



**Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja Has Joined BJP.....** P-5

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## General Elections to J&K Legislative Assembly-2024

# 61.38 PC POLLING IN J-K POLLS PHASE 1, MEN OUT-NUMBER WOMEN IN CASTING VOTES

**BN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEP 20**

The first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir polls saw men outnumbering women in casting votes by over 4.79 percentage points, the Election Commission said on Friday while issuing revised figures with voter turnout rising to 61.38 per cent from 61.11 per cent earlier. The first phase of polling was held in 24 assembly constituencies spread across Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian in south Kashmir and Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts in the Chenab valley area of the Jammu region on September 18. According to Election Commission data, more male voters cast their votes in 18 seats while women voters out-



numbered men in the rest of the six assembly segments. A total of 23,27,543 lakh people were eligible to vote in the first phase. Of them, 11,76,441 men, 11,51,042 women and 60 transgenders exercised their franchise.

Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir are taking place for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh -- in August 2019. The second phase of polling covering 26 assembly seats will be held on September 25 followed by the third and final phase in the rest of the 40 seats on October 1. The election results will be declared on October 8. The last assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir was held in 2014, leading to the formation of a PDP-BJP coalition government in January 2015. However, the government collapsed when the BJP pulled out of the alliance in June 2018.

A voter turnout of 61.38 per cent was recorded in the first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections, the election commissioner said in a press note, adding the male turnout was 63.75 per cent, female turnout was 58.96 per cent and third gender turnout stood at 40 per cent. "The voter turnout is at the polling stations and final votes polled will be available post-counting with counting of postal ballots. The postal ballots include postal ballots given to service voters, absentee voters (85+, PwD, Essential Services etc.) and voters on election duty," the release said. Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer P K Pole has confirmed that all polling parties have returned safely and a copy

of Form 17C (related to turnout at the end of polling) was provided to the candidates through their polling agents. Kishtwar district recorded the highest 80.20 per cent polling followed by Doda district (71.32 per cent), Ramban (70.57 per cent), Kulgam (63.14 per cent), Anantnag (57.90 per cent), Shopian (57.01 per cent) and Pulwama district (46.99 per cent). In the 2014 assembly elections, the district-wise poll percentage was -- Pulwama 44 per cent, Shopian 48 per cent, Kulgam 59 per cent, Anantnag 60 per cent, Ramban 70 per cent, Doda 73 per cent and Kishtwar 76 per cent. The Inderwal assembly seg-

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**NEW DELHI, SEP 20**

## Lay down arms or face strong action: Amit Shah warns Naxals

and ideology will be wiped out from the country. "I appeal to Naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender as the militants in the northeast have done. If you do not listen, then an all-out operation will be carried out soon to end the menace," Shah said. He said Naxalism is a threat <to both humanity and the internal security of the country. The home minister said security forces have achieved significant success in their operations against Maoists as the problem is now confined to just a few districts of Chhattisgarh. "The central government is committed to completely eliminate Naxalism by March 2026. Due to the policies of the Modi government, Left Wing Extremism has now been restricted to a few districts in Chhattisgarh," he said. The Union minister said Maoists once had planned to establish a corridor from Pashupatinath (Nepal) to

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday appealed to Naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender, saying an all-out operation will otherwise be carried out against them. Addressing 55 victims of Naxal violence from Chhattisgarh at his residence here, Shah also asserted that Maoists will take their last breath by March 31, 2026, and will be eliminated by then. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that Naxal violence

## J&K was dubbed as disputed because of NC: Reddy



**JAMMU, SEPT 20**  
Union minister G Kishan Reddy blamed

the National Conference on Friday for the imposition of Article 370 of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir earlier and alleged that the region was labelled as "disputed" because of the regional party. He also accused the NC of playing key role in the widespread corruption and rise of cross-border terrorism that India is combat-

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## RAHUL GANDHI TO MEET PROFESSIONALS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS IN JAMMU NEXT WEEK

■ NW REPORT JAMMU, SEPT 20



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is set to meet with professionals from various sectors here on September 25 that will provide a platform for open dialogue on challenges faced by them in Jammu and Kashmir and allow their voices to be heard at the national level.

Head of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the All India Professionals' Congress (AIPC) Sanjay Sapru said the meet titled 'Dogri Dham' will take place during the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha's campaign trail in the union territory. Gandhi will also hold professional meets in

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## 4 BSF soldiers Martyred, 36 injured as Bus ferrying them skids off road in Budgam



**SRINAGAR, SEPT 20**

At least four Border Security Force (BSF) personnel died while several others were injured after a bus they were travelling in for poll duty skidded off road and fell into a gorge in Bredl Waterfall area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday, officials said.

An official told the news agency that the bus with 36 BSF troopers skidded off road in Bredl village and fell into a deep gorge. He said that in the incident four BSF troopers died while more than two dozen were injured. The official said that the injured have shifted to

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## BJP goes full throttle to woo voters in Pir Panchal region: 6 rallies by Shah, Rajnath in 2 Days



**JAMMU, SEPT 20**  
Congress-NC alliance and PDP bastion of the Pir Panchal region with its star campaigners set to

address several mega rallies in the second phase of the polls on September 25. For the past six decades, the Pir Panchal region has remained a stronghold of the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance, which has bagged five seats over five to eight times. The region, comprising the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch along the Line of Control and sharing borders with south Kashmir, had largely favoured the PDP, Congress and NC in the 2014 state elections, with these parties securing five out of seven assembly seats. The BJP had only won two Hindu-dominated constituencies — Nowshera and Kalakote. Several top BJP lead-

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## My fight not against NC, PDP but their ideologies, says Er Rashid

**SRINAGAR, SEPT 20**

Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) president Engineer Rashid on Friday said his struggle is against the ideologies of the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), rather than against the parties themselves. He accused these groups of neglecting the Kashmir issue in Delhi. Addressing a public

gathering in north Kashmir's Sopore, Er Rashid, who is the Member of Parliament (MP) for Baramulla, said he aims to represent the people's sentiments. According to the news agency, the AIP chief criticised the NC and PDP for acting as "intermediaries" for the central government instead of advocating for Kashmir's interests. "My fight is against

their ideology because they cannot speak about the Kashmir issue out of fear in Delhi. Here in Kashmir, they serve Delhi's interests," he said. "We are neither stone-pelters nor anti-national elements. But if the Government of India genuinely wants peace in Kashmir, they must resolve the Kashmir

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## PM keeps harping on dynastic politics as he has nothing else to sell in J&K: Omar BUDGAM (J&K), SEP 19

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains silent on rising terror incidents in the Jammu region but keeps harping on

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## Congress run by 'tukde tukde' gang and urban Naxals, it hates even Ganpati puja: PM Modi



**BN CORRESPONDENT WARDHA, SEP 20**

on Friday said the "ghost of hatred" has entered the Congress and dubbed it as the "most corrupt" party which he alleged was being

run by the "tukde tukde" gang or divisive elements and urban Naxals. Further targeting the main opposition party, Modi maintained the 138-year-old outfit has come to hate even Ganpati puja, remarks coming days after he offered prayers to Lord Ganesh's idol at Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud's New Delhi home, drawing criticism from political opponents. "The Congress which you see today is not the party with which a great man like Mahatma Gandhi was associated," the PM noted, addressing a public meeting at Wardha in Maharashtra organised on completion of one year of the launch of Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana.

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## Congress, NC spread misgivings about BJP to polarise votes: Dr Jitendra BUDHAL (RAJOURI), SEPT 20

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that Congress and National Conference (NC) are spreading misgivings about Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a bid to polarise the votes on communal lines. Addressing a series of meetings in the Budhal Assembly constituency of district Rajouri, Dr Jitendra Singh said, BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the only political party which has sought to give a governance based on justice and fair deal to each section of society regardless of caste, creed or even vote bank consideration. However, he said, this is something which does not fit into the scheme of

■Contd on P-6

## Cong demands answers from PM Modi, HM Shah on Pulwama attack, corruption allegations

**JAMMU, SEPT 20**

Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Pramod Tiwari, on Friday demanded answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the revelations made by former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on the Pulwama terror attack and allegations of corruption. Expressing concern over the silence maintained by the BJP's top leadership till date, Tiwari said it is a clear indication that "there is something fishy". "Satya Pal Malik, who was

appointed as the governor of Jammu and Kashmir by the BJP government, stated that there were intelligence failures and that the Central government denied aircraft for the movement of security personnel which led to the devastating Pulwama terror attack in 2019," he told reporters here. Tiwari called for clarity from Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah on Malik's accusations, which also include corruption allegations related to power projects and insurance schemes in Jammu and Kashmir.

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## Residents in Kyiv told to stay indoors as air pollution blankets Ukrainian capital



KYIV, SEPT 20

Authorities in Ukraine advised residents in the capital Kyiv to stay indoors Friday as air pollution, partly caused by fires in the region, blanketed the city.

Ukraine's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources said the pollution was a result of the burning of peatlands and other wildfires in the region combined with autumn temperature fluctuations.

The capital woke up to thick smog with the rank smell of blazing fires in the air. Some people were spotted wearing masks.

The Ukrainian capital topped a list of the most polluted major cities early Friday in a real-time

database by IQAir, a Swiss company that monitors air quality levels. Its air quality appeared to have improved somewhat since as the city came down in the ranking later in the day.

Kyiv's Department of Environmental Protection and Climate Change said that "the likely cause of this is fires in the Kyiv region."

Fires have been reported in the Vyshhorod district, around 20 kilometers (around 12 miles) north of the capital.

Officials warned about an increased concentration of suspended particles, such as dust, soot, and smoke, in the air. In some areas of the city, air pollution levels have reached the maximum of the 100-point scale.

While human-driven climate

change does not directly cause fires, it can increase the risk of wildfire as warming temperatures and increasingly dry air, trees and soil can make it easier for fires to spread. Forest fires around the world have worsened in recent years, with almost twice as much tree cover burning in 2023 than 20 years ago, according to the World Resources Institute.

Wildfire smoke can cause air quality to deteriorate even many miles away from fires. The main concern from the wildfire smoke is fine particle pollution, known as PM2.5. Fine particle pollution can cause short-term problems like coughing, as well as long-term impacts on the lungs and heart.

Pollution is a major health concern — with one major study estimating that pollution kills around 9 million people globally a year.

Residents in Kyiv were advised to close their windows, limit time spent outdoors, drink plenty of water, and use an air purifier.

"Particular attention should be paid to these recommendations by people with respiratory and cardiovascular diseases," said a statement from the Ecology Ministry.

Autumn temperature variations trap harmful substances in the air, worsening pollution and reducing air quality, the ministry added.

## 6 security personnel killed, 11 injured in terror attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province



PESHAWAR, SEPT 20

Six security forces personnel were killed and 11 others injured in a terror attack on a security check post in the intervening night of Thursday and Friday in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, officials said.

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to officials, a group

of militants attacked the security check post in Mishta village at Ladhra tehsil in South Waziristan district resulting in the death of six security forces personnel and injury to 11 others.

An official source said a clearance operation is underway to neutralise the threat. The attack comes amidst rising tensions in the region. The TTP has been active in the area, with several similar attacks targeting security forces.

In another incident, seven militants were killed and two security personnel injured in an exchange of fire on Friday at Azam Warsak area in South Waziristan. The firefight took place after the militants, who were on a move, were intercepted by the security personnel.

The Pakistani government has repeatedly accused the TTP of operating from sanctuaries in Afghanistan, a claim denied by the Afghan Taliban.

There has been an uptick in the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan since the Taliban took over the government in Kabul in 2021, dashing hopes in Islamabad that a friendly government in Afghanistan would help to tackle militancy. Relations between the two countries have lately become strained, largely because of the TTP but also due to frequent border skirmishes.

The TTP was set up as an umbrella group of several militant outfits in 2007.

The Pakistani government has officially declared the banned organisation as "Fitna al-Khawarij", a reference to a group in earlier Islamic history which was involved in violence.

## Rule of law is dead, mob violence new normal in Bangladesh: Media



DHAKA, SEPT 20

"The lack of visible legal consequences" for the heinous acts of mob lynching in Bangladesh was sending a "dangerous message" that "the rule of law is dead, and mob violence is the new normal," claimed an article in the country's leading media outlet.

With close to two dozen citizens reportedly falling victim to mob lynching in the last 40 days after the Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus-led Interim Government took over on August 8, the signed article published in Bangladesh's popular English newspaper Daily Star has rued that "no visible action has been taken" by the relevant authorities in response to these incidents.

"In recent weeks, Bangladesh has witnessed a terrifying surge in mob justice, exposing both the lawlessness in certain segments of society and the utter failure of the interim government

to ensure basic security. "This alarming trend reflects the harsh reality of the state of governance in the country and raises questions about our national conscience," journalist Arafat Rahaman said in the opinion piece.

The article referred to the lynching of former Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders at Jahangirnagar and Rajshahi universities, besides the "savagely killing" of a suspected thief at Dhaka University, and said it showed the public has "no trust in the country's legal and justice system." "These lynched individuals were entitled to the most basic human right: the right to a fair trial, irrespective of their alleged crimes or misconduct. Instead, the mob took over and assumed the roles of judge, jury, and executioner," said the article. While conceding that one of the victims, Shamim Ahmed, was allegedly involved in attacking quota reform protesters as well as in criminal activities like

drug dealing, land grabbing, and extortion, Rahaman asked whether that justifies his "execution at the hands of students."

The articles said the failure of Bangladesh's legal and judicial system over the past several decades "to apprehend and penalise alleged criminals" was now being exploited by mobs.

"Plus, almost all regimes in Bangladesh have been unable and at times unwilling to address these issues, only fuelling the public's growing sense that mob justice is acceptable," Rahaman wrote.

The article also pulled up the now ousted Awami League government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, saying despite being in power for over 15 years, it did little to bring the perpetrators of mob killings to justice.

According to the rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a total of 32 people died in mob beatings between January and June this year when Hasina was in saddle.

Last year, 51 people were killed in mob lynching incidents; 36 people were killed in 2022; and 28 in 2021.

However, the article said, "What is most disturbing about the current mob violence is that the perpetrators come from the same student community that just two months ago risked their lives fighting against the Sheikh Hasina-led government, toppling it with the promise of a fairer Bangladesh."

"Worryingly, the inaction of the interim government has not only encouraged these mobs but

## Illegal immigrants to become majority in 25-30 years if unchecked: Shah in Jharkhand



GIRIDIH, SEPT 20

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday lashed out at the JMM-led coalition in Jharkhand for allegedly encouraging "rampant infiltration" and cautioned that if not checked, illegal immigrants will become a majority in the state in the next 25-30 years.

He also alleged that infiltrators were "destroying the tribal culture and identity" and promised to chase them out of the state.

Shah claimed that the BJP would form the government in the state with a two-third majority in the upcoming assembly elections.

"If infiltration is not checked,

illegal immigrants will become the majority in Jharkhand in the coming 25-30 years. There is no place for infiltrators in the state. They are marrying our daughters, grabbing land and destroying rich tribal culture and heritage...we will drive each one of them out...Let lotus bloom here," Shah said.

"The BJP is going to form the government in Jharkhand with a two-third majority", he said, adding that corruption has reached its peak in the state and it is time to give the ruling JMM a befitting reply.

The JMM-led government has "meted out injustice to tribals, Dalit, women and others in the state, he alleged.

## Kumaraswamy hits out at Cong over denotification charge, says he has no role

MYSURU (KARNATAKA), SEP 20

JD(S) leader and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Friday hit out at the ruling Congress in Karnataka for leveling allegations against him in connection with a land denotification in Bengaluru, and claimed that he had no role in it.

He also claimed that the investigations into the case have found no illegality but, aimed at targeting him, the case has been "kept open."

The Congress on Thursday asked the Lokayukta to expedite its probe against former Chief Ministers B S Yediyurappa and Kumaraswamy in connection with the alleged denotification of land here.

Ministers Krishna Byre Gowda, Dinesh Gundu Rao and Santhosh Lad had held a joint press conference and released documents regarding the denotification of 1.11 acres of land at Ganganahalli in Kasaba hobli of Bengaluru North.

"...I'm not running away, I need not take protection under someone else's name, on issues concerning me... the only relationship with that property is, it is related to my wife's mother, I'm not denying it. Have I done the denotification?" Kumaraswamy told reporters.

Stating that he was under the impression that Krishna Byre Gowda was "intelligent as he has studied abroad," while he had studied at a school in Haradanahalli in Hassan, Kumaraswamy said in 2015 Siddaramaiah, "through" a person named Jaya Kumar Patil, had filed a case against him in this cases in which Yediyurappa is accused number 1 (A1) and he is accused number 2 (A2).

"For the last three months they have been struggling to do something (against me)...in 2015 this case was filed with Lokayukta. Till 2018 Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister, what was he doing without getting investigated?" he



said, adding that after he made allegations against the Siddaramaiah government in connection with CSR funds and transfer related issues, they started looking for "means to tackle him."

Alleging that a 'benami' named Rajashekharaiiah, "who has nothing to do with the said land (that was notified)", gave a petition when Kumaraswamy was the Chief Minister in 2007, seeking denotification of the land, which was acquired 30 years ago, Krishna Byre Gowda has alleged Kumaraswamy had then asked officials to move the file in this regard.

He has said, the original owner of the said land had 21 heirs, who gave a general power of attorney to Kumaraswamy's mother-in-law.

Further pointing out that when Yediyurappa was the CM in 2010, despite the then principal secretary to the urban development department K Jothiramalingam noting on the file that it was not a fit case for denotification, the former ordered denotification, Gowda claimed. "Subsequently after the denotification of the land in June, 2010, it was registered in the name of Kumaraswamy's brother-in-law Channappa in July that year."

Citing the documents, Kumaraswamy asked, "what is there in it? Have I denotified (the land)? or have I prepared the

"It was paradoxical that a rich state like Jharkhand, which has the capacity to fill the country's treasury, has been experiencing a mass exodus of its youths in search of greener pastures," he said.

Shah said the UPA regime at the Centre gave "only Rs 84,000 crore to Jharkhand in 10 years while PM Modi sanctioned Rs 3.81 lakh crore."

"We will check the 'Ganga river of corruption' in Jharkhand and prevent it from merging with the sea. We will hang corrupt people upside down and will make Jharkhand the number one state in the country," he said.

This was the second rally by Shah in the state where the saffron party planned 'Parivartan Yatra' ahead of the assembly elections due later this year.

With an eye on the assembly elections, the opposition BJP would launch six 'Parivartan' processions to reach out to the people and "expose the failures" of the JMM-led government in the state.

These yatras will cover 5,400 km across 81 assembly segments in 24 districts before concluding on October 2.

Around 50 national and state-level leaders of the BJP, including chief ministers of several states, are expected to participate in such rallies.

grounds for denotification? What is my role in it?"

Accusing Krishna Byre Gowda of leveling allegations against him to "appease someone", he said: "no one can shake me...I will not discuss such things...get it investigated in whatever way you want."

Questioning as to what evidence was there to prove that he had asked officials to denotify, the former CM rubbished the allegation that Yediyurappa subsequently did the denotification to benefit him, and pointed out that "everyone knows that there was a fight between both of us then. Will Yediyurappa do something in favour of me?"

So far in his political life he has not sought favour or protection from anyone, he said, "I have said that if anyone one brings out even a single minor mistake of his while in power twice, he will not remain in politics for five seconds."

Accepting that the denotification had happened during Yediyurappa's tenure and that his in-laws brought the property, Kumaraswamy asked as to what was his role in it or was it done illegally?

Already inquiries have happened on all these and the investigators in their report had come to the conclusion that it was a legal transaction, he said. "But, to target me, the probe was not closed and was kept open. Their aim is to target Kumaraswamy,

## Three FIRs filed in Chhattisgarh against Rahul Gandhi for his remarks in US on Sikhs

RAIPUR, SEPT 20

Three FIRs have been registered against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in parts of Chhattisgarh for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of the Sikh community through his remarks made during the recent US visit, police said on Friday.

While two cases - one at the Civil Lines police station in capital Raipur and another at the Bilaspur Civil Lines police station in Bilaspur district - were registered on Thursday, an FIR was filed at the Kotwali police station in Durg district on Friday, they said.

The cases were registered based on the complaints lodged by BJP leaders. Similar complaints have been submitted at police stations in other districts of the state too by ruling party

leaders.

In all these cases, Gandhi was booked under sections 299 (deliberate and malicious acts that are intended to insult religious beliefs or outrage religious feelings of any class) and 302 (intentionally hurting someone's religious feelings by words, sounds, gestures, or objects) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, they said.

State BJP spokesperson Amarjeet Singh Chhabra, in his complaint lodged in Raipur, stated that Gandhi made the remark whether Sikhs would be allowed to wear a turban or a 'kada' and go to Gurdwara in India. Gandhi's statement has hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikh community in India, Chhabra said in the complaint.

"In the entire world and even in India, the Sikh community is

not prohibited from wearing a turban, a kada and visiting Gurdwaras. Even the Prime Minister visits Gurdwara wearing a turban. Gandhi's statement is intended to hurt the sentiments of the peace-loving Sikh community, which may create discrimination and animosity with other religions of the society," he claimed.

The case in Durg Kotwali police station was lodged by BJP's Durg district unit chief Jitendra Verma.

BJP leaders have lodged complaints on the same issue in other police stations of Durg, Surguja and some other districts. Gandhi had made the comment while addressing a gathering of several hundred Indian Americans in Herndon, a Virginia suburb of Washington DC, on September 9.

## PM Modi working for poor, NC-Cong working for terrorists & stone pelters: Raina



BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20

The J&K BJP President, Ravinder Raina, on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been relentlessly working for the upliftment of poor, while NC-Cong have been working to ensure release of terrorists and stone pelters.

"PM Modi gave free houses, free ration, free cylinders and health insurance of Rs 5 lakh to the poor, while NC-Cong never

cared for the poor," Raina said, while addressing people at Nuniyal in Nowshera. Raina is seeking mandate from Nowshera Assembly Constituency for the second consecutive time.

Modi Government is true well wisher of the poor and backward, he said.

Raina said that NC has promised to release terrorists and stone pelters. "It is now clear that NC is sympathizer of terrorists and wants to revive terrorism," he said, and added, "PM

Modi has established peace in J&K and BJP will never allow NC-Cong to succeed in their evil designs".

NC-Cong have nothing to do with the common man and the poor, they only care for the militants and stone pelters and want to push J&K back into the era of unrest and militancy.

"NC-Cong are saying that they will bring back Article 370 but as long BJP is there it will never happen," Raina said, adding, "Their nexu with Pakistan has also been exposed after the statement of Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif".

He said that peace has been established in Kashmir by PM Modi and record number of tourists have been visiting Kashmir now. The cinema halls have been running after more than 3 decades in the valley and people are living a dignified life without any fear, he said.

"There is strong wave in favor of BJP and it will form next government in J&K on its known," Raina said, and appealed to the people to teach NC-Cong a lesson in the elections

## Cong's hatred against SCs, STs, OBCs came to fore after Rahul Gandhi's statement: BJP

BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20

The BJP SC Morcha National General Secretary, Sanjay Nirmal, on Friday said that Cong, since independence, has always been against the SCs, STs and OBCs and it did not even give due respect to architect of Indian Constitution, BR Ambedkar.

"The Cong's hatred against SCs, STs and OBCs has again come to fore after Rahul Gandhi, on foreign soil, said that they will scrap reservation of the SCs and other backward communities," Nirmal said, while addressing a press conference at BJP media center, here today.

BJP's State SC Morcha General Secretary, Adarsh Jathiar and Media In-charge, Dr. Pradeep Mahotra, were also present in the press conference.

Nirmal said that Cong hatched conspiracy in 1952 and 54 elections to make sure that the architect of Indian Constitution, BR Ambedkar does not enter the Parliament. "This shows anti-SC, ST and anti OBC stand of the Cong," he said.

Cong has no respect for the constitution, he said, adding, "It



used Article 356 for 90 times to topple opposition govts". Is this the respect, Cong has for constitution?, Nirmal questioned.

Modi Govt amended Indian constitution 8 times and that only for the welfare and upliftment of SCs, STs, OBCs and other backward classes, he said and added that Cong made numerous amendments for their political benefits. After 2014, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, not only was the spirit of the Indian Constitution upheld, but the principles of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar were also respected,

making the welfare of weaker sections of society a priority, he said.

"NC-Cong are planning to snatch reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs but people will teach them a lesson in these elections as they have realized that only BJP can take care of their interests," he said. Nirmal said that Congress and National Conference enforced Articles 370 and 35A through the backdoor in Jammu and Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, by revoking these, ensured the rights of the weaker sections, he said.

and sustainable, highlighting the role of students in leading such initiatives. Prof. Jain appreciated the dedication of the NSS team and encouraged the university community to continue participating in such activities that contribute to the well-being of society and the environment.

Under the leadership of event coordinator Dr. Sujata Kundan, along with team members Dr. Kiran Kumari and Dr. Vishal, along with more than 50 volunteers participated in the initiative, engaging in activities such as litter collection, waste segregation, and educational outreach to local residents about the importance of maintaining clean surroundings.

The NSS unit plans to continue similar initiatives, emphasizing the significance of cleanliness in preserving natural resources and promoting public health. Nodal officer Prof. Richa Kothari emphasized the importance of community engagement in such initiatives.

## CUJ students conducts cleanliness drive



BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20

The NSS unit of Central University of Jammu along with Student For Development (SFD) volunteers organized a successful cleanliness drive at the pond premises outside the university campus as a part of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 (SHS-

2024), Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata campaign.

The initiative aimed to promote environmental awareness and community involvement. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Central university of Jammu Prof. Sanjeev Jain, lauded the efforts of the volunteers. In his address, he emphasized the importance of keeping public spaces clean

## Kavinder hits out at NC, PDP, Cong for politicizing security issues



BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Friday made a scathing attack on leadership of NC, PDP and Congress parties for politicizing security issues by concocting fake narratives, broadcasting wrong and deceptive figures.

In a hard hitting statement against the NC, PDP and Congress leaders issued to media persons, the BJP stalwart leader said that a simple comparison of the figures of militancy related incidents between the NC, PDP & Congress tenures and that of BJP will expose the stark contrast stunning Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis because today under the strong leadership of PM Narendra Modi, J&K is treading steadfastly towards peace and progress unlike the tenures of weak and meek regimes of the aforesaid leaders, who always preferred their vested interests over the interests of common man and that of the country pushing the crown of India-J&K towards a complete mess and an era of death and destruction.

Citing the statement of HM Amit Shah, the Incharge BJP UT Election Committee said that soon after ensuring a double-engine government in J&K post

**'Militancy comparison between NC, PDP, Cong tenures & BJP will expose stark contrast; stun Abdullahs, Muftis, Gandhis'**

October 8, BJP will bury the remains of terrorism in J&K so deep that people will forget this scourge once and for all.

Kavinder thanked the electorate for voting in record numbers in the first phase strengthening democracy and made an appeal to continue with the same spirit in the days to come by voting even more in the rest of the phases to give a befitting response to adversaries of the country, who don't want democracy to thrive in this part of the country.

## Sham Chowdhary takes command of campaign in Suchetgarh

BJP synonymous to dev, peace in J&K: Tarun Chugh

BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20

Senior BJP leader and former minister, Sham Chowdhary, on Friday took command of the election campaign in Suchetgarh Assembly Constituency in favor of party candidate Gharu Ram Bhagat.

Sham Chowdhary has represented Suchetgarh constituency in last Assembly elections. It has now been reserved. Sham said that he leave no stone unturned to ensure victory of Gharu Ram.

A massive public rally was held today in Suchetgarh, where BJP National General Secretary and in-charge of J&K, Tarun Chugh, also participated.

Addressing the rally, Tarun Chugh, highlighted the need for the people to vote for BJP for the security and development of Jammu and Kashmir. "This vote is for the security of Jammu and Kashmir," he said and added, "BJP has ensured stability and peace in the region by abrogating Article 370".

He also pointed out how 1.50 lakh Kashmiri Pandits were forced to flee Kashmir, and blamed the NC and Congress for this.

"The National Conference and



Congress are the root cause of the sufferings of the people of J&K and the Abdullahs, Muftis, and Gandhis have ruined J&K for their vested interests," Chugh said.

Chugh termed the abrogation of Article 370 by the BJP as a pivotal step towards the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"By abrogating Article 370, BJP has liberated Jammu and Kashmir from the clutches of political dynasties that have exploited the people here for decades," he said adding, "Now, Jammu and Kashmir is on the path of peace, development, and prosperity".

Chugh said that NC-Cong are trying to bring back Article 370, which could once again plunge Jammu and Kashmir into the

darkness of militancy and separatism.

"These parties want to take us back to that dark era, but I assure you, BJP will never let that happen," he said.

Article 370 is now a part of history and will never return," Chugh said.

He urged the people to vote for BJP to ensure the continuous development and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir and to establish a double-engine government, where both the central and state governments can work together to push forward development projects.

Sham Chowdhary urged the people to reject NC-Cong in these elections and vote for BJP so that it forms stable government on its own.

## BJP using negative agenda against NC-Congress alliance to distract from its own failures in governance :Rattan



BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20

Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Rattan Lal Gupta, has reaffirmed that the National Conference (NC) remains the sole champion of restoring true democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a gathering at a joining programme held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, Organized by Sardar Jatinder Singh Lucky Vice Chairman Cantt. Board Jammu. Rattan Lal Gupta accused BJP of fearing from the NC and its leaderships and resorting to the use of a negative agenda against NC-Congress alliance to distract from its own failures in governance.

The senior NC leader criticized the BJP's failed development narrative in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the party's inability to address basic public needs. "The BJP has miserably failed to provide basic amenities

to the people, and their narrative of development has completely collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Recalling the pivotal role played by Dr. Farooq Abdullah in restoring democracy in Jammu and Kashmir in 1996, Rattan Lal Gupta contrasted it with the current state of affairs under BJP rule. "Instead of strengthening democracy, the BJP has divided a full-fledged state into two Union Territories, stripping the people of their political rights," he stated.

Expressing concern over recent polling, Rattan Lal pointed out that the high voter turnout in Assembly elections was a clear reflection of the people's frustration with the BJP. "The high turnout is not an endorsement of BJP's policies, but rather an expression of public outrage against their misgovernance and failure to deliver."

Rattan Lal Gupta expressed confidence in the NC's return to power, asserting that the party will secure a comfortable majority

**NC will secure comfortable majority in Assembly polls**

ty in the upcoming elections. "The National Conference, with its pro-people policies and commitment to development, is the only party capable of delivering for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Earlier, Smt Paramjeet Kour President BJP Mahila Morcha Suchetgarh and large number of people from BJP joining the NC, a testament to the party's growing popularity.

Rattan Lal Gupta welcomed the new members, emphasizing that the NC's developmental agenda and focus on public welfare were the driving forces behind the growing support in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who joined the party fold included: Jasveer Kour, Manpreet Kour, Seema Devi, Parsheno Devi, Pushpa Devi, Balkar Singh, Jasvinder Singh, Vansh Kumar, Vinay Kumar, Arjun Kumar, Ragubir Singh, Anrjeet Singh, Naryan Singh, Sahil Choudhary and others.

Those who were present include: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women wing, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Puspaa Dogra Vice President Women wing, Vikram Puri Chairman Trade and Industry, Pooja Jaggi, S. Gurmeet Singh (Jimmy) Som Raj Taroch Secretary Central Zone and others.

## Jammu Kashmir is going to get freedom from three mines: Chandel

BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20

Hinduist BJP leader Guruji Raju Chandel while talking to journalists in Jammu today said that the way BJP is getting immense love and support from the public in the Jammu Kashmir assembly elections, it seems as if the public has already given its love to the BJP government.

Chandel said that if BJP forms government, all the three robber mine owners will soon be sent to Tihar Jail and all their property will be confiscated and every



penny of the government money they have looted from the state of Jammu Kashmir will be accounted for and these three families will soon

be behind the bars of Tihar Jail.

Chandel said that BJP is going to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir and we

are going to form the government by including independents on about 60 assembly seats.

Chandel said that our national leaders have already said that we will never compromise with the three families and will form the government on our own because the guarantee of Modi government is Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas. Today the public is going to give its decision in favor of the Bharatiya Janata Party regarding development works

## PAGER BOMBS RETURN AS TERROR TOOLS

In the rapidly evolving world of modern technology, we often find ourselves preoccupied with the newest devices, the latest apps, and the most advanced communication platforms. With smartphones, encrypted messaging services, and artificial intelligence at the forefront of contemporary innovation, it's easy to forget the outdated technologies that once dominated our lives. Among these now antiquated devices is the pager—once ubiquitous, now nearly extinct in mainstream society. Yet, in a disturbing twist, these forgotten relics are being revived not for their original purpose of communication but as deadly instruments of terror. The resurgence of the pager bomb is a stark reminder that no technology, no matter how obsolete, is safe from exploitation by those with malicious intent. It is a chilling demonstration of how modern terrorism adapts and evolves, using even outdated tools to further its destructive aims, and it highlights the urgent need for innovative, multi-layered defence strategies to combat these evolving threats.

The history of the pager is relatively simple. Before cell phones became widespread, pagers were a critical communication tool, allowing people to send and receive brief messages via radio waves. Their reliability and simplicity made them indispensable in various sectors, particularly in healthcare, where they are still in limited use today. However, the widespread adoption of mobile phones rendered pagers obsolete for the general public. As they faded from prominence, most people stopped thinking about them, relegating them to the dustbin of history. This complacency, however, is precisely what has allowed terrorists to repurpose these forgotten devices into instruments of destruction. The return of the pager bomb is more than just a resurgence of a forgotten technology. It represents a broader shift in how terrorists are adapting to a world where security systems are increasingly focused on monitoring modern communication channels, such as encrypted apps and internet-based platforms. While these advanced systems are essential for tracking potential threats in today's digital age, they often overlook older technologies, mistakenly assuming that they are no longer relevant. This gap in focus has created an opportunity for terrorists to exploit, turning seemingly obsolete devices like pagers into tools of terror. In doing so, they have demonstrated once again that their ability to innovate knows no bounds, and that even the most outdated technology can be weaponized in the hands of those who seek to cause harm. The repurposing of pagers into bombs is indicative of a larger trend in global terrorism. Terrorists are no longer confined to traditional methods of violence, such as hijackings, vehicle bombs, or suicide attacks. Instead, they are increasingly looking for ways to turn everyday objects into weapons, capitalizing on the element of surprise and the fact that such items often go unnoticed. This shift toward low-tech but highly effective methods of attack is part of a broader evolution in the tactics of modern terrorism. By using devices like pagers, terrorists can evade detection more easily, as these gadgets are often overlooked by security systems focused on more contemporary threats. In this way, the resurgence of pager bombs serves as a sobering reminder that our security efforts must be comprehensive and flexible enough to account for both new and old threats. This trend also highlights the need for security agencies to remain vigilant not only in monitoring modern technologies but also in reassessing older devices that have fallen out of common use. As terrorists continue to adapt their methods to circumvent modern security measures, it is essential that we do not overlook the potential dangers posed by older technologies. However, this does not mean that we should rush to ban the use of pagers altogether. Despite their antiquated appearance, pagers still serve a vital role in certain industries, particularly in healthcare, where reliable communication is critical in areas with poor cell phone reception. Moreover, the complete prohibition of such devices would be neither practical nor effective in preventing their misuse. Instead, the focus should be on modernizing detection systems and developing new strategies to identify and mitigate the threats posed by repurposed technologies.

As such, Law enforcement agencies must be equipped with the tools and knowledge needed to recognize when outdated devices are being used for malicious purposes. This will require collaboration between governments, security experts, and technology companies, as well as ongoing efforts to stay ahead of terrorists' ever-evolving tactics.

## A dignified peaceful passing is everyone's right

M.R. RAJAGOPAL, PARTH SHARMA

Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States of America, died in 2004 at the age of 93 at his home surrounded by his family. He had dementia which he lived with for nine years. His wife, Nancy Reagan, called his last moments of a peaceful death "the greatest gift" he could have given her. Compare this with the way India's former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee died in 2018, nine years after a stroke that had left him non-ambulant. The last 35 days of his life were spent in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. He died on artificial life support systems.

Death is inevitable, the one certainty in life. When the time comes, and if you have an incurable disease, how would you like to go? Would you prefer your bed in your home, with your loved ones around you? Or would you prefer being all alone in an intensive care unit (ICU) with a tube in every orifice, hooked to machines that measure the functioning of every vital organ in your body, with each malfunctioning organ supported artificially?

In the West and India the stories of Ronald Reagan and A.B. Vajpayee follow a certain pattern each. In Euro-American countries, more and more people are now documenting advance medical directives (living will) to express the way they would like to die. In these countries, terminally-ill people are allowed to die a natural death by taking them off life support systems if the likelihood of a return to a reasonable quality of life is low.

In a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2019, C.L. Sprung and colleagues showed that in European ICUs, people died while on life-support systems only in 10.3% of such cases. In the remaining cases, such artificial support measures were withheld or withdrawn and replaced by palliative care to permit death with some dignity.



Now let us compare this with what happens in India. In an editorial, Dr. Raj K. Mani, former president of the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine, shows the cruel contrast in Indian ICUs. In India, approximately 70% of patients with incurable critical illness die on life support systems — alone in the ICU; the families outside in a crowded area are left to deal with hefty hospital bills, with no time to grieve.

What about the other 30%? To quote Dr. Raj K. Mani, these deaths were "mediated through the so-called Left Against Medical Advice/Discharged Against Medical Advice (LAMA/DAMA)" (an ethically unjustifiable practice representing unplanned treatment limitations without a formal shift to palliative care). The suffering that is meted out to the patient and family (physically, socially, mentally, and spiritually) with such a practice is unimaginable. This, however, starkly differs from what people desire. In a survey of nearly 3,500 people in Pune, 83% of the people reported their preferred place of death to be their home.

ICU routinisation, lack of legal clarity

Why do such practices continue? Perhaps it is a mistaken belief that the doctor must prolong life by delaying death at all costs by hours or days even when the futility of treatment is clear. However, no ethical principle says that doctors have such a duty. In India, the

official definition of the 'duty of care' of a health-care provider as per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is "to mitigate suffering. To cure sometimes, relieve often and to comfort always" with no exception to this rule. But this document gathers dust in obscure corners of medical college libraries, with practice across ICUs in India being vastly different.

This practice of routinisation of intensive care deaths is barely a quarter of a century old. Before that, ICUs were for people with salvageable health issues. Now, a good chunk of the society seems to have come to accept ICU deaths as normal. The nuclearisation of families could be a reason as death is no longer familiar to the average person. The consequence: families are unable to think about death, and unable to make the right decisions in the face of a major health issue. A 2022 Report of The Lancet Commission on the Value of Death points out that modern society has become death-illiterate. It calls for 'death literacy' which brings 'death back to life'. A society that is brave enough to discuss death and dying among friends and family is likely to leave people empowered to cross that difficult bridge when they come to it.

The lack of legal clarity is also a contributing factor. India has no law covering end-of-life care. In its absence, a Supreme Court of India verdict of 2023 remains valid.

According to this, any advance medical directive left by a mentally competent person will be valid and binding on health-care professionals. The Court also ratifies the withdrawal of life support in the context of futility. The process stipulated by this verdict is still a little complicated; but more than that, the lack of awareness about it amongst the public and professionals is the bigger barrier.

The unfortunate use of the phrase "passive euthanasia" adds to the confusion. According to the ICMR document referred to above, this is a misnomer. Euthanasia involves killing even if the intentions are good; therefore, euthanasia cannot be passive. Withholding or withdrawing artificial life support in the face of the futility of treatment involves no act of killing; it only allows natural death.

On palliative care and a living will

World Health Day (April 7) has passed and the theme for 2024 was "My health, my right". The World Health Organization officially defines health as "physical, social and mental well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". On March 7, 2024, in response to a public interest litigation, a three-member Bench of the Supreme Court chaired by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed that the right to health includes the right to palliative care. Let us hope that this results in a rational system in place to allow everyone to live with some dignity during the last few days and to allow them to go in peace.

When the time comes, none of us will have the power to fight for our rights. Unless the immediate family concurs with our desire for a peaceful death, we will have no way of exercising our rights. Therefore, it would be good to protect ourselves by preparing a living will, getting it witnessed and countersigned by a gazetted officer, and discussing the matter with the immediate family.

## An inheritance tax will help reduce inequality

ADVAIT MOHARIR, RAJENDRAN NARAYANAN

A remark by Chairman of Indian Overseas Congress Sam Pitroda on implementing an inheritance tax as a tool of wealth redistribution has sparked massive debates. In this article, we present rationale on why high inequality is harmful, and advocate for progressive taxes as a mechanism to reduce inequality.

Primarily, we underscore the need to take a view of citizenship where the poor and the rich can participate equally in democratic decision-making. However, in an unequal society, a handful of dominant individuals can wield a disproportionate amount of power through control of resources. This will likely lead to a few wealthy elites dictating the socioeconomic and political decisions aimed to benefit them at the cost of the majority. The recent electoral bonds scam bears witness to this. The citizenship of wealthy elites would then carry more weight than the majority of the country. This is ethically hazardous.

Why inequality matters First, inequality harms growth in the medium-to-long run, by hampering firm productivity, reducing labour income, and diverting resources away from rights such as education. Second, in unequal countries, the place of birth holds inordinate power in directing lifetime outcomes. In India, almost a third of the variation in consumption can be explained by the place of residence: the State, and city or village. Third, high inequality is also associated with political polarisation and increased conflict. Fourth, inequality is likely to have a negative multiplier effect on the economy — diminished earnings for the poor lead to reduced consumption and savings and increased indebtedness. This reduces aggregate demand, limits production and investments, and leads to



lower growth rates in the future. Using labour bureau data, Jean Dreze and Reetika Khera showed that while real wages of agricultural labourers grew by 6.8% between 2004-2014, they declined by 1.3% in the last decade. Using Periodic Labour Force Survey data, a Bahutva Karnataka report shows that 34% of households earned less than the recommended daily minimum wage of ₹375 in 2022-23. Using Reserve Bank of India data, Zico Dasgupta and Srinivas Raghavendra voice concern about the sharp reduction in household savings and increased debt. In contrast to these, the richest 1% holds 40% of India's wealth.

Some commentators argue that some inequality during growth is inevitable, and the priority instead should be towards reducing poverty. However, research by Tianyu Fan and co-authors shows that the gains from India's growth over the last two decades have been skewed towards high-income urban residents. Keeping everything else the same, there is nothing inherently special in the children of the wealthy compared to the children of the poor. The Constitution mandates equality of status and of opportunity. As such the government is obliged to take steps to reduce

the disparities arising from accidents of birth.

An inheritance tax A wealth tax is a recurring tax on all physical and financial assets an individual owns. An inheritance tax differs from a wealth tax in two ways: it is intergenerational and levied once in a lifetime. These taxes are meant to be applied to individuals having high wealth above a threshold. When implemented well, these taxes reduce the concentration of wealth and encourage shifting investments from non-productive to productive activities. Property of the elite being bequeathed to descendants implies that the descendants do no work to acquire it. There is no economic reason for it to be a freebie for them. Some might argue that inheritance tax will disincentivise innovations. But this disregards that innovation is needed to be competitive today and suggests that innovation is solely to propagate dynastic control of resources which is at odds with democratic ideals. On the contrary, revenue generated from inheritance tax can be used to fund a diversified set of innovations. An advanced country like Japan has up to 55% inheritance tax. A variant of the inheritance tax, called estates duty, was levied in India between 1953-1985 but

this was abolished owing to administrative costs. However, the economist Rishabh Kumar shows that this was effective in reducing the top 1% personal wealth share from 16% to 6% between 1966 and 1985.

Another approach is the land value tax (LVT): this taxes the rental value of land, without considering the property built on it. This is borne by the landowner and not the tenants. Unlike labour, land is a natural resource and is unresponsive to changes in taxes, making the LVT an efficient source of revenue. Given the role of land ownership in perpetuating feudal caste relations in rural India and the pervasive politician-builder nexus in urban India, LVT can be a useful redistributive mechanism.

Detractors claim that tax evasion among the wealthy makes these taxes impractical. However, recent research by Natasha Sarin (in the U.S.) projects that sufficient investment in improving tax compliance can yield revenue up to 10 times the investment. Nathaniel Hendren and co-authors show that auditing the top 1% and 0.1% generated three to six times the return on investment.

Economists Jayati Ghosh and Prabhat Patnaik demonstrate that a 2% wealth tax and a 33.3% inheritance tax only on the top 1% in India can raise an additional public expenditure of 10% of the GDP. This can be used to ensure a bouquet of socioeconomic rights for the poor like living wages, right to health, employment, and food. Given technological advancements, these are possible if there is political will.

## Strategy is more focused on newer Indian players in BGT: Hazlewood

NEW DELHI, SEP 20



Australia fast-bowler Josh Hazlewood has said that his team's strategy for this year's Border-Gavaskar Trophy will be focused more towards the newer players in the Indian team who they haven't played much against in Test cricket.

"The strategy is probably more focused on the newer players we haven't played much Test cricket against, like Jaiswal and even Shubman Gill, who we've only faced a few times. We've played against Virat, Rohit, and others for years, so we know what to do," said Hazlewood to Star Sports.

The 2024/25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy will see India and Australia play Test matches in Perth, Adelaide (pink-ball match), Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney from November 22 to January 7, 2025. India has won Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia the last two times it was played here in 2018/19 and 2020/21. Hazlewood, who was a member of the Australian team winning 2014/15 Border-Gavaskar Trophy on home soil, feels the execution of plans is another focus point for Australia in the longer format.

"The plan doesn't really change that often. It's about the basics — doing them well and for a long time. We usually find that, 9 out of 10 times, Test cricket comes back to that Plan A. You adapt to conditions and change things throughout the

day or innings, but most of the time, it's about executing that plan."

This year's Border-Gavaskar Trophy will also be the first five-match Test series between India and Australia since 1991/92. Before the marquee series starts on November 22 in Perth, India will also have its A team play two four-day matches against Australia A at Great Barrier Reef Arena in Mackay (October 31 to November 3) and the MCG (November 7-10), followed by an intra-squad India match to take place at the WACA Ground, Perth from November 15-17.

## Flick stays positive after Barca's Champions League defeat to Monaco

MONACO, SEP 20

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick remained optimistic despite suffering his first defeat in charge of the Catalan giants, a 2-1 loss to Monaco in their Champions League opener on Thursday.

The match was turned on its head when Barcelona defender Eric Garcia was sent off after just 11 minutes, allowing Monaco to seize control and secure the win through goals from Maghnes Aklouch and George Ilenikhe.

Despite the early setback, Flick praised his team's effort and encouraged them to stay focused on the challenges ahead. "With Eric's red card, the game changed totally, but I can see the positives. We tried to defend as a team and attack as a team. We had chances, but they deserved to win," he said in the post-match press conference.

"I told the team to lift their heads up because they're disappointed. But we have to focus on

Sunday's game. It's time to recover, and I'm hopeful the players will be back with a lot of energy," he added.

The loss brought back unwelcome memories of Barcelona's Champions League exit last season, when they crashed out in the quarter-finals after a heavy defeat to Paris St. Germain, which also saw them reduced to 10 men following a red card for Ronald Araujo.

"Today's red card after just 11 minutes changed our match plan, and we have to accept that. These things happen in football. We are strong enough to play a good Champions League campaign. We have seven matches ahead, and I think we will win many of them," said Flick.

Barcelona's next European challenge sees them hosting Young Boys in the second group-stage fixture, as Flick looks to bounce back and guide his side to success in a competition they last won in 2015.

## Raya's saves are the best I've seen in my career: Arteta



BERGAMO (ITALY), SEP 20

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta admitted that David Raya's double save during the goalless draw with Atalanta in their opening Champions League fixture was probably the best saves he has ever seen in his career.

Raya's brilliant double save earned Arsenal a draw from a hard-fought contest at Atalanta. The Spanish shot-stopper produced lightning-like reflexes to keep out Mateo Retegui's low penalty from 12 yards. He then managed to scoop the ball off the line and keep his sheet clean for the fourth time in five appearances.

"It's probably one of the best saves

I have seen in my career. He was unbelievable. Last year was already very impressive and really good, even with a different context. This season he has started exceptionally — the save he made against Villa, today he kept us in the game. That's the reality," said Arteta after the match.

"You need that from your keeper at this level. I'm really happy he's in the form he's in at the moment. The work with the goalkeeping coach, Inaki, he knew (which way to go) and they did the job and the execution of that first one was unbelievable. But the second one, I thought the ball was in so it was really similar to the Villa one.

"We signed him when he was already exceptional, but then you have to do it at this level and especially in the context of when he came in, it wasn't easy at all, but he's showing the kind of person he is and his role as a leader in the team. That's very important," he added.

Raya himself feels that his double save that secured a point against Atalanta was one of the best three he has made in his career.

He revealed that a chat with goalkeeping coach Inaki Cana during the lengthy VAR check helped give him the confidence to pull off the wonder save.

"The decision was taking a very, very long time so I decided to go to the bench and speak to him to be on the same page, and what things we could do to have a better chance to save, and it worked out.

## PKL: U Mumba gear up for season 11 with 40-day intensive training camp in Ahmedabad



AHMEDABAD, SEP 20

With an aim to build on the formidable squad built at the Auction for Pro Kabaddi League Season 11, U Mumba has initiated an intensive 40-day training camp at the Wyndham Hotel and Club O7 in Ahmedabad.

The camp will bring together all 21 players, blending youthful talent with the seasoned experience in the squad, to ensure they reach peak fitness and performance levels for the 2024-25 season under the expert guidance of head coach Gholamreza Mazandarani and assistant coach Anil Chhaprana.

The training camp will focus on strengthening the tactical understanding of their revamped defense, leveraging the strong bond between Sunil Kumar and Parvesh Bhainswal

and the experience of U Mumba mainstay Rinku to counter opposition raiders.

At the camp, coaches and support staff will also aim to build the understanding and bonding among players, ensuring cohesive teamwork to enhance the team's ability for PKL Season 11.

"We feel really pleased with our work at the Auction to build a balanced squad of both experienced title-winning players and very impressive young talent. I think we lacked the stability with our few experienced players at times the last few years and by addressing that and with the team assembled, the real work begins in the pre-season camp. This phase is crucial, as the effort put in here by the players, coaches and all support staff directly impacts our performance in the league," said CEO Suhail Chandhok.

The support staff, including physios, masseurs, and the strength and conditioning coach will aim to bring top-notch expertise as part of their roles in the team.

"I'm excited to work with this new squad. We've strengthened the areas where we needed improvement. While last season started well, it didn't end as we hoped. I understand what we need to work on, and that's our focus moving forward. I'm pleased with the training facilities and the support staff. I'm confident we'll give our very best to have a strong pre-season and a successful season ahead," coach Mazandarani said.

U Mumba set a new record by

## It's a good opportunity to take my 300th wicket on this ground: Ravindra Jadeja

CHENNAI, SEP 20

Hoping to claim his 300th Test wicket at the iconic Chepauk, seasoned all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja on Friday said all the five Indian bowlers "will be in play" when Bangladesh come out to bat in their second innings of the series opener here.

Jadeja picked up two wickets in Bangladesh's first innings to take his overall tally to 296 in the format, having compiled a neat 86 with the bat while adding 199 runs for the seventh wicket with centurion Ravichandran Ashwin (113).

In fact, Jadeja too was looking good for a hundred of his own before being dismissed by Taskin Ahmed.

"I got out today but it's part and parcel of the game. Now we have to put up a good score on the board in the second innings. I am very happy with my bowling, the way I went through today. It's a good opportunity to take the 300th wicket on this ground," Jadeja told the official broadcaster at the end of second day's play.

India were in total com-



mand having extended their overall lead to 308 runs. The hosts were 81 for three when the stumps were drawn, after bowling out Bangladesh for 149 in their first innings.

India made 376 in their first essay.

"First we have to bat very well, we have to put somewhere around 120-150 from

hereon. We'll be in a good position and then we'll come out and bowl and try and get them out as early as possible," said Jadeja, who knows the ground like the back of his hand thanks to his long stint with Chennai Super Kings.

As many as 17 wickets fell on the day, a Chepauk record, and though there were no

demons in the pitch, there was definitely something in it for the pacers.

"It's pretty good for batting but there's still something in the wicket for the fast bowlers. Odd ball was seaming, odd ball was swinging, it's not that easy for batters. If fast bowlers bend their back, they can take something out of the wicket."

Asked about his partnership with Ashwin and what was his "advice" to the local boy after they joined hands with India struggling at 144 for six on the opening day, Jadeja said, "First of all, Ashwin doesn't need any advice. I was just talking to Ash that we are not gonna miscall or try and make errors because the wicket was so good and we both were batting very well."

"I said we'll look to take easy singles, I'll try and not make you run hard and that was the conversation between us. Well played to Ashwin, he played a brilliant knock at his home ground."

"There is something in the wicket for the fast bowler and for spinners also, odd spin and odd ball is keeping low. All the five bowlers will be in

## Pacers put India on top, hosts stretch lead against Bangladesh to 308 on Day 2

CHENNAI, SEP 20

Jasprit Bumrah's artistry seemed incomprehensible for an out of sorts Bangladesh batting line-up as India took complete control of the opening Test with an overall lead of 308 runs at end of second day's play.

Bumrah (4/50) once again worked his magic in company of Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep (2/19) and Ravindra Jadeja as Bangladesh were all-out for a paltry 149 in their first innings in reply to India's 376.

With a lead of 227 runs, India ended second at 81 for 3 with Shubman Gill (33 batting) and Rishabh Pant (12 batting) at the crease.

The rest of the six Bangladesh wickets were equally shared by rookie Akash Deep (2/19), seasoned Ravindra Jadeja (2/19) and Mohammed Siraj (2/30).

However, the beginning of India's second innings was not really bright as they lost skipper Rohit Sharma (5) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (10) with 28 on board.

Rohit was forced to play a slightly short of the length delivery from Taskin Ahmed, and the resultant edge ended with Zakir Hasan at gully.

Jaiswal was guilty of succumbing to the temptation of going for an expansive drive after pacer Nahid Rana pitched one full following up on a few



short-pitched deliveries.

But the 28 for two was not really alarming considering the substantial first innings lead India had amassed by then. However, they needed immediate consolidation to further tighten the grip.

Gill provided that in the company of Virat Kohli (17, 37 balls) for the third wicket while adding 39 runs.

Gill played some delectable shots either side of the pitch, generating immense power and timing from his typical minimum-follow through of the bat method.

A short-arm jab through covers off Rana for boundary was the standout shot from the right-hander on the day. But the Kohli's dismissal, leg before to spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz, late on the day slightly soured the proceedings

for India.

However, on a day when a total of 17 wickets fell, Bumrah, as usual, was the lead performer.

The quick slipped into his elements straightaway and fetched India the first breakthrough dismissing in-form Shadman Islam, who shouldered arms to an in-cutter with disastrous consequences.

It was a dismissal where Bumrah set up Shadman with a few deliveries round the wicket (for the southpaw) and then came over the wicket to keep the length intact but subtly changing the line of attack.

That indecisiveness was the hallmark of the rest of the Bangladesh innings, as Bumrah added the wickets of Mushfiqur Rahim, Taskin and Hasan Mahmud to his collection.

Centurion Ravichandran Ashwin endured a rare wicketless innings but others stepped in for him, and Bangladesh too contributed with their timorous approach.

It was reflected in the dismissals of Litton Das (22, 42 balls) and the vastly experienced Shakib Al-Hasan (32, 64 balls).

They were looking comfortable in the middle during the course of their 51-run (94 balls) alliance for the sixth wicket.

But Litton chose to play a rather needless uppish slog sweep off Jadeja that was grabbed by substitute fielder Dhruv Jurel, who came in for pacer Mohammed Siraj. Siraj had left the field for a few overs to tend to cramps.

Shakib's dismissal was even more bizarre. The left-hander went for a reverse sweep off a Jadeja full delivery and the ball took a deflection off his boots en route to the big gloves of Rishabh Pant.

Pacer Akash chipped in with two wickets in as many balls to oust Zakir and Mominul Haq which hastened Bangladesh's downfall.

Before they collapsed in a heap, Bangladesh had a few moments of delight as they managed to price out the last four Indian wickets, including Ashwin (113) and Jadeja (86), to put a quick end to the hosts' first dig.

Ashwin and Jadeja depart-

## I used to respond to pressure in past, but now wants to play with smile on face: Ashwin



CHENNAI, SEP 20

Ravichandran Ashwin on Friday said he has liberated himself from the clutches of external and internal pressure, and now he is just looking to play cricket "with a smile on face."

Ashwin made a back-on-the-wall hundred on the first day of the opening Test here against Bangladesh to rescue India from a precarious 144 for six in the company of an equally resolute Ravindra Jadeja.

The 38-year-old leveraged on that innings to drive home the point that he now only responds to pressure situations on a cricket field, unlike in the past when he reacted to every needle-point.

"I do enjoy and embrace pressure. There's no doubt about it. It does give you opportunities to be able to be pushed to a corner and then try and respond. But I was critical too, earlier (of himself and others), because a lot of pressure has been put on me by

people. I've put pressure on myself," Ashwin told reporters on Friday.

"The pressure I've always responded to — in answering someone, in a performance or in a press conference. But it's not like that now. I want to play cricket with a smile on my face. I promised myself 4-5 years ago that I won't respond to anyone, and I've been maintaining that till now," he added.

The mental detachment to situations and people around him has helped Ashwin to clearly demarcate between his primary and secondary suits — bowling and batting.

"Bowling and batting are very separate sports in the same game. One is done consciously, and the other one is done subconsciously.

"For me to compartmentalise both has taken its own due and at this stage, I'm able to sequence that and split both of them," he began.

So, how did he keep his focus on the batting during his 189-minute innings, spanning over three sessions and consuming 240 balls?

Ashwin took precisely the opposite route that he would have taken as a bowler.

"The mind can play tricks because I'm a bowler who plays on 12-18 balls or 24 balls ahead when I'm sequencing it. But as a batter, I shouldn't do that. So, I just used my experience to focus on the ball and hitting it as I see it," he noted.

The Chennai man also said he has worked on his batting in the last three years to add more layers to it, so that he can be more versatile from a team perspective.

"So, I have worked a lot (on his batting)... quite a lot on how I can maximise my shots, maximise my game, work on how I can play fast

## Terrorism will.....

Congress president and leader of the opposition Rahul Gandhi's frequent visits to Kashmir in the recent past, he said, "Rahul Baba is roaming on bike, having ice-cream and throwing snowballs on his sister (Priyanka Gandhi) and at the same time abusing (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi.

"You are abusing Modi but it was not possible during your government. We have buried terrorism so you reached there with your (Bharat Jodo) Yatra. It was possible because the BJP-led government is in power at the Centre," Shah said.

Referring to the 'Ekta Yatra' led by the then BJP president Murli Manohar Joshi in December 1991, Shah said he along with Modi were part of the yatra which was supposed to unfurl the tricolour at Lal Chowk but was stopped at Ramban.

"We spent two days in Ramban and later a helicopter was made available for us to unfurl the tricolour in Lal Chowk. The situation has changed and now Ganesh Chaturthi, Janmashtami is observed and Tazia (procession by Shia community) taken out and there is no riot," he said.

Addressing his first election rally of the day in Gulabgarh in the Padder-Nagseni assembly segment in support of former minister Sunil Sharma, Shah said the National Conference-Congress alliance will not be able to form the J-K government.

"Today, I promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including this region which has a history of sacrifices following the eruption of terrorism in 1990, that we will bury terrorism to such a deep level that it will never surface again," the home minister said, adding attempts are being made to revive and strengthen terrorism like the 1990s.

"National Conference and Congress have made promises like releasing terrorists from jails after the formation of their government. In front of Maa (Machial Mata's) shrine, I am saying to you that this is Modi's government and no one has the courage to spread terrorism on the soil of India," he said.

Shah said the BJP government has strengthened the village defence guards and Special Police Officers who are being provided modern weapons, replacing the old .303 rifles with self-loading rifles.

"The security grid being laid is such that any number of people (terrorists) who want to come here from anywhere will face their end in these hills at the hands of our army and police jawans," the home minister said in a stern warning to foreign terrorists infiltrating into Jammu and Kashmir from across the border.

Shah also took potshots at National Conference leader Omar Abdullah for his statement that Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru should not have been hanged.

"If this is the situation, what will happen once their government is formed? Stone-pelting will resume, funerals for militants will occur, attacks will escalate, and investment will stop," he said.

On Farooq Abdullah's remarks, Shah reminded the audience that the army protected Jammu and Kashmir in three wars and continues to shield its people, often sacrificing their lives. "Insulting them is unacceptable," he added.

In August, Farooq Abdullah sparked a controversy with his remarks against the army. "There is a massive troop deployment on our borders. Terrorists continue to infiltrate Indian territory. How can this happen? Ye sab miley hue hain (There is collusion between them)," Abdullah said.

This was the home minister's second visit to the Jammu region within a fortnight. Earlier, during his two-day visit to Jammu on September 6 and 7, he released BJP's manifesto for J-K assembly elections and addressed a workers convention.

He said the BJP follows the ideology of Prem Nath Dogra - "One Constitution, one flag, and one Prime Minister," affirming that Jammu and Kashmir is an inseparable part of India, and "no one can reverse that".

Referring to the J-K BJP manifesto for the assembly polls, he said a White Paper will be issued after the three-phase elections to ensure accountability for over 40,000 persons who lost their lives in terrorism over the past 35 years in the Union Territory.

"The Modi government will provide jobs to the youth who are holding laptops and tricolour in their hands. Jails are ready for those holding guns," he said at the rally in support of party candidates - Rakesh Singh Thakur (Ramban) and Mohammad Saleem Bhat (Banihal).

"I want to clarify that no talks will be held with Pakistan till the terrorism is over. Let (NC leader) Omar Abdullah do his best, no trade will be held with Pakistan till the terrorism is buried in the 'pataal' (bottomless pit)," the home minister said.

The campaigning for the first phase covering 24 assembly constituencies across seven districts including the Chenab valley region of Jammu and south Kashmir districts ended on Monday evening.

## Assembly Polls.....

while the PDP has chosen not to contest in two. The Democratic Azad Party is running in four constituencies and the Apni Party in two.

The first phase voting will decide the fate of many former ministers, MPs and MLAs including first time contestant Iltija Mufti, daughter of PDP President Mehbooba Mufti.

Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban districts of Jammu division and Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam districts of Kashmir division will be witnessing the voting in the first phase of election.

BJP's Sunil Sharma, Shakti Parihar, Sofi Yusuf, Congress's Ghulam Ahmed Mir, Vikar Rasool Wani, NC's Sajjad Kichloo, Hasnain Masoodi, Shaikat Ahmed Ganai, PDP's Iltija Mufti, Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, Sartaj Ahmed Madani are among the prominent contestants in the Phase-I.

More than 23.27 lakh voters including 5.66 lakh youths are eligible to exercise their electoral franchise during the Phase-I across the 24 Assembly Constituencies in seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the latest data of electoral rolls, there is a total of 23,27,543 lakh voters, who are eligible to vote during the Phase I and out of them, there are 11,76,441 male voters and 11,51,042 female voters along with 60 third gender electors.

As many as 5.66 lakh youths are young electors between the age 18-29 and include 1,23,922 first time voters between the age of 18-19 years, with 65542 of them male and 58380 female electors.

In the Phase- I, 28,310 Person with Disabilities (PwDs) and 15,774 voters above the age of 85 are eligible to cast their vote.

In Kashmir Division, 16 Assembly Constituencies comprising Pampore, Tral, Pulwama, Rajpora, Zainapora, Shopian, DH Pora, Kulgam, Devsar, Dooru, Kokernag (ST), Anantnag West, Anantnag, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Shangus-

Anantnag East, Pahalgam; whereas in Jammu Division, 8 Assembly Constituencies including, Inderwal, Kishtwar, Padder-Nagseni, Bhadarwah, Doda, Doda West, Ramban and Banihal are scheduled to go for polls in the Phase-I of the Assembly Election.

The voting will be conducted from 7 AM to 6 PM. However, tight security arrangements are in place for the smooth and incident free three-phase elections in Jammu and Kashmir scheduled on September 18, September 25, and October 1.

This will mark the first election since the abrogation of Article 370, with vote counting scheduled for October 8.

## 3 Rallies by.....

Conference vice president Omar Abdullah were among those who campaigned for their respective parties or alliances since the polls were announced a month ago.

While the BJP star campaigners mainly focussed on poll-bound areas of Jammu region for the first phase, Congress bigwigs tried to strike a balance between the Kashmir valley and Jammu in their campaign.

The key issue that has formed the pivot of the opposition campaign has been restoration of statehood to J&K. In August 2019, the Centre had abrogated Article 370 which granted special status to J&K, and also bifurcated the state into two Union territories.

The BJP, on the other hand, focussed on 'Naya Kashmir' narrative while warning the voters of possible rise in terrorism if the NC-Congress alliance is voted to power.

The election official said 3,276 polling stations have been set up for voting to be held in Pampore, Tral, Pulwama, Rajpora, Zainapora, Shopian, DH Pora, Kulgam, Devsar, Dooru, Kokernag, Anantnag West, Anantnag, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Shangus-Anantnag East, Pahalgam, Inderwal, Kishtwar, Padder-Nagseni, Bhadarwah, Doda, Doda West, Ramban and Banihal constituencies.

Of the 3,276 polling stations, 2,974 stations will be in rural areas and 302 in urban areas. More than 14,000 polling staff will be deployed on duty for the first phase of election.

While Prime Minister Modi addressed a rally in Doda on Saturday, Home Minister Shah dashed to Padder-Nagseni, Kishtwar and Ramban and addressed election rallies within a span of four hours on the last day of the campaigning.

This was the second visit of Shah to Jammu region within a fortnight as he had earlier visited the city of temples on September 6 and 7.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti mostly focused in Kashmir, leaving the party candidates in the Chenab valley on their own.

Senior leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party and Apni Party, which are fighting the maiden assembly elections in J&K along with Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), were also missing from the campaigning for the party candidates.

DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad joined the campaign in Doda on September 15 after initially expressing his inability owing to his health problem which led four of his party candidates withdrawing their candidature.

Prominent among those trying their luck included former ministers Sajjad Kitchloo (NC), Khalid Najid Suharwardy (NC), Vikar Rasool Wani (Congress), Abdul Majid Wani (DPAP), Sunil Sharma (BJP), and Ghulam Mohammad Saroori, a three-time MLA who is fighting as an independent after he was denied ticket by DPAP.

Even as the National Conference and the Congress are in alliance, both the parties have fielded candidates in Banihal, Bhaderwah and Doda under "friendly contest", while rebel NC leader Pyare Lal Sharma is fighting as an independent from Inderwal and two BJP rebels, Rakesh Goswami and Suraj Singh Parihar, are also trying their luck from Ramban and Padder-Nagseni constituencies.

## BJP will.....

extend support", Madhav said.

He said that "our mission is to eradicate terrorism and family rule besides to provide development and tourism which is our main agenda and for that we have come before the people of Jammu and Kashmir".

The Senior BJP leader said that in the Jammu region the BJP enjoyed overwhelming support and it was there earlier, yesterday and today too. The BJP feel overwhelmed and surprised that this time the party has tremendous support from the Kashmir valley also where its 20 candidates are in the fray.

"Very soon a big new change will be seen in Jammu and Kashmir", he said and added "the three families-Peoples Democratic Party, National Conference or the Delhi based Congress- will be shown the door this time".

Replying to a question, Madhav said that the Congress party is delaying the release of their manifesto as they want to go with the manifesto of their alliance partner National Conference.

He said that NC manifesto is to bring back Article 370, to release all the terrorists from jails and to take the state backwards rather than forward. "This manifesto of Gandhi and Abdullah family will have an establishment of family rule in Jammu and Kashmir", Madhav said.

## Those filled.....

and mocked by the Opposition over 100 days after he assumed office as PM for a third consecutive term, but he focused on finishing the development agenda during this period.

"When every citizen wants to represent India as its brand ambassador in the world and strives to take the country forward, some people in our own country, filled with negativity, are doing the opposite. They are attacking the unity of our country," he said.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel integrated over 500 princely states into the country but some "power hungry" people now want to divide the country into pieces, Modi said.

"You must have heard recently that they all are saying in one voice that they will bring back Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. They want to bring back the system of two Constitutions and two laws in Jammu and Kashmir. They are ready to cross any limit for appeasement," he added.

Amid a row over Rahul Gandhi's remarks on reservation in the US and the Congress' poll tie-up with the National Conference, Modi said certain people filled with hate are not leaving any chance to defame the country.

The PM inaugurated 55,000 houses built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna in Gujarat and laid the foundation stone for four new flyovers which will come up in Panjrapole, Ramol, Bakrol and Hathijan areas of Ahmedabad.

He also launched a 'Single Window IT System for GIFT IFSC' for processing entities desirous of setting up operations in GIFT IFSC (International Financial Services Centre).

Without taking names, Modi alleged that when he was busy fulfilling his promise of making unprecedented decisions in the first 100 days of his third term, some people made fun of him.

"You must have seen how some people were making fun of me when I worked hard to fulfil the agenda of the first 100 days. I was jeered at. They gave various types of logic and made fun of me. People were also surprised as to why Modi was silent to such insults," he said.

The prime minister said he remained silent and swallowed all the insults because he is from Gujarat, the land of Sardar Patel.

"I had decided not to respond to any insult thrown at me because I wanted to focus on completing the government's agenda for 100 days. I had vowed not to deviate from my path. Today, I am happy that after digesting all those insults, the decisions taken during those 100 days guarantee the welfare of every citizen," he said.

Modi said work has already started on projects of Rs 15 lakh crore in 100 days, emphasising that a special package of Rs 2 lakh crore has been announced for the youth.

Modi, who was in Gujarat for the first time after assuming the PM's office for the third time after the elections, said he would sacrifice every moment of his life to fulfil the dreams of citizens.

"I have no other desire than to make you succeed in fulfilling your dreams. Only you people, my countrymen, are my Gods and I will sacrifice myself in your service.

"I will live for you, fight for you and die for you. Give me your blessings. I am living and want to live to fulfil the dreams of 140 crore Indians" he added.

Referring to his recent visits to foreign countries, Modi said every nation is now eager to establish friendly relations with India.

"Everyone welcomes India and Indians with open arms. People now remember India for solutions to crises in other countries. The way Indians chose a stable government for the third time in a row and the way India is marching ahead on the development path, the world's expectations from India have further increased" he said.

This is golden time for our country and we will make India a developed nation in the next 25 years, Modi added.

## J&K Polls: Jammu.....

Castes.

The other candidates who are in the fray include Darshan Kumar Magotra of PDP, Sunita Turki of National Democratic Party, Mohit of the National Awami Unity Party, and Maheshwar Singh of DPAP.

Besides, BJP rebel and former MLA Shiv Dev Singh is also contesting from Jammu North as an independent. There are nine candidates in the fray, including a woman.

"It is a direct contest between two former ministers -- Sharma and Sadhotra, who is also the coalition candidate of NC-Congress," Vikas Kumar, a political expert, said.

"It will be tough for both. Sharma is facing a rebel candidate, while Sadhotra has to work hard to win over voters in a constituency where his party has never won," Kumar added.

BJP's Sharma, busy with door-to-door campaigns and rallies, is banking on his pro-Jammu image.

"We will secure a victory with the full backing of the people. Our aim is to form a BJP government in Jammu and Kashmir so that Jammu gets its full rights, and development and progress reach everyone," Sharma said.

Reiterating his commitment to following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for peace and progress in J&K, Sharma added, "No one can stop the BJP from continuing its development journey in J&K. People should vote for the BJP to ensure the region's development."

However, BJP's decision to field Sharma, a former Congress MLA from Akhnoor who joined the BJP in 2019, has sparked internal strife within the party.

The NC hopes to capitalize on this internal discord.

Sharma is the younger brother of two-time Congress MP Madan Lal Sharma, who won the Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha seat in 2004 and 2009 and is considered a strong voice for the Jammu region. He served as a Congress MLA from Akhnoor and as a cabinet minister in the NC-Congress coalition government in 2008.

He lost to BJP's Rajeev Sharma in 2014 from Akhnoor when BJP secured a historic 25 seats from Jammu in the assembly elections.

According to his poll affidavit, Sharma has Rs 15.8 crore worth immovable assets and liabilities worth Rs 1.2 crore, in addition to movable assets worth Rs 1.9 crore and Rs 65,000 in cash. This is a significant jump from his Rs 10.4 crore in assets in 2014, when he contested on a Congress ticket.

The 64-year-old politician, a resident of Purkhoo Doman, has no criminal cases against him, as per the affidavit. His immovable assets include agricultural land in Pallanwala, Purkhoo, and Palwan; commercial buildings in Patta Paloura; and a residential building in Platan.

On the other hand, NC's Ajay Sadhotra, a senior politician, lost in 2008 and 2014 to the BJP. He was elected as an MLA in 1996 and 2002, representing Marh, and has held key ministerial portfolios.

Sadhotra, supported by the Congress as the alliance candidate, said he is confident of victory as people are "fed up with BJP's anti-people policies". He pledged to end BJP's reign, stop smart meters, provide youth employment, and ensure education for all.

Former MLA Shiv Dev Singh, who resigned from the BJP, is contesting as an independent, claiming public support pushed him to fight the election. He criticized the BJP for discriminating against him and said, "People feel they haven't had a local MLA. It's time to raise the people's voice."

Singh dismissed his rivals, calling the NC-Congress alliance a "tactic" to confuse voters, adding, "We are fighters, and no one can stand against us."

The Jammu North, with 75 per cent of its area urban, has a total of 1,11,228 voters, including 54,274 women. The constituency with 117 polling stations will vote in the third phase of the J&K elections on October 1.

## Cong releases.....

insurance for all crops against natural calamities and a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 72 per kilogram for apple.

The manifesto was released by AICC chief spokesperson Pawan Khera and PCC president

Tariq Hameed Karra at the party office here.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Khera said Jammu and Kashmir's "heart has been wounded" over the past 10 years and time has come to heal these wounds.

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

Khera repeated the poll promises made by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during his visit to the Union Territory last week.

"During the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the women of Jammu and Kashmir put forth their concerns to Rahul Gandhi and other leaders. We have promised Mahila Samman programme under which we will give Rs 3000 monthly assistance to the woman head of the family. An interest-free loan of rupees five lakh will be given to women self-help groups," the Congress leader said.

He said health insurance of Rs 25 lakh will be provided to each family.

The Congress spokesman said a minority commission will be formed in Jammu and Kashmir within 100 days of coming to power. He said the promise made by former prime minister Manmohan Singh with regard to the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits will also be fulfilled.

Khera alleged the Union Territory has been turned into a "graveyard of dreams" in the past 10 years.

Khera said the manifesto was compiled by 20 district committees constituted for the purpose of knowing the issues of the people on the ground.

"We have given guarantees and these are the right of the people. This is our promise and we will fulfil it," he said referring to the manifesto.

Asked about Congress' stand on restoration of Article 370 --? the main election plank of its ally National Conference -- Khera said a committee will be formed for drafting a common minimum programme for the INDIA bloc government in Jammu and Kashmir.

"As far as Article 370 is concerned, our stand is clear and reflected in the CWC resolution on the issue," he said.

## Rashid wasn't.....

Lone said the timing of Rashid's release from the Tihar jail smacked of a BJP plan.

"This is the worst executed plan of Delhi since 1947. No plan has been so badly executed. This plan smells of BJP," Lone told reporters here.

The People's Conference chief, who lost to Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, from Baramulla in the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year, said while he does not believe in branding anyone as agent or proxy, the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) supreme should tell people where he was for the past two months.

"He was not in jail for the past two months... He should tell people where he was," he said.

Lone said whenever the Centre wants to hold talks with someone who is in jail, that person is taken ill and hospitalised.

"I have seen this happen since 1991. This is not something new but the previous governments had a way of executing it. This has been badly executed, as ugly as their (BJP) ideology," he said.

Lone said there "undoubtedly" is interference from the Centre and the local administration to influence the outcome of elections.

"I appeal to them to desist from it. Please remember 1987 (assembly polls)... There won't be a safe passage for anyone in Kupwara," he said.

## J&K Polls: 40.....

assembly elections were held in the erstwhile state, 831 candidates had contested the elections. Of the total, 274 had contested as Independents.

This time, there are 367 candidates for the 43 seats going to the polls in the Jammu division, where the BJP has a strong base, while 541 are slugging it out for 47 seats in the Valley.

On an average, there are five Independent candidates for each of the 47 assembly segments in Kashmir. This number drops to 2.93 per constituency in the Jammu division.

The Sopore assembly segment -- once a hotbed for militancy and the epicentre of election boycott campaigns in Kashmir -- has the highest number of Independent and total candidates.

There are 22 aspirants in the fray, 14 of whom are Independents.

Among the Independent candidates in Sopore are Ajaz Guru, the brother of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru.

The Sonawari segment in Bandipora district has 20 candidates in the fray, including 11 Independents. The area has a strong presence of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami.

Amid this glut, there are four constituencies where there are zero Independent candidates. These are Budhal, Kangan, Ramangar and Srigufwara-Bijbehara.

The Srigufwara-Bijbehara seat in Anantnag district has three candidates in the fray, one of them being People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti.

Doda West, Nowshera and Ramgarh each have one Independent candidate. The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir president Ravindra Raina, a frontrunner for the post of chief minister if the saffron party wins the elections, is the candidate from Nowshera.

On the high number of Independent candidates in the fray, Mehbooba said they had been fielded "by Delhi to divide votes".

"We have to be together so that the large number of Independents fielded by Delhi does not succeed in dividing the votes," she added.

National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah, who is contesting the polls from the Ganderbal and the Budgam segments, has said Delhi was fielding a large number of Independents

## Campus Activewear celebrates everyday moments at annual retailer meet

JAMMU, SEPT 20

Campus Activewear Ltd., one of India's largest sports and athleisure footwear brands, hosted its Annual Retailers' Meet in Jammu this week in association with Akshay Sales Corporation. The event, attended by Campus Activewear's leadership team, dedicated staff, and over 150 attendees from across the region, centered around the theme "Celebrations of Everyday Moments," highlighting the brand's dedication to becoming the preferred choice for all daily activities for the entire family.

This year, Campus Activewear Ltd. introduced a range of innovative footwear solutions catering to diverse customer needs, from casual hangouts and walking to training, semi-formal occasions (neo-casuals), and parties. The new collections showcase the brand's commitment to providing stylish and functional options for every phase of life.

Key highlights of the new ranges introduced include: Youth-focused Sneaker Range: Designed to capture



the youth's imagination, empowering them to showcase their individuality while being part of a cool tribe.

"Sneakers for Her": A collection designed specifically for women, offering fashionable choices for everyday occasions.

Ultrawalk Collection: Aimed at "India that is moving ahead," positioning Campus as India's favourite fashionable walking sneaker.

Kids' Range: "Stepping into Fun for Everyday Adventure,"

featuring the reintroduction of the iconic light shoes.

Speaking on the occasion, Prerna Aggarwal, CMO, Campus Activewear Ltd. said, "At Campus Activewear, we're committed to celebrating the everyday moments in our customers' lives. Our new collections reflect our understanding of the diverse needs of Indian families - from the fashion-forward woman to the adventurous child, the health-conscious walker to the trend-setting youth. We're not just

selling shoes; we're providing comfortable, stylish companions for every step of life's journey. Our retail partners play a crucial role in helping us reach our customers, and their contributions are invaluable."

The Annual Retailers' Meet was filled with excitement and enthusiasm, featuring live product demonstrations and an extensive showcase of the brand's diverse portfolio across men's, women's, and kids' categories. Retailers were appreciated for their continued partnership and were equipped with in-depth knowledge about the new ranges to better assist customers.

Campus Activewear continues to strengthen its position as an integral part of every Indian's daily active lifestyle, offering the best in technology and design to enhance customers' footwear experience. With a network of over 23,000 retail touchpoints across the country and a strong online presence, Campus is working towards becoming India's most aspirational sports and athleisure brand.

## Goyal to review India, ASEAN trade pact review talks progress in Laos



NEW DELHI, SEPT 20

The progress of talks for the review of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in goods will figure during the visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to Laos, an official statement said on Friday.

The two-day visit of Goyal to Vientiane, Laos, started on Friday. He is there to participate in the 21st ASEAN-India Economic Ministers (AEM-India) meeting and the 12th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM).

These annual meetings of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) with their dialogue partners are being hosted by Laos, the ASEAN Chair for this year.

"In the AEM-India meeting, the ministers will review the progress in negotiations for review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), the ministry said.

The review is high on India's priority to make it more user-friendly, simple and trade facilitative for businesses, it said.

It added that Goyal will have a number of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from participating countries on the sidelines of two institutional meetings.

Meetings have been scheduled with the minister of the host country Laos and visiting ministers from Korea, Malaysia, Switzerland and Myanmar.

India joined ASEAN in 1992 and became its Comprehensive Strategic Partner in 2022.

For the last two consecutive years, ASEAN has been India's second largest trading partner.

The next round of talks for the ongoing review meeting of the India-ASEAN free trade agreement in goods will be held in November. The third round of the negotiations was concluded on August 1 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The pact was signed in 2009. ASEAN is an important trade partner of India with about 11 per cent share in India's global trade.

India's exports to the 10-nation bloc ASEAN were USD 41.2 billion in 2023-24, while imports aggregated at USD 80 billion in the last fiscal.

Both sides are aiming to conclude the review in 2025.

The review of the AITIGA was a long-standing demand of Indian businesses.

India is asking for a review of the agreement to eliminate barriers and misuse of the trade pact.

## EY chairman expresses regret, says will not rest till harmonious workplace achieved



NEW DELHI, SEPT 20

EY India chairman Rajiv Memani has expressed regret at not attending the funeral of a 26-year-old employee whose death was blamed on stress by her mother, and said he will not rest till achieving the goal of harmonious workplace.

Anna Sebastian Perayil, who passed her CA exams in 2023 and worked at EY Pune office for four months, died in July. According to a letter her mother wrote to Memani, she was overworked with a "back-breaking" load as a new employee that affected her "physically, emo-

tionally, and mentally".

The government too has stepped in to say that it will investigate the work environment at Big Four accounting firm EY.

In a post on LinkedIn, Memani said he was "deeply saddened" by the death and as a father, can only imagine the grief of the family.

"I have conveyed my deepest condolences to the family, although nothing can fill the void in their lives," he wrote. "I truly regret the fact that we missed being present at Anna's funeral. This is completely alien to our culture. It has never happened before; it will never happen again."

With the incident catching the attention on social media, he said he was aware that people have commented on some of EY's work practices. "It has always been very important to us to create a healthy workplace and we attach the highest importance to the well-being of our people."

"I would like to affirm that the well-being of our people is my top-most priority and I will personally champion this objective. I am absolutely committed to nurturing a harmonious workplace, and I will not rest until that objective is accomplished," he added.

## Gold maintains rising streak; rallies Rs 700 to Rs 76,350/10g on global cues

NEW DELHI, SEP 20

Gold prices rallied Rs 700 to Rs 76,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid a rise in precious metal rates globally.

On Thursday, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 75,650 per 10 grams in the previous session.

However, silver remained flat at Rs 91,000 per kilogram.

Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity rose for the third straight session, climbing Rs 700 to Rs 76,000 per 10 grams on Friday, according to All India Sarafa Association.

It had ended at Rs 75,300 per 10 grams in the previous close.

In the local markets, traders attributed the jump in precious metal prices to a pick-up in demand by jewellers and stockists, owing to festivals and upcoming wedding season.

On the other hand, gold contracts for October delivery jumped Rs 341 or 0.46 per cent to Rs 73,779 per 10



grams in the futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Silver contracts for December delivery rose Rs 145 or 0.16 per cent to Rs 90,113 per kg on the exchange.

India's gold imports more than doubled in August to a record high of USD 10.06 billion, mainly on account of a drastic cut in customs duty and festive demand, according to the Commerce Ministry data.

Gold imports stood at USD 4.93 billion in August 2023.

On record high imports, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that the tariff rates on gold have been reduced drastically so that smuggling and other activities can come down.

"And this is the time when jewellers start stocking for their inventories to be sold in the festival season," Barthwal added.

In the Budget, the govern-

ment slashed the duty from 15 per cent to 6 per cent. India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China.

In the international markets, Comex gold futures is trading 0.70 per cent to USD 2,632.90 per ounce.

"Gold prices rose over 1 per cent as the US Federal Reserve launched its monetary easing cycle with a half percentage point move, boosting bullion to an all-time high," Manav Modi, Senior Analyst - Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Securities Ltd, said.

However, market participants were slightly taken back post US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's commentary as he mentioned that the Fed will move meeting-to-meeting and keep a data dependent approach.

Powell did not commit to further cuts in the coming meetings as oppose to what market participants have been discounting.

In the Asian trading hours, silver was also traded higher at USD 31.54 per ounce.

## Sensex soars 1,360 pts to close above historic 84,000 mark on global stocks rally

MUMBAI, SEP 20

Benchmark Sensex closed above the historic 84,000-mark for first time while Nifty settled at a new record high on Friday, powered by a rally in frontline bank stocks along with upbeat trends in the US and Asian markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,359.51 points or 1.63 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 84,544.31. During the day, it soared 1,509.66 points or 1.81 per cent to hit the momentous intra-day peak of 84,694.46.

The NSE Nifty surged 375.15 points or 1.48 per cent to close at a record 25,790.95 level. During the day, the gauge zoomed 433.45 points or 1.70 per cent to reach an all-time intra-day peak of 25,849.25.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra jumped



over 5 per cent. JSW Steel, ICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, Nestle, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Tata Steel were the other big gainers. State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and

Bajaj Finance were the laggards.

"The Indian market has joined the rally following the 50bps Fed rate cut and super accommodative monetary policy. It is expected to bring positivity to the economy and foreign inflows in the short to medium-term as the global

economy continues to be robust," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

All key sectors contributed with realty, auto, and metal stocks leading the gains.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.37 per cent and midcap index climbed 1.16 per cent.

Realty soared 3.21 per cent, capital goods (2.32 per cent), auto (2.12 per cent), industrials (2.08 per cent), metal (1.82 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.78 per cent), financial services (1.55 per cent), bankex (1.44 per cent) and healthcare (1.10 per cent).

A total of 2,442 stocks advanced while 1,502 declined and 115 remained unchanged on the BSE.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,653.37 points or 1.99 per

## LIC Mutual Fund launches new scheme

MUMBAI, SEPT 20

LIC Mutual Fund on Friday launched a new Manufacturing Fund, an open-ended equity scheme following the manufacturing theme.

The new fund offer (NFO) will remain open for subscription till October 4 while the units under the scheme would be allotted on October 11, the company said. It also said that the scheme will be benchmarked to the Nifty India Manufacturing Index (Total Return Index).

"India's robust GDP growth, rapid urbanization, the growing middle-class population, the government's export incentives and policy initiatives like PLI scheme and 'Make-in-India' are driving demand for manufactured goods," said R K Jha, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, LIC Mutual Fund.

"Consequently, the country is largely being developed as a manufacturing hub for the world. Further, manufacturing has a major role to play in making India a USD 5-trillion economy by 2027. As a result, the investors in the manufacturing theme may benefit from the current

28.8 per cent.

This compares to peers growing revenue at low single digits and EBITDA at mid-single digits, said Cantor in its research note.

The global brokerage has set a price target of Rs 2,251 apiece against Rs 979 (as on September 19) for Adani Energy Solutions Ltd.

On Friday, the stock of the company was trading high at Rs 1,011.75.

With an enterprise value of \$18.5 billion, "we believe AESL to be a very attractive way to play the rapidly expanding energy markets in India", the report noted.

AESL offers growth unlike any other publicly traded utility/energy company across



positive outlook for the constituent sectors," Jha said at the launch of the manufacturing fund.

The scheme aims to provide a diversified portfolio of companies that come under the ambit of manufacturing theme, including automobiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, heavy engineering products, metals, shipbuilding, and petroleum products, among others, the company said.

The investment objective of the scheme is to achieve long-term capital appreciation by predominantly investing in equity and equity-related instruments of companies following manufacturing theme, it said.

LIC Mutual Fund, however, added that there is no assurance that the investment objective of the scheme will be achieved.

## Govt seeks explanation from edible oil cos on rising prices

NEW DELHI, SEPT 20

The government on Friday sought an explanation from edible oil firms for the rise in retail prices of cooking oils despite advising them to ensure price stability amid the availability of adequate stocks imported at lower duties.

On September 14, the Centre hiked the basic customs duty on various edible oils to support domestic oilseed prices, and subsequently on September 17 the food ministry convened a meeting with edible oil industry bodies to make sure that there was no rise in retail prices.

"The industry has been asked to clarify and furnish reasons as

to why the prices are showing upward trend since the announcement of import duty hike, despite the government's directions to maintain retail prices in the coming festival season," a senior food ministry official said on Friday.

The ministry's assertion is that stocks imported at lower duties would easily last 45-50 days and therefore the processors should refrain from increasing maximum retail prices. Also, the price increase comes at a time when the festival season is round the corner and demand will be on the rise.

Effective September 14, 2024, the basic customs duty on crude soyabean oil, crude palm oil, and

crude sunflower oil has been raised to 20 per cent from nil, making the effective duty on crude oils to 27.5 per cent.

Additionally, the basic customs duty on refined palm oil, refined sunflower oil, and refined soyabean oil has been increased from 12.5 per cent to 32.5 per cent, making the effective duty on refined oils to 35.75 per cent.

On Tuesday, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra chaired a meeting with the representatives from Solvent Extraction Association of India (SEA), Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) and Soyabean Oil Producers Association (SOPA) to discuss the pricing strategy.

## Adani Energy Solutions to see 20 pc CAGR revenue growth with over 100 pc upside for stock: Report

NEW DELHI, SEPT 20

As India doubles down on electrification to connect more rural areas, Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) — with its diversified portfolio that includes transmission assets, distribution assets and a smart metering business — is poised to not only see robust growth over the next four years but also continue to outgrow peers for at least the next decade, according to a new report by global brokerage Cantor Fitzgerald.

The report forecast the Adani Group company's total revenue to grow at a CAGR of 20 per cent from FY24 to FY27E and adjusted EBITDA to grow at a CAGR of

28.8 per cent.

This compares to peers growing revenue at low single digits and EBITDA at mid-single digits, said Cantor in its research note.

The global brokerage has set a price target of Rs 2,251 apiece against Rs 979 (as on September 19) for Adani Energy Solutions Ltd.

On Friday, the stock of the company was trading high at Rs 1,011.75.

With an enterprise value of \$18.5 billion, "we believe AESL to be a very attractive way to play the rapidly expanding energy markets in India", the report noted.

AESL offers growth unlike any other publicly traded utility/energy company across

the US, Europe, or Asia.

"We expect its transmission business will see strong growth as it completes the nine projects it has recently been awarded over the next 18-24 months (and we expect it to win more contracts over the coming years)," said the note. The company's distribution business should be able to grow at/near double-digit rates as it continues to add to its regulatory asset base (RAB) and its smart metering business is just about to start generating meaningful revenue/profits as it works through its 22.8 million smart meter backlog (to generate \$3.2 billion of income), and it could win another 40 million smart meters (which will add another over \$6 billion of income), it

## Randhawa connects with Bahu Constituency residents through door-to-door campaign



**BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20**

Progress and promising governance are enigmas of the BJP's popularity across the region, as the party has made a superiority in the political arena by making the population realize the importance of good governance in the real sense. This was expressed by MLA Candidate for Bahu Constituency Vikram Randhawa during door-to-door campaign in Ward No. 20, Greenbelt, and its adjoining areas of Bahu Constituency in the presence of Pushpinder Singh, Rahul Kumar, Narinder Koki, Sandeep Gupta, Bharat Bhushan, Satbir

Singh, Indu Bhushan, Vijay Verma, Ritika Trehan, and Kulbushan Attri, who were present on the occasion.

Randhawa asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is confident of achieving its target of winning over 50 seats to form the next government with its chief minister for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. "After Jammu now in Kashmir, we also have been a stronghold in the Valley, and I'm confident that the 'lotus' will bloom across the Union Territory in the assembly polls.

During his interactions, Randhawa assured the public that he would fulfill the promises

made to the residents of Bahu Constituency. He emphasized his dedication to ensuring the region's development, focusing on key areas such as infrastructure development, improving roads, drainage, and public amenities, education and healthcare, enhancing access to quality education and healthcare services, employment opportunities, creating job avenues for youth, and promoting entrepreneurship. Randhawa's door-to-door campaign allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life, understanding their daily struggles and challenges. He was warmly received by the residents, who expressed their optimism about his candidacy.

Local residents of Bahu constituency were impressed by Vikram Randhawa's willingness to listen to their concerns. He has assured us that he will work tirelessly to address our issues.

They added that Randhawa's door-to-door campaign has given us hope that our voices will be heard. We look forward to seeing positive changes in our constituency." Randhawa assured the people of Bahu Constituency that I will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling the promises made to them. Their trust and support are my greatest strength, and I will work relentlessly to ensure their well-being.

## Movement Kalki organises Inspiring Bhajan Sandhya at Devi Dwara Mandir

**BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20**

A Bhajan Sandhya event, filled with devotion and spiritual fervor, was organized by Movement Kalki at the revered Devi Dwara Mandir in Peer Mitha, Jammu, today. The event, spearheaded by Advocate Sumeshwar Kohli, aimed to connect the people to the righteous path of Dharma and inspire them to embrace a life of spirituality and moral values.

The evening was marked by the melodious singing of traditional Bhajans and Kirtans, which filled the air with an atmosphere of peace and devotion. This was followed by a Satsang, a spiritual discourse, where Thakur Arjun Singh, a prominent figure in the gathering, underscored the significance of Bhajan, Kirtan, and Satsang as vital practices to experience spiritual ecstasy. He emphasized that these sacred rituals not only uplift the soul but also serve as powerful tools for introspection, helping individuals reflect on their inner selves and realign with spiritual values.

Speaking at the event, Deepak Singh, a core committee member of Movement Kalki, elaborated on the broader mission of the organization. He passionately shared that Movement Kalki is dedicated to uniting society under the banner of Dharma, standing against the rising tide of injustices and societal ills. He urged the participants to raise their voices against wrongdoings and join hands with the organization to fulfill its noble mission. He reiterated that the restoration of



Dharma is essential to bringing harmony and balance to society.

A significant moment during the event was when several women voluntarily decided to join the mission of Movement Kalki. These women, including Sapna Sharma, Kamal Kohli, Kiran Gupta, Pooja Gupta, Sudesh Talla, Renu Gupta, and Ramani Gupta, pledged to follow the path of Dharma and contribute towards its establishment. Their dedication and commitment to the cause were warmly acknowledged by the attendees, and their participation was seen as a significant step towards empowering more women to take active roles in spiritual and societal reform.

The Board Members and religious committee members of Movement Kalki, namely Ajay Kumar, Sunita Kundal, Sanjeev Dubey, Vikram Mahajan, and Ashutosh Rajkumar, also addressed the gathering. They reiterated the core belief of the

organization—that whenever Adharma (injustice and evil) arises on Earth, a divine force descends to reestablish Dharma. The speakers urged the attendees to align themselves with this divine mission, emphasizing that the time has come to restore Dharma in the world. They highlighted that the essence of Movement Kalki lies in mobilizing people to stand for justice and truth, and to work collectively for a righteous society.

The event concluded with an overwhelming response from the audience, many of whom expressed their appreciation for the mission of Movement Kalki. A large number of attendees showed interest in joining the movement, seeing it as a platform for societal transformation and spiritual growth. The Bhajan Sandhya not only fostered a sense of unity among the participants but also served as a catalyst for many to embrace the teachings of Dharma and to work

## People subjected unnecessary harassment under BJP Proxy's Govt in J&K : Tony



**BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20**

Senior Congress leader and candidate for Bahu constituency, Taranjit Singh Tony has made a strong commitment to the people, promising to restore pension benefits for all citizens if the Congress party forms the next government in Jammu and Kashmir.

While intensifying his poll campaign in Bahu constituency, Tony criticized the BJP proxy administration for its mistreatment of pension beneficiaries,

particularly women and senior citizens, who he claimed are being subjected to unnecessary harassment under the guise of pension verification.

"The BJP-led administration has failed to deliver justice to the most vulnerable sections of society. Women and senior citizens are being subjected to needless delays and bureaucratic harassment when it comes to their rightful pensions. This is unacceptable," he said. He further assured the people of Bahu constituency that a Congress government would reinstate pen-

sions for all, ensuring that no individual is left out or mistreated.

"Under BJP's rule, women, senior citizens, and other vulnerable groups have been subjected to unnecessary bureaucratic harassment in the name of pension verification," he said and lamented that instead of providing relief, the BJP's policies have worsened the lives of those dependent on pensions for their survival.

He appealed to the voters to support him in the upcoming Assembly elections, stating, "Your support is crucial not just for me, but for a better future where the dignity and rights of all citizens are upheld. If elected, I promise to work towards an inclusive and welfare-oriented administration that prioritizes the needs of the people over bureaucratic red tape."

Taranjit Singh Tony's campaign has gained significant momentum, with growing support from various sections of the community, particularly the elderly and women, who have been vocal about the need for a change in governance. He urged the people of Bahu constituency to vote for the Congress party with the vision of restoring dignity and financial security for all.

## IIMC Jammu students navigate the print newsroom of Daily Excelsior

**BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20**

Media students of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Jammu visited Daily Excelsior to get practical exposure of print news room, digital newsroom working, page composition, printing and layout and design here today on September 20, 2024.

The visit provided students with a comprehensive insight into the workings of the press, covering various aspects of the publishing process. They were introduced to the different facilities of the press, including the newsroom, studio, digital room, chroma room and printing press. Students understood the nuances of newspapers printing step-by-step, right from one of loading the of the news print till the last step of cutting and folding of the newspaper. Besides, students experienced the working of various departments and their contribution in



newspaper making.

The aim of the visit was to provide knowledge and industrial aspects of the working of media. The students asked several questions to the media team such as publishing an article, posting of notifications on social media, future of print media, letters-to-editor, digital publishing,

etc.

The visit was planned under the mentorship of Dr. Dilip Kumar, Regional Director, IIMC Jammu. The visit was supervised by Dr. Vinit Utpal, Assistant Professor (Digital Media), Dr. Raviya Gupta, Assistant Professor (English Journalism).

## SMVDU Students and Faculty visit IIT Jammu for Educational Tour



**BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU SEPT 20**

A group of PG and UG students of the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) visited the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu as part of an educational tour, aimed at fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and hands-on learning.

The visit provided an invaluable opportunity for the students to interact with leading academicians, researchers, and innovators at IIT Jammu. During the visit, the SMVDU students were

given a guided tour of the state-of-the-art facilities at IIT Jammu, including the advanced laboratories, research centers, and innovation hubs.

They were introduced to ongoing research projects and technological innovations in various areas. The students were accompanied by Dr. Ratna Chandra (Associate Professor & Head, School of Biotechnology), Dr. Rakesh Kumar (Assistant Professor), Mr. Arvind Kumar Yadav (Assistant Professor), and Dr. Indu Bhushan (Assistant Professor).

Dr. Chandra, expressed the significance of such visits in

broadening students' intellectual horizons. The students also had the opportunity to explore potential avenues for future collaborations, including internships, joint research projects, and workshops between SMVDU and IIT Jammu. Such exchanges are part of SMVDU's ongoing efforts to provide students with exposure to top-tier institutions, fostering a culture of innovation and excellence.

The students also engaged in interactive sessions with IIT Jammu faculty members Dr. Mithu Baidya (HOD, Bioscience and Bioengineering), Dr. Vinay Sharma (Assistant Professor), and Dr. Shirsha Bose (Assistant Professor). Students had the opportunity to ask questions and receive valuable advice from these distinguished faculty members, further igniting their passion for scientific research and innovation.

HVC, SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar complimented the School of Biotechnology for consistently organising such visits and also encouraged the faculty members and the students to further pursue such interactions for academic enlightenment.

## BJP, Cong neglect burning issues of Jammu East busy in blame games: Rajesh Gupta

**BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU SEPT 20**

BSP Contesting Candidate, and party general secretary today seek support from people of all the sections of society and promised the development and employment for youth of Jammu East. While campaigning door-to-door today at Christians Colony, Dalpatiyah Mohalla.

Speaking to the gatherings, Gupta said, "The people faced negligence for years as the bureaucrats were not ready to listen to them. These elections have

become a ray of hope for them to elect their own representative from the Jammu East Constituency."

Gupta said, BJP, Congress and other parties are busy in playing blame games and they are not bothered to touch the actual problems the people of Jammu East constituency are facing. Jammu East is the crown of Jammu and it's condition is very pathetic. Gupta maintained and said on the name of Smart City the concerned department is exposed badly. If we talk about Smart metered areas unsched-

uled cuts are frequently disturbing the people of Jammu East, no Smart drainage system, if we talk about Smart electricity there are multiple wires mingled on every pole. There is no place in Jammu East to attract the tourists like Lal Chowk in Kashmir. Jammu is always discriminated during BJP, Congress and other parties regime. This time Jammu East needs a change drastically.

Gupta said that the people want an elected representative that is available to them and their issues can be addressed easily.

## CUJ organises 2nd Swami Vivekananda Youth Parliament



**BN CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, SEPT 20**

The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu successfully organised the second session of the debate cum discussion activity as part of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Parliament

under the esteemed patronship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain and the insightful guidance of the Head of the Department Prof. Asit Mantry.

The event held at Malviya Shiksha Bhawan, was coordinated by Dr. Arvind and brought together an intellectually stimulating discussion on the theme

"Jammu and Kashmir State Elections: Strengthening the Prospects of Hope and Democracy."

The session witnessed the active participation of students, including Eklavya, Rashmi, Alok, Prangya, Ritik, and Talib, who engaged in a deep and insightful discourse. The discussion revolved around the pivotal role of elections in restoring political stability, ensuring governance, and upholding democratic values in Jammu and Kashmir, a region often at the heart of national attention. The speakers emphasized that elections serve as a cornerstone for fostering democratic hope in a conflict-sensitive state like Jammu and Kashmir, where political representation is critical to bridging regional aspirations and promoting peace. They discussed how free and fair elections can instill a sense of empowerment among citizens and enhance trust in democratic institutions.