fortune, people from far and wide used to come to world famous schools like Nalanda and Takshashila. Our ancient heritage in the field of knowledge is undoubtedly very great, and this tradition was broken and damaged when external terrorists came to India, sometimes in the form of Gauri, sometimes in the form of Babar. The British used education as a weapon for imperialism. When India got independence, the Indian education system was very pathetic. There is no evidence as to how many schools there were. There were community systems like Gurukul or missionary schools and a few private schools. In 1951, there were about 13 thousand primary and 7,000 higher secondary schools. The literacy rate was 12 percent, which is now more than 74 percent. Talking about universities, there were 27 universities at the time of independence, which has increased to 760 today. After independence, the slogan of education for all was given and for this a separate education department was established, which was later transformed into the Ministry of Human Resources and education department was established in every state so that the basic needs of education were fulfilled. This was necessary because it is a part of the concurrent list of the Constitution. In 1952-53, the Secondary Education Commission was formed, and NCERT was established in 1961 with the aim of focusing on the quality of education. In the initial phase, there were many challenges before the Planning Commission regarding how to take education to the masses and it was also kept in mind that primary education should be linked to the health of children, because the infant mortality rate was high during that period and schools were not functioning well. Through this, a concrete plan was implemented, and the role of Panchayats was also included in it, because Panchayats could better understand the number of schools needed and the needs of the students. In 1968, following the recommendations of the Kothari Education Commission, the

RAVI VALLURI

Often, conventional and commonplace way of thinking only results in clambering the ladder. A person leading a ho-hum existence cannot re-engineer his/her personality. Tale of an old man Aeons ago, lived an elderly gentleman who in the winter of his life decided to embark on a spiritual journey to transfigure his personality. The pater now embarked on the spiritual sojourn and enrolled in a monastery. Upon completing his tutelage, armed with various nuances of Zen teachings, he left for his small town. He stepped out of the portals of the temple of knowledge and involuntarily slipped into a rivulet. "Oh, the old monk falls in the river!" chortled some young tutees. He was to dramatically declare that the re-engineering processes and techniques he acquired had enabled him to accommodate water into himself and not the other way around. "We are shaped by our thoughts, we become what we think.

Seven Decade journey of Education

first National Education Policy was adopted and in 1975, the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme was started for the proper development of children up to 6 years of age. Understanding the responsibilities of both the states and education, the Constitution was amended in 1976 to change education from a 'state' subject to a 'concurrent' subject. The journey was still long and a lot of work was still to be done, and to fulfill this objective, a new National Education Policy was adopted in 1986, which was revised by Acharya in 1992. Some changes were made in the National Education Policy based on the review by the Ramamurthy Committee. With the aim of increasing the attendance of children in schools, the Centrally Aided Midday Meal Scheme was started in primary schools. Going two steps ahead, the Constitution was amended in 2002 under the Atal government to make free and compulsory education a fundamental right. By now the computer and internet revolution had gained momentum. Keeping this need in mind, a satellite dedicated to education 'EduSat' was launched in 2004. The year 2009 brought a major achievement when the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act was passed by the Indian Parliament. However, the social and economic background of the country was still a major obstacle with many problems like child marriage, child labor, poverty, discrimination, etc. But it is also true that the solution to these problems was also hidden in education itself. From the point of view of systematic development, campaigns and laws like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal and Right to Education played a big role in the field of education, due to which a large number of students joined schools. Today there is a primary school within a radius of every 1 kilometer. Work is currently underway on a new education policy to further improve school education. Meanwhile, today the reputation of Indian schools has increased rapidly. Not only private, but government schools have also performed well. Indian school students have achieved many successes in the country and abroad. For them, education not only means earning a living, but also means service to the country and society. Dropout of children from schools is a big problem. Undoubtedly, we have been successful in bringing children up to 14 years of age to schools through the right education, but the path ahead is difficult. The previous UPA government also

brought a no-detention policy that no one would be failed till class 8, but it did not yield any significant positive results; rather, it led to a decline in the standard of education. A major reason for the decline is the absence of teachers in schools and wherever they are, their qualifications are under question. Today lakhs of posts are lying vacant in schools. The student-teacher ratio reveals the reality that generally thousands of posts of teachers are vacant in every state. The country is currently facing a shortage of 12 to 14 lakh teachers. Apart from this, currently 5 lakh untrained people are teaching in private schools and more than 2.5 lakh untrained people are teaching in government schools, which is quite harmful. Many such challenges are still facing us today. If we talk about higher education, today there are 30,000 colleges and more than 700 universities in the country in which more than 1.5 crore students are enrolled. If we talk about the budgetary allocation on education, then while Rs 1,144 million was spent on education in the 1951 budget, this year in the 2017 budget there is a provision of Rs 79,685.95 crore on education. With a view to bringing changes in the field of higher education, the University Grants Commission or UGC was established in 1956. According to the 2011 census, only 25.2 percent of the population is able to achieve primary education, while 15.7 percent can reach secondary, 11.1 percent can reach matriculation, and only 8.6 percent can reach intermediate (higher secondary). Only four and a half percent of people in the country are graduates or have attained higher education. The British Council has found in one of its studies that by the year 2025, the highest number of people of studying age will be in India. The Government of India has set a very ambitious target. In a country like India, where even today many district headquarters do not have colleges or universities, the medium of distance education is very popular. It is a flexible medium, which allows students to pursue other hobbies while studying. The biggest thing is that it is also showing the path of higher education to working and employed people. Diploma, graduation, post graduation and management courses are run in these distance education centres. It is a better open university to study and make a career. IGNOU, whose method of study is different from traditional universities, has adopted a multimedia approach to

learning. Courses in science, computers, nursing, engineering and technology are also included. Enrolling in the open university is not difficult. These universities are quite flexible in their rules. The fees here are also generally less than normal institutions. Weekend classes are conducted at many places, which provides convenience to working people. In India, distance courses are currently offered in 1 national and 13 state open universities and more than 200 centers of different institutions. About 40 lakh students study in these. About 22 percent of the students taking admission in higher education institutions choose distance courses, while distance and open education accounts for 24 percent of the enrollment each year in India's educational institutions. Saying something about IITs and IIMs is like pointing a lamp to the sun. Engineers, managers, and professionals educated here are proving their skills in big companies all over the world. The first IIT was established in Kharagpur in 1951 and after this the second Indian Institute of Technology was established in Mumbai in 1958. After this, in 1959, IITs were established in Kanpur, Chennai, Delhi and Guwahati. Similarly, the first two Indian Institutes of Management were established in Ahmedabad and Kolkata. Today, there are many institutions on the lines of IITs and IIMs, from where thousands of students are shaping their future. On the initiative of the Prime Minister, Skill India was started with the aim of providing skills to every hand and employment to every hand so that the problem of unemployment in the country could be eliminated. Amazing results were seen from this scheme and in a short time, lakhs of entrepreneurs were created because the need to link education with employment had been felt for a long time. In the future, our population will be more young and technology will play a big role in the mobile revolution that has taken place today. There is still work to be done on how this technology can be better used in the field of education. However, in the 7 decades of independence, many revolutionary changes have taken place in the field of education, which are still continuing. It is expected that in the coming years, 100 percent of our population will not only be literate but will also establish us as a superpower in the world. **Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist malout**

Curious Minds Engineer Change

When the mind is pure, joy follows like a shadow that never leaves," said Gautama Buddha. The thought process, thinking patterns, building blocks of thought, organised thinking and goal direction are five keys to re-engineer the mind to metamorphose and refashion our lives. An ingenious individual to re-engineer his life has to change the existing pattern. He should begin by identifying the problem. In the swathes of his mind, such a process represents and delineates the problem; as he/she is mindful and discerning, solutions and a set of sub-goals are outlined. The quick-witted individual then selects the balm for the misadventure and executes it with precision. The human mind is now brim-full of ideas and it is time to evaluate the outcome and once again rethink and redefine problems and arrive at new solutions. It was the time of Sakhya Muni Gautama Buddha when an animated group of denizens were involved in a rambunc-

tious argument about Divinity and various religions. In sheer exasperation, they arrived at the feet of Lord Buddha. The Compassionate and Enlightened One smiled and ruminated for a while. Lord Buddha then asked his disciples to arrange for an elephant and for four persons to be blindfolded. And so, it happened that the first of the blindfolded persons felt the elephant's leg and exclaimed that God appeared as a pillar. The second person touched the elephant's tummy and opined that Almighty God was a wall. The third gentleman stroked the elephant's ear and observed that God was a piece of cloth. The fourth man grazed the tail and described that God was a piece of rope. Once again, the group of four was engaged in a raging debate on the form of Almighty God. After the exercise was completed, Buddha asked the assembled disciples and citizens. The four blindfolded indi-

viduals felt the same elephant, but provided varying answers, so what could be the correct answer? The episode just proved that no one individual or thought process is complete. One should always be prepared to accept that one might be correct in parts and that other streams of thought could be complementary. Techniques for training The spiritually inclined can re-engineer their lives by undertaking the bouquet of courses imparted by the Art of Living, or pursue Vipassana; attempting to mutate their minds through the practice of yoga, pranayama and meditation. Others have a logical bent of mind and charter a different path. They need to develop a passion, take up a sport, and read inspirational literature among other things. But it is elemental and foundational to re-engineer the mind and thought processes at regular intervals to live life with gusto.

# India-Bangladesh series: Kanpur Test to be Shakib Al Hasan's swansong unless...

**NEW DELHI**

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Thursday announced his retirement from T20 Internationals with immediate effect and also said that the second Test against India will be his last if his country's board doesn't give him a farewell match against South Africa at home.

His final international game for Bangladesh will be in the Champions Trophy which is likely to be held in UAE and Pakistan.

The 37-year-old great, who featured in 129 T20Is for Bangladesh will, however, continue to play in franchise leagues.

"I have played my last T20 match in T20 World Cup. We have discussed this with the selectors. Looking at the 2026 World Cup, this is the right time for me to move out. Hopefully, BCB will find some great players and we will perform well," said Shakib on the eve of the second and final Test against India in Kanpur.

Shakib, who has played 70 Tests, scoring 4,600 runs and taking 242 wickets, might just play his last Test in the north Indian industrial town in case the cricket board cannot assure him of his security after being accused of murder although he was not even in the country at that time.

"I have expressed my desire to play my last Test in Mirpur to BCB. They agreed with me. They are trying to organise everything so that I can go to Bangladesh. If that won't happen, the



match against India in Kanpur would be my last in Test cricket," he added.

Shakib was named as an accused in a murder case back home during the political unrest that led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He was a member of parliament from her party, the Awami League.

Shakib made the announcement while interacting with Bangladeshi media but spoke in English following a request from the Indian journalists.

In an unexpected turn of events, Shakib was named in an FIR in a murder case related to the civil protests in Bangladesh last August.

The case pertains to the death of garment worker Mohammed Rubel, whose father, Rafiqul Islam, filed the complaint on August 7.

The 37-year-old Shakib indicated that he may not travel back home after the

current series in India, if he cannot be promised safety.

"Going back to Bangladesh is not a problem but leaving is. My close friends and family members have concerns (about my safety), I hope things are better, well and there should be is a solution to it."

In January, Shakib had won an uncontested election to become a member of parliament for the then-ruling Awami League party. He was criticised for not speaking up for the student community during the protests.

Many Bangladeshis reportedly raised slogan against Shakib when he played in Pakistan. Even non-resident Bangladeshis hurled abuses during a private T20 league, the video of which became viral on social media.

"I have 8 games to go in ODIs, and the Champions Trophy will be my last."

# ICC Test rankings: Rishabh Pant re-enters top 10; Rohit, Kohli fall

**NEW DELHI**

Riding on a sensational century in his Test comeback, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant on Wednesday re-entered the ICC rankings at an impressive sixth position but India skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli slipped in a major shake-up in standings.

(731), who smashed a stunning century in the opening game of the two-Test series against Bangladesh in Chennai, was placed sixth, while opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (751), moved up to fifth thanks to a half-century in the first innings of the Test match.

India skipper Rohit Sharma retained his place in the top 10, though he moved down five places with two underwhelming scores. He has 716 rating points.

Kohli also dropped five spots to go out of the top-10 and he is now placed 12th in the standings.

The Sri Lanka-New Zealand Test in Galle brought about top 10 bowling rankings shifts, with Prabath Jayasuriya solidifying his reputation as one of the game's best spinners, moving five spots into eighth after a nine-wicket haul.

Jayasuriya (743) is the highest-ranked player representing Sri Lanka across the three disciplines, moving past Asitha Fernando, who slid down two spots to 13th (700).

Kamindu Mendis, who moved up three spots to 16th in the batting rankings and Dhananjaya de Silva,



who climbed five spots to 18th on the All-Rounder Rankings (168) were other movers over note in the victory.

In ODI rankings, young Afghan star Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Australian Travis Head leapt into the top 10 in the Batting rankings, thanks to quick-fire hundreds in action across UAE and England.

Gurbaz continued his dream career start in ODI cricket, hitting his seventh century in the format before his 23rd birthday, and moving 10 spots in the process up to eighth (692) to become the first-ever Afghan batter to reach the top 10 positions of the ICC Men's ODI Batting Ranking.

The previous best performer from the Asian country in the ODI Batting Rankings was Ibrahim Zadran, who had reached the 12th rank.

Gurbaz edged Head, who moved seven spots to ninth (684) in large part thanks to his 154 not out (129) in the first of five ODIs against rivals England. Afghan leg-spinner Rashid Khan joined Rahmanullah in the rankings headlines, moving eight spots to third (668) in the ODI Bowling Rankings, claiming seven wickets across the team's two victories against South Africa in UAE.

contributions of the pair helped Afghanistan to an ODI series win over the Proteas, their first against a top five-ranked opposition in their history.

# France, Real Madrid icon Raphael Varane retires from football

**NEW DELHI**

Former France and Real Madrid center-back Raphael Varane announced his retirement on Wednesday, ending a career that included a World Cup title and a big haul of club trophies.

The 31-year-old Varane signed with promoted Serie A club Como in July but injured his knee during his only appearance with the club an Italian Cup match against Sampdoria last month.

"In my career I have taken on many challenges, rose to occasion after occasion, almost all of it was supposed to be impossible," Varane wrote on Instagram. "Reflecting on these moments, it is with immense pride and a feeling of fulfilment that I am announcing my re-

tirement from the game that we all love."

Varane was arguably the tournament's standout defender when France won the 2018 World Cup in Russia, where he scored the most important of his five international goals with a header against Uruguay in the quarter-finals.

An elegant, ball-playing defender with excellent positional sense thanks to his quick reading of the game, Varane formed a solid center back pairing with Samuel Umtiti in that tournament.

He also helped Madrid to four Champions League titles and three Spanish league trophies.

He moved to Manchester United in

2021 but was restricted to 95 appearances in his three seasons in England mainly because of injuries.

Varane began his career at Lens.

From Lens to Madrid to Manchester, and playing for our national team. I have defended every badge with everything I have, and loved every minute of the journey, Varane said. I have no regrets, I wouldn't change a thing. I have won more than I could have even dreamed of."

Varane had already retired from France's national team, a few months after the World Cup final defeat to Argentina in 2022. During that match, his 93rd for Les Bleus after making his debut in 2013, he fell to the ground exhausted deep into extra time.

# Is Kanpur's Green Park Stadium, the venue of second India-Bangladesh Test, unsafe?

**NEW DELHI**

With India winning the first Test against Bangladesh in Chennai by 280 runs, the Indian fans will be hoping for another clinical performance when the two sides clash in Kanpur in the second and final Test tomorrow.

The Green Park Stadium will be hosting the first international match since 2021. But, much to the spectators' dismay, the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD) has, reportedly, declared one of the stands in the stadium as dangerous.

PWD engineers inspected the Balcony C stand and have, reportedly, asked the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) to close it during match, as it was in dire need of repair and may collapse if packed to full capacity.

"The PWD has raised some issues and we have agreed that we will not sell all the tickets of Balcony C. We have been told to sell only 1,700 tickets for the stand, which has a capacity of 4,800. The repair work will continue for the next couple of days," UPCA CEO Ankit Chatterjee told The Indian Express.

The Green Park Stadium, which is owned by the state sports department and is not directly under UPCA, has



had limited international game exposure because of the presence of the relatively new and better-equipped Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow.

Will Kuldeep Yadav play at home? the focus shifts from the stands to the pitch, all eyes will be on whether local boy Kuldeep Yadav will make the playing XI.

He made his Test debut more than seven years ago, but has played only 12 Tests till date. Despite 53 wickets at an average of 21.05, Yadav has mostly been included in the squad as a backup spinner to his illustrious partners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.

The second Test in Kanpur will be the best chance for Yadav to get a look-in. According to the Green Park Stadium curator, the pitch will help the pacers in the first two sessions and assist spinners on the last three days.

The pitch there is made from black soil, which is sourced from Kali Mitti village near Unnao. Such pitches traditionally help spinners, while red soil pitches help the pacers. The pitch is expected to play low and slow.

The catch, however, is that a turning pitch can also benefit Bangladesh, who have able spinners in their team like Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan.

# Rodri ligament injury: What we know so far about Manchester City midfielder's return date

**NEW DELHI**

Manchester City midfielder Rodri has ligament damage in his right knee, the club said Wednesday without giving a time frame for his potential absence.

The Spain international, who is among the favourites to win this year's Ballon d'Or award for the best player in the world, limped off after 20 minutes of the 2-2 draw against Arsenal in the Premier League on Sunday.

The 28-year-old Rodri travelled to Spain on Monday to seek specialist consultation on the problem and City has confirmed he suffered a ligament injury.

Assessment remains ongoing to ascertain the full extent of the injury and expected prognosis, the English champions said.

City manager Pep Guardiola said Tuesday he expects to be without Rodri for "a long time" but revealed there were "some opinions that it will be less than we expect.

We're waiting for the last phone calls from the doctors to know exactly what definitely he has and the type of surgery he has to get, Guardiola said after City's 2-1 win over Watford in the English League Cup.

Rodri's absence is a major blow to City's ambitions of winning a record-extending fifth straight Premier League title this season as he is arguably the team's most important player because of how he protects the defense and conducts its passing game.



His importance to Guardiola's team was underlined last season when City lost four of nine games without the inspirational midfielder in all competitions. By comparison, City lost just one of 50 games with him in the team.

Guardiola said Tuesday that Rodri is the best midfielder in the world and described him as irreplaceable.

Rodri fell to the ground in pain after jostling with Arsenal's Thomas Partey in the box at a corner and immediately called for help. He was starting a game for the second time this season after being granted an extended break by City following the European Championship, which Rodri won with Spain in July.

He was also voted player of the tournament at Euro 2024.

Just last week, Rodri said top players could soon go on strike because of the

number of games they are being asked to play as new competitions are introduced to an already-packed soccer calendar and matches are added to existing tournaments.

The Champions League has been expanded this season with two more games for each club in a new-look league stage in the first round. Next year's expanded Club World Cup will be a 32-team event for the first time and is slated to take place during the offseason for many major leagues, in June-July.

The new Club World Cup format has prompted a legal challenge from players' unions.

On Tuesday, Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said the risk of more injuries to top players was almost unavoidable because of the increased demands on players.

# Real's Kylian Mbappe suffers muscle injury ahead of La Liga Madrid derby; details here

**NEW DELHI**

Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe has suffered a muscle injury, the LaLiga club said on Wednesday, casting doubt over the French international's participation in the weekend derby against Atletico Madrid.

Mbappe, signed from Paris St Germain this year, has been in fine form this season, scoring seven goals for Real in nine matches across all competitions. The 25-year-old was substituted in the 80th minute of the 3-2 home win over Deportivo Alaves in LaLiga on Tuesday and gestured to his thigh while leaving the pitch.

"Following tests carried out today by Real Madrid's



Medical Services on our player Kylian Mbappe, he has been diagnosed with an injury to the biceps femoris in his left leg," Real said in a statement. "His progress will be monitored." Spanish media reported that Mbappe will be ruled out of Sunday's

goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen to a serious injury. The German custodian sustained a complete rupture of a tendon in his right knee that requires surgery. Barcelona said that surgery on Ter Stegen's knee was planned Monday after tests confirmed that he has a complete rupture in the patella tendon in his right knee.

The news of Marc's injury was a big shock for us," Nagelsmann said Monday. "We in the national team are going to miss him on and off the field. We wish Marc all the best for the operation and a quick recovery. We'll always be there for him on his way back.

Real are second in the LaLiga standings on 17 points, one behind Barcelona who have a game in hand and host second-bottom Getafe later on Wednesday.

Earlier, La Liga leaders Barcelona had lost their



A vehicle buried under the debris after landslide at Sanjauli, in Shimla.

## Those whose family made country pauper now damaging its image abroad: Thakur targets Rahul

PUNE, SEP 26

Former Union minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday launched a veiled attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, stating that those whose family and party ruled the country for long and made it pauper are now denting its image abroad. The BJP leader also alleged that the Congress' mentality is to finish off the system of reservation in the country. Thakur was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of 'Viksit Bharat Ambassador - Yuva Connect Program' held at Fergusson College here. Asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi's separate visits to the US in the recent past, Thakur said that after Modi became the PM, the respect of the country and its 140 crore people increased at the global level and India is now ranked in the first five economies. "But those whose family and party reigned the country for 60 years and made the country pauper, they are now damaging the image of the country abroad," he said. These people spread lies, put forth such a propaganda that the image of the country gets affected. But people of the country know who is increasing its respect and who is insulting it, the former minister added. "When such persons insult the people of the country at the global level, the outsiders ask



whether they belong to India or Pakistan," he said. On the Karnataka High Court dismissing a petition filed against the governor's sanction for the prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged MUDA scam, he said that after high court's order, he should resign as the CM. "Till the time the probe gets over, he should not occupy the CM's chair. The allegations of corruption are grave," he said. Asked about Gandhi's remarks made in the US about reservation and the Sikh community, he said it had been Congress's mentality to finish off the system of reservation in the country. "Be it (former PMs)

Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress, it has been their mentality to finish reservation. Rahul Gandhi also expressed the same sentiments on the foreign soil," he alleged. It is the Congress that spread misinformation about Sikhs as under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi, the Sikhs were killed in the country and atrocities were committed, Thakur said. "Now, Rahul Gandhi is damaging the image of the country by spreading lies. While Congress insulted Sikhs, the Modi government formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to give justice to the community and opened the Kartarpur Corridor," he said.

## Shambhu border closure major issue; people facing problems: Khattar

AMBALA, SEPT 26

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has said the closure of the Shambhu border is a "big problem" for traders and locals alike as he lashed out at protestors sitting on the Punjab side of the state's border, claiming they are wearing masks of farmers who want to destabilise elected Governments. The former Haryana Chief Minister was addressing a gathering in Ambala City on Tuesday in favour of BJP candidate Aseem Goel. "The big problem is the closure of (Shambu) border. Common people, especially traders, are facing problems due to its closure," Khattar, who is MP from Karnal, said. "We had plans to open the border. But those sitting across are not farmers, but wearing mask of farmers, few such people who want to damage the

system, destabilise the established governments, they are such people," he alleged. "Don't have to go into details, you also know who they are," Khattar said. As Ambala city is close to Shambhu border, Ambala is facing the brunt and people face difficulties, he said. "We were moving ahead, but the matter was taken up in courts. Now, the case is before the Supreme Court, which has formed a committee. I feel a solution will be found.. But keep in mind the court will not allow (the border) to open without condition. And there is reason for this. The kind of havoc they created last time (during farmers' stir in 2021), which farmer will disrespect the nation by climbing the Red Fort," he said. Farmers under the banner of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan

Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' march to press the Government to accept their various demands which include that the Centre should give a legal guarantee for MSP for crops. The protesting farmers have been staying put at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 when their march was stopped by the security forces. The Supreme Court had recently constituted a committee headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Justice Nawab Singh to amicably resolve the grievances of protesting farmers at the Shambhu border. The court was then hearing the Haryana Government's plea challenging the High Court's order asking it to remove within a week the barricades erected at the Shambhu border.

## SC asks Maharashtra govt to hold meeting with CJ on redevelopment of Bombay HC annexe building

NEW DELHI, SEP 26

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Maharashtra chief secretary to hold a meeting with the chief justice of the Bombay High Court and other judges for taking a decision on re-development of a PWD and annexe buildings adjacent to the present iconic high court building in Mumbai for shifting some courtrooms and other facilities there. Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on September 23 laid the foundation stone of the Bombay High Court's new complex in Mumbai's Bandra region.

The apex court, which is hearing a suo motu case titled as 'Heritage Building of the Bombay High Court and allotment of additional lands for the High Court', was of the view that till the time, the new high court building comes up at Bandra, some of the facilities needed to be shifted to a PWD building adjacent to the present high court premises. A special bench comprising the CJI and Justices B R Gavai and JB Pardiwala was also of the view that the annexe building of the high court, where some of the courts and other facilities are still there, needed urgent repairs as well. "A meeting will be called by

the chief justice of the Bombay High Court (Justice D K Upadhyaya) and other judges with the chief secretary to discuss the redevelopment of a certain portion of the PWD building and the repairs of the annexe building," the bench said. The top court also asked the state government to explore providing some space to the high court to set up its arbitration and mediation centre in the Air India building in south Mumbai and discuss this aspect as well in the meeting between the chief secretary and the HC chief justice and other judges.

## Bharat is unstoppable: PM Modi on Make in India's 10th anniversary



NEW DELHI, SEP 26

On the 10th anniversary of his government's 'Make in India' drive, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday affirmed that the flagship initiative to boost manufacturing has transformed a dream into a powerful movement and its impact shows that "Bharat is unstoppable." In a blog on LinkedIn, he lauded everyone who played a role in making the initiative a "roaring success", saying each of them is a pioneer, visionary and innovator, whose tireless efforts have fuelled the programme's success, making India the focus of global attention as well as curiosity. "It is the collective drive, relentless in nature, which has transformed a dream into a powerful movement. The impact of 'Make in India' shows that Bharat is unstoppable," he said. Asserting that a lot goes in India's favour today as it is a perfect blend of democracy, demography and demand, Modi said the country has what it takes to be a key player in the global supply chain seen as a reliable partner for business. "The momentum is clearly in India's favour. Despite facing unprecedented challenges like the global pandemic, India has remained firmly on the growth track. Today, we are being seen as drivers of global growth. I call upon my young friends to come and join us in taking Make in India to new heights. We all must strive for excellence. Delivery quality should be our commitment. Zero defect should be our mantra," said

Modi. "Together, we can continue to build an India that not only meets its own needs but also serves as a manufacturing and innovation powerhouse for the world," he added. 'Make in India' was launched to increase India's strides in manufacturing to ensure that a talented nation as India is not merely an importer but an exporter as well, the prime minister said. "Reflecting on this past decade, I cannot but be filled with a sense of pride in how far the strength and skills of 140 crore Indians have got us. The imprint of 'Make in India' has become visible across sectors, including areas where we never even dreamt of making an impact," he said. Citing examples, Modi said India had only two mobile manufacturing units in the entire country and the number has risen to over 200. "Our mobile exports have skyrocketed from a mere Rs 1,556 crore to an astounding Rs 1.2 lakh crore – a mind-boggling 7500 per cent increase! Today, 99% of mobile phones used in India are Made in India. We've become the second-largest mobile manufacturer globally," he said. In the steel industry, the country has become a net exporter of finished steel, with production increasing by over 50 per cent since 2014. "Our semiconductor manufacturing sector has attracted investments worth over Rs 1.5 lakh crore, with five plants approved that will have a com-

## SC cautions courts against misogynistic comments, says no part of India can be called Pakistan

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26

The Supreme Court on Wednesday cautioned courts against making comments that may be construed as "misogynistic" or directed towards a particular "gender or community" and said no part of Indian territory can be called Pakistan. The apex court's strong observations came as it closed the suo motu proceedings over Karnataka High Court judge Justice V Srishananda's alleged objectionable comments during court proceedings. The Supreme Court also noted that he had apologised for his observations during open court proceedings on September 21. A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud observed that since Justice Srishananda was not a party to proceedings before it, "we desist from making any further observations save and except to express our serious concern about both the reference to gender and to a segment of the community". The top court on September 20 took suo motu cognisance of the judge's comments against a woman lawyer during court proceedings in a case and his reference to a Muslim-majority area in Bengaluru as "Pakistan" in another. "Casual observations may well reflect a certain degree of individual bias particularly when they are likely to be perceived as being directed to a particular gender or community," the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Roy, said on Wednesday. "Courts, therefore, have to be careful not to make comments in the course of judicial proceedings which may be construed as being misogynistic or for that matter prejudicial to any segment of our society," it said. Referring to the text of a report submitted before it by the registrar general of the Karnataka High Court, the bench said it amply indicated that observations made in the course of proceedings there were unrelated to the course of proceedings and should have best been eschewed. "The perception of justice to every segment of society is as important as the rendition of



justice as an objective fact," it said. "Such observations are liable to be construed in a negative light, thereby impacting not only the court of the judge who express them but the wider judicial system," it said. After the bench dictated the order in the court room, Attorney General R Venkataramani referred to some messages on X about the observations and termed them "absolutely vitriolic". "Now you have seen the nature of the observations. We can't call any part of the territory of India as Pakistan. Because that fundamentally is contrary to the territorial integrity of the nation," the CJI observed. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said social media can't be controlled and the anonymity attached with it makes it "very dangerous". "But should I tell you, the answer to sunlight is more sunlight. Not to suppress what happens in the courts," Justice Chandrachud observed, adding that the answer was not to close doors and shut everything down. The bench said the prevalence and reach of social media has included wide reporting of court proceedings and most high courts in the country have now adopted rules for live streaming or for conduct of video-conferencing. "Emerging as a necessity in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, video-conferencing and live streaming of proceedings has emerged as an important outreach facility of courts to promote access to justice," it

said. The bench said all stakeholders in the judicial system, including the judges, lawyers and litigants particularly parties-in-person, have to be conscious that the reach of proceedings which takes place in the courts does not extend to merely those who are physically present but also to audiences. "This places an added responsibility on judges and lawyers as well as litigants who appear in person to conduct proceedings conscious of the wider impact of casual observations on the community at large," it said. The bench said it was important that every judge should be aware of their own predispositions. "The heart and soul of judging is the need to be impartial and fair. Intrinsic to that process is the need for every judge to be aware of our own predispositions because it is only on the basis of such awareness that we can truly be faithful to the fundamental obligation of the judge to deliver objective and fair justice," it said. The bench said it was emphasising this point because it was necessary for every stakeholder to understand that the only values which must guide judicial decision making were those which were enshrined in the Constitution. The top court noted that report of the high court's registrar general deals with two proceedings before the judge, the first which took place on June 6 and the other on August 28.



Debris is piled near damaged houses along a river running through Wajima, Japan following heavy rain in central Japan's Noto peninsula area, where a devastating earthquake took place on Jan. 1.

## Sri Lanka’s Parliamentary election to cost more than presidential poll, says official

COLOMBO, SEPT 26

Sri Lanka’s parliamentary election to be held on November 14 will cost more than last week’s presidential poll, the island nation’s top election official said on Wednesday.

Saman Sri Ratnayake said that the parliamentary election would cost 11 billion Sri Lankan rupees (approximately INR 3 billion) up from 10 billion rupees for the presidential election.

President Anura Kumara Disسانayake, who won the presidential elections, dissolved Parliament on Tuesday to call a snap election.

The last parliament was convened in August 2020. The dissolution has come 11 months ahead of schedule.

However, the money for the parliamentary election was not allocated in the current year’s budget.

“The president is legally obliged to provide monies to hold the election even without budgetary allocations”, Ratnayake said.

The previous president, Ranil Wickremesinghe, planned to hold the parliamentary election next year as they were due



in August next year.

Wickremesinghe, as the minister of finance, had limited the money allocation this year only to cover the presidential election.

The highest court in early August ruled that Wickremesinghe as the finance minister had violated fundamental rights of voters by his refusal to provide monies to hold the 2023 local council elections.

Wickremesinghe, 75, who took charge in 2022 after then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigned, held there was no

money then due to the economic crisis and the economic recovery was more important than holding the local elections.

On Tuesday, President Disسانayake appointed his cabinet of four, including himself and also Harini Amarasuriya was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, making her the 16th person to hold the position.

The Election Commission also noted that the voter registration list prepared for the presidential election will be used for the general election.

## NGO appeals to help deceased Indian-origin Israeli soldier’s family to immigrate

JERUSALEM, SEPT 26

An Israeli NGO, which has been at the forefront of immigration of Indian-origin Jews from the northeastern states of Manipur and Mizoram who are commonly referred to as Bnei Menashe, has appealed for help regarding immigration of a deceased soldier’s family to Israel.

Staff Sergeant Geri Gideon Hanghal, 24, was killed on duty earlier this month in a vehicle ramming attack near Asaf Junction, close to the West Bank’s Beit El settlement.

“First Sgt Gideon Hanghal was a Bnei Menashe hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for Israel. Meanwhile, Gideon’s

brother, along with his wife and two children, are among those still waiting to be allowed to make aliyah (immigration),” a message issued by Shavei Israel said.

“We must help Gideon’s family and honour his memory in the best way possible: for the Israeli government to bring all the remaining Bnei Menashe to Israel,” it further said.

“Every last one of the 5,000 Bnei Menashe in India who wants to make aliyah should be allowed to do so – as soon as possible,” the organisation said, asking people to “join us as we do what we can to help Gideon’s family, and bring his remaining relatives on aliyah”.

The stated goal of the organ-

isation is to reach out to “lost and hidden” Jews around the world and help them reconnect with the people and the State of Israel.

“We owe him that much,” Shavei Israel said emphasising the need to help the deceased soldier’s family remaining in India to immigrate.

Hanghal was a resident of Nof HaGalil and a soldier in the Kfir Brigade’s Nahshon Battalion, as per the Israeli army.

Community members expressed shock at the news of the loss of a young life and his funeral attracted a large gathering.

Hanghal immigrated to Israel from Manipur in 2020.

## Jasleen Kaur’s Turner Prize shortlisted exhibition goes on display at Tate Britain

LONDON, SEPT 26

Glasgow-born artist Jasleen Kaur, whose artwork inspired by her life growing up in Scotland’s Sikh community was shortlisted for the prestigious Turner Prize, on Wednesday opened to the public as part of a major exhibition at Tate Britain in London.

London-based Kaur, in her 30s, has created sculptures from gathered and remade objects, each of which are animated through an immersive sound and musical composition interspersed with the artist’s own renditions.

Back in April, Kaur was shortlisted alongside three other fellow UK artists – Pio Abad of Filipino heritage, Black British Arts Movement founding member Claudette Johnson and Delaine Le Bas of Romani heritage – for the prize which will award the winner GBP 25,000 (USD 33,420 approx), with GBP 10,000 (USD 13,370 approx) each for the nominated artists.

While the winner will be announced at an awards ceremony at Tate Britain on December 3, the exhibition of their works will run at the museum on the banks of the River Thames until mid-

February 2025.

“Jasleen studied jewellery making and then applied art, so she’s very interested in making objects in combinations around the stories that they can tell,” said Linsey Young, co-curator of the exhibition at Tate Britain.

“Her room is made up of installations that are looking at anti-colonialist discussion, anti-imperialist struggles and really assessing those against her lived experience, her family and upbringing. It includes a Ford car and she talks about it as being one of her dad’s ambitions and migrant desires; when he moved from India to Glasgow, having a car like that was an aspiration.

“It’s covered in a crocheted cotton doily (ornamental mat), so a kind of domestic object made very, very large where the cotton material relates to histories of migration and labour – of Indian people coming to the north of England after the war and working in cotton mills,” she said.

Other items making up Kaur’s display include family photos, a harmonium, a lush carpet inviting visitors to sit and kinetic worship bells, all orchestrated to convey the artist’s upbringing in Scotland.

A central feature is music

entitled ‘Yearnings 2023’, an improvised vocal soundscape of the artist’s voice layered over snippets of pop songs playing from the speakers of ‘Sociomobile 2023 – the vintage Ford Escort – filling the space with Kaur’s musical memory.

In an accompanying film at the exhibition, the artist reflects upon the Sikh concept of Miri Piri, which talks of finding a balance between the political and spiritual and wants to explore the different ways for humanity to live together through her art.

The Turner Prize jury praised her “evocative combination of sound and sculpture to address specifics of family memory and community struggle”.

“This year’s artists each make vibrant and varied work that reflects not just their personal memories and familial stories, but also speaks to wider questions of identity, myth, belonging and community. Through their varied practices, they offer us a lens through which to reconsider both our tangled histories and our shared futures,” said Alex Farquharson, Director of Tate Britain and chair of the Turner Prize jury.

## UN remains prisoner of past, Global South cannot continue to be short-changed: Jaishankar on UNSC reform



UNITED NATIONS, SEP 26

Asserting that the United Nations remains a “prisoner” of the past, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said countries of the Global South cannot continue to be “short-changed” and their proper representation in the permanent category in a reformed UN Security Council is a “particular imperative”.

Jaishankar made these remarks at the 2nd Foreign Ministers meeting of G20 Brasil 2024 on the theme ‘Building a just world and a sustainable planet’.

“The world has evolved into a smart, interconnected and multipolar arena and its members have increased fourfold since the UN’s inception. Yet the UN remains a prisoner of the past,” Jaishankar said.

He said that as a result, the UN Security Council struggles to fulfil its mandate of maintaining international peace and stability, undermining its effectiveness and credibility.

Addressing the event in the UN Headquarters Wednesday, Jaishankar said that “without reforms, including expansion in both categories of UNSC membership,” the lack of effectiveness of the 15-nation body will

only continue.

“Expansion and proper representation in the permanent category is a particular imperative. Asia, Africa and Latin America – the Global South – cannot continue to be short-changed,” he said adding that they must be given their legitimate voice.

Jaishankar emphasised that real change needs to happen and happen fast.

India has been at the forefront of years-long efforts calling for reform of the Security Council, including expansion in both its permanent and non-permanent categories, saying the 15-nation Council, founded in 1945, is not fit for purpose in the 21st Century and does not reflect contemporary geo-political realities.

Delhi has underscored that it rightly deserves a permanent seat at the horse-shoe table.

India last sat at the UN high table as a non-permanent member in 2021-22. A polarised Security Council has also failed to deal with current peace and security challenges with Council members sharply divided on conflicts such as the Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has also

noted that the United Nations had 51 Member States when it was established nearly 80 years ago, and today it is made up of 193 nations. ?

The UN chief warned that the 15-nation United Nations Security Council, which he has described as “outdated” and whose authority is eroding, will eventually lose all credibility unless its composition and working methods are reformed. The UN chief has given a clarification that “we can’t build a future for our grandchildren with a system built for our grandparents.”

On reform of the multilateral trading system, Jaishankar said India remains unwavering in its commitment to rules-based, non-discriminatory, fair, open, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core.

Delhi strongly supports policies that foster trade and investment, enabling every nation to flourish in an interconnected and dynamic world, he said.

He said that to foster a favourable trade and investment environment, “we must ensure a truly level playing field and fair competition. Market distorting practices and protectionism must be firmly discouraged,” he said.

India calls for comprehensive reform of the WTO to enhance its functions through an inclusive, member-driven and transparent process.

“It remains committed to constructive discussions for realising a fully operational and effective dispute settlement system accessible by all members.

He stressed that a reformed and fair multilateral trading system is vital for “our future to be more equitable and inclusive.”

## Police to remain on highest alert for Durga puja celebration in Bangladesh’s capital: Police chief

DHAKA, SEP 26

Police will be placed on the highest alert at every puja mandap in Bangladesh’s capital to ensure that the Hindu community celebrate Durga Puja peacefully, a top police official said on Wednesday, amid concerns of possible unrest during the festival.

Durga puja will be celebrated in Bangladesh from October 9 to 13.

“We have already started taking measures to ensure the security of the puja mandaps,” Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Mainul Hassan was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

Hassan said that police both in uniform and plain clothes will be on the highest alert to ensure unprecedented security arrangements during the Durga Puja. “Besides, SWAT, crisis response team, quick response team, crime scene van and bomb disposal unit will be kept ready to make the security measures foolproof,” he said.

He made the remarks while presiding over a meeting on security, law and order and traffic management centring the Sharodia Durga Puja at its headquarters here. Senior police officers and leaders of the Hindu community were present at the meeting.



Hassan said they have chalked out the security plan in three phases — pre-puja, during puja and the immersion of the goddess Durga — to ensure foolproof security to celebrate the puja peacefully, the agency said.

The official called upon the leaders of the Puja Udjapn Parishad to ensure sure effective operation of the closed circuit camera televisions (CCTVs) round the clock during the festival, alongside appointing own volunteers at the puja mandaps to help police in ensure peaceful celebration of the festival.

“We hope the Durga Puja will be celebrated in a festive and peaceful manner with collective efforts of all,” he said.

Earlier this month, the interim government’s Religious

Affairs Adviser AFM Khalid Hossain warned tough action against those disrupting communal harmony or targeting places of worship during the Hindu festival.

He urged the Hindu community to celebrate their festivals with enthusiasm and religious fervour and assured them that no one would be allowed to harm their temples.

The minority Hindu population faced vandalism of their businesses, properties and destruction of temples during the student-led violence that erupted following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. After unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India.

## Envoys of different countries raising serious concerns over ‘political chaos’ in Pakistan: Maryam Nawaz



LAHORE, SEPT 26

Ambassadors of different countries are raising serious concerns over “political chaos” in Pakistan, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said Wednesday, amid reports that ‘friendly countries’ are reluctant to invest in the cash-strapped nation due to political instability.

“Today an ambassador of a

country met (ex-premier and PML-N president) Nawaz Sharif and me, and inquired about ‘political chaos’ in Pakistan. Nawaz Sharif told him that political upheaval is not a new thing in Pakistan as he has grown older seeing this,” Maryam said while addressing a ceremony in Faisalabad city of Punjab.

On Wednesday, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong

called on both Nawaz and Maryam in Lahore. A day earlier, US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome met the father and daughter and discussed the ongoing political situation in the country.

Maryam said that in Pakistan political upheaval is the order of the day and even she does not know how long she remains in office. “The political chaos continues in the country and even I don’t know how long I will remain in office (of CM),” she said.

Since the last two years political instability has been on the rise in Pakistan with the country’s most popular party – Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) – is in loggerheads with the military establishment.

PTI supremo and former prime minister Imran Khan has been in jail for over one year in multiple cases and the military establishment is accused of installing a hybrid regime of Shehbaz Sharif after massively rigging early this year’s general election which the PTI claims it had won with a two-thirds majority.

# People will get to see a different side of me in 'Citadel: Honey Bunny': Varun Dhawan



Actor Varun Dhawan on Thursday credited directors Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK for giving him a chance to explore a nuanced character in "Citadel: Honey Bunny".

Dhawan plays Bunny in his streaming debut opposite Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Honey. The story is the India chapter of Prime Video's global series "Citadel", starring Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden.

"Raj & DK are such wonderful directors. I had a good time learning from them and being directed by them. People will get to see a different side of mine, which I don't think I've gone into since 'Badlapur'. I got a chance now. They've pushed me into a corner to get that performance, I'm glad it happened," Dhawan told reporters here at the teaser launch event of the show.

"Badlapur", the 2015 movie by Sriram Raghavan, saw the actor playing the role of a husband who becomes the monster he is chasing as he tries to avenge the death of his wife and child. The film was a major milestone in Dhawan's career.

Asked about his filmmaker father, David Dhawan, being concerned about how playing a dark character affected him, the actor said he has learned to switch off from his performances now.

"With my dad, it was just that he didn't like how my personality had become post 'Badlapur'. He likes to see me in a certain way, always. But when this came about, and

I've matured so much since then, he knows that I can handle all these things.

"He was talking as a parent, that's David Dhawan, the parent. But he was so excited that I was working with Raj & DK because he has loved their work in the past so much. So, he is more excited about it."

The actor also revealed that Raj & DK told him not to take up any other project while while he was shooting for "Citadel: Honey Bunny".

"When you work with directors like Raj & DK, they are concerned whether you are starting another film or ad. When I went on board for it (show), they had strictly told me, 'If you're doing this, you cannot do another film or shoot ads because this is your look, you'll be only this'," Dhawan said.

Working on a long-format

show was a creatively enriching experience for the Bollywood star as it gave him more time to be in the character.

"I enjoyed (it) a little more because I got to be in the character of Bunny for a longer period of time. When you get so much time, the arc of the character comes out better.

"Like, how in real life, you want people to understand you and not misunderstand you but the meeting time is so less that they misunderstand you. In this show, people will, hopefully, understand my character. There are moments that you can express well," he said.

As the makers unveiled the teaser of "Citadel: Honey Bunny", Dhawan teased his fans saying there are a lot of interesting things in store but Raj & DK were being

miserly in divulging details.

Dhawan said preparing for the action sequences was challenging but his co-star Ruth Prabhu, who was battling a health crisis while working on the show, inspired him to give his best. Ruth Prabhu was diagnosed with autoimmune condition myositis in 2022 and took a break from acting after the show.

Lauding the south star for her commitment and determination, Dhawan said she has inspired everyone on the show to give their best.

"My preparation for stunts was very easy compared to Samantha's because it's in the public knowledge what she was battling when she got on this show. I would think it's hard when I just started rehearsing, and I was like, 'Raj & DK, are making me do this'."

"But when I saw the work ethic this girl had and what she was battling, that really inspired me. I've never been on a shoot or a creative process where I'm seeing a co-actor go through something. You learn so much about human beings in general battling something and then winning."

"Citadel: Honey Bunny" is set to release on November 7 on Prime Video. The series is produced by D2R Films, Amazon MGM Studios, and executive produced by AGBO, the production company run by the Russo Brothers' -- directors Anthony and Joe Russo.

# 'Tribhuvan Mishra CA Topper' singer Neha Karode reflects on her journey from baking to singing



Playback singer Neha Karode, who has lent her voice to the track 'Noida ka Superman' from the streaming series Tribhuvan Mishra CA Topper', has had a long journey professionally from the art of baking, and directing documentaries.

Reflecting on her journey, Neha said, "Even my oldest memory includes me singing; I started singing as a child. I feel very grateful that just when I began singing professionally, I was called to sing the scratch for a song called 'Mon' by the legendary Jeet Ganguli da. He was extremely kind to me, and I now consider him my mentor. It was a Bengali song and turned out to be a success. I couldn't believe I got my first song with Jubin Nautiyal." She has earlier sung 'Likhna Mitana' from the Shahid Kapoor-starrer 'Bloody Daddy', 'Oh Mama' from the Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer

'Anek' and 'Pipni' from 'Mismatched'.

Neha, who hails from Noida, vividly remembered helping her father's company during Diwali, baking and packing cakes as gifts.

She said, "I remember he would pay me Rs 10,000 for that. So yeah, I've dabbled a lot. From baking, working in a corporate job, directing documentaries to now being able to start living my childhood dream of being a singer, I have had a very unique journey." "I honestly feel very blessed to be associated with such incredible people. I come from a non-music background, so seeing my musical dreams turning into reality is overwhelming. The support I've received from my mentors and friends has been invaluable. Their belief in me has fueled my passion and determination to keep pushing boundaries," she added.

# Was stressed when Junaid's 'Maharaj' released: Aamir Khan



Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan on Wednesday said he was "stressed" ahead of the release of son Junaid Khan's debut film "Maharaj" and wondered whether people will like his work or not.

"Maharaj" featured Junaid in the role of the real-life 19th century social reformer Karsandas Mulji. The Netflix film, directed by Siddharth P Malhotra and produced by Aditya Chopra, premiered on the streamer on June 21.

Aamir was speaking at the launch of the single 'Kooriye', sung by debutant Raj Pandit, who is the son of producer Ashoke Pandit.

"When Junaid's 'Maharaj' released, I was very stressed thinking if people would like his work or not. I think that is what you (Ashoke Pandit) are probably feeling right now as Raj is taking his first steps. Just a couple of months back, I was in that situation.

"I am here to support you and your son. It is an emotion that I immediately connect to. We are always worried about whether they (our children) will be accepted," the superstar told reporters here.

"Maharaj", based on an 1862 libel case involving Mulji and a Vaishnavite religious leader, briefly ran into legal trouble with the members of the sect filing a petition in the Gujarat High Court against the film.

The premiere was earlier scheduled to arrive on the streamer on June 14, but was delayed by a week. Later, the high court cleared its release after a brief stay, observing that it did not target any religion.

Aamir said he is proud of Junaid for charting his own path without his help.

"I am happy that Junaid has really worked hard for himself. He has never accepted any help from me in any way ever. I am happy and proud that he has made it on his own terms, in his own way. I can see that Raj is doing the same thing. It is time to take your first step and you have and it is wonderful," he added.

The superstar, who will next be seen in "Sitaare Zameen Par", said he started taking singing lessons last year.

"You will be happy to know that I've started learning to sing. I have got a guru, Sucheta ji is my guru and I've been training since last one year. I enjoy singing. It's like meditation," said Aamir, who sang songs such as "Aati Kya Khandala" ("Ghulam") and Dekho 2000 Zamana Aa Gaya ("Mela").

The music video of 'Kooriye' features Raj Pandit and Zoya Afroz. The song is produced by Salim Merchant, Sulaiman Merchant and Ashoke Pandit.

# Akshay Oberoi reveals the film that helped him bag 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari'

Actor Akshay Oberoi spoke about how 'Fighter' starring Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone helped him get roles in films such as 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari' and a big south film.

Akshay said: "Working on 'Fighter' has been a transformative experience for me. It's not just the scale of the film but the way it has resonated with audiences across the globe. I am thrilled to share that the success of 'Fighter' has landed me a substantial role in an upcoming Dharma Productions film, 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari,' directed by Shashank Khaitan.

He said that this film is a fantastic project where he gets to work alongside incredible talents like Varun Dhawan, Janhvi Kapoor, Sanya Malhotra, and Rohit Saraf.

"Additionally, the recognition from 'Fighter' has reached the southern film industry, and I am excited to announce that I will be part of an unannounced south project that promises to be just as exhilarating," he shared his excitement.

'Fighter' is directed by Siddharth Anand. The film also stars Anil Kapoor, Karan Singh Grover, and Sanjeeda Shaikh in key roles.

Talking about 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari', the film stars Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor. Produced by Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, and Shashank, the film also features Rohit Saraf in a key role.

'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari' is set to release in theatres on April 18, 2025.

Akshay's upcoming projects also include 'Tu Chahiye', 'Dil Hai Gray', 'Two Zero One Four', 'Illegal 3', 'Broken News 2', 'Varchasva', and more.

He made his acting debut as a child in the 2002 comedy-drama 'American Chai'. He played his first leading role in 'Isi Life Mein'.

The actor was then seen starring in films such as 'Pizza', 'Piku', 'Pitoor', 'Gurgaon', 'Kaalakaandi', 'I Love You' and 'Gaslight' to name a few..

# Nandamuri Balakrishna, Pragya Jaiswal team up for 'NBK 109'

Telugu superstar Nandamuri Balakrishna and actress Pragya Jaiswal are set to reunite for the upcoming tentatively titled film 'NBK 109'. The two were earlier seen in the Telugu blockbuster movie 'Akhandam'.

'NBK 109' is directed by Bobby Kolli and produced by Naga Vamsi, this Telugu action drama also stars Bollywood actor Bobby Deol as the antagonist.

Pragya's role in 'Akhandam' not only earned her critical acclaim but also became one of the highest-grossing films in her career.

Talking about her role in the film alongside Nandamuri Balakrishna, Pragya said: "I am thrilled to be reuniting with Nandamuri Balakrishna sir and working under the direction of Bobby Kolli. 'NBK 109' is a fantastic project, and such a talented ensemble with Bobby Deol and Nandamuri Balakrishna sir. I can't wait for the audience to see what we have in store."

Apart from 'NBK 109', the actress has multiple projects in the pipeline. She is set to share the screen with Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Punjabi star Ammy Virk, and Fardeen Khan in the upcoming Bollywood film 'Khel Khel Mein'. The film is set to release in theatres on August 15 on the occasion of Independence Day where it will clash with the legacy horror-comedy film 'Stree 2'.

# Ridhima Pandit shares her 'secrets' before her 'biggest cheerleader'



saying: "Aaji, I am recording a video about myself. Aap thoda bahut dikhoge to chalega na?"

To this her granny replies: "Chalega."

She then went on to say in the video: "Hi everyone, today I am going to tell you all some things about my life which I have never shared with anyone before. I wake up daily at 5 a.m. and do Yoga for one hour. Then I prepare a meal for my entire family."

The actress further added: "I don't like to spend money at all."

The video ends with her grandmother laughing on all the "secrets" revealed by Ridhima.

The post is captioned: "My biggest secret keeper n cheerleader, should I make more reels with Aaji?? #partnerincrime #prank #humour."

The video has garnered 131K views. Actress Divya Agarwal commented: "Hahahaha this is a fabulous idea... I shall use it too."

On the work front, Ridhima is best known for her role of Rajni in the show 'Bahu Hamari Rajni Kant'. She had also participated in 'Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 9' and became the second runner-up.

The 34-year-old actress also participated in 'Bigg Boss OTT'.

She has been a part of other shows like 'The Drama Company', 'Khatra Khatra Khatra', 'Haiwaan: The Monster', and 'Kundali Bhagya'.

# Lisa Kudrow recalls how Matt LeBlanc helped her ease anxiety about playing the iconic Phoebe Buffay

Actress Lisa Kudrow recalled how her 'Friends' co-star Matt LeBlanc helped her ease some anxiety about her portrayal of Phoebe Buffay during the sitcom's early days.

During an appearance on Sirius XM's Where Everybody Knows Your Name, Kudrow said that it took her "if not a year and a half, maybe two seasons, before I felt like I had Phoebe down."

"The things she said were so outrageously illogical that in order for me to justify them, you know, I felt like 'Oof!'" she recalled.

"It just took a lot of work to figure out, 'All right, how is it possible that I think this is true or a good idea or a reasonable thing to say?'"

Kudrow went on to explain that she put in real "acting work" into her character but it wasn't until she was into her second or third season that she felt that something was off, reports people.com.

"I'm like, 'something's wrong,' 'cause I'm not doing the work I was doing," she said.

"I'm slacking off. I'm being lazy

and I was getting really mad at myself, and LeBlanc came. He said, 'What's going on with you?' I said, 'I'm being lazy. I'm not doing the work that I did first season, the second season. I'm not doing the work I did for Phoebe, so it can't be good.'"

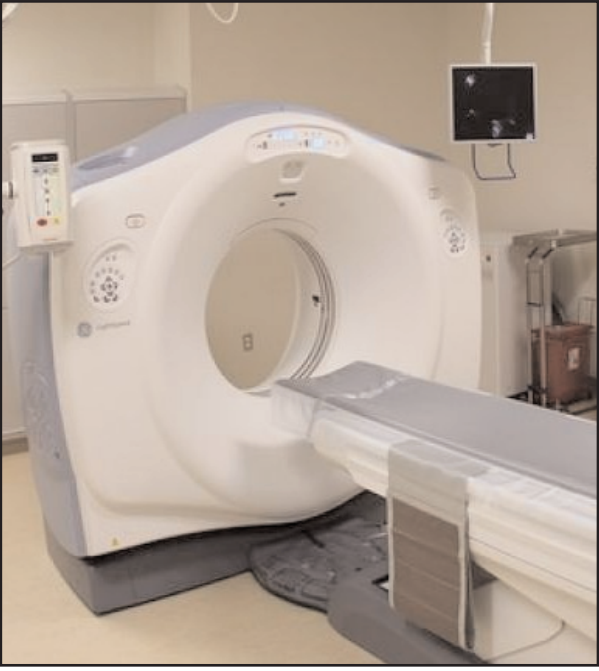
"And he went, 'No, you know who the character is now. You don't need to do the work you did. You got it,' and I went, 'What? Oh,'" she added.

The host noted how with LeBlanc's help she was finally able to feel "relaxed."

"That was enough," Kudrow said. "It's sort of like someone shook me 'cause I was getting hysterical. I wasn't literally getting hysterical, but you know like if you're getting hysterical, someone slaps you back. You're like, 'Oh, thanks. That's what I needed.'"

In addition to Kudrow and LeBlanc, 'Friends' also starred Mathew Perry, Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, and David Schwimmer. The popular sitcom aired for 10 seasons before coming to a close in 2004.

# CT scan radiation can make you susceptible to cancer

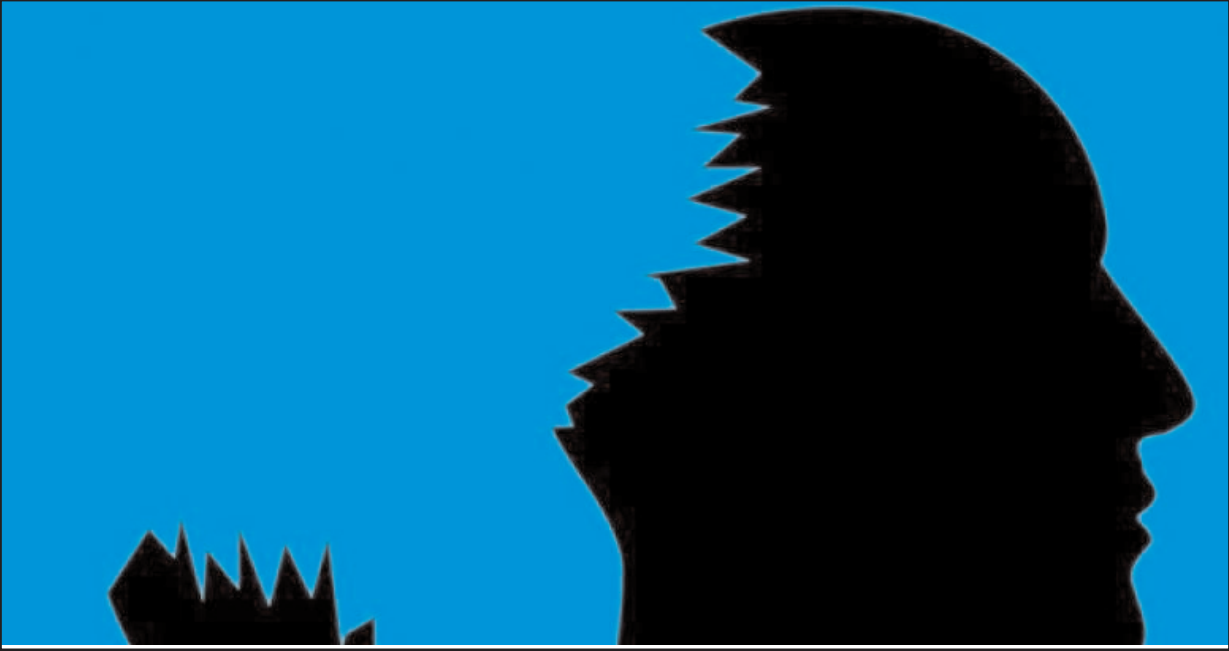


Individuals exposed to the radiation emanating from a CT scan are at an elevated risk of developing thyroid cancer and leukemia, a new study says. Moreover, researchers concluded that patients receiving CT scans had in general marked increases in the risk of developing thyroid cancer and leukemia, especially in female patients and patients younger than 45. "Our study found that CT scans are associated with an increased risk of thyroid cancer and leukemia in adults in all ages and with non-

Hodgkin lymphoma in young adults," said Yu-Hsuan Joni Shao, one of the paper's authors. The study conducted from a National Health Insurance dataset in Taiwan between 2000 and 2013 has highlighted. Published in the journal JNCI Cancer Spectrum, it followed 22,853 thyroid cancer, 13,040 leukemia, and 20,157 non-Hodgkin lymphoma cases. Researchers consulted data from the National Health Insurance program to study demographic and medical informa-

tion on disease diagnoses, procedures, and drug prescriptions, and the enrollment profiles of all patients. Patients were excluded if they were under 25 years at the time of the cancer diagnosis, had less than three years of follow-up before cancer diagnosis, or had a history of cancer before the year 2000. Results showed that patients who developed thyroid cancer and leukemia had a significantly higher likelihood of having received CT scans. In studies that combined patients across age groups, exposure to medical CT scans was not associated with increased risk for non-Hodgkin lymphoma. However, in patients between 36 and 45 years of age, there was a three-fold increased risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma associated with CT scans. In older patients, the association between exposures to CT scans and non-Hodgkin lymphoma was not evident. "The risk is stronger in patients who have higher cumulative doses from multiple scans. <

# Statins can negatively impact cognitive health



Amidst some existing consumer concerns that statins might pose a negative impact on an individual's cognitive health, researchers in a new study have found that it is not so. Statins are a class of drugs that are known to cure a number of health issues including reducing illness in people who are at high risk of cardiovascular disease. In the study conducted on over 1,000 elderly individuals and assessed over six years, researchers have revealed there is no link between statin medication and cognitive decline, such as memory loss. The study was published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. "We carried out the most comprehensive analysis of cognition in elderly statin users to date, and found no results to support that cholesterol-lowering statins cause memory impairment," said study's first author Professor Katherine Samaras, Head of the Clinical Obesity, Nutrition and Adipose Biology

lab at the Garvan Institute and endocrinologist at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. "Many factors can contribute to the cognitive symptoms that isolated case reports describe. What we've come away with from this study is a reassurance for consumers to feel more confident about their statin prescription," added Samaras. Statins are among the most widely prescribed medications, safely administered since the 1990s to treat people with heart disease or high

cholesterol to reduce the risk of future heart disease events. However, isolated case reports of cognitive decline in statin users have concerned some consumers. Up to half the individuals prescribed statin therapy do not fill their prescriptions largely due to this concern. Researchers in the current study assessed changes to the brain in 1,037 elderly individuals, measuring five areas of cognition using 13 different tests and MRI scans of the brain, over six years.

"Controlling for important and potentially contributory factors, such as age, sex and obesity, we found no difference in the rate by which memory and other aspects of cognition changed over time, between statin users and those who had never used the medication.," explained Professor Samaras. Further, researchers found that in individuals with risk factors for dementia, including heart disease or diabetes, statin use slowed down cognitive decline, compared to those with the same risk factors who did not take statin medication. "Our findings demonstrate how crucial a healthy metabolism is to brain function, and how therapies can modulate this to promote healthy ageing," said Professor Samaras. The study used data from CHeBA's Sydney Memory and Ageing Study. Senior author Professor Perminder Sachdev, Co-Director of CHeBA, said, "Our data reassuringly suggests that the use of statins to lower.

# New method found to detect neural activity centre in brain

Researchers have developed a new light-based method to capture and pinpoint the epicentre of neural activity in the brain. The approach, described in the journal Nature Methods, lays the foundation for novel ways to map connections across different brain regions--an ability that can enable the design of devices to image various areas of the brain and even treat conditions that arise from malfunctions in cells inhabiting these regions, the researchers said. The work was led by Ferruccio Pisanello at IIT, Massimo De Vittorio at IIT and University of Salento, and Bernardo Sabatini, the Alice and Rodman W. Moorhead III Professor of



Neurobiology at the Blavatnik Institute at Harvard Medical School, and funded by the European Research Council and by the National Institutes of Health in the United States. One of the central challenges in modern neuroscience is recording the exchange of information between different regions of the brain, as well as

between different cell types. The new method overcomes this challenge by allowing the simultaneous collection of signals from various brain regions through the use of a tapered optical probe. The study marks the first instance of successfully using light to decode the activity of specific neuronal populations as well as manipulation

of different brain regions with the use of a single probe. The approach relies on bringing fluorescent molecules into specific nerve cells in order to track their electric activity and to measure the level of neurotransmitters--molecules that act as chemical messengers across neurons. To achieve this, the team used an optical fibre in the shape of a narrow cone with a tip so thin and so precise that it is capable of capturing light from single neurons along regions as long as 2 millimetres (0.07 inches). The researchers inserted the light-sensing probe inside the striatum, a region of the brain involved in planning movements, and used it to

track the release of dopamine, a critical neurotransmitter involved in motor control which also plays a key role in the development of disorders like Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia and depression. The device successfully captured neural activity in specific sub-regions of the striatum involved in the release of dopamine during specific behaviours. The approach has effectively allowed scientists to capture how nerve signals travel in time and space and to gauge the concentration of specific neurotransmitters during specific actions. The method enriches researchers' methodological repertoire and augments their ability to study the central

# Chewing sugar-free gum may prevent dental cavity

To prevent your teeth from rotting, start chewing sugar-free gums, as researchers, including one of Indian origin, have found some evidence that sugar-free gum could help reduce further development of dental caries (cavities) in adults and children. Published in the Journal of Dental Research, the study from King's College London revealed that chewing sugar-free gum not only reduce the advancement of dental caries, it could be used as a viable preventative agent, in comparison to non-chewing control methods such as oral health education and



supervising toothbrushing programmes alone. "Both the stimulation of saliva, which can act as a natural barrier to protect teeth, and the mechanical plaque control that results from the act of chewing, can contribute to the preven-

tion of dental caries," said study lead author and Indian origin researcher Avijit Banerjee, Professor at King's College London in UK. Sugar-free gum can also act as a carrier for antibacterial ingredients, including xylitol and sor-

# Many parents have trouble differentiating between teen angst and depressive symptoms

Being able to differentiate between normal mood swings and something serious remains the top challenges faced by parents in identifying youth depression, suggests a recent study. Though the majority of parents say they are confident they would recognise depression in their middle or high school-aged child, two-thirds acknowledge barriers to spotting specific signs and symptoms, according to the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health at the University of Michigan. Forty per cent of parents struggle to differentiate between normal mood swings and signs of depression, while 30% say their child is good at hiding feelings, according to a new poll. "In many families, the preteen and teen years bring dramatic



changes both in youth behaviour and in the dynamic between parents and children," said a new poll co-director Sarah Clark. "These transitions can make it particularly challenging to get a read on children's emotional state and whether there is possible depression," added Clark. Still, a third of parents polled said nothing would interfere with their ability to recognise signs of depression in their child. "Some parents may be overestimating

their ability to recognize depression in the mood and behavior of their own child," Clark said. "An overconfident parent may fail to pick up on the subtle signals that something is amiss." The poll also suggests that the topic of depression is all too familiar for middle and high school students. One in four parents say their child knows a peer or classmate with depression, and 1 in 10 says their child knows a peer or classmate who has died by suicide.

# Method to detect pulmonary fibrosis discovered

As the researchers have discovered how the lung disease idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) progresses, they will now be able to provide a method to discover new treatment targets for the disease. The study, led by Naftali Kaminski, M.D., the Boehringer-Ingelheim Endowed Professor of Internal Medicine and chief of the Section of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at Yale School of Medicine, and John E. McDonough, instructor, and researcher at the medical school appeared in -- JCI. In the study, researchers examined differentially affected regions in the lungs obtained from individuals with IPF and found that what looks like normal lung is already undergoing changes in specific genes. They then tracked how these genes continue to change, increasing or decreasing, as the disease progresses. A unique feature of the paper, said Kaminski, is that it provides the first computational model of disease pro-



gression in the IPF lung and is accompanied by an interactive website exploring this model. Kaminski believes that widespread access to the data will accelerate research into new therapies in IPF. Although Kaminski noted that scientists at Yale and elsewhere have made "substantial scientific progress" on IPF in recent years, there are few treatment options. IPF is a chronic disease in which the lungs become increasingly scarred and unable to function; it affects some 200,000 people in the U.S., with about 30,000 new cases each year. Fifty per cent of patients

with IPF will die in three to five years following diagnosis, and the cause of IPF is unknown. The two FDA-approved drugs to treat IPF slow the progress of the disease, but do not reverse it. "The drugs may not be pleasant, but they work," said Kaminski, adding that, most importantly, "There's hope on the horizon." Drug trials for IPF are ongoing, and this latest research, he said, should provide opportunities for researchers to identify new potential drug targets. "My group has felt for years that to develop interventions for IPF that are more effective, we need to

understand how the disease progresses in the human lung," Kaminski said. Animal models for IPF work to show how pulmonary fibrosis impacts the lungs, but not what regulates changes at the genetic level to drive IPF progression in humans. The investigators used a unique system that allowed them to quantify the amount of fibrosis in differentially affected regions in the lung and then to measure the expression of all the genes in the human genome in exactly the same region by RNA sequencing. They also measured microRNAs, small non-coding RNAs known to regulate the expression of genes. They applied advanced systems biology methods to identify tracks of gene expression associated with the progression of IPF in the lung and the molecules that regulate them. Using this approach, they made three key findings. First, they discovered that what looked like normal tissue in the diseased lung was in fact abnormal. Second, they identified gene expression changes that were specific to tissue associated with early, progressive.

## J&K people tired of BJP’s hollow slogans, false promises: Bhalla

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 25**  
JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla today said that Jammu has become a victim of BJP’s politics of vote bank and false promises which were never fulfilled. “The youth were misled with a promise of employment but unemployment increased. As far as development is concerned, it is nowhere,” Bhalla said adding that non-performance of BJP has put people under financial distress. Former Minister Thursday addressed series of election gatherings at Barjala, Gangyal, Rampura, Shergarh Tindey Kalan, Lower Gadigarh, Makhampur, Simbal and RS Pura Ward-10 in RS Pura Jammu South constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said tourism sector is in worst condition like transport, business, and industrial sector. People are losing their jobs and the Government is not holding recruitment on vacant posts,” he main-



tained. He assailed the BJP for utterly failing in delivering, saying the party has lost confidence and mandate of the people of Jammu. The 2014 euphoria, expectations and fanfare is terribly missing with disdain growing among people due to policy paralysis of the BJP partnered government in Jammu and Kashmir, which is struggling to put its act together after plunging the state into unprecedented political and administrative crisis. He said the people of Jammu are feeling let down and betrayed, as their problems are accumulating with each passing day. Bhalla said the arrogance of power and lack of governance has distanced the BJP from its

core constituency, which is hugely realizing the mistake of putting a bunch of agitators into the cradle of administrators. “For over six decades, the BJP had been exploiting the Jammu sentiment by crying hoarse over the so-called discrimination, deprivation and neglect but when it came to delivering, they just raised their hands”, he said, adding that not only the BJP pushed the region to backwards but also turned out as a big obstacle in its development and progress. In this context, he referred to erratic power and water supply, dilapidated condition of main and interior roads, scarcity of rations, deplorable hygienic condi-

tions and fast crumbling administrative apparatus. Bhalla referred to protests and strikes of daily rated workers on regular basis and said that while a huge chunk of these people are taking to streets, the general public is suffering on account of utility services. Same is the situation with other segments of employees like teachers and Anganwari workers, who find themselves at the receiving end of BJP’s sadistic behaviour, he added. “Where has that compassion and love of the self-proclaimed Messiahs of Jammu gone”, he asked, saying the promise of Ache Din is turning out as an unending nightmare. He said the dejection

## CEO visits Bandipora, Gurez; reviews poll preparedness, attends multiple SVEEP events

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 25**  
Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Pandurang K Pole, on Thursday visited Bandipora to review the poll preparedness for upcoming general elections to the Legislative Assembly. The comprehensive review, which spanned across multiple key locations in Gurez and Bandipora, was aimed at ensuring smooth and efficient election management across the district. The CEO, during his visit to Dawar Gurez, attended SVEEP programme at Boys Higher Secondary School Dawar where students presented cultural programme aimed at raising voter awareness. He then proceeded to Buduaab and visited polling station and attended a cultural programme held under SVEEP. He commended the management for encouraging greater voter participation. The CEO arrived at Forest Training School, Chitternar, where a series of activities were conducted



including inspection of dummy EVM at Green and Pink Polling Stations and the SVEEP drill besides unveiling of the "Election Tree" symbolizing district's commitment to free and fair polling. At Chitternar, the welcome the District Election Officer briefed the CEO regarding preparations and SVEEP activities taken up for effective election management in the district. The event also witnessed cultural bonanza featuring folk presentations such as Chakri, Band e Pather,

Role playing, highlighting importance of vote and democracy. The first-time voters were given an opportunity to speak, encouraging greater youth involvement in the democratic process. During the event, the CEO also released the Coffee Table Book of GELS 2024, a publication capturing the key aspects of elections. In his address, the CEO underscored the administration's dedication towards a transparent electoral process and emphasized the impor-

ance of voter awareness. He expressed optimism for a record breaking voter turnout in Bandipora and commended the district administration for its efforts in generating awareness. The CEO stated that "Every vote is vital to our democracy, and urged upon all eligible citizens to actively participate in this democratic process and exercise their right to vote on the scheduled date. He said, polls are going on peacefully and our focus remains on providing a safe and accessible voting experience for the electorates. The CEO concluded his visit at the designated Counting Centre at Degree College Bandipora, participating in a kite-flying event and a plantation drive to symbolize a clean and green electoral process. He reviewed the logistical arrangements at the counting center and urged all stakeholders to remain committed to ensuring a free, fair, and participatory election process.

## SVEEP: Mega Awareness programme to boost Voter Participation held in Baramulla

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 25**  
A mega awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was held today in Baramulla, drawing hundreds of students, Officers and officials to promote voter awareness. The event began with a car rally flagged-off by Returning Officer 10 - Baramulla, Arshad Ahmad Khan and Nodal Officer SVEEP, Shabir Ahmad Khan, at Dak Bungalow Baramulla. Following the car rally, a mega student rally commenced from Dak Bungalow and culminated at Showkat Ali Stadium Baramulla. Hundreds of students participated in the rally, holding

placards and banners that advocated voter awareness and the importance of electoral participation. The rally aimed to engage the youth in the democratic process and amplify the message of voter education throughout the community. The programme featured various activities, including painting and essay competitions, cultural performances and skits highlighting the significance of voting. These activities not only entertained but also educated the audience, especially students on the vital role each voter plays in a democracy. A pledge was also taken by the participants, committing themselves to actively participate in the electoral process and encourage others to do the same.

Speaking on the occasion, Returning Officer 10-Baramulla emphasized the importance of educating young voters and the impact such awareness drives have on the overall electoral process. He lauded the enthusiasm of the students and encouraged them to be proactive participants in democracy. Nodal Officer SVEEP, Shabir Ahmad Khan, also addressed the gathering, praising the efforts of the students and organizers. The event was a vibrant showcase of democratic engagement, marked by the active involvement of students, educators, and officials, making a significant contribution to the promotion of voter awareness in Baramulla.

## SVEEP activities held in various schools in Kupwara



**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 25**  
On the directions of District Election Officer Kupwara and as a key component of the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, District Nodal Officer SVEEP (CEO Kupwara) today organized awareness programmes in various schools to educate the voters about their voting rights and responsibilities. The SVEEP committee under the direction of

District Nodal Officer SVEEP conducted a series of Awareness Campaign at BHSS Sanzipora, Boys High School Keegam, Hr. Sec. School Warpora and Hr. Sec. School Keran. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from new voters and disabled individuals. Awareness about regular broadcasts and publications to keep the public informed about key electorate its procedures and updates were also given.

## Female poll staff imparted specialized training for managing Pink Booths in Kupwara

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 25**  
In a significant step towards empowering women in the electoral process and adding a unique feature of inclusiveness in the upcoming assembly elections in Kupwara district on October 1st, the District Election Office, Kupwara today conducted the final phase of election training for female poll personnel whose services are being utilized at special Pink Polling Stations in the district. Training session was chaired by the District Election Officer (DEO), Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan. Addressing the session, the DEO emphasized the vital role of Pink Booths in fostering greater female participation in the democratic process. She said that Pink booths, staffed and managed entirely by women, are designed to promote inclusivity, gender equity in the democratic process and provide a comfortable and secure voting environment for female voters. She also said that Pink polling stations are very crucial and there is no chance of any error on poll day and it should be ensured that these polling booths operate smoothly

and efficiently on Election Day. The DEO directed the female staff for pink Polling stations to get maximum benefits out of this final training session and make these special polling stations more women-friendly which includes creating a welcoming and secure environment, ensuring privacy, and addressing any specific need which female voters might have. The DEO highlighted the importance of these measures for boosting female voter turnout and empowering women to actively participate in the electoral process. The session covered various aspects of election management, including voter verification, EVM handling, and maintaining transparency, impartiality and strengthening the team bond by contacting each other in advance. The training concluded with an interactive Q&A, allowing participants to clarify their doubts and discuss potential challenges. During the day-long session, Assembly level Master trainers (ALMTs) delivered exhaustive training and hands-on experience sessions to equip the participating female employees with skills and knowledge to operate poll machinery on the day of elections.

## Pinwheel discussion on Importance of Vote organised at GCW Gandhinagar



**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 25**  
NSS Unit 2nd of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar JAMMU today organized a thought provoking Pinwheel Discussion on Importance of Vote in Democracy. Event started with a welcome address by Saloni Kumari, Senior NSS Volunteer of B.Com sem 5th. The event aimed to educate and encourage students to

exercise their Right to vote. The Discussion highlighted the impact of voting on Democracy, personal freedom and community development. Students shared their perspectives on voting challenges and electoral reforms. All the volunteers enthusiastically participated in the event. Programme Officer NSS Unit 2 Prof. Anupama sharma expressed grati-

tude for the students' efforts by praising their diligence and support. NSS Volunteers Taniya Verma, Tania Sharma, Tanshu Sambhal and Rohini Bhagat and the fresher from sem 1st also actively took part in this Discussion by putting up their views. Principal of the college Dr. S.P. Saraswat applauded the efforts of volunteers.

## DEO Kupwara holds Interactive Session with Sector, Zonal Magistrates & Sector Police Officers

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, SEPT 25**  
To review election preparedness ahead of the Assembly elections in Kupwara district on October 1st, the District Election Officer (DEO), Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan convened a review meeting cum interactive session with Zonal Magistrates, Sector Magistrates, and Sector Police officers at meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here today. The session aimed to ensure a robust election process and emphasized the critical role these officers play in upholding the integrity of the electoral process. The DEO stressed the importance of strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct and instructed the magistrates to ensure impartiality in their duties. She highlighted the need to monitor and address any instances of electoral malpractice and reporting to concerned quarters well in time. She said that Magistrates are vital to the smooth functioning of assembly elections, ensuring that the democratic process is carried out efficiently, securely, and fairly on poll day and prior to polls. She further said that their responsibilities are integral to



the electoral process especially in maintaining law and order situation and addressing any issue that may arise at the polling stations. The DEO also called on the officers to remain vigilant and be in sync with the latest protocols and procedures mandated by the Election Commission of India (ECI). She said that in case of any significant issues, such as malfunctioning of EVMs, disruption of the voting process, or law and order disturbances, Magistrates are first emergency responders and they

have to take immediate action and report to higher election authorities. She further said that Magistrates act as a point of contact between polling officials at polling stations and Election authorities, besides this they will have to establish contacts and have close coordination with all agencies of the concerned area. DEO directed concerned magistrates to visit all their allotted polling stations by tomorrow and take first hand appraisal of AMFs, security concerns and other

shortcomings if any and report back. She emphasized that submission of 2-hourly error free voter turnout reports are very crucial for magistrates on the day of poll. Sameer Jan, Special Nodal officer elections provided insights to the Magistrates for a seamless voting process on the day of the election and prior to election. He stressed them to participate in the training regarding familiarization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and other processes without any fail.