**OPINION 6** 

WHY 'MAKE IN INDIA' CAN

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AMUL SET TO ENTER EUROPEAN

Late City Vol.19 Issue 277 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

BE A GAME CHANGER PRO-PALESTINIAN RALLIES MARKET AFTER US SUCCESS CHANDIGARH, MONDAY OCTOBER 7, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2 the plone 1865 Established 1865

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**GAUFF RALLIES** TO REACH CHINA OPEN FINAL

12 SPORTS

## **Team India lifts the World Cup** Time for Mahisasura Mardini

⊣he air crackled with anticipation of India and Pakistan cricket match, Once again in the ICC tournament India beat Pakistan in Women's T2O World Cup group stage match by 6 wickets. India chased down the target of 105 in 18.5 overs, after losing the toss. Indian bowlers gave a much needed start by taking the wicket of Gul Feroza in the first over of the

India's bowling outclassed the batting line-up of the opposition in this crucial match after they got beaten in the heavy match against New Zealand in the first game by 58 runs on the slow track.

Indian star bowler Shreyanka Patil ended her spell with 2 wickets in the bank with one maiden over and Anurdhati Reddy put the Pakistan innings on hold with 3 wickets and an economical spell in the match.

For Pakistan, Nida Dar was the highest run scorer of the team who managed to lead the team total across the mark of 100, she came in the middle order to anchor the innings after the failure of



India's Renuka Singh, second left, celebrates the wicket of Pakistan's Gull Feroza with her teammates during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 match between Pakistan and India at Dubai International Stadium, United Arab Emirates, Sunday

game. Chasing the target, India came hard on Pakistan. Opening duo Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana start their partnership where Shafali's attacking innings of 32 was the highest individual

losing her partner Mandhana early in the

Shafali Verma couldn't lead the team for long in the run chase. Middle order batter Jemimah Rodrigues and Captain Harmanpreet Kaur's

team solidity in successfully chasing the target. Pakistan is still in the league with upcoming match defending

champions Australia on Friday.

India managed to win this

top order in high voltage score for the team after she steady partnership gave the match keeping 6 wickets after a slow start in power play without hitting a boundary. India made their mark with first win of the tournament and will go from here to face Sri Lanka on Wednesday and try to enter

# Parties seek recognition in Jammu and Kashmir

PIONEER NEWS SERC ■ JAMMU/

With Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir polls becoming crucial and a matter of prestige for both the major political parties — BJP and Congress — the duo soon after the Exit Poll predictions huddled for the Government formation in both the places with 90 members of Assembly

While Congress exuded confidence and rallied behind the exit polls saying they shall better the mark even more, BJP which is in power in Haryana for last 10 years rejected exit poll predictions. BJP, Congress, the INLD-BSP and the JJP-Azad Samaj Party alliances, and the Aam Aadmi Party are the key poll contestants. the key poll contestants. However, a direct fight between the ruling BJP and Congress was expected in most

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini claimed his party BJP will form the Government in the state with full majority for a third time when the results are announced on October 8. Congress will blame the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for their defeat, he said, attacking the opposition party, which is ahead in the race, according to most exit polls.

Haryana Former Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said he was expecting a

comfortable majority for the Congress and cited the exit polls reports. Congress stalwarts Hooda, Kumari Selja Congress and Randeep Singh Surjewala, who also exercised their right to vote, said their party would form the next Government.

Post the exit poll results the political parties in Jammu and Kashmir were not enthused with the predictions and are now waiting for the 'janta ka report card' on October 8.

Various exit polls have predicted a hung assembly in Jammu and Kashmir, with the National Conference-Congress alliance expected to come closer to the halfway mark in the 95-member house. The Independent candidates from both regions are expected to play the crucial role of 'Kingmakers'. BJP J and State Unit Chief

Ravinder Raina, who has contested from the Nowshera Assembly segment, claimed the BJP will emerge as the single largest political party winning close to 35 seats. Raina also clarified the party will not join hands with the

Sheikh Abdul Rashid-led Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) or candidates Independent supported by the banned Jamaat-e- Islami.

Senior party leaders also took stock of the situation and briefed the central leadership. BJP national General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Sunday said that his party will form the Government in both Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir in recently concluded the Assembly elections, adding that BJP will get the blessings of the people.

In Srinagar, former Chief Minister and Vice President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Omar Abdullah reacted along the expected lines. He labelled the exit poll a 'time pass'. JKPCC Chief Tariq Hamid Karra said, "We are eagerly waiting for the actual results on October 8. A PDP candidate from the Lal Chowk Assembly segment Zuhaib Yousuf Mir hinted that they can join the Conference-National Congress alliance to keep the

## **Artist collapses at Ram** Leela performance



SAUMYA SHUKLA **NEW DELHI** 

on Sunday.

In yet another alarming case of death due to sudden heart attack, a 56-year-old man died after he suffered a heart attack on stage while performing the role of Lord Rama at a Ramlila in Vishwakarma Nagar of Shahdara

According to police, the deceased, identified as Sushil Kaushik, was a property dealer who became unconscious while performing in Ramleela. DCP Shahdara Surendra Chaudhary said that following the incident, he was shifted to Kailash Deepak Hospital in Anand Vihar.

Reacting to the incident on social Delhi Health

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said the death could be linked with COVID vaccine. "It is a common discussion that after the COVID-19 vaccine, such cases are continuously appearing in India, where young people are dying of heart attacks while walking," he

A video of the incident is being widely circulated on social media where Sushil can be seen performing the scene and then rushing backstage with visible discomfort. According to the family, Sushil, who is survived by his wife and two children, experienced the discomfort around 1 pm.

Rahul Kaushik, a relative of the deceased, stated that Sushil was one of the founding members of the "Jai Shri Ramlila" committee. Uncle had been performing the role of Raja Ram since 1987. He also used to sing," he said.

His wife and son, present there, rushed him to a nearby hospital, where he was put on a ventilator and was declared dead after one hour. A person known to the deceased described him as a man who was healthy, happy and humorous and claimed that he had no prior health conditions that could explain the sudden cardiac pulmonary arrest.

## Rape and murder find more voice in Bengal | UN out of sync

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

Der lokkho taka nin aar kete porun (Have Rs 1.5 lakh and get lost)." That is what the parents of a rape victim was told by the cops of Narendrapur Police Station in South 24 Parganas after the girl committed suicide failing to bear the ignominy and hara her parents who ran from pillar to post spending Rs 9 lakh for two years to get justice. All this while, the rapists who roamed freely — after obtaining bail — threatened the victim's family and even got her house robbed when they did not withdraw their complaints. The police

simply looked the other way. The teenager was raped in 2020 and she ended her life in 2022 as her parents failed to get her justice. The incident — dating back two years — that was nearly dead and forgotten suddenly rematerialised on Saturday after an 11-year-old girl was raped and murdered at Mahishmari village in Joynagar sub-division once again in

South 24 Parganas district. Not wholly out of coincidence perhaps, the Saturday's victim and the previous one who committed suicide happened to be first cousins.

"We have no security ... is this



Representative file photo

Bengal ... you get out of your house to be seized, consumed and scythed by the wild beasts and you have nowhere to go. because the police are all bought over ... I have been knocking every possible door but in vain ... I lost my daughter

hard-earned Rs 9 lakh and an additional punishment by way of my house getting robbed not withdrawing the case," said Amrita (name changed) insisting "today no

woman is safe. There tends to be one similarity between the rape that took place at Narendrapur and the one at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital where a lady the price of being born a girl in doctor was raped and murdered

on August 9. In both the cases the police offered money to hush up the case. While in the RG Kar case a senior IPS officer had offered a fat packet stuffed with notes to the father of the victim, in the Narendrapur incident the mother of the victim was offered Rs 1.5 lakhs. "As though everything can be sold ... even honour or life ... the police officers told me to get lost taking Rs 1.5 lakhs ... I know because we are poor we will not get justice ... and now brother's daughter is dead ... Why would not they take me ... I would have gone with them ... why would they tear my daughter off and eat her," she wailed at the heavens.

## with reality: India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

xternal Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday described United Nations as an old company that does not entirely keep up with the market but occupies space. said that UN does not step up on key issues around the world. Jaishankar was speaking at the third Kautilya Economic Conclave, here.

Jaishankar also drew symmetry between companies and countries, giving an example of the UN being an old company, not keeping up with the markets but occupying space for the same. "In a way, the UN is like an old company, not entirely keeping up with the market but occupying the space. When

it's behind times, in this world to have start-ups, and innovations. different people start doing their own things," said Jaishankar in the conclave. The External Affairs Minister also highlighted the United Nations' global though function, even organisation may function sub-optimally, "it is still the only multilateral game in town," he said. "So, what you have today, is yes there is an UN at the end of the day, however suboptimal it is in functioning, it is still the only multilateral game in town but when it does not step up on key issues, countries figure out their own ways of doing it," said Jaishankar.

He also highlighted that when the United Nations is behind, it is time to have start-ups and innovations, the people start to do their own things. Jaishankar highlighted the UN's goal to mainstream principal players with the market trends, in the situation when they are not, he said that countries like companies start doing their own thing. "Now, they would like to mainstream

that into the market and see that the principal players are in-tune with these trends, but when they are not, I think countries, as companies do, start doing their own things," said the External Affairs

Minister He also highlighted the organisation's lack of action

during global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. "Think about what the UN did on COVID. I think the answer is not very much," he said. The Minister said that countries had to come up with their own initiatives, like COVAX. "I think increasingly you find combinations of countries who come together and say, let's agree on this and let's go and do it...the UN will continue, but increasingly there's a non-UN space," said Jaishankar.



## Not only administration, roads users too be blamed

### Fear of traffic chaos spoils the festive season fun

#### BY KUSHAN MITRA

With the beginning of Navratra last week which also kickstarts the festive season that goes on for about two months leaving people in a joyous mood. However, that mood is tempered by the knowledge that across India, there will be traffic chaos on the streets, which now also affects the smaller cities as they are perhaps led by the 'example' set by major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkatta, Ahemdabad, Hyderabad amongst others.

Millions will have to spend hours in the traffic, stuck on the roads breathing noxious fumes that could otherwise have been spent with their families. Despite large investments in public transport

India, poor traffic across especially management commercial areas have made matters worse.

And this is not just the fault of the traffic police, lack of proper zoning regulations and enforcement have led to commercial areas being built up in the middle of residential zones And then there is also the lack of civic sense, as people will happily block traffic for their own convenience.

In fact, it is the last factor that is completely in our own control and many of us blithely ignore it. However, as the Biblical saying goes, 'Let he who has not sinned, cast the first stone, and I will admit that I have also been guilty of infractions in the past, even if it



was for a few minutes. While there are many factors that can be improved from the quality of city roads and the availability of parking areas, the first step can be made by ourselves by not only increasing usage of public transport but also being better citizens. The authorities will have to step

up also, better planning for parking is a must. While some multi-storey parking lots have been established in Delhi and Mumbai, many more need to be built. The traffic police will need to manage traffic better and clamp down on illegal parking. And of course, municipalities and public works departments will need to fix the roads. We have to make the festive season an

occasion to celebrate, not an occasion to be stuck in a car or motorcycle.

Traffic, transport and road experts says that wrongful parking too creates a traffic and the problem menace augments during the festive season. Markets and the peripheral localities are choked due to the vehicle above. due to the vehicle chaos. "We have been imposing heavy penalty on wrong parking on the roads still vehicle users need to understand first that they should be responsible. Chandni Chowk area used to be full of chaos. Now a systematic plan is in place for last couple of years as no vehicles are allowed in the main arterial roads," said a senior Delhi Traffic Police official.

The Chief Minister high-

lighted technological innova-

tions that have streamlined the

procurement process. HPMC

has introduced an online portal

to manage MIS, providing real-

time data on procurement, trans-

portation, and processing. The

system is linked to direct bank

transfers, ensuring transparent

and timely payments to farmers.

"This digital system has revolu-

tionized apple procurement," said Sukhu. "It offers trans-

parency, accuracy, and efficien-

cy at every step of the process."

**Lower Costs, Greater Support** 

ers, the State Government has

reduced the rental fees for

Controlled Atmosphere (CA)

stores from Rs 1.90 to Rs 1.60 per

kilogram, helping farmers pre-

serve their produce for longer at

lower costs. Additionally, HPMC

lowered its profit margin on

horticulture inputs like pesticides

and fertilizers, reducing it from

15 to nine percent, making them

the use of universal cartons for

apple sales, ensuring standardized

practices and fair pricing across

HPMC's processing capaci-

ty has been significantly expanded, with crushing capacity

increasing from 21,000 MT last

year to 39,000 MT this year. The

grading and packaging line

capacity has nearly doubled from

15,900 MT to 33,900 MT. These

expansions will allow for higher

production of apple juice con-

centrate and other apple-based

products. In addition, HPMC has

expanded its product line. The

wine units at Parala and Jarol

have a combined annual pro-

duction capacity of 1.50 lakh

**Public Notice** 

l, Rizwan Ahmed S/o Abdul Aziz R/o Ward No. 15, Roop Nagar, Gidderbaha, Tehsi

Gidderbaha, District Sri Muktsar Sahib nereby declare that I possess a registered Nasika No. 2417 dated 20-02-2007, which

vas executed by Nirmala Devi W/c Dharmpal R/o Giddarbaha, in favor o aven Kumar S/o Gurditta Mall, regarding

ny land Khewat No. 1153 measuring

Marls, which is part of my chain. This document has gone missing. I have

earched extensively for it but have bee

unable to locate it. In this regard, I have

iled a missing report under L.R. No

523184/2024 dated 05/10/2024 at P.S.O.C

Gidderbaha. If this wasika No. 2417 dt. 20 2-2007 is found by anyone, please returi

t to the above-mentioned address, or i

there is any objection to the registered sale deed, they may contact my lawyer Lovelish Goyal, Gidderbaha, at mobile

umber 9814794907 within 15 days.

**Increased Processing and** 

Market Expansion

The state has also mandated

more affordable for growers.

To further assist apple grow-

Himachal Sets Record with 1,545 MT

PNS ■ SHIMLA

ing strategies.

In a major boost for the hill

 $oldsymbol{1}$ state's apple industry, the

Himachal Pradesh Horticultural

Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (HPMC)

has achieved record production

of 1,545 metric tons (MT) of

apple juice concentrate as of

October 4, 2024. Chief Minister

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on

Sunday hailed the accomplish-

ment, attributing it to robust

apple procurement and process-

our commitment to supporting

Himachal's apple growers," said

Sukhu. The concentrate was pro-

duced at three key processing

plants — Parala in Shimla (814

MT), Parwanoo in Solan (653

MT), and Jarol in Mandi (78

HPMC has processed 92

percent of the apples procured

this season, minimizing auction

sales and focusing on value-

added processing. A total of 29,200 MT of apples have been

procured under the state's Market

Intervention Scheme (MIS). Of

this, 19,437 MT were purchased

via HPMC's 206 procurement

centres, while 9,764 MT were

procured through 109 Himfed

procurement is expected to rise,

and HPMC has implemented

new methods, including pur-chasing 1,219 MT of apples in

crates to improve quality. For the

first time, apples were procured

from the remote Pangi region in

Chamba, expanding access to

previously underserved areas.

As the season continues,

centres.

92% of Apples Processed

"This milestone showcases

of Apple Juice Concentrate Production

#### GUEST COLUMN / DR NIRAJ KUMAR SINGH AND Ms MONA

## Wayanad in Peril: Ignoring Conservation, Inviting Catastrophe

andslides and cloud bursts Landslides and Godd Charles become a regular phenomenon in recent times. The entire length and breadth of India has been battered by adverse climatic conditions ranging from heavy torrential rains and subsequent landslides and cloudbursts, floods to heat waves. rising atmospheric temperature. drought and irregular seasonal variations resulting in massive loss to life and resources. And reasons are not far to fathom. Unmindful of recurrent ecological disasters, human activities have ceased to take note of sustainability concerns and developmental activities have gone unabated.

Not only the fragile Himalayas have seen the fury of nature, but down South, the Western Ghats and particularly the Wayanad region have witnessed massive devastations caused by the landslides of July

warnings issued by the Gadgil Committee report, officially known as the Western Ghat's Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) set up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2010 under the chairmanship of eminent ecologist Madhav Gadgil.

The Gadgil Committee set up under Madhav Gadgil in 2010 was tasked with assessing the ecological status of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage site and world's one of the 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity, and suggesting measures for sustainable development in the region. The Committee classified the Western Ghats into three Ecologically Sensitive Zones based on their ecological sensitivity. While Zone 1 comprised most fragile areas with highest conservation priority and strict environmental regulations, Zone 2 was designated

30. This happened despite the as areas with significant environmental value but allowed regulated development. In Zone 3 areas, more development was permitted under controlled guidelines.

The entire Western Ghats region was recommended for protection with emphasis on balancing environmental conservation and local livelihood needs. The Committee also recommended and strongly advocated for decentralised environmental governance with a bottom-up approach, a ban on certain large-scale development activities particularly in Zone 1 like mining, hydropower projects, industries, and quarries. Significant recommendations on agricultural activities included sustainable agricultural and plantation practices, organic farming, mixed cropping, advised against expanding monoculture plantations such as tea, coffee and rubber in order to reduce the ecological footprint of agriculture in the region.

The Committee also recommended the protection of forests and wildlife corridors, water resources management watershed management and rainwater harvesting, discouraged large scale tourism projects in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly in Zone 1 areas and promotion of eco-tourism and community-based tourism. It also recommended climate change mitigation strategies in order to protect the region from environmental degradation that could exacerbate the effects of climate change such as frequent floods, landslides and altered rainfall patterns.

Wayanad district falls within the Western Ghats and parts of it under Zone 1 and 2 as per Gadgil Committee recommendations, meaning stricter envi-

ronmental regulations. The region's ecological sensitivity, high rainfall and frequent landslides made it a fit case for more stringent conservation efforts. The Report highlighted concerns over the expansion of plantation of tea and coffee which had contributed to deforestation and soil erosion and suggested for stronger land-use controls and better water management to prevent future disasters.

The Committee had also suggested for regulated tourism infrastructure and advocated for eco-friendly tourism models that would not damage and alter the natural landscape. The Report was, however met with significant opposition particularly from olitical and industrial groups as its recommendations were seen as too stringent and restrictive for development that would affect the livelihoods of people dependent on agriculture, plantation and mining. In order to mitigate the backlash, the Kasturirangan Committee was formed to review and revise the recommendations of the Gadgil Report which suggested a more developmentfriendly approach. With the dilution of the Gadgil Report several developmental activities were undertaken in the expansion of plantation area and tourism infrastructure ultimately leading to increased footfall in an already ecologically fragile region.

Wayanad has had a series of landslides in 2018 and 2019 also along with the recent July devastations mainly due to its fragile terrain with steep slopes and heavy monsoon rains. The situation is further aggravated due to deforestation, unregulated development projects, and tourism infrastructure. The recommendations of the Gadgil Report have been diluted especially in Zone 1 and 2 leading to more catastrophes in the waiting. The recurrence of landslides in Wayanad is a consequence of not adequately addressing the root causes identified from previous disasters.

Failure to regulate land use, controlled deforestation, implement sustainable agricultural practices, and improve rainwater management is some of the unlearned lessons that continue to trigger landslides. Until comprehensive measures are taken to address these issues, Wayanad will remain vulnerable to landslides, especially during heavy

Associate Professor of History, University of Delhi and Ms. Mona is Senior Analyst, Samarth,

## monsoon seasons. (Dr. Niraj Kumar Singh is

**Innovation Drives Efficiency** 

#### Public Notice

, Mohinder Singh s/o Jarnail Singh /o # 65, Eldeco Estate Husenpura udhiana M-90560-77440 was booked he unit no. INTT/FIRST/Shop/17 in li Subject:- Transfer of share of ownership in respect of Shop No. 23, ternational Trade Tower, New Chandi ownership in respect of Shop No. 23, New Grain Market, Dhand It is informed to all public that Shop no. 23, New Grain Market, Dhand has been allotted to Sh. Kishori Lal SiO. Sh. Ganeshi Lal, Rio. Pabnawa. After that this shop was transferred to the name of Sh. Lal Singh, Sh. Maan Singh, Sh. Jai Singh and Sh. Ram Singh Sio. Sh. Budh Ram, Village Jadaula, District Kaithal. Further this shop was transferred in the name of Sh. Ajmer Singh, Sh Jai Pal, Sh. Birbal Sio. Sh. Lal Singh and Sh. Raghbir Singh, Sh. Randhir Singh, Sh. Raghbir Singh, Sh. Rahawir Singh, Sh. Raghbir Singh, Sh. Mahavir Singh Sio. Sh. Maan transferred their share of this shop to the name of Sh. Ajmer Singh, Sh. Jai Pal, Sh. Birbal Sio. Sh. Lal Singh, Village Jadaula, District Kaithal. Now an application has been received from the legal heirs of Sh. Ajmer Singh that was died on 24-03-2021. As per applicants there are three legal heris of Late Sh. Ajmer Singh namely Smt. Roshni Devi Wio. Late Sh. Ajmer Singh have given no objection certificates in favour of Sh. Vinod Late Sh. Ajmer Singh have given no objection certificates in favour of Sh. Vinod garh. My receipt id no. 1305360 for Rs.100000/-, receipt id no. 1320406 for Rs.48587/- for above said prop erty are misplaced somewhere. If any person found please return to Hitender Kumar M-97118-00149. सार्वजनिक सूचना मैं रघुबीर सिंह मेरी पत्नी का नाम सुनीता, मेरे बच्चे का नाम उसके जन्म प्रमाण पत्र में रघुबीर लिखा गया है। मेरे अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरा नाम रघुवीर सिंह, मेरी पत्नी का नाम सुनीता अंकित है। अतः मेरे बच्चे के कक्षा दसवीं के रजिस्ट्रेशन फार्म में मेरा नाम रघुबीर सिंह मेरी पत्नी का नाम सुनीता मेरे बच्चे का नाम दिवांशी दर्ज किया जाए इन्हीं नाम के

Late Sh. Ajmer Singh have given no objection certificates in favour of Sh. Vinoc Kumar. If any person is having objection against the transfer the share Late Sh. Ajmer Singh of ibid plot, he/she can submit objection in writing to this office along with

supporting documents within 30 days from f publication of otherwise this office will change the share of ownership the property as per HSAM Board policy and may not entertain subsequent claim if any. Secretary Cum.-E.O. Market Committee, Dhand

Name of Original Allottee/ Transferee Name of Applicant

is hereby notified for the information of general public and all the concerned that the following nembers/ applicants/ applied for transfer of share/ flat and issue of NOC/ Permission for xecution of Transfer of Lease Right Deed before the Managing Committee of the society/ legistrar Cooperative Societies, U.T., Chandigarh as per notification issued by Finance legartment, Chandigarh Administration: SH. SURESH NAGPAL

The Silvertone Cooperative House Building (First) Society Ltd., Sector 48-B, Chandigarh

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

SH. RAJ KUMAR SMT. RAJ LAXMI FLAT NO.1332 (F.F.) OF CAT 'A' IN SECTOR 48-B, CHANDIGARH. If anybody has any objection upon the transfer of title ngnt or interest in address meason of the society in favour of the applicant, then, he/she/ they may submit the objection in writing alongwith relevant documents to the undersigned within 30 days of the publication of this notice failing which the ownership of the above said flat shall be transferred in favour of the applicant. No further claim in any manner whatsoever shall be entertained later on.

\*\*PRESIDENT\*\*

#### DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES DATE:06/10/2024 :00 PM ONWARDS DRAW DA' RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 10 IRON SUNDAY WEEKLY LOTTERY

MRP Rs 10/- Per Ticket

अनुसार मैं बच्चों के जन्म प्रमाण पत्र में नाम में

परिवर्तन करवा लूंगा। इसका पूर्ण

t is hereby notified for the information

उत्तरदायित्व मेरा होगा।

(Seller Prize Amount Rs.500/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.10500/- each)

2nd Prize Amount (10)Rs.2000/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits )

1st Prize Amount (10)Rs.10,000/-,Common to all series (On last 4 digits )

4150

3rd Prize Amount (100)Rs.500/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits ) (Seller Prize Amount Rs.50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.550/- each) 1511 1612 2321 3120 5057 6788 7121

4th Prize Amount (100)Rs.200/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits ) (Seller Prize Amount Rs.20/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.220/- each)
0259 2172 3319 4013 4361 4650 5808 6050 8733 9096 5th Prize Amount (2000)Rs.100/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits )

(Seller Prize Amount Rs.10/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.110/- each) 0600 1323 0745 1350 0693 1339 1299 1568 1677 1735 1921 1934 2005 2033 2059 2139 2336 2361 2371 2417 2966 3605 4015 4519 5141 5464 6232 6652 7088 7498 8067 2548 2629 3173 3653 4148 4934 5174 5831 6390 6675 7130 2724 3358 2763 3468 3779 4381 4992 5316 6102 6455 6931 7283 7736 8318 2776 3520 3790 4413 5019 5335 6183 6475 6983 7365 3139 3303 3139 3618 4080 4857 5173 5785 6375 6674 7093 7596 8132 3303 3705 4178 4975 5245 5844 6448 6702 7180 3358 3724 4206 4976 5272 6002 6450 6753 7213 3611 4079 4847 5168 5522 6286 6664 7090 7584 8073 3908 4484 5086 5449 6210 6582 7046 7438 7714 8235 8431 9001 9481 8423 8511 8556 8688 8855 9051 9633 9062 9116 9698 9274 9316 9393

9756

#### STATE BANK OF INDIA

### DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE U/S 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS &

NOTICE U/S 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 HERE AFTER CALLED "ACT"

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower/Guarantor's have defaulted in the repayment of Principal and Interest of the Loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets(NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, have been returned un-served & as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)

Guarantor(s)

Sh. Manoj Kumar S/o Sh. Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property

NPA Notice per Notice

Property

Notice per Notice

Property

11785, measuring 77 Sq Yards or 0 Bigha 1,3/5 Biswa i.e. 1,3/5/234,1/2 share of Sanguana Basti Bathinda - 11 Bigha 14,1/2 Biswa Khewat Khatoni No. 2497/12725 Khasra No. 4371 you are liable to pat 

Guarantor are here by called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub section(4) of section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

DATE: 06.10.2024

PLACE: BATHINDA

AUTHORISED OFFICER

## Classifieds Vishwakarma R/o H.No.46, gali

**BEDAKHLI** I. Ramesh Kumari W/o Om Parkash, House No 46 Sector 126. Kheda Enclave Kharar, SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab inform that my son Gourav Baiai and his wife Poonam out of my control. I disown them from my move-

able and Immovable Properties. Anybody deal with them at their own Risk. ਮੈਂ, ਪਰਦੀਪ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਓਮ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ. 66, ਆਰਿਆ ਨਗਰ, ਜਲੰਧਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਮਮਤਾ ਰਾਣੀ ਅਤੇ ਦੋਨੋਂ ਬੱਚੇ ਰਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਪਥਮ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ। ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਜੋ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰੇਗਾ, ਉਹ ਆਪਣੇ

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਨਫ਼ੇ ਨਕਸਾਨ ਦਾ ਖਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ

I. Pappu Ram s/o Mange Ram r/o Rajgarh Dhobi, Post. Sulehra, Tehsil Narwana, District Jind state that in the birth certificate of my daughter Sunaina my name is Pappu and her mother's name is Neelam whereas my correct name is Pappu Ram and her mother's name is Neelam Devi. I want to get my name changed from Pappu to Pappu Ram and her mother's name changed from Neelam to Neelam Devi in her birth certificate.

I Saranjit Singh Bhui S/O dala Kalan District Kapurthala Do Hereby Declare That My Son Fatehjit Singh Bhui De Passport Te Mera Name Changed From Saranjit

Singh To Saranjit Singh Bhui. I Saranjit Singh Bhui S/O Kuldip Singh R/O Vpo Wadala Kalan District Kapurthala Do Hereby Declare That My Daughter Romalpreet Kaur De Passport Te Mera Name Changed From Saranjit Singh To Saranjit

Singh Bhui. I, Sarbjeet Nayyar S/o Yagpal Nayyar R/o H.No. B-34-5629/6 Raghubir Park St.No. 5 Jassian Road (Ludhiana) declared that my daughter Anaysha Nayyar school record my daughter name wrongly entered Anaysha. But my daughter correct name is Anaysha Nayyar. So amended my daughter name from Anaysha to Anaysha Nayyar in my daughter

school record. I, Amrit Lal S/o Krishan Lal R/o H.No. 4977/3D/1D St.No. 3 Mohar Singh Nagar (Ludhiana) declare that my son Raghav Malhotra school record my name wrongly entered Amrit Lal and my wife name wrongly entered Rajni Bala. But my correct name is Amrit Lal Malhotra and my wife correct name is Rajni Malhotra. So amended my name and my wife name in

my son school record. I Sushma Devi W/O Anil Kumar R/O Village Kheri Naru Post Office Kheri Naru . Karnal (Rural) (Part) (1). Karnal, Haryana. Pin 132001 Declare That My Son (Kartik Narwal) School Record My Name Wrongly Mentioned Sushma But My Correct Name Is Sushma Devi As Per My Adhaar Card.

Kumar R/O Village Makrar. Post Office Lapiana Teh And District Kangra. (Hp) Pin-176210 Declare That My Daughter (Akshita) School Records Her Date Of Birth Wrongly Mentioned 12-01-2011 But Her Correct Date Of Birth Is 21-01-2011 As Per Her Birth Certificate.

I, Raghubir Singh S/o Ramkishan permanent R/o Village Baijalpur, Distt. Fatehabad now residing Quarter No. 415-C, New Police Line, Hisar declare that I want to correct my name from Raghubir to Raghubir Singh in my daughter Diwanshi's School

#### **CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Arwinder Singh S/o Gurwinder Singh R/o Ward No.11, Krishna Gali No.1, Dhariwal, Gurdaspur have changed my name from Arwinder Singh to Arvinder

i, Raju S/O Munna Lal House No:-3588 Maloya Colony Chandigarh Pin Code:-160025 Have Changed My Name From Raju To Jatinder. I, Niti D/o Charan Das R/o

H.No. BII-776/2, Satnam Nagar, Jalandhar, Puniab have changed my name from Niti to Niti Bhagat. (Bhagat as I, Manpreet Singh S/o

Tarsam Singh R/o Vill. Jafarpur, PO. Talwandi Madho, Tehsil Shahkot, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name to Given name as Manpreet & Surname as Singh.

I, Rajveer Singh Kang S/o Guljinder Singh R/o VPO Jaid, Tehsil Bholath, Distt. Kapurthala have changed my name from Rajveer Singh Kang to Rajveer Singh.

I, Amanjot Kaur Dhillon W/o Satnam Singh Vill. Manvi, Teh. Amargarh, Distt. Malerkotla changed my name to Amanjot Kaur.

I, Surjit Kaur W/o Sukhdev Singh R/o Vill Bhatt Majra P.O. Urnai Distt Kurukshetra, Haryana, have changed my name Surjit Kair to Surjit Kaur. I, Éharti W/O Yshodhan

Chouhan, House No. 165 Rajput Mohalla Devi Mandir Mullana, Post Office Mullana ,Distt Ambala (Haryana), I Have Changed My Name From Bharti Chouhan to Bharti . I Shall be known as

I, Satish Kumar S/o Om Parkash R/o H.No.19 A, virat nagar, Bal Vikas Road, Bijli Tower, Model Town, Panipat declare that Gracy is my daughter name Changed her name Gracy to Gracy Rani. In future She should be known

as Gracy Rani. I, Rajnish Gupta S/o Late Hukam Chand # 198, Sector 15-A, Chandigarh have changed the name of my minor Son from Rayansh to Rayaansh Gupta.

I, Rajnish Gupta S/o Late Hukam Chand # 198, Sector 15-A, Chandigarh have changed the name of my minor daughter from Ridhima to Ridhimaa Gupta.

I, Kamna w/o Satish Kumar r/o H.No 824A VPO Saha Distt Ambala change my name from Kamana Devi no.1, behind Hanuman paints jattal road, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Shivam to Shivam Vishwakarma. In future I should be known as Shivam Vishwa-

I, Guljar Singh S/o Sh. Shamsher Singh R/o Vill Ranwla Tehsil & Distt. Ambala that my Sukhbinder Singh and his wife Smt. Naresho are out of my Control.So i Disown them from my all Movable Immovable

I, Aashita Gulati W/o Arjun Bajaj R/o 6340/10 Ahluwalia Building Ambala.have changed my Name from Aashita Gulati To Aashita.

I, Sudhar Singh is legally F/o Service No. 4479615W Rank Hav Name Ghunshyam of Unit Address 10 Sikhli C/o 56 APO, R/o Anaugi Bhivanipur, Kheda, Anaugi, Kannauj, U.P 209733.have changed my Name from Sadha Singh To

Sudhar Singh. I, Beant Kaur W/o Sulkhan Singh R/o 175, Main Gali Dalipgarh, Near Government Pri-School, Ambala Cantt.have changed my Name from Beant Kaur To

Beyant Kaur. I, Bharti Ben P Balgha W/O Service No 15783175x Nk(Ds) Parmar Chhagan Govind Unit 105 Ad Regt C/O 56 Apo, R/O Vill- Amaran, Po-Amaran, Distt Morbi, State-Gujarat, Pin-363655 Have Changed My Name From Bharti Ben P Balgha To Bharti Ben Chagan Bhai Vide Affidavit Dated 04-10-2024 Before

Ambala Cantt. I, Service No. 15420365w Rank Hav/Dvr Name Suresh Yadav, Unit Mh Ambala C/O 56 Apo, R/O Vill-Beri, Tehsil & Distt Mahendergarh, Haryana Have Changed My Son Name From Surendar Yadav To Surender Yadav Vide Affidavit Dated 04-10-2024 Before Am-

bala Cantt I, Service No. JC 343409N Rank Sub Name Mohan Singh Saun of Unit 65 Engr ,Regt (PMS) C/o 56 APO R/o Vill Marh Saun, Marh, Pithora-Marh. Uttarakhand 262521.have changed my Son Name from Mayank Saun To

Mayank Singh Saun. I, Hardik Sethi S/o Ajay Sethi R/o H.No-893, Sector-13-P, Hisar, (Haryana) have changed my name from Hardik to Hardik Sethi for all purpose in future.

I, Sarwan Singh Amra S/o Jagtar Singh R/o Green City Gadri Wala Road Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Sarwan Singh.

I Sohan Lal Tuteja s/o Charan Dass Resident of 14 Bank Colony, Firozpur have changed my name to Sohan Lal. I Lakhvir kaur Brar W/o

Jaskaran Singh Resident of Village Thandewala distt Sri muktsar sahib Have a change name Lakhvir Kaur. I Munish Kumar Malhotra

Son of Naresh Kumar Res-

ident of Ward No. 05 Kamboj

Nagar Ferozepur City Have

changed my name to Munish Kumar. I Kajal D/o Angrej Singh Resident of Rakhdi Road, Vijay Nagar Ferozepur City have changed my name to Kajal

Rachhpal Singh Dhillon R/O Bathinda Road, Kotkapura (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Navreet Singh I Kuldeep Singh S/O Bik-

kar Singh R/O Village Behbal

Kalan District Faridkot Have

Changed My Name To Kuldeep

Singh Sekhon. I Aman S/o Sanjay Ram R/o VPO- Tanda Ram Sahai, Hoshiarpur, Punjab - 144214, have changed my name to

I Harjinder Kaur D/o Chhattar Singh and W/o Kewal Singh R/o Walaitpura, PO - Nathu Majra, DIST- Malerkotla, Punjab - 148021, have changed my name to Baljinder Kaur. I Vinod Kumar S/o Jagbir

Singh R/o H-No-1968, Nehru Colony, Rohtak, Haryana -124001, have changed my name to Vinod Hooda. I, Karnail Singh S/o Raghbir Singh R/o Vill: Bhankhar Teh

& Distt. Patiala declare that my father's correct name is Raghbir Singh instead of Raghubir I, Ram Prasad s/o Inder Ram r/o village Bahari, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from

future I should be known as Ram Parsad. I, Kulwant Kour Saggu w/o Ajit Singh Saggu r/o #70, Ganesh Nagar, Rajpura, Distt Patiala have changed my name from Kulwant Kour Saggu to Kulwant Kaur. In future I will be

Ram Prasad to Ram Parsad. In

known as Kulwant Kaur. I, Rajni Ranjan Chaoubey S/o Lalji Choubey R/o 272 Vill & post Tegarahi - 2 Ballia (Uttar Pradesh) declare That I have changed my name from Rajni Ranjan Chaoubey to Rajni Ranjan Choubey for all future

I, Mohanan Pillai Is Father Of No. 17006972h Nk Renjith M, Of Unit 724 C/O 56 Apo Residing Of Thenguvila Thazhethil, Thekketheri Pattazhy, Distt. Kollam State Kerala Pin-691522 Declare That My Date Of Birth 21.12.1960 Wrongly Written In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct

Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1959. I, Mohanan Pillai Is Father Of No. 17006972h Nk Renjith M, Of Unit 724 C/O 56 Apo Residing Of Thenguvila Thazhethil, Thekketheri Pattazhy, Distt. Kollam State Kerala Pin-691522 Declare That My Name Hohanan Pillai Wrongly Written In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Name

Is Mohanan Pillai. I Saraswathiyamma Is Mother Of No. 17006972h, Nk, Renjith M, Of Unit 724 C/O 56 Apo Residing Of Thenguvila Thazhethil, Thekketheri Pattazhy, Distt. Kollam State Kerala Pin-691522 Declare That My Date Of Birth 23.12.1966 Wrongly Written In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Date Of Birth Is 04/05/1966.

I Saraswathiyamma Is Mother Of No. 17006972h, Nk, Renjith M, Of Unit 724 C/O 56 Apo Residing Of Thenguvila Thazhethil, Thekketheri Pattazhy, Distt. Kollam State Kerala Pin-691522 Declare That My Name Saraswathy Ammal Wrongly Written In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is Saraswathi-

I Nachatar Kaur Mothe Of Jc344943x Rank Nb/Sub Ranvir Singh Unit: Hq 7 Int Div C/O 56 Apo, Resident Vpo Jand Mangoli, Tehsi Rajpura, District Patiala, State-Punjab Pin 140417 Inform That In My Son's Army Record Has My Name And Date Of Birth Is Wrong Entred. My Real Name Is Nachatar Kaur And My Real Date Of Birth Is 01/01/1961. Affidavit 05/10/2024 Before Notary Public Ferozepur.

I, Army No. 16123050P Rank NK Name KONA UDAYA BASKARARAO of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Father name from K SANNI BABU to Kona Sannibabu & Date of 30.01.1960 04.06.1949. I, Rajiv Kumar S/o Muni

Lal, R/o Jodhamal Colony, Dhangu Road, Tehsil & Dis-Pathankot, Changed My Name From Rajeev Kumar to Rajiv Kumar, Concerned Note. I, Kamla w/o Sh. Vikas R/o H.no.339, Sec-7, Gohana,

Kamla Devi both names are one and Same Person. I, Kamlesh @ Kamlesh Rani W/o Yagya Dutt D/o Topan Dass R/o H.no 1386A, near NTC School Rajpura Patiala, have changed my name from Kamlesh @ Kam-

Sonipat declare that Kamla 8

lesh Rani to Kamlesh Sethi. I, Roohi khatoon Dlo Raees Ahmed Rlo H. No 1194/3 Morigate, manimajra Chandigarh. Declare that in my 10th, 12th and BA Certificates, my father's name is mentioned As Rafees Ahmed. Whereas Correct Name is Raees Ahmed.

I, Aarti W/o Rahul Bhalla R/o house no.301,MS Enclave Dhakoli SAS Nagar have changed my name to Arti Bhalla.

I Gurpreet Kaur Dhillon W/o Kulwant Singh R/o VPO Pakka (Faridkot) have changed my name to Gurpreet Kaur after marriage. I. Ashok Kumar S/o Na-

rayan Dass R/o H.no 47, Guru Arjan Dev Colony Rajpura Patiala Punjab have changed my name from Ashok Kumar to Ashok Kumar Dhamija. I, Amanbir Singh S/O Dil-

bag Singh R/O Vpo Dhianpur Tehsil Baba Bakala Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Amanbir Singh To Singh Amanbir Please Concerned Note. I, Rajinder Singh Bhangu

son of Labh Singh resident of Village Harpalpur Block Ghanour Tehsil Rajpura District Patiala have changed my name from Rajinder Singh to Rajinder Singh Bhangu. I, Hitherto Known As Ash

raf Kallianpur S/O Anand Umesh Kallianpur, R/O House No. 647, Sector 78, Sas Nagar, Punjab, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ashwin Anand Kallianpur.

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Malvinder Singh Kang refuted

the opposition's accusations,

asserting that the AAP admin-

istration is committed to main-

taining transparency and

integrity in the electoral process.

He criticized previous governments, including the Congress,

Akali Dal, and BJP, for abusing

their power to undermine

panchayat elections in Punjab

have been marred by manipu-

lation and violence. The current

AAP government is dedicated

to empowering the people of

Punjab and ensuring their par-

ticipation in the democratic

process without fear," he stated.

upcoming panchayat elections

as a vital component of democ-

racy, expressing the need for

active participation from all cit-

izens. He presented data show-

ing a significant increase in

nominations compared to the

2018 elections, claiming that

52,825 nominations have been

submitted for sarpanch positions this year, up from 48,111

under Congress. For 'panch'

positions, the numbers have

similarly increased from

our government is encouraging

citizen participation in democ-

racy, and they are responding positively," Kang concluded,

underscoring the commitment of the AAP administration to a

'This data indicates that

1,62,383 to 1,66,338.

fair electoral process.

Kang highlighted the

"For over two decades,

democratic practices.



## Panchayat polls turn violent: AAP candidate shot; 2 SAD leaders booked

Tensions have flared in I Punjab in the run up to October 15 Panchayat elections as an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate was critically injured following a violent shootout on late Saturday evening in Jalalabad, Fazilka district. The police has booked two Akali leaders, besides many others in the shocking incident that has escalated political rivalries between AAP and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), prompting widespread condemnation and calls for immediate action.

The altercation took place at the office of Jalalabad's Block Development and Panchayat Officer (BDPO), where AAP supporters and SAD members clashed. The confrontation, which initially began as a heated argument, quickly spiraled out of control, culminating in the tragic shooting of Mandeep Singh Brar, the AAP's sarpanch candidate for Mohammadewala village, leaving him critically injured.

AAP leaders have accused senior SAD members, including Vardev Singh 'Noni' Mann and his brother Nardev Singh 'Bobby' Mann, along with their supporters, of orchestrating the attack following a heated confrontation over the filing of nominations for the upcoming

As per information available, AAP supporters and SAD workers were gathered at the BDPO office for the scrutiny of nomination papers for the panchayat elections. Among them was AAP's sarpanch candidate Mandeep Singh Brar, and SAD leaders Noni Mann and Bobby Mann, both sons of former Akali MP Zora Singh Mann.

Tensions erupted between the two groups after a verbal altercation escalated into a physical fight. Witnesses claimed that the situation spiraled out of control, leading to gunshots being fired. Brar was rushed to the government hospital in Jalalabad for immediate treatment before being referred to the Dayanand Medical College (DMC) in Ludhiana due to the severity of his injuries. Doctors have described his condition as

AAP's Allegations against

AAP leaders have condemned the incident, accusing SAD of resorting to violence to intimidate their opponents during the panchayat polls. Jalalabad's AAP MLA Jagdeep 'Goldy' Kamboj directly implicated SAD leader Noni Mann in the shooting, asserting that this was an attempt to sabotage the electoral process.

#### **PUNJAB** PANCHAYAT POLLS

Goldy Kamboj said that the violence erupted when SAD leaders Noni Mann and his brother Bobby Mann, along with their supporters, arrived at the BDPO office to scrutinize the nominations. "Mandeep Brar, who was present with his supporters, got into a verbal altercation with Noni Mann over the nomination papers for his son Harpinder Singh. The argument turned physical, and soon after, shots were fired, leaving Brar severely wounded with a bullet lodged in his chest. Another AAP supporter, Rajesh Kumar, was also injured," he

'This is a deliberate attack on our democratic rights. Mandeep Brar was attacked in broad daylight. Such acts of violence are unacceptable and must be condemned in the strongest terms," Kamboj said. He further claimed that SAD members had been creating a hostile environment in the days leading up to the incident, accusing them of spreading false allegations about AAP obstructing others from filing nominations.

#### **Police Investigation**

Following the shooting, Fazilka police officials have launched an investigation into the incident. Fazilka Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Varinder Singh Brar visited the scene of the crime and the hospital to gather information. The police have reportedly recovered CCTV footage from the BDPO

#### No nomination filed in Behbal Kalan village due to Gangster's fear

Simma had already declared his father a sarpanch

PNS CHANDIGARH/FARIDKOT

Acloud of fear looms over a village in Faridkot district, where the dread of notorious gangster Simma Behbal has left an entire village without candidates for its panchayat elections. The Behbal Kalan village, gripped by terror, saw not a single individual coming forward to contest for the coveted post of sarpanch (village head) or panch (village council mem-

Despite the statewide excitement for the upcoming panchayat elections scheduled for October 15, Behbal Kalan remains an outlier. While several villages have selected their leaders through consensus, this village did not witness any nominations by the deadline of October 4. The root cause is believed to be the overwhelming influence of gangster Simma Behbal, whose name strikes fear into the hearts of villagers, preventing them from participating in the democratic process.

Notably, Simma Behbal intended to appoint his father as the village sarpanch. However, before the nomination process could begin, the police registered cases against Simma, his father, and several of their associates. This legal action disrupted Simma's plans, but the lingering fear among the villagers remained so strong that no one else was willing to step forward to file nomination

Superintendent of Police (SP) Baljeet Singh Bhullar explained that the police had earlier received reports of Simma holding a meeting to discuss his father's candidature. When officers arrived at the scene, Simma and his group

office, which is being reviewed as part of the investigation. SSP

engaged in a heated confrontation, and though Simma managed to escape, two of his associates were arrested. Weapons were also recovered from the scene. This incident has only deepened the sense of fear in Behbal Kalan, where residents now feel even more intimidated by Simma's criminal network.

SP Bhullar assured that the police had made extensive security arrangements for the nomination process, with officers stationed at all key locations to protect those participating in the elections. However, no one in Behbal Kalan came forward. "The civil administration may have more insight into why no nominations were filed," SP Bhullar stated, acknowledging the tense atmosphere in the village but refraining from explicitly attributing the election void to Simma's influence.

Simma Behbal, categorized as an 'A-category' gangster, has more than 20 serious criminal cases against him in Faridkot and other districts. Although currently out on bail, his return to the village has rekindled fear among the residents, many of whom are reluctant to cross him. Simma's ultimate goal of securing his father's position as sarpanch has left the village in a political deadlock, with no one willing to challenge his control over the community.

A previous incident in which Simma informally declared his father as sarpanch during a gathering of villagers has only added to the intimidation. No official complaints were made to the police, as residents fear retribution. The village continues to live under the shadow of Simma's criminal past, with the absence of panchayat candidates reflecting the deep rooted fear that has stifled their civic participation.

Brar confirmed that a case has been registered against Noni

#### **High-Voltage Drama Unfolds as Sarpanch Candidate Climbs Water Tank in Protest**

In a dramatic turn of events in Cheema village in Barnala district, aspiring sarpanch Niranjan Singh climbed atop a water tank armed with a petrol bottle after his nomination was rejected. Singh's protest against the Punjab Government and District Administration highlighted allegations of political favoritism, claiming that his rival's connections influenced the decision to annul his

nomination. Singh expressed his outrage, stating that he had duly submitted his nomination papers for the sarpanch position. However, the returning officer from Block Shahjna and other officials invalidated his nomination, citing accusations of land encroachment against him. Singh has since filed a sworn affidavit to contest these allegations.

In his protest, Singh demanded that his annulled nomination be reinstated, allowing him to compete in the elections. He vowed to continue his struggle until jus-tice is served, declaring, "I will not back down until my rights are restored."

Mann, Bobby Mann, and 15 to 20 others involved in the alter-

"We are conducting a thorough investigation and will ensure that the culprits are brought to justice. This type of violence will not be tolerated, especially during the election process," SSP Brar stated. He assured the public that those responsible for the shooting would be held accountable, regardless of their political affil-

#### Response from AAP and

AAP leaders have voiced their outrage at the incident, with senior spokesperson Neel Garg calling it an attempt to Political tensions rise with Cong, SAD accusing AAP of manipulation

PNS CHANDIGARH

With October 15 panchayat polls looming, political tensions are escalating in Punjab as the Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) accuse the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government of manipulating the election process. Both opposition parties claimed that state machinery is being misused to ensure the rejection of nomination papers submitted by candidates backed by opposition groups.

Vocal in his criticism of the

AAP government, the Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Partap Singh Bajwa on Sunday alleged that it is "systematically dismantling democratic processes" through coercive He condemned Chief

Minister Bhagwant Mann for ignoring what he describes as 'orchestrated manipulation", suggesting that the govern-ment is desperate to retain power by any means necessary. This is a calculated and sinister plot directed from the top," Bajwa asserted, accusing AAP leaders of hijacking the electoral

machinery to secure victories for their candidates while creating hurdles for opposition candidates. Bajwa further claimed that the election process is rife with

irregularities, describing it as "nothing short of a sham". He accused AAP leaders of issuing

undermine the party's efforts to run a fair and peaceful campaign. "This is not just an attack on Mandeep Brar; it is an attack on democracy itself. The Akali Dal must stop using violence to intimidate its opponents. We will not be cowed down by these tactics," Garg said.

He emphasized that AAP stands for peace, development, and fairness in the political process. "We urge the authorities to take swift action and ensure that the guilty are punished. Violence has no place in our democracy," he added.

On the other hand, SAD leaders have refuted the allegadirectives to block development and compelling pan-chayat officials to annul nominations on fabricated grounds. 'Opposition candidates are being disqualified on spurious technicalities or held up for hours. This is not an election; it is an autocratic takeover of our villages," he declared, urging the Punjab State Election Commission to intervene to protect democratic norms.

SAD echoed these sentiments, alleging that the AAP Government is stifling democracy by obstructing opposition members from filing their nominations. Senior SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema announced the formation of a high-level legal team to address these issues and indicated that the party plans to file petitions in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He mentioned receiving numerous complaints about the widespread rejection of nominations for sarpanch and panch positions, raising alarms about the integrity of the electoral process.

Cheema criticized the lack of action from the State Election Commission despite their repeated appeals. "We have been approaching the Commission with our complaints, but they have not been addressed," he said, emphasizing the urgency of the situation. In defense of the govern-

ment, AAP leader and MP

**Growing Political Tensions** 

the political climate in Punjab as

the state prepares for panchay-

at elections scheduled for

October 15. Over 52,000 nom-

inations have been filed for the

position of sarpanch, with more

than 1.66 lakh nominations for

the position of panch across

13,229 gram panchayats. The

The incident has intensified

tions, claiming that the shootelection process has already seen multiple reports of clashes ing was a result of a personal dispute unrelated to the elecand disruptions, signaling rising tions. They have accused AAP tensions between rival political of fabricating the incident to gain sympathy ahead of the panchayat polls.

Punjab State Election Commissioner Raj Kamal Chaudhuri has condemned the violence, urging all political parties to maintain peace and uphold the sanctity of the electoral process. "The democratic process must not be derailed by such incidents. The police and election officials are working to ensure that the elections proceed smoothly and without any further violence," he said in a

### Punjab SEC launches LBPAMS for | Sirsa recorded highest 75.36 pc voting; lowest 56.49 pc in Faridabad enhanced election transparency

Chandigarh: Punjab State Election Commission on Sunday unveiled 'Local Bodies Poll Activity Monitoring System' (LBPAMS) — a new online application designed to facilitate election officials and the public during the Gram Panchayat Elections 2024. The initiative, available on the Commission's

assembly elections — a slight

highest 75.36 per cent voting was

recorded in Sirsa and the lowest

56.49 per cent in Faridabad

district, informed the state's

Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj

ing until the counting day, both

national parties — the Bharatiya

Janata Party and the Congress —

are interpreting the voter

turnout to their advantage. The

lower voter turnout in the urban

areas than their rural counter-

parts is also being taken as

favouring them though a

detailed analysis would be done

counting day.

With still two days remain-

website, aims to modernize electoral processes and ensure free, fair, and transparent elections.

Election Commissioner Raj Kamal Chaudhuri emphasized that LBPAMS introduces greater in election management. The system will be utilized for

October 15 gram panchayat elections as well as future Municipal and Zila Parishad or Block Samiti elections. Key features of LBPAMS include online voter electoral rolls, easy access to nomination forms, real-time transparency and streamlining event monitoring, and one-stop dashboard for officials to track

Cong, BJP interpreting 67.90%

#### PNS CHANDIGARH

Haryana's Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj Agarwal on Sunday announced a voter turnout of approximately 67.90 percent for the 15th Assembly General Election held on October 5 (Saturday). Out of the 2.03 crore registered voters, 1.38 crore participated in the elections,

comprising 74.28 lakh men, 63.91 lakh women, and 118 third-gender voters.

Sirsa district led the state with the highest turnout of 75.36 percent, while Faridabad reported the lowest at 56.49 percent. Among the Assembly constituencies, Ellenabad recorded an impressive 80.61 percent voter participation, contrasting sharply with Badkhal, which saw only 48.27 Agarwal emphasized the

peaceful nature of the elections, noting significant participation across various districts. Ambala recorded 67.62 percent, Panchkula 65.23 percent, Yamunanagar 74.20 percent, and Kurukshetra 69.59 percent. Other notable turnouts included Kaithal at percent, Panipat 68.80 percent, Sonipat 66.08 percent, Jind 72.19 percent, and Fatehabad at 74.77 percent. Hisar district registered 70.58 percent, Bhiwani 70.46 percent, and Charkhi Dadri 69.58 percent, with Gurugram seeing a lower turnout of 57.96 percent.

To ensure a smooth electoral process, the Election Commission of India implemented several measures, including webcasting at polling stations for continuous monitoring. A total of 97 central observers were deployed for field monitoring and feedback collection. In a proactive stance against electoral inducement, authorities seized banned materials worth Rs 75.97 crore since the election announcement. To maintain law and order, 225 companies

of Central Armed Police Forces, along with 29,462 police personnel, 21,196 Home Guard jawans, and 10,403 Special Police Officers,

Agarwal highlighted the importance of creating a pleasant voting experience, stating that basic amenities such as drinking water, elecdesks were provided at all polling stations. Wheelchair facilities were also available for individuals with disabilities. To foster youth engagement, 114 polling stations were managed by young voters, while 115 stations were overseen entirely by women and 87 by Divyang employees.

In the lead-up to the electhe Election tions, Commission organized various Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities to promote democratic participation, including street plays, local sports events, and competitions, all aimed at inspiring greater enthusiasm among young voters.

Gurugram

Gurugram's urban voters displayed a lack of interest in Saturday's polling, with the Millennium City recording a low voter turnout of only 57.4 were stationed throughout percent. Despite the intro-

duction of conveniences like

doorstep polling booths, seg-

ments such as Badshahpur

and Gurugram city lagged

with turnouts of 54 percent and 51 percent, respectively. ment of Sohna, including the Tauru block of Nuh district, boosted the overall district turnout to 68.6 percent, while Pataudi achieved 61.4 percent. Local officials had hoped for a turnout comparable to the 62 percent seen during the Lok Sabha elections but expressed disappointment

with the urban response. Gurugram Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Nishant Yadav noted that around 1,500 highrise polling booths were set up in an effort to engage residents of high-rise societies. However, Resident Welfare Associations attributed the low turnout to voter disillusionment with political parties. Officials are still tallying votes and expect the final turnout to

approach 62 percent.

Low Voter Turnout in

### Punjab Govt Launches CRM Loan Scheme to Combat Stubble Burning

PNS CHANDIGARH

To address the environmen-I tal challenges posed by paddy straw burning, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday announced the launch of a Crop Residue Management (CRM) loan scheme through State Cooperative Banks across the State. The initiative aimed at facilitating easy access to credit for farmers to purchase machinerv necessary for effective crop

residue management. Emphasizing its primary objective. Mann said that it aimed at mitigating environmental pollution resulting from the widespread practice of burning paddy straw. The loan scheme is available at the State Cooperative Bank in Chandigarh and its 802 district branches, ensuring that farmers can benefit from it through a straightforward application

Mann pointed out that both

Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACs) in villages and progressive farmers can avail themselves of this scheme. Under the Common Hiring Centre (CHC) initiative, these cooperative societies can receive an 80 percent subsidy for agricultural equipment purchases. Progressive farmers are entitled to a 50 percent subsidy for acquiring essential implements such as balers and super seeders aimed at effective crop residue management.

Expressing optimism that the scheme will significantly reduce environmental pollution caused by paddy straw burning, he encouraged the farmers to adopt better residue management practices, while urged all the farmers to take full advantage of the program.

Highlighting the scheme's broader implications, Mann said that a key focus is to decrease pollution levels associated with stubble burning. Additionally, the government aims to foster

industry to create a sustainable agri-residue supply chain supporting bioenergy initiatives. "This initiative will help prevent pollution through the establishment of an agri-residue biomass supply chain from farmers to the bioenergy industry," he

greater collaboration between

the agricultural sector and

added. The Chief Minister noted that the supply chain would be developed using a cluster-based approach near industries that

utilize paddy straw. Farmers involved in this initiative will be responsible for collecting, densifying, and storing paddy straw at designated locations, making it readily available to various users and industries as per their Regarding financial terms,

Mann announced that the repayment period for loans would be five years, with repayments scheduled in 10 half-yearly installments due on June 30 and January 31 each year.

#### voting turnout to their advantage MANOJ KUMAR CHANDIGARH prise on the date of counting." He further said that in case of bout 67.90 per cent of 2.03 multi-cornered contests on at Acrore voters in Haryana least 20 seats, BJP would be a cast their ballot in Saturday's

drop from the 68.31 per cent voter turnout in the previous election in 2019. Ellenabad the Independent candidates. "On almost 70 seats, where assembly seat in Sirsa district witnessed the highest polling percentage at over 80 per cent, according to the updated figures of the Election Commission on Sunday. Among the districts, the

#### Haryana exit polls; Says BJP to form next Govt

Dismissing the Haryana exit oolls, BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Kiran Choudhary said that the saffron party will again form government in the state. She compared the situation to previous exit polls during the Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Himachal Pradesh elections, where despite predictions, the Government was hardly formed. "We will form the government in Haryana, I assure you," she added.

in the coming days before the Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was quick to claim that the BJP was well on its way to form the government for the third time in a row. However, party poll strategists are in the process of analyzing the seat-wise data to arrive at a conclusion about the poll out-A BJP leader said: "Usually a lower voter turnout should

favour the BJP. Since we have a cent vote share. dedicated cadre vote, which coupled with 'silent voters', should stand the saffron party in good stead. We will spring a sur-

major gainer as the Congress vote would get divided among the INLD-BSP, the JJP-ASP and

there is a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress, the Congress vote would also be polled to other parties and Independents making it any-body's game," added the BJP

## Kiran Choudhary dismisses

The BJP secured a maxi-

mum of 40 seats in the 90member House in the 2019 Assembly elections when the voting percentage of 67.9 percent was one of the lowest in State's electoral history. The BJP polled 36.49 per cent vote share the 2019 elections. Surprisingly, in 2014, when Haryana recorded the highest voting percentage of 76.13, the party won 47 seats with 33 per

However, countering the BJP leaders, Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee media head Kewal Dhingra told The

Pioneer that 'strong anti-incumbency' against the BJP was a major reason for the Congress' return to power in Haryana after 10 years. "When odds are stacked against the BJP in view of anti-incumbency, the voting percentage would not matter much. The Congress is set to form the government," said

#### **HARYANA ASSEMBLY ELECTION**

#### Cong Govt would be formed with a huge majority: Hooda

Talking to reporters in Rohtak, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday said that the Congress Government would be formed in the state with a huge majority. A lot of development works would be carried out in the state as soon as the Congress comes to power and starts implementing its election manifesto. "Exit polls may have come after the voting, but the people had already made up their mind in this regard," he said, while interacting with the media in Rohtak.

peaceful polling. "BJP did not have any poll plank as it had failed to bring any worthwhile project to the state in its two successive tenures...Criminals and miscreants are committing crimes fearlessly. It seems as if there is no government in the state. The situation will change when the Congress government is formed. We will not allow crime and drugs to exist in

Haryana," he promised.

Hooda expressed gratitude

to the voters of the state for

Earlier, a delegation comprising members of the agitating Rice Millers and Dealers Association met Hooda, who assured them of fulfilling their demands after the formation of a Congress Government in the state. "Presently, you should take a decision keeping in mind the farmers' interests and empathize with them. Farmers are continuously reaching the markets with paddy and are worried due to its non-purchase," said Hooda. Chief Ministerial race in

## Cong heats up

With the completion of polling, the senior Congress leaders started claiming that the party would get an "absolute majority" with some of them not shying away from projecting themselves as probable CM candidates. Staking their respective claims for the top post, they, however, also made a common refrain — it is the Congress high command that will take the final call on the issue in the event of the party's victory. The leading frontrunner in

this race is the senior Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who had been a two-time Chief Minister from 2005 till 2014. He has also spearheaded the party's campaign in the Assembly polls and in the recent Lok Sabha elections.

Talking to reporters, 77-year-old Hooda said, "I am not retired yet. It is the Congress party that will form the government. It will be the party high command that will decide who will be the chief minister." Sirsa MP Kumari Selja is

also being seen as a major con-

tender for the CM's post. Apart

from being a prominent Dalit

proximity with the Gandhis. The Congress cannot rule out my vast experience and my unquestionable loyalty towards the party. I am a loyal soldier of the Congress and will always remain with the Congress. Everybody knows the decision about who will be the Congress CM is always taken by the party high command," 62-year-old Selia added. There is also a buzz in the Congress circles that if Hooda

bows out of the CM race, his son and Rohtak MP, Deepender Hooda, would emerge as a "formidable claimant" for the CM's chair. "Whatever Selja ji has said, there is nothing wrong in it. There is a proper procedure in Congress. The first priority is for the party to get a majority and form the government. A meeting takes place at the level of party high command, the elected MLAs are consulted and the final decision is taken by the party high command," said Deepender Hooda.

Junior Hooda added, "Congress party has its own system and process (to select ĆM face) and it has been going on for decades, party high command decides all these things. Our aim was not the post but to bring a change and bring Congress party's gov-ernment. The way Rahul Gandhi has fought with truthfulness and honesty made a mood in favour of Congress in the entire country— it will convey a message to the entire North India. We remain there on the ground, all 365 days and hence we understand what is going to happen, last time also said that the slogan of '75 paar' (of BJP) is nothing."

## Maldivian President visits India for CBI warns against bilateral talks amid strained ties

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu arrived here on Sunday for a four-day bilateral visit to India.

The First Lady of the Maldives, Sajidha Mohamed, accompanied Muizzu. This is Muizzu's second state visit to India in four months and his first bilateral

During his visit to India, from October six to ten, Muizzu will meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest, according to the Ministry of External

The Maldivian President will also visit Mumbai and Bengaluru, where he will be attending business events, it

"Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and holds a special place in Prime



Minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy," the Ministry said in a state-

The Maldivian President visited New Delhi in June to attend Modi's swearing-in ceremony. The ties between India and the Maldives got strained after Muizzu became the President of the Maldives.

Notably, Muizzu rose to power based on his 'India Out' where he demanded the withdrawal of Indian troops and support staff from the Maldives.

The diplomatic row further intensified after some ministers in the Muizzu cabinet used derogatory language against Prime Minister Modi after he posted pictures of his trip to

While the said ministers were removed from the cabinet, tourism in the Maldives took a hit as tourist footfall decreased from India.

However, both sides tried to repair ties after the Maldives underlined India's pivotal role in its economic development, security and infrastructure pro-

# 'digital arrest' scams



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The CBI, police, customs, ED or judges do not arrest people through video calls, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) said in a public advisory issued in view of the rising cases of 'digital arrest' crimes in the country. Terming it a scam, the federal cyber security agency cautioned people against falling victim to such crimes committed using the Internet.

'Don't Panic, Stay Alert. CBI/Police/Custom/ED/Judges DO NOT arrest you on video call," stated the advisory issued on Sunday. The advisory depicted the logos of social media platforms like WhatsApp and Skype to show-case that calls for such scams

are made using such platforms. These social media platforms have said in the past that they are coordinating with cyber security agencies of the government to provide users enhanced safety against such crimes.

The I4C urged people to report such crimes at the central helpline number 1930 or the e b s i t e www.Cybercrime.Gov.In.

Digital arrest is the name given to a cyber crime technique where fraudsters send an SMS or make video calls to a person posing as law enforcement agency officials fraudulently claiming that the individual or his close family members have been caught by a government investigative agency in a criminal activity like drugs traf-ficking or money laundering.

#### Rajnath Singh to inaugurate DefConnect 4.0 to showcase India's defence innovation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday will inaugurate DefConnect here, a significant step towards advanc-ing indigenous innovation and celebrating the growing defence ecosystem of the country, defence ministry said on Sunday.

Giving details, officials said the event is being organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence - Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO), under Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

DefConnect 4.0 marks a milestone in India's defence innovation journey, bringing together the Armed Forces, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), industry leaders, innovators, start-ups and MSMEs, academia, incubators, investors and policymakers. The event will feature an excit-

ing Technology Showcase, presenting iDEX innovators with a unique opportunity to exhibit their cutting-edge technologies, advanced capabilities and ground-breaking products. This showcase is designed to engage a diverse audience of stakeholders, fostering collaboration and sparking dialogue that drives innovation forward with focus on forging powerful collaborations.

DefConnect 4.0 will feature launches and announcements by the defence minister, alongside interactive and engaging sessions featuring industry leaders and defence stalwarts. The event will also include a themed session focusing on recent budget announcements, key takeaways for the defence innovation ecosystem, and the latest initiatives in the semiconductor domain. Till date, iDEX has launched 11 editions of Defence India Start-up Challenges, and has garnered over 9,000 applications. It is currently collaborating with more than 450 startups/MSMEs on important projects. Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018, iDEX continues to provide a unified platform for various stakeholders in the defence

### SC: Removal of elected women representative can't be treated lightly

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

treated lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas, the Supreme Court has said as it set aside an order for removal of a woman sarpanch in a Maharashtra vil-

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan termed the matter as a classic case where the residents of the village that a woman was elected to the office of the sarpanch.

The top court observed that it was a case where villagers were unable to come to terms with the reality that a female sarpanch would make decisions on their behalf and that they would have to abide by her

"This scenario gets further exacerbated when we as a country are attempting to realise the progressive goal of gender parity and women empowerment across all spheres, including public offices and most importantly adequate women representative in elected bodies, such instances at the grass-root level cast a heavy shadow on any headway that we may have achieved," the bench observed in its September 27 order.

Underscoring that it must be acknowledged that these women, who succeed in occupying such public offices, do so only after significant struggle, the bench said, "All that we would like to reiterate is that the

matter of removal of an elected public representative should not be treated so lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas".

The bench was dealing with a plea of Manish Ravindra Panpatil, an elected sarpanch of gram panchayat, Vichkheda situated in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. She was ordered to be removed from her post after a complaint by fellow villagers that she was allegedly residing with her mother-in-law ernment land.

The allegation was denied by Panpatil, who claimed she does not reside in that particular dwelling, and that she lives separately with her husband and children in a rented accom-

However, without appropriately verifying these facts and on the basis of "bald statements", the Collector concerned passed an order disqualifying her from continuing as sarpanch.

"This order was thereafter confirmed by the divisional commissioner. Subsequently, the high court vide the impugned order, dismissed the appellant's writ petition against the commissioner's order on a technical ground, thus putting a seal of approval on her removal from office," the bench noted. The bench noted that the villagers grasped at straws in their bid to evict Panpatil from her position and their cause was perhaps aided by the mechanical and summary orders passed by government authorities at

various levels.

'These orders were passed in a lackadaisical manner, without making any effort towards conducting a fact-finding exercise, so as to confirm whether the allegations levied by the private respondents were sufficiently made out. There is nothing on record to suggest that any objection of the appellant's family having encroached upon gov-ernment land was ever raised when she filed her nomination papers," the bench said.

of the present factual matrix is far from unique and is unfortunately somewhat of a norm, the bench said there is no doubt that the private respondents (villagers) may have operated in a discriminatory man-

It said what is more worrying is the casual approach adopted by government authorities in summarily removing an elect-

ed representative. This is all the more concerning when the representative in question is a woman and elected in the reservation quota, thereby indicating a systemic pattern of prejudicial treatment, permeating through all levels of administrative func-

tioning," it said. The top court said having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case at hand, it sees no credible and convincing material on record to substantiate the allegations of encroachment of government land by Panpatil before or post her election as sarpanch.

## Three dark clouds still loom over the Indian economy: Jairam Ramesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

A sserting that the last 10 years have seen "highly detrimental economic trends", the Congress on Sunday said the monsoon has receded but at least "three dark clouds" of languishing private sector investment, stagnating manufacturing and decline in real wages and productivity for labourers, still loom over the Indian economy.

Congress general secretary incharge communications Jairam Ramesh said bombastic claims on the economy are being made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his drumbeaters but what these claims conceal are the choke points that will strangulate growth in the years to come if not taken seriously now, in a spirit of humility. 'The monsoon has receded.

But new evidence has shown that at least three dark clouds still loom over the Indian economy," Ramesh said in a

surge in private sector investment during 2022-23 on the back of the COVID-19 recovery, investment has returned to an unsteady path," he said.

New project announcements by the private sector fell by 21 per cent between FY23 and FY24, he pointed out.

This reflects a lack of investor confidence in India's consumer markets, and the uncertain investment climate generated by the Government's inconsistent policy making and Raid Raj," he said. In this context, rather than

nies are using profits to reduce debt burdens, he claimed. "We are witnessing a growing financialisation of the Indian economy, with India Inc - perhaps taking its cue from the government - focusing on

stock market valuations rather

than top-line revenue growth,"

grow their businesses, compa-

Ramesh said. This bodes poorly for the medium- and long-term future of the Indian economy, as the



growth engine of the economy private sector investment continues to languish, he said. "Second, ten years after the Government's flagship Make in India scheme was launched, India's manufacturing is stagnating. As share of GDP, manufacturing is the same as it was ten years ago," the Congress leader said.

Ramesh pointed out that as a share of total employment, manufacturing has marginally declined. India's share in global merchandise exports has also largely stagnated, and exports are falling as a share of India's GDP, he said.
"In fact, growth in India's share

of global exports grew much faster in the 2005-15 period, largely corresponding to Dr. Manmohan Singh's tenure as Prime Minister.

In labour-intensive sectors like garments, exports have fallen from USD 15 billion in 2013-14 to USD 14.5 billion in 2023-2024," he said.

er (a measure of labour pro-

ductivity) slowed from 6.6% in

2014-15 to 0.6% by 2018-19,"

This shrinking of manufacturing is largely attributable to the PM's inexplicable trade policy - where it disincentivizes participation in global value chains (GVCs) through mental economic trends, high tariffs while silently permitting Chinese dumping of mass imports, Ramesh alleged. 'Third, the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2022-2023 has revealed a decline in real wages and productivity for India's labourers. The growth in GVA per work-

irregularity, worker productivity contracted in FY23 again, Ramesh said, adding that this decrease in labour productivity has impacted real wage growth, especially amidst rising inflation. As real wages stagnate, con-

After Covid era statistical

and aerospace sectors.

that has been a consistent restraint on India's growth, he These are merely the issues that have surfaced in the past few weeks but the last ten years have seen other highly detri-

sumption will remain weak -

resulting in the low investment

including rising oligopolisation, mass unemployment, and high inflation," he said. "Bombastic claims on the

economy are being made by the non-biological PM and his drumbeaters. But what these claims conceal are the choke points that will

strangulate growth in the years to come if not taken seriously now, in a spirit of humility," Ramesh said in his statement.

## Indian naval ships arrive in Oman for joint exercise



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

 $S_{
m countries}^{
m ignifying}$  close defence ties between the two countries, Indian naval ships Tir, Shardul and

Indian Coast Guard Ship Veera of First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy on long range training deployment arrived at Muscat, Oman on Saturday, navy said here on Sunday

Giving details, officials said during the visit from October five to nine, the Indian Navy will engage with Royal Navy of Oman on various aspects of maritime security and interoperability, including harbour interactions and joint exercises. The deployment will also focus on training exchanges, professional interactions and friendly sports fixtures between the two

In the last ten years, this is the third visit of 1TS to Muscat, Oman. These interactions play a key role in consolidating gains in Naval cooperation and keeping the existing partnerships between both the

Coinciding with the visit of 1TS, Vice Admiral V Srinivas, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command will be on an official visit to Sultanate of Oman from October six and nine. During the visit, FOCINC South will hold bilateral discussions with Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of Sultan's Armed Forces (COS-SAF) and Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser bin Mohsen Al -Rahbi, Commander of Royal Navy of Oman (CRNO). He will also visit key defence and training installations in Oman.

Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Oman engage with each other on avenues of operations, training and collaborative efforts in various fields. Recently, the sixth edition of Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Oman Staff talks were held in June at New Delhi. The visit of 1TS and the CinC, SNC further cement bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.

well.

ty, he further said.

Commenting further on the

exit poll predictions for

Haryana, he said they forecast

a Congress victory in

Chhattisgarh and showed the

party ahead in Uttarakhand as

"The exit polls have their own

theory and they have their own

system, but we work on

ground. Our leaders are direct-

ly connected with people. The

people of Haryana want the

## RaGa advocates for increased women's participation in politics

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

 $F^{\text{lagging inequality in lead-}}_{\text{ership roles in Parliament}}$ and state assemblies, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said for true equality, more and more women's participation is necessary in these institutions. The former Congress chief urged women to participate in his party's 'Shakti Abhiyan', which aims to create an equal space for 'women's interests' in

politics.
"Women have always been an important force in our society and politics, but still there is inequality in leadership roles in Parliament and assemblies, he said in a post in Hindi on Facebook.



"For true equality, more and more women's participation in these places is necessary,"

Rahul said. 'With the thought of 'Aadhi Abadi, Poora Haq', we are dedicated to this goal.

this change, then join 'Shakti Abhiyan," the Congress leader "Your participation is very

important to bring real change

by strengthening the organi-

sation at the grassroots level, "Let us become participants of

this change, from the village to the nation," Gandhi said and shared a link to register for 'Shakti Abhiyan'. The Indian Youth Congress

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

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

## Haryana CM confident of BJP majority despite exit polls

**PTI** CHANDIGARH

 $R^{ ext{ejecting exit poll predictions}}$  exit poll predictions, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday claimed his party BJP will form the government in the state with full majority for a third time when the results are announced on October 8.

The Congress will blame the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for their defeat, he said, attacking the opposition party, which is ahead in the race, according to most exit polls.

Replying to a question about the exit polls predicting a Congress win, Saini said, "On October 8, we are going to form the government. He said, "8 tareekh ko janata

degi jawab, aur yeh (Congress)



on October 8, and they Congress will blame the

Asked how many seats the BJP tion without any discriminawill win in the 90-strong tion and on the basis of this assembly, Saini said, "I have work, the party will form the said we will form the governgovernment with full majori-

ment with full majority." The BJP will form the government on the basis of works done in the state, he added. The BJP worked for every sec-

BJP to come to power for a third time. We are forming the government for a third time,"

The Haryana assembly elec-

tions on Saturday saw a turnout of nearly 67 per cent, with several exit polls predicting a clear majority for the Congress, which is eyeing a comeback after a decade.

## India is essentially a Hindu nation: RSS chief

Asserting that India is essentially a Hindu nation, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said the Hindu society must unite for its security by eliminating dif-ferences in language, caste and regional disputes. He also underlined that the functioning of the RSS is not mechanical but idea-based Addressing a 'Swayamsevak

Ekatrikaran' event in Rajasthan's Baran on Saturday evening, Bhagwat said the Hindus consider everyone as their own and embrace every-"We have lived here since

ancient times even though the term Hindu came later. Hindus embrace everyone. They live in harmony through continuous dialogue," he said. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief stressed the "Hindu society must unite for its security by eliminating language, caste, and regional differences and disputes"

RSS Chief also stressed that discipline in conduct, duty towards the state and dedica-tion to goals are essential qualities. "A society is not just formed by individuals and



their families, but by considering the comprehensive concerns through which one can attain spiritual fulfilment," said Bhagwat. "The functioning of the RSS is not mechanical but idea based. It is an unparalleled organisation whose values trickle down from the group leaders to the volunteers, their families and to the society at large," he added.

Urging the volunteers to maintain widespread contact within communities, the RSS chief said that efforts should be made to alleviate community deficiencies by empowering the society. "The focus should be on social harmony, justice, health, education, and

self-reliance. The volunteers should always remain active and foster harmony, environmental awareness, indigenous values, and civic consciousness within families, which are the basic components of a society," said Bhagwat.

The RSS chief said India's global reputation and standing is attributed to its strength and the safety of its expatriates is assured only when their nation becomes strong. A total of 3,827 RSS volunteers attended the event. The event was also attended by senior RSS functionaries Ramesh Agarwal, Jagdish Singh Rana, Ramesh Chand Mehta and Vaidya Radheshyam Garg,

## Petition filed in SC for Gyanvapi cases to be heard by Allahabad HC's three-judge bench



**BISWAJEET BANERJEE** 

n a development mirroring Ithe Ram Mandir case, a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court requesting that all cases related to the Gyanvapi issue be heard by a three-judge bench of the Allahabad High

The Supreme Court is expected to hear the petition soon, according to Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, who disclosed the information at the Civil Court complex in Varanasi.

Advocate Jain explained that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had submitted its survey report to the court on December 25, 2023. However, despite more than nine months passing, no objections have been sought from the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee regarding the report

Jain emphasized that repeated requests have been made from their side, urging the court to seek objections from the Masjid Committee on the

He added that this is crucial for moving the case forward, as it would determine whether the ASI's report becomes part of court's records. Additionally, the key issues of the case would be framed accordingly.

The advocate further mentioned that the actual trial concerning the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi case in Mathura is also being conducted at the Allahabad High Court.

Therefore, a similar petition has been filed in the Supreme Court, requesting that Gyanvapi-related cases also be heard by a three-judge bench of the Allahabad High Court, he

## RG Kar case: Junior doctors begin indefinite fast

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

The agitating junior doctors withdrew their second round of cease work and began an indefinite fast instead demanding justice for their woman colleague who was on August 9 raped and murdered inside the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The doctors who started their fast from 9 pm on Saturday said that "initially six of us will be sitting on a fast.' The second phase of the doc-

tors' movement started following frequent attacks on doctors at Sagore Dutta Medical College, Ramurhat Medical College, CNM Medical College in the past couple of weeks.

Debashis Haldar one of their leaders said that "besides asking for speedy disposal of justice of Abhaya our colleague who was so brutally raped and murdered ... we had also demanded removal of the Principal Health Secretary NS Nigam which the Government would not do ... we had also demanded adequate security personnel ..., installation of CCTV camera and of course timely general body elections to students' unions so that the ongoing



threat culture and sexual exploitations perpetrated by the student leaders of the ruling party can be stopped . the Government can easily take these small measures but they would not do that as

The doctors also said that a team representing them would soon visit the Kultali village where the brutal rape and murder of a minor girl had taken place on Saturday. We are considering a visit to Kultali ... soon we will visit that village and interact with the villagers so that their movement too gets stronger,' one of the doctors said.

this will hurt their ego.'

Meanwhile, to make the matter more embarrassing for the Government the senior doctors too offered to join the fasting protest. "We will also join them in a relay fasting, said Dr Subarna Goswami a senior doctor.

Fire in building claims seven lives in Mumbai

even persons, including three minors, were killed after a fire broke out in a double-storey shop-cum-residential structure in Mumbai on Sunday morning, a fire official said. The incident took place at 5.20 am at Siddharth Colony in Chembur area, he said. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde later visited the site. He announced a high-level probe into the incident and a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of the deceased.

The ground floor of the structure was used as a shop and the upper floor as residence, an official said. The blaze was confined to the electric wiring and installations in the shop at the ground floor and spread to the upper floor, he said, adding it was a 'level-one' fire. Seven persons were injured in the incident. They were taken to the Rajawadi Hospital where all of them were declared brought dead, the official said.

Fire engines, water tankers and other assistance were rushed to the spot and the blaze was doused by 9.15 am, the official said. The deceased have been identified as Paris Gupta (7), Manju Prem Gupta (30), Anita Gupta (39), Prem Gupta (30), Narendra Gupta (10), Vidhi Chediram Gupta (15) and Gitadevi Dharamdev Gupta

## Look like 25: Kanpur couple defrauds over ₹35 crores with false 'age-reversing' therapy claim

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

shocking case of fraud Ahas come to light in Kanpur, where a couple from Swaroop Nagar allegedly duped people of nearly ?35 crore by promising to make 65-year-olds look 25 again using an Israel-made machine.

The accused, Rajiv Kumar and his wife Rashmi Dubey, launched an organization called "Revival Word" in Saket Nagar to carry out the scam. According to the victim, Renu Singh Chandel, the couple convinced people that Israeli scientists had successfully rejuvenated 35 elderly indi-

viduals—aged 64 and above— by giving them pure oxygen in a pressurized chamber for five days. They claimed that the process made them appear 25 years old within three months.

For more than a year, the couple lured hundreds of people into their scam, even invoking the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make their claims more con-

The fraudsters, operating out of an "Any Time Gym" franchise in Swaroop Nagar, Kanpur, would tell their clients that Prime Minister Modi's energy and ability to work long hours were due to a secret age-reversing technology from Israel.

"How does Modiji remain so energetic, working 20 hours a day and always glowing?" they would ask. They claimed that Modi had used oxygen therapy to reverse his aging process, leading many to believe in the effectiveness of their so-called therapy.

The couple charged unsuspecting victims between ?50,000 and ?2 lakh, promising miraculous results through what they described as cutting-edge Israeli technology. Using network marketing tactics, they added more than 500 people to their fraudulent scheme. Victims were told that they would receive treatment with an



"Israeli time machine," supposedly valued at ?25 crores, which would make them young again.

However, it was later revealed

machine was nothing more than a crude apparatus built from junk materials worth just ?2.5 lakh. The scam caused significant harm to

reported severe side effects, including facial burns and the appearance of white marks on their skin.

How the Scam Unfolded According to Renu Singh Chandel, a whistleblower in the case, the couple operated out of Flat No. 10 of Prabhu Mahila Apartment, where they ran the gym franchise. The couple showed photos and videos claiming that Israeli scientists had conducted successful research in which 35 elderly individuals were treated with pure oxygen in a pressurized chamber for five days a week. After three months, they said, these individuals' organs and skin had transformed to resemble

those of people in their mid-20s. By showing these fake visuals, the couple managed to gain the trust of their The couple reportedly intro-

duced two investment

schemes, one costing ?6,000 and another ?90,000, under the pretext that the funds would be used to purchase the rejuvenation machine from Israel for ?25 crore. Additionally, they promised lucrative rewards for those who recruited others into the

anyone who provided 50 new Renu Singh said she invested ?9 lakh for 150 IDs and another ?3.5 lakh to expand

scheme, with gift hampers for

?3.5 lakh and ?2.1 lakh within a year, but after a year, they only returned ?1.75 lakh. When asked about the remaining amount, the couple assured her that the plant would soon start operating. Over time, it became clear that the couple had taken nearly ?35 crore from various individuals under false pretext. After realizing the scale of the scam, Renu lodged a complaint with Police Commissioner Akhil Kumar. The Kidwai Nagar Police have now registered a report on the Police Commissioner's orders, with investigations under-

the business. The couple ini-

tially promised her a return of

## Authorities seize mephedrone drug worth ₹1.814 crore, raw materials from factory in Bhopal



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE 💻

uthorities have seized Amephedrone (MD) drug valued at Rs 1,814 crore and its raw materials from a factory on the outskirts of Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal and arrested two persons in this connection, officials said on Sunday.

Total 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, was seized in the raid and search operation carried out jointly by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, at the factory located in Bagroda industrial estate near Bhopal on Saturday, they said. This is the largest illegal factory ever busted by the Gujarat ATS. The unit had the capacity to manufacture 25 kg of MD drug per day, the ATS said in a statement. A process was underway to manufacture a large amount of the contraband when the raid was carried out, it said.

During the operation, authorities seized 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, with an estimated value of Rs 1,814.18 crore in the international market, the ATS said. Two persons, identified as Amit Chaturvedi (57) and Sanyal Prakash Bane (40), were arrested during the raid, it said. During their preliminary interrogation, it came to light that Bane was earlier arrested in 2017 in a MD drug

seizure case at Amboli in Maharashtra and served five years in jail. "After his release, he conspired with co-accused Chaturvedi to illegally manufacture and sell MD to earn substantial financial profits. And decided to rent a factory on the outskirts of Bhopal, the ATS said. They took the factory on rent six-seven

months ago, it said. Three-four months back, they collected the raw material and equipment and started manufacturing MD and selling it, the ATS said. In addition to the contraband around 5,000 kg of raw materials, comprising chemicals and equipment, used for the production of MD, including grinders, motors, glass flasks, heaters and other apparatus, were also found during the raid, it said.

Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi lauded efforts of the law enforcement agencies in combating drug-trafficking. "Kudos to Gujarat ATS and NCB (Ops), Delhi, for a massive win in the fight against drugs! Recently, they raided a factory in Bhopal and seized MD and materials used to manufacture MD, with a staggering total value of Rs 1814 crores!," Sanghavi said in a post on X.

This achievement showcases the tireless efforts of our law enforcement agencies in combating drug trafficking and abuse. Their collaborative efforts are crucial in safeguarding the health and security of our society," he said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Expressing concern over the drug menace, Governor R N Ravi on

Sunday flayed the Tamil Nadu

Police, alleging that the state

sleuths were unable to seize

even one gram of synthetic

drug, whereas their counter-

parts in Central agencies were

recovering hundreds of kilo-

grams in the state. Terming

the prevalence of drugs

among youngsters as a "serious problem", Ravi said the

Government alone cannot

eradicate it, but only through

a mass movement it can be

"Our country is celebrating the festival of Navratri, and

normally I do not move out of

Chennai during these nine

days to ensure that I attend

the pooja in the evening at Raj

Bhavan. However, when I was

invited to this event, I decid-

done.

ed I must not miss it. The issue of drugs is close to my prosperous and happy families getting destroyed, society getting destroyed because of this drug," he said at an event in Tenkasi, 650 kms south of

Citing some examples of the use of drugs, he said there are some states in the North East which suffer enormously because of it. "Even, we have a case in Punjab. Remember, till about 40 years back, it was the most advanced and frontranking state in the country. Within three decades, drugs destroyed it and today it (Punjab) is struggling to come out of it (drug culture). There are many areas in our country which are affected by drugs. We must fight to finish it," he said, after inaugurating the 'Rally for a Drug-Free Tenkasi', organised by the Voice of Tenkasi



The use of drugs in Tamil Nadu is also "very serious" and the synthetic drug is referred to as ganja here, but in Kerala or Karnataka it is called heroin, hashish or meth crystals, he said. Describing synthetic drugs as a "bigger threat", the Governor said opium, heroin, hashish and various kinds of synthetic

drugs are highly addictive,

and the victims are mostly

young people, school and colege students.

What I am worried about our State is Central agencies have seized hundreds and hundreds of kilograms of synthetic and chemical drugs from different parts of our state. From the land, from the sea, from the airport, large amount of drugs, chemical and synthetic drugs are

"Three years down the line, I

chemical drug. How come Central agencies are able to seize hundreds of kilograms of these synthetic and chemical drugs, whereas our state enforcement agencies are not able to seize even one gram,"

Soon after he assumed office in Tamil Nadu, the Governor said he invited the then Police chief and requested him to pay attention to the prevalence of drugs in the state. "This is a serious problem, because I have seen it with my own eyes. How a prosperous family, prosperous society completely gets destroyed. We must act tough," he said. Observing that the drugs comprise two aspects -- demand and supply -- he said that there are some countries which sustain themselves on money by supplying

Priyanka Gandhi slams Government

have come across seizures of "We have the case of ganja, tons and tons of ganja Afganisthan. They grow heromake heroin and other variants of it and push it in the international market. We know our western neighbours and their forces have been supplying drugs and getting money to run terrorism, which is called 'narco terrorism' involving billions and bil-

lions of dollars," he said. With supply side pressure from the international market, the drugs are getting pushed into India as a transit route by the drug cartels, he said. "Initially they (drug cartels) said that India is only a transit route because it goes to Sri Lanka and other international countries. But, I think they have fooled us for long. While transiting into India, I think the whole amount of drugs does not get moved as we are becoming a drug consuming society," he claimed.

## Muslim MLA blames community members for gold smuggling, hawala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

T Jaleel, an independent KMLA belonging to the ruling LDF, turned the tables on Muslim League, various Islamist organizations and spiritual leaders by asking them to declare that gold smuggling and hawala cash operations were anti-national and anti-Islamic. He further stated that gold smuggling and hawala operations have been monopolized by the Muslim community in the

The CPI(M) which was put on the defensive by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's disclosure in the 20th September 2024 press meet that Malappuram district which has 75 per cent Muslim population topped the table in the seizure of smuggled gold and hawala cash transactions



and the profit generated out of the operations were diverted to anti-national activities. This has upset the Muslim cleric and Islamist organizations which had demanded the chief minister to apologize to the Muslim community

for the controversial state-Jaleel, who was president of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) before he crossed over to the

CPI(M) camp took to the social media on Sunday morning and declared that a big majority of people engaged in gold smuggling and hawala operations were from the Muslim community. "Most of the people engaged in gold smuggling and hawala operations do not believe that they were associated with anti-national activities. The political leaders and clerics do not instruct the faithful that gold smuggling and hawala were acts of sin. If only the clerics come forward and tell the community members that these were un-Islamic acts and should be discontinued forthwith, the Muslims would continue with these activities. We cannot blame other religions if they are indicting us for gold smuggling and hawala transactions," said Jaleel in his post.

## over IMPCL 'privatisation' bid PNS NEW DELHI

ongress leader Priyanka Congress leader III, Congress Gandhi Vadra on Sunday slammed the Modi government over the reported plans to privatise the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, and wondered what could be its motive other than "filling the coffers of selected friends"

The Congress general secretary's remarks come amid reports that the government's plan to divest the pharmaceutical company has sparked con-cern among several local resi-dents, whose livelihoods are likely to get affected.

What is the government's intention behind selling the profit-making Mini Ratna pharmaceutical company,

Priyanka Gandhi asked. "Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation



Limited (IMPCL) located in Mohaan, Almora, Uttarakhand was established in 1978 by the Central and state governments together," she said in her post in Hindi.

It is a major factory of Ayurveda and Unani medicines which supplies medicines across the country and abroad, Priyanka Gandhi pointed out. Last year it made a profit of 18 crore and is preparing to give a dividend of 6 crore to the government, she said.

This unit has more than 500 employees and thousands of small farmers supply their small produce and raw materials to it, she said.

"The plan to sell the profit-making drug factory is expos-ing the truth of the hypocrisy of promoting Ayurveda and AYUSH," Priyanka Gandhi said. "What could be its motive other than filling the coffers of selected friends by handing over the country's precious assets?" she said.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Change on the cards**

Exit polls predict change in Haryana and a hung assembly in J and K; if true, would indicate Indian politics is in transition

xit polls from the state elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir are indicat-■ ing a decisive win for the Congress in Haryana and a hung assembly in Jammu and Kashmir. As these predictions dominate political discourse, they offer a glimpse into possible power shifts in these two critical regions. In Haryana, the exit polls suggest that the Congress is set to reclaim power, ousting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)led government, which has been in office since 2014. If these predictions hold true, it would also underscore the growing discontent among Haryana's electorate, particularly farmers and rural voters, who have been dissatisfied with the BJP's handling of agricultural reforms and the aftermath of the 2020 farmers' protests. The Congress, capitalising on this unrest, appears to have successfully mobilised voters, especially in the rural areas and among the Jat community. Meanwhile, in Jammu and Kashmir, exit polls point towards a hung assembly, signaling the challenges of forming a stable govern-



ment in the Union Territory. With no single party projected to secure a majority, political maneuvering and coalition-building will become crucial in the coming weeks. The fractured verdict reflects the complexity of the region's political landscape post the revocation of Article 370 in 2019. The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is expected to emerge as a significant player, but the BJP has also made inroads, particularly in the Jammu region. So not only numbers but post-result alliances would decide the formation of the govenment. Indeed, a hung assembly could lead to prolonged negotiations and possibly a fragile coalition, underscoring the political uncertainty that has

plagued the region in recent years. A Congress victory in Haryana could be a defining moment in national politics. It would signal that the BJP's stronghold in the Hindi heartland is weakening and Jats (who have significant presence in western UP) are returning to Congress fold and non-Jats — upper castes – the traditional BJP voters are also have also splitted. Congress couldn't be happier as it could also galvanise Congress supporters across other northern states, particularly Rajasthan and Punjab, where state elections are due soon. But it would have a daunting task of keeping the rebels happy as they could turn the tables. In contrast, the outcome in Jammu and Kashmir-if a hung assembly materializes-could deepen political instability in the Union Territory. A coalition government would have to balance the diverse and often conflicting interests of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, complicating governance. Moreover, this result could prompt national parties, particularly the BJP, to reassess their strategies in sensitive regions like Jammu and Kashmir, where identity politics and security concerns dominate However, as with all exit polls, it's important to approach these predictions with skepticism, given how they have been inaccurate in past elections.



Artistes take part in 'Garba', in Ahmedabad

## Why 'Make in India' can be a game changer



By fostering indigenous innovation and cutting-edge technology, India is challenging long-held economic paradigms and rewriting its own narrative on the world stage

or centuries, Western nations have reaped the rewards of their focus on innovation, intellectual property (IP), and the relentless pursuit of technological advancement. By glorifying creation, often over manufacturing and service, these nations have not only monetised their inventions but also exported their ideas globally, establishing themselves as economic powerhouses.

The United States, for instance, transformed industries through disruptive technologies like the internet, pharmaceuticals, and aerospace, creating global demand for their products and services. Similarly, European nations have led in sectors like infrastructure (think about the economic advantage of railroads), automotive engineering and luxury goods, where innovation and IP are at the core of their global dominance. In contrast, economies like India and China historically anchored their growth on manufacturing and services—both positioned lower on the value-addition spectrum.

This approach, while effective for driving industrialisation and job creation, did not prioritise innovation or IP creation, the intellectual asset that is monetizable, leaving these nations as consumers rather than creators of advanced technologies. China, however, has broken away from this model in recent years, making massive investments in innovation, intellectual property, and tech platforms. The country has developed cutting-edge tech-nologies in fields like telecommunications, social media, and gaming, exemplified by global giants such as Huawei, TikTok, and Tencent. These efforts have not only strengthened China's domestic economy, positioned it as a formidable global exporter, and given it access to priceless data from across the world. India, on the other hand, followed a different trajectory. instead of focusing on productization and technology cre-supply chains, particularly in ation, India became synonymous with contact centres, caused by the COVID-19 Global Capability Centers pandemic. This newfound



(GCCs), and IT services. This positioning earned India

the moniker of the "backroom of the world," a role that, while economically beneficial, left the nation lagging in terms of innovation and high-value technology creation. While India excelled in providing services, it often supported the innovation and product development efforts of other nations rather than leading them. However, the past decade has witnessed a significant shift in India's global stance.

India has emerged as a geopolitical force, flexing its muscles in various domains. Diplomatically, India has taken a more assertive position on the global stage, engaging in strategic partnerships with major powers while maintaining its autonomy in international affairs. In the geopolitical arena, India has strengthened its defence capabilities and has been pivotal in initiatives like the Quad, countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region. On the trade front, India has renegotiated trade deals and is increasingly seen as a critical player in global the wake of global disruptions



AS A GEOPOLITICAL

FORCE, FLEXING ITS MUSCLES IN VARIOUS DOMAINS. DIPLOMATICALLY, INDIA HAS TAKEN A MORE ASSERTIVE POSITION ON THE GLOBAL STAGE, **ENGAGING IN STRATEGIC** PARTNERSHIPS WITH **MAJOR POWERS** WHILE MAINTAINING ITS AUTONOMY IN

INTERNATIONAL

"Create in India" is both timely and strategically crucial. By fostering a culture of innovation and supporting the development of indigenous technologies, India is positioning itself to dominate the next century, both economically and in terms of soft power. Economically, a focus on creation will enable India to move up the value chain, generating higher returns on its intellectual assets and reducing its dependency on foreign technologies. In terms of soft power, leading in fields such as media and entertainment will allow India to shape its narrative, instead of continually reacting to distorted Western narratives. When PM Narendra Modi made the call, "Let us together start a 'Create in India' movement.", not everyone understood its second and third-order effects, especially the ramifications on narrative-correction, and exporting

assertiveness underscores

why India's current focus on

The "technologies" of Eastman colour and vinyl records neiped America proj its heroes and rockstars. The era of XR and gaming will help India prop ours. The Ministry of Information and

our civilizational ideas glob-

Broadcasting announced the 'Create in India Challenge' under the aegis of World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025; a first-of-akind event showcasing the future of our AVGC sector to the world. This broad-spectrum challenge showcases the best of our talent across 25 types of content and games.

India needs more of these visible celebrations. It's time the world saw our creativity and our ambition. However, to fully unlock this potential, India must also invest heavily. The AVGC sector represents the future of digital interaction and entertainment. Unlocking this future needs skill development, investment pipelines, platforms that scale, a progressive regulatory regime, and much more. It is indeed a tall order, but by establishing the Gangotri here, India can ensure its leadership in the global economy and narrative for years to come.

(The writer is a policy affairs expert. He is a nominated member of the National *Iourism Advisory Council*, Govt. of India and Board Member, Centre for Insolvency and Financial *Laws*; *views* are personal)

#### THE EDITOR

## Overcoming Phobia: A Journey of inner strength and inspiration



Resilience and determination can help us overcome even the toughest challenges. All you need is a spark to ignite your spirit

had a phobia of speaking in public. It is quite surprising given that I was good at debates during school and college. I was also a successful manager as I traversed my professional journey. I dealt with hundreds of staff since I joined the railways as a young officer.

I also interacted confidently with my peers and the seniors. However, I would break out in a sweat and lose my sleep each time I had to be on stage. I was envious of those who could spontaneously break into a joke or recite a poem. I decided to do something about it. I started preparing notes days in advance.

I would keep memorising the lines by rote till they were branded in my memory. I would even repeat them standing in front of the mirror watching intently my facial expressions. This was the best that I could do. I realised in later years that my handicap was nothing when compared to the challenges faced by many. Recently, I watched The King's Speech, a movie on the life of King George his speech, he communicat- was comatose for a few

VI, who found himself on the throne after his older brother, King Edward VIII abdicated. The film largely dealt with King George's determination to overcome his stutter with the help of a speech therapist. I understood that the will to beat the odds comes from with-

No therapy can help an unwilling person. There are many instances of people overcoming their handicaps to pursue their dreams. We have all heard of Stephen Hawking. He was diagnosed with motor neuron disease at age 21 and was not expected to live more than a couple of years. He survived the odds but the disease paralysed him over decades. After he lost

speech-generating device, and then through a cheek muscle.Helen Keller was an American author. Medical science was much less advanced than what we know today. An unknown illness, when

she was only 19 months old, left her permanently blind and deaf. She painstakingly learned to recognise words through hand movements. We, who are blessed, cannot even fathom the hard work that would have gone into her transformation to be the voice that she became.The famous Bharatnatyam danseuse Sudha Chandran underwent amputation of her right leg at the age of 18 due to a road accident.

Many would have lost hope and might have ended up wallowing in self-pity. The lady regained her mobility with the help of a prosthet-ic. She also pushed herself to accomplish the unthinkable. One need not look up to only the famous to witness these stories of human courage and conviction. My maternal grandfather

ed through a hand-held months after a botched-up surgery. The doctors were not even certain about his coming out of the coma. He was paralyzed on his right side. He worked painstakingly to lead as normal a life as he could, he even developed writing skills with his left hand. Many in our country are differently abled but do not have the means to pursue their

the lives

that ignites the spirit. (The author is an electrical

engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

On the other hand, we have big business houses that do not even bat an eyelid before spending more than the GDP of a small country on lavish events. We, many other individuals, and the business houses have the means to make a difference

others.Stephen Hawking said, "Concentrate on the abilities your disability doesn't hinder and don't dwell on the things it interferes with. Be disabled physically, not in spirit." We need to be the spark

#### **SECULAR CREDENTIALS INTACT**

Madam — Apropos of the editorial 'How secular in India' (October 5) based on the report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, certain ground realities of the present circumstances emanating from Israel-Hamas war wrapping Lebanon, Iran and Syria, extremist groups of Pakistan operating in India, terrorist attacks from across the border and coup in Bangladesh, which are directly boiling the Indian Muslims against Israel, US etc, can't be factored for any judgment by a US group.

It is true that there are serious violations of human rights and religious freedom in the US. India has very peculiar problems relating to religious issues. The Waqf Act has embroiled the sentiments on possession of their lands and temples, the insurgency from Bangladesh and Mayanmar have changed the demography of the North East, Bengal and other bordering states. Our neighbourhood has been troubled with army coups, dictatorships, religious violence against Hindus and anti-India governments. Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar are failing in economies with unstable governments. Hindus are restive not against Muslims and minorities but against indiscriminate

appeasement politics.
These aspects have not been factored in the report of USCIRF. It is surprising & unfortunate, highly biased and discriminatory that such organisations don't carry out similar investigations and publish reports on Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Maldives, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria and China. However, such extraneous reports are mostly inconsequential in Indian poli-

Such reports don't help Muslims too. US should also denounce and discredit such organisations and their reports. Such reports viotiate diplomatic relations and mutual cooperation.

## **Address the demands of Ladakh**

The people of Ladakh are deeply concerned about pressing environmental issues, regional affairs, and the lack of essential services, all of which continue to plague the region. The key issues they are raising include the demand for tribal status under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, full-fledged statehood, separate parliamentary constituencies for Leh and Kargil, and the establishment of a Public Service Commission. Sadly, even as they did 21

#### **JUSTICE RESTORED**

Madam— The recent Supreme Court decision against prejudice based on caste in jails is a major step towards ensuring that everyone is treated with dignity and equality. But how can we make sure that every state implements these changes in an effective way? Concerns regarding the extent of social injustice are raised by the practices from the colonial past that remain present in jail manuals. What steps will be implemented to monitor compliance and permanently end this prejudiced conduct as we work towards a more equal system? The Court's order is an important first step, but more work needs to be done.

Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

#### A BETRAYAL OF TRUST

Madam — I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the adulteration of Tirupati laddus. The Supreme Court's decision to form a five-member indepen-

dent SIT is a commandable step. Any allegations of adulteration or misus-Vinod Johri | Delhi ing of any ingredients in the Tirumala

days fasting protest, getting no results they began another Delhi Chalo Padyatra for their rightful claims, despite being totally peacefull protest, were detained by the Delhi police, sparking outrage across the country.

It is alarming to see the government's apathy and the Indian media's strange silence on such critical matters. Ladakh is an integral part of India, and its people deserve to be treated with the same respect and consideration as any other citizens. Their development is India's development, and their issues must be addressed without further delay. I urge the government to fulfill the demands of the people of Ladakh promptly and work towards ensuring their welfare and dignity. Jakir Hussain, Kanpur,

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Tirupati laddus are disrespectful to the sentiments of crores of devotees. It also questions about the quality control and the safety standard that is being maintained by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). I urge the SIT to conduct an impartial investigation turning no stone unturned. The findings of the investigation should be made public which would restore the faith of devotees in the TTD and also prevent such incidents from happening in future. The investigation must be done in such a manner that it does not become a political issue as Tirupati laddus is connected to crores of people and their beliefs, it deals with the sentiments of devotees. I urge the SIT to conduct an impartial investigation which would not just resolve this issue but also ensure that next time such thing doesn't happen by ensuring regular maintenance and laboratory

Fiza Fatima | Hyderabad

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

#### **LEADERSHIP AND MENTAL HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES**

Supportive leadership can reduce stress and enhance job satisfaction



n today's dynamic workplace, the mental health of employees has become a focal point for organisations aiming to foster a productive and harmonious environment. One of the most significant factors influencing employee's mental health is the role of leadership. Bosses and managers possess the power to shape workplace culture, influence employee satisfaction and directly impact mental well-being. Leaders hold a unique position of authority that can significantly affect an employee's perception of their work environment. The tone set by leaders creates the foundational culture of an organisation. It is undeniable to say that a positive, encouraging atmosphere promotes employee engagement and satisfaction, whereas a toxic environment leads to stress and anxiety. Several research indicates that employees who feel supported by their leaders are more likely to experience lower levels of stress and higher levels of job satisfaction. Studies also indicate that transformational and supportive leadership styles co-relate with better employee mental health outcomes.

Leaders who provide emotional support and recognition can significantly reduce stress levels among employees. Conversely, authoritarian leadership styles often result in increased employee anxiety and decreased morale. Flexible work arrangements such as remote work, and flexible hours positively impact mental health by allowing employees to manage personal responsibilities alongside work demands.One of the most crucial aspects of effective leadership is the ability to provide support and recognition.

There is no denying the fact that employees thrive when their contributions are acknowledged and valued. A boss who regularly provides constructive feedback and celebrates achievements fosters a sense



of belonging and motivation. This recognition can enhance employees' self-esteem and reinforce their commitment to the organisation. On the other hand, a lack of recognition can lead to feelings of inadequacy and disillusionment, ultimately affecting mental health nega-

The interplay between workplace factors and employee mental health is complex but increasingly recognised as critical to organisational success. By fostering supportive leadership, promoting a positive work culture and prioritising employee well-being, organisations can enhance mental health outcomes and overall productivity. Continued research in this area is essential for developing effective strategies to support mental health in the workplace. The impact of leadership on employee mental health is profound and multifaceted. Bosses have the authority to shape the workplace culture, provide support and recognition, communicate effectively, manage workloads, resolve conflicts and model healthy behaviours. Understanding the importance of these factors can help organisations create healthier work environments where employees feel valued and supported.

As businesses continue to navigate the complexities of the modern workplace, prioritising mental health through effective leadership is not just beneficial for employees but is also essential for fostering a productive and engaged workforce. The interplay between workplace factors and employee mental health is not only complex but also increasingly recognised as critical to organisational success. By fostering supportive leadership, promoting a positive work culture and prioritising employee well-being, organisations can enhance mental health outcomes and overall productivity. Continued research in this area is essential for developing effective strategies to support mental health in the workplace.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

## Elevate wellness experts as industry leaders



DINESH SOOD

Backed by government initiatives and vocational training programmes, this sector offers global placements, entrepreneurial opportunities and job openings in small towns



eauty, wellness and grooming are indispensable aspects of life, particularly for young professionals striving for financial success and a luxurious lifestyle. It's crucial to recognise that a professionally trained hairdresser can earn more than an engineer or a doctor, dispelling the outdated notion that community-based hairdressers only fulfil basic needs. Their workplaces also serve as vibrant community centres where people gather, exchange ideas and foster belonging and bonding while waiting for a haircut. Therefore, it's imperative to rebrand the skills and professionals in the beauty and wellness sector as 'Beauty Architects' or 'Glam Gurus', elevating their profession's status and attracting more talent to this lucrative industry.

Our country's beauty and wellness industry presents unparalleled employment opportunities and global placements. Recognising this, the government has initiated various measures to create pertinent content, curricula, infornation databases, and delivery dardise accreditation and certification processes, and establish industry-aligned infrastructure. These efforts aim to equip young individuals to perceive beauty and wellness as a promising profession. The beauty and wellness sector should streamline its curricula to emphasise industry exposure.

As the industry transitions towards more excellent organisations, professionals must be educated on adhering to professional service standards, obtaining industry-specific qualifications and certifications from reputable organisations, and enhancing their existing qualifications through access to higher education and research.

Integrating extensive internship, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training opportunities will provide candidates with practical work experience and a comprehensive understanding of the industry. The absence of employer-led apprenticeship standards and career pathways leads to limited internship opportunities, depriving numerous students of valuable learning experiences.

Early introduction of beauty and wellness



**OUR COUNTRY'S BEAUTY AND** WELLNESS **INDUSTRY PRESENTS** UNPARALLELED **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** AND GLOBAL PLACEMENTS. RECOGNISING THIS, THE **GOVERNMENT** HAS INITIATED **VARIOUS** MEASURES TO CREATE **PERTINENT** CONTENT,

**CURRICULA AND** 

INFORMATION

DATABASES.

courses in schools is essential. Our current education systems prioritise knowledge-oriented training through rote learning, neglecting practical, experiential learning crucial for real-world application. Therefore, orienting students towards vocational education as an alternative career choice is imper-

The absence of practical and experiential learning impedes innovation, creativity, and imagination among learners, leaving them illprepared for the evolving world of work. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 advocates integrating vocational education with mainstream education to expose 50 per cent of K12 and PG learners to vocational skills by 2025 and 100 per cent by 2030. Schools play a crucial role in raising awareness about

vocational career paths. Notably, beauty and wellness skill courses have been part of the cur-riculum in Delhi Government schools for over a decade. Early exposure to such vocational education can aid students, parents, and guardians in considering alternative career paths and foster a positive outlook on the workforce's dignity in the beauty and wellness industry. The vocational education sector has tried mainstream vocational courses such as BVoc, MVoc, BSc, and MSc in Beauty and Wellness. However, these programs have seen low enrollment due to a need for more awareness about career opporfunities and limited seats.

There is a need to design more BVoc and MVoc courses with multiple entry and exit points, focusing on practical application in areas such as Beauty Culture, Cosmetology, Yoga, Ayurveda Dietetics, Sports Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Salon

Management, Beauty Therapy, Aesthetics, Aesthetic Dermatology, Hair Dressing, Makeup, and Spa Therapy, rather than just theoretical knowledge.
Additional focus is also required in the areas of human psychology,

stress management, mental wellbeing, nutrition and diet, reflexology, alternate therapies etc. An alternative pathway to a bachelor's degree is completing a one-year ITI program and gaining a year of industry experience. Expanding training capacities in the Beauty and Wellness sector within ITIs is crucial, as the current short-term training programs are insufficient to meet industry standards and demand.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is essential for informal workers with significant industry erience. Despite possessing valuable skills, many informal workers in the Beauty and Wellness industry need more formal education and training.

RPL can help them gain formal certification based on their industry experience. Additionally, there is a need to support entrepreneurship in the Beauty and Wellness sector. More than 50 per cent of vocational graduates in this sector opt for self-employment, and there is a growing trend of industry workers starting their enterprises.

A robust support system is required to support these entrepreneurs and foster innovation and employment. The Indian beauty and personal care market is experiencing rapid growth in tier-II and tier-III towns, with a substantial value of \$22 billion and projected to expand at a rate of 10-12 per cent to reach \$34 billion by 2028, as per the Nykaa Beauty Trends Report. This surge in

tier-II and tier-III cities is not surprising, given the global trend. In India, approximately 38 per cent of the demand for beauty and wellness products and services, particularly direct-to-customer (D2C) offerings, originates from these cities, making them highly lucrative mar-

Despite being underdeveloped, tier-II and tier-III cities hold significant potential in the beauty and wellness sector. Research indicates that professionals in these cities are well-versed in domestic and international trends, products, and hair services. Social media's influence has been pivotal in driving lifestyle changes, especially among the younger population. Young customers and professionals in tier-II and tier-III towns are eager to explore new trends and various deauty and wellness services.

In contrast to metropolitan cities, recruiting a skilled workforce in these smaller cities is more accessible, as a motivated and trainable young workforce is readily available. Beauty, wellness, and grooming have become integral to everyone's lifestyle, regardless of whether they reside in metropolitan cities or smaller towns across India.

People increasingly seek professionals to help them achieve their desired makeovers, so it's time to adopt an inclusive approach to rebrand the traditional workforce as professionals in the beauty and wellness sector.

(The writer is co-founder and MD

of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill **Development Corporation** (NSDC) and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI; The

## Mobilising climate finance in India: Uncovering alternative routes

Blended finance models, carbon pricing and strategically aligned CSR funds could be the key to unlocking the private sector's investment potential

ndia's changing dynamics with the geopolitical pow Lers of the world coupled with its accelerating economy have put us in a unique spot- one that allows it to be the voice of the Global South. India's position on climate change commitments attracted global attention during the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, during which Prime Minister Modi committed to India achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. This ambitious pledge, unprecedented for a developing nation, was a point that speaks of a profound shift in India's climate policy. The country's newfound authority was further solidified after last year's G20 Presidency.



Among the many deliberations that India helmed with the other delegations, there was also a renewed global focus on the urgency of climate action. The Urgency of Mobilising Capital in the Global South, while the impacts of climate change are global and farreaching, the impacts of this Research shows that 55 vulnerable countries have suffered

mate crisis-fueled losses in the last 20 years. The number is estimated to reach \$580 billion per year by 2030. This is because large-scale investments are required for mitigation or adapting to the consequences.

The Loss & Damage Fund, proposed at COP27 and operationalised at COP28, was a move India with the rest of Global South welcomed. Though it is receiving initial

contributions from developed nations, these fall short of what many developing countries deem necessary. Further, a recent study by CEEW found that the developed world, which is responsible for threefourths of existing carbon emissions in the world — will able countries have suffered system of the suffered shapes and suffered shapes and suffered shapes able countries have suffered shapes able to shape abl

have committed, if one were to look at the current trajectories. 83 per cent of this overshoot will be caused by the European Union, Russia and the United States. It is critical to ensure the rescue and rehabilitation of countries facing the cascading effects of this global issue disproportionately. India has held the Global North accountable - not just as the voice of the Global South but owing to its vulnerability. Understanding India's Stance

around 619 million persons in India bore the brunt of climate change-induced extreme heat between June 16 and June 24. This is more than any other country in the world. These incidents are not just environmental, but also economic and health-related. Cities grind to a halt under the force of



nomic scars and jeopardising marginalised.

Creating a resilient and sustainable future for India necessitates a just transition, which in turn requires significant financial investment. India faces a substantial climate financing shortfall of USD 3.5trillion. To address this, we

by 2070, translating to an average annual requirement of USD 28 billion over the next five decades. While international support is undoubtedly crucial, harnessing the potential of domestic mechanisms like carbon pricing and blended finance models is crucial for long-term sustain-

Novel mechanisms of blended finance can not only help bridge the financing gap to fulfil India's needs but can also unlock significantly higher investment from the private sector. This will also help in reducing overdependence on external climate capital as the primary instrument for climate capital. Strategic Alignment of CSR Funds Corporate India need investment support makes substantial expendiamounting to USD 1.4 trillion tures as part of their Corporate crucial policy alternative to

Social Responsibility. We have an opportunity here to strategically align these CSR funds in a manner that accel-

erates our efforts of achieving SDGs. According to provisional data from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), spending on health reached Rs 9,987 crore in FY22, compared to Rs 8,382 crore on education. In contrast, spending on the environment was Rs 2,837 crore in FY22, which is double the Rs 1,337 crore spent in FY21. There is a major scope for increasing the quantum of CSR funds being streamlined towards carbon projects. This notion reverberates further in the Reserve Bank of India's report on currency and finance, wherein equitable CSR funding is listed as the

mitigate climate risk. While energy and mitigation have received the most amount of climate financing for India, more investments should be directed towards nature-based solutions and environment ecosystems that crosscut both mitigation and adaptation in India. This will help create permanence in carbon removals that will help mitigate the effects of climate change. The flexible nature of CSR provides businesses in the country a significant chance to foster positive transformation and marry socio-economic advancement by finding environmental solutions. Yet, these dual benefits are attainable only with a committed long-term vision and detailed planning.

(The writer is CEO, ProClime; views are personal)

## Strike on mosque kills 19 as Israel bombards Gaza, Beirut

AP DEIR-AL-BALAH

n Israeli strike on a Amosque in the Gaza Strip early Sunday killed at least 19 people, Palestinian officials said, as Israel intensified its bombardment of northern Gaza and southern Beirut in a widening war with Iran-allied militant groups across the region. Displaced people were sheltering at the mosque that was struck near the main hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah. A further four people were killed in a strike on a school sheltering displaced people near the town. The Israeli military said both strikes targeted militants, without providing evidence.

An Associated Press journalist counted the bodies at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital morgue. Hospital records showed that the dead from the strike on the mosque were all

Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza a year after the group's attack on Israel, and has opened a new front in Lebanon against Hezbollah, which has been trading fire with Israel along the border since the war in Gaza began. Israel has also vowed to strike Iran itself after Tehran launched a ballistic missile attack on Israel last week



The widening conflict risks drawing in the United States, which has provided crucial military and diplomatic support to Israel, as well as US-allied Arab countries that have allied Arab countries that host American forces. Iran-allied militant groups in Syria, Iraq and Yemen have already

The Israeli military, meanwhile, announced a new air and ground offensive in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza, home to a densely populated refugee camp dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. It circulated photos and video footage showing a column of tanks heading toward the area.

Israeli forces encircled Jabaliya as warplanes struck militant sites inside, the military said. Over the course of the war, Israel has carried out several large operations there, only to see militants regroup. Israel reiterated its call, from the opening weeks of the war, for the complete evacuation of northern Gaza. Up to 300,000

people are estimated to have expanded the so-called remained in the heavily humanitarian zone in southdestroyed north after earlier Israeli warnings that sent around a million fleeing to the south. "We are in a new phase of the war," the military said in leaflets dropped over the area. "These areas are considered dangerous combat zones." Palestinian residents report-

ed heavy Israeli strikes across northern Gaza. The Civil Defence — first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government — said several homes and buildings had been hit and they were not able to reach them because of the bombardment. Residents posted about the airstrikes and mourned their relatives on social media. Imad Alarabid said in a Facebook post that an airstrike on his home in Jabaliya killed a dozen family members, including his parents. Saeed Abu Elaish, a Health Ministry medic, said he was wounded and bleeding. "Pray for us," he wrote on Facebook. Hassan Hamd, a freelance TV journalist whose footage had aired on Al Jazeera and othr networks, was killed in artillery shelling on his home in Jabaliya. Anas al-Sharif, an Al Jazeera reporter in northern Gaza, confirmed his death.

The military says it has

ern Gaza, urging people to head there. Hundreds of thousands of people have already sought refuge in sprawling tent camps there with little in the way of food, water or toilets. Israel has carried out strikes in the humanitarian zone against what it says are militants hiding among civilians Nearly 42,000 ians. Nearly 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the start of the war, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. It does not say how many were fighters, but says a little more than half were women and children. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in the October 7 attack and took another 250 hostage. They are still holding around 100 captives, a third of whom are

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said the area was hit by more than 30 strikes overnight, the heaviest bombardment since September 23 when Israel escalated its air campaign.

believed to be dead. In Beirut,

airstrikes lit up the skyline and

loud explosions echoed across

the southern suburbs, known

as the Dahiyeh, throughout the night, as Israel struck what

it said were Hezbollah militant

### Health workers in Lebanon describe deadly attacks on colleagues and fear more

**Beirut (AP):** Israel's military struck outside the gates of a hospital in southern Lebanon warning from Israeli forces before the attack, even though nearby villages have received without warning on Friday, killing seven paramedics and forcing the facility to close, the hospital director told The Associated Press a day after one of the most deadly attacks on health workers in the weeks since fighting escalated between Israel and Hezbolah. The account of the Friday airstrikes that flung hospital doors off their hinges and shattered glass was the latest to detail attacks that Lebanon's health ministry says have killed dozens of health workers. Marjayoun hospital director Mounes Kalakesh said that even before Friday's attack, ambulance crews in the area were so reluctant to operate that the facility had not received anyone wounded for days. "We have not been able to work. There was fear and panic among the staff," he

Kalakesh said the government hospital did not receive any

nearby villages have received such warnings to evacuate. Israel has not commented specifically on the incident. Friday's attack came hours before Israel's Arabic-language military spokesman accused the Hezbollah militant group, based in southern Lebanon, of using ambulances to transport weapons and fighters, and warned medical teams to stay clear of the group. The spokesman provided no evi-

It is a charge that Lebanese officials and hospital directors, including Kalakesh, deny. Lebanon's health minister has accused Israel of committing "a war crime" by targeting medical teams and paramedics. The health ministry on Thursday said 40 paramedics, firefighters and health care workers had been killed in Israeli attacks over three days, making it even more challenging to care for people wounded in the intense fighting.

International

rescue teams

reach Bosnia

Sarajevo (AP): Rescue teams

from Bosnia's neighbours and

European Union countries on

Sunday were joining efforts to clear the rubble and find peo-

ple still missing from floods and landslides that devastated

parts of the Balkan country. Bosnia sought EU help after a

heavy rainstorm overnight on

Friday left entire areas under water and debris destroyed roads and bridges, killing at least 18 people and wounding

Officials said that at least 10

people are still unaccounted for

many of them in the village of

Donja Jablanica, in southern

dozens.

after floods

### Thousands join pro-Palestinian rallies eral other cities in the United

 $P^{\text{olice used tear gas and water}}_{\text{cannons to disperse violent}}$ demonstrators in Rome as tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters took to the streets in major European cities and around the globe Saturday to call for a cease-fire as the first anniversary of the Hamas attacks on Israel approached. Huge rallies were held in several European cities, with gather-

ings expected to continue over the weekend and peak on Monday, the date of the anniversary. In Rome, several thousands demonstrated peacefully Saturday afternoon until a smaller group tried to push the

rity concerns. Some protesters, dressed in black and with their faces covered threw stones, bottles and paper bombs at the police, who

rally toward the center of the

city, in spite of a ban by local

authorities who refused to

authorize protests, citing secu-

water cannons, eventually dispersing the crowd. At least 30 law enforcement officers and three demonstrators were injured in the clashes, local

joined in with long-distance

strikes on Israel.

media reported. The rally in Rome had been calm earlier, with people chanting "Free Palestine, Free Lebanon," waving Palestinian flags and holding banners calling for an immediate stop to the

In London, thousands marched through the capital to Downing Street amid a heavy police presence. The atmosphere was tense as pro-Palestinian protesters and counterdemonstrators, some holding Israeli flags, passed one another. Scuffles broke out as police officers pushed back activists trying to get past a cordon. At least 17 people were arrested on suspicion of public order offenses, supporting a proscribed organization and assault, London's Metropolitan Police said. In the northern German city of

Hamburg, about 950 people staged a peaceful demonstration with many waving Palestinian and Lebanese flags or chanting "Stop the Genocide," the DPA news agency reported, citing a count by police. Two smaller pro-Israeli counterdemonstra-tions took place without incident, it said

Several thousands protesters gathered peacefully at Paris' Republique Plaza in a show of solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese people. Many were waving Palestinian flags while holding posters reading "stop the genocide," "free Palestine," and "hands off Lebanon." Pro-Palestinian demonstrators also gathered at New York's Times Square to call for a cease-fire, chanting "Gaza!" to a drumbeat. Some wore keffiyeh scarfs, waved Palestinian and Lebanese flags and held a large cardboard image of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with red paint symbolizing blood across his face. Rallies were also planned in sev-

States as well as in other parts of the world, including Denmark, Switzerland, South Africa and India. In the Philippines, dozens of left-wing activists protested near the U.S. Embassy in Manila, where police prevented them from gatting closer to the specific getting closer to the seaside compound. Pro-Israeli demonstrations are expected to be held Sunday because Jews across the world are still observing Rosh Hashana, or the Jewish new year. This year, emotions will be high for many given that the midpoint of the 10 days spanning Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur is Oct. 7 — the one-year anniversary of the Hamas attack that killed 1,200 Israelis and triggered the ongoing war in Gaza. Security forces in several countries warned of heightened levels of alert in major cities, amid concerns that the escalating conflict in the Middle East could inspire new terror attacks in Europe or that the protests



A man bangs a drum during a march as pro-Palestinian supporters rally in Sydney, Sunday.

#### Nurse, his dog dies trying to save man from floods

Washington (AP): As the Hurricane Helene-driven waters rose around the Nolichucky River in Tennessee, Boone McCrary, his girlfriend and his chocolate lab headed out on his fishing boat to search for a man who was stranded by floodwaters that had levelled his home. But the thick debris

in the water jammed the boat's motor, and without power, it slammed into a bridge support and capsized. McCrary and his dog Moss never made it out of the water alive.

Search teams found McCrary's boat and his dog's body two days later, but it took four days to find McCrary, an emergency room nurse whose passion was being on his boat in that river. His girlfriend, Santana Ray, held onto a branch for hours before rescuers reached her.

David Boutin, the man McCrary had set out to rescue, was distraught when he later learned McCrary had died trying to save

"I've never had anyone risk their life for me," Boutin told The Associated Press. "From what I hear that was the way he always been. He's my guardian angel, that's for sure.

The 46-year-old recalled how the force of the water swept him out his front door and ripped his dog Buddy — "My best friend, all I have" — from his arms. Boutin was rescued by another team after clinging to tree branches in the raging river for six hours. Buddy is still missing, and Boutin knows he couldn't have survived. McCrary was one of 215 people killed by Hurricane Helene's raging waters and falling trees across six states Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia — and was among a group of first

trying to save others.

## Trump, Musk address thousands

PTI WASHINGTON

 $F_{ ext{Donald}}^{ ext{ormer}}$  US president  $F_{ ext{Donald}}^{ ext{Trump}}$  on Saturday returned to Butler, a city in Pennsylvania where he narrowly escaped an assassination bid 12 weeks ago, and addressed thousands of his supporters in this key battleground state, urging them to elect him as the next president of the United States

Joined by high-profile figures like Tesla owner Elon Musk and his running mate, Senator J D Vance, Trump (78) made a passionate plea to "defeat" Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate in the November 5 presidential

poll. "We must stop her country destroying regime, radical-left agenda once and for all. We cannot have it happen. So you must get out and you must vote," Trump said in Pennsylvania, which in this election cycle has emerged as a must-win situation for both condidates. candidates.

Trump launched a scathing attack on Harris and accused her of being a failure on multiple fronts, including border security and economy. "She imposed a natural gas export ban on Pennsylvania, which is killing your energy workers and your pricing," he said. 'Kamala Ĥarris is a radical-

left Marxist. She is a woman that is not respected in Congress. She was laughed at Congress. Nobody thought she could win. They did a coup of Biden. Whether you like him or not, I am not a particularly big fan. We had a debate, and the debate ended. And all of a sudden, they come to him, and they say, we want you out. You are not going to win the election. And he said, 'I do not want to

get out," Trump said. He (Biden) got 14 million (1.4 crore) votes. If you believe in democracy or a system, he responders who perished while got 14 million votes. And she



Elon Musk jumps on the stage behind Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump during a cal rally at the Butler Farm Show, Saturday in Butler, Pa.

first one out, 22 candidates, and she never made it to Iowa. She quit before Iowa and now she is running. And that is okay. But, you know, we spent USD 150 million beating Biden, and as soon as he was down and out for the count, they said, let us take him out. We will give somebody else to run. Never happened before," he said.

She is a person that rated even worse in every statistic than any other senator. She was rated at the bottom of the US Senate. She has destroyed everything she touched," Trump said.

The former president said if elected, on the first day of his presidency, he would seal the border and stop the migrant invasion into the country. We will begin the largest deportation operation in the history of the United States," he said, adding that 2024 is the most important election in the history of the country.
"Here are the facts. My oppo-

nent, Kamala Harris, is the most incompetent and far-left (Harris) got none. She was the nominee ever to run for pres-

ident. She is much further left than crazy Bernie Sanders. She wants to open the borders. She took the most secure border in US history and turned it into the worst border in the history of the world.... She let in 21 million (2.1 crore) illegal aliens from all over the world, from prisons and jails and mental institutions and insane asylums. And they are terrorists at record levels, at levels we have never seen before," he alleged.

In his brief speech, Musk said this is a must-win situation for the country. "President Trump must win to

preserve the Constitution. He must win to preserve democracy in America. This is a must-win situation. So I have one ask for everyone in the audience, everyone who watches this video, everyone in the livestream. This one request is very important. Register to vote. And get everyone you know and everyone you do not know, drag them to register to vote.... Then make sure they actually do vote. If they do not, this

will be the last election. That is my prediction," he said. Musk said the true test of someone's character is how they behave under fire. "We had one president who could not climb a flight of stairs. Another who was fist pumping after getting shot. Fight, fight, fight. Blood coming down the face. America is the home of the brave. There is no truer test than courage under fire. So who do you want representing America?" he asked the audience.

This election, I think it is the most important election of our lifetime. This is no ordinary election. The other side wants to take away your freedom of speech. They want to take away your right to bear arms. They want to take away your right to vote effectively. You have got 14 states now that do not require voter ID. California, where I used to live, just passed a law banning voter ID for voting. I still cannot believe that is real. How are you supposed to have a proper election if there is no ID?" he asked.

## Tunisians vote in election with one of Prez Saied's challengers in prison

Tunis (AP): Tunisians cast ballots Sunday in the country's third presidential election since the pro-democracy revolt known as the Arab Spring, while one of the candidates remains in prison. Voters are deciding who among three candidates will lead the North African nation for the next five years - President Kais Saied, imprisoned businessman Ayachi Zammel or Zouhair Maghzaoui, a leftist who supported Saied before choosing to run against him.Saied, the 66year-old first-term president, is considered the heavy favourite largely because of a crackdown on his opponents and the moves to remove checks and balances on his executive power.The majority of the opposition is boycotting the contest in protest of what they call an absence of

democratic conditions for free and fair elections. Dozens of candidates had expressed interest to challenge Saied and 17 submitted preliminary paper-work to run in Sunday's race. However, members of the election commission, all of whom are appointed by the president, approved only three. They ignored a court ruling ordering them to reinstate three other challengers. Zammel was later imprisoned and charged with forging voter signatures to qualify for the ballot, which his attornev denied. Tunisia's presidential election is its third since protests led to the 2011 ouster of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali — the first autocrat toppled in the Arab Spring uprisings that also overthrew leaders in Egypt, Libya and Yemen.

Bosnia, which was almost completely buried in rocks and rubble from a quarry on a hill Residents there have said they heard a thundering rumble and saw houses disappear before their eyes. Luigi Soreca, who heads the EU mission in Bosnia, said on X that the EU stands with Bosnia help. Bosnia is a candidate country for membership in the 27-nation bloc.

Authorities said Croatian res-

cuers have already arrived while a team from Serbia is expected to be deployed in the afternoon, followed by a Slovenian team with dogs. Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Czechia and Turkiye have also offered help, a government statement said. Sunday is the date of a local election in Bosnia. Election authorities have postponed voting in the flood-hit regions, but the flooding has overshadowed the vote across the country. Ismeta Bucalovic. a resident of Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, said "we are all overwhelmed by these flooding events. We all think only about that." Impoverished and ethnically divided, Bosnia has struggled to recover after the brutal war in 1992-95. The country is

plagued by political bickering and corruption, stalling its EU

### **Wounded Calif officer shoots man** during 'unprovoked' knife attack

**AP** SANTA MONICA

California officer fatally Ashot a man who wounded him with a knife outside a city police headquarters in what authorities called "an unprovoked attack." A man in his 30s approached the male officer outside the front doors of the Monica Santa Police Department around 5.20 pm Saturday. The man was told he would need to wait while the officer finished speaking to a resident, the department said. "Without warning, the individual attacked the officer while pulling a knife from his clothing. The suspect slashed and stabbed the officer," the department said in a statement posted on social media. The officer



armed himself and retreated around the corner of the building as the man continued the attack. The officer then shot the the department said. Police and the Santa Monica Fire Department provided emergency medical aid but the man was pronounced dead at the scene, the department said. The identity and medical condition of the police

officer was not immediately

available. KNBC-TV reported the officer was transported to a hospital with serious wounds but police said he was expected to survive.

The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office was called to the scene.

The Santa Monica Police Department and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office will investigate, the department said.

## the pioneer CHANDIGARH | MONDAY | OCTOBER 7, 2024

## **Imran's party vows** to continue protest

The situation remained tense in Pakistan's capital on Sunday as jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party vowed to continue its protest against the government, a day after violent clashes between security forces and his supporters that left one policeman dead and several others injured.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party, in an overnight meeting, decided that the demonstration would go on until the release of Khan, who has been in jail since August last year. The situation in Islamabad

neighbouring Rawalpindi, which witnessed the violent clashes on Saturday remained tense. However, there were no reports of violence in the twin cities on Sunday, indicating that the situation was improving gradually.

The mobile phone services have also been restored in the two cities which had been suspended on Friday.

Meanwhile, the whereabouts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, who is also the protest leader, remained unknown

The party and family members were unable to make any contact with him from Saturday evening, said his government spokesman Muhammad Ali Saif.

Saif on Saturday first claimed that Gandapur was "arrested", but later in a post on X said that the "KP CM has not been formally arrested".

The political committee of PTI decided that if Gandapur was arrested, senior party leader Azam Swati would lead the protest. If Swati is arrested, a new leader will be chosen to take command, according to the Dawn newspaper. The political committee also criticised the disappearance of Gandapur. The committee warned that there would be 'serious repercussions' if he was arrested.

Former National Assembly speaker and senior PTI leader



Asad Oaiser told the Dawn newspaper that PTI's political committee decided to continue the protest as long as it gets a clear directive from Khan to end the protest.

"It was also decided that Azam Swati will lead the protest if Gandapur is arrest-

However, he warned, arresting a sitting chief minister would be disastrous for the country and there would be serious repercussions.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Gandapur was not in police custody, deepening the mystery behind his disappearance. "I confirm that he is not in the custody of the government or any other institution of the

government," he said. The minister said that the police were looking for Gandapur who had been hiding at some unknown place. "Police have also raided a few places but could not find him," he said, adding that he received pictures of Gandapur escaping from the KP House before the arrival of police and other law enforcement

The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa provincial assembly announced that it will convene its session on Sunday to discuss the issue of his disappearance.

Naqvi also announced that

564 protestors, including 11 plainclothes personnel from the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa police, have been arrested

during the protests. He said it was the first instance when police have been used in such demonstrations. He also said that among those arrested were 120

Naqvi said he had ordered a high-level inquiry into how a provincial police force was involved in the protests and "attacked [other] police offi-

Afghan nationals.

He said 31 Islamabad police and 75 Punjab police personnel were injured in Saturday's clashes.

In Lahore, around 30 supporters of Khan's party, including lawyers, were arrested after they managed to reach historic Minar-e-Pakistan premises demanding the release of their leader, police said on Sunday. More than 200 PTI workers,

including Khan, have been booked under terrorism charges, they added. Earlier, in an embarrassment

to the government, a large number of PTI protesters managed to reach Islamabad by overcoming multiple barriers. Naqvi claimed that the PTI had a plan to stage a sitin until the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCÔ) summit.

## Pope Francis names 21 new cardinals

Pope Francis named 21 new cardinals Sunday, significantly increasing the size of the College of Cardinals and further cementing his mark on the group of prelates who will one day elect his succes-

They include a man who will be the oldest cardinal — Monsignor Angelo Acerbi, a 99-year-old retired Vatican diplomat who was once held hostage for six weeks in Colombia by leftist guerrillas — and the youngest — the 44year-old head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Melbourne, Australia, Bishop Mykola Bychok, named in a nod to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The new cardinals will get their red hats at a ceremony, known as a consistory, on Dec. 8, an important feast day on its own that officially kicks off the Christmas season in Rome. It will be Francis' 10th consistory to create new princes of the church and the biggest infusion of voting-age cardinals into the college in Francis' 11-year pontificate.



Acerbi is the only one of the new intake who is over 80 and hence too old to vote for new

Usually the college has a limit of 120 on voting-age cardinals but popes often exceed the cap temporarily to keep the body robust as existing cardinals age out. As of Sept. 28, there were 122 cardinal-electors; that means the new infusion brings their numbers up

Among those named by history's first Latin American pope were the heads of several major dioceses and archdioceses in South America. They are the archbishop of Santiago del Estero, Argentina, Vicente Bokalic Iglic; the archbishop of Porto Alegre, Brazil, Jaime Spengler; the archbishop of Santiago, Chile, Fernando Natalio Chomali Garib; the archbishop of Guayaquil, Ecuador, Luis Gerardo Cabrera Herrera; and the archbishop of Lima, Peru, Carlos Gustavo Castillo Mattasoglio. That stands in sharp contrast

to the lone new cardinal from North America: the archbishop of Toronto, Francis Leo. Showing the universality of the church around the world, Francis also tapped the archbishop of Tehran, Iran, Monsignor Dominique Joseph Mathieu, and the bish-op of Bogor, Indonesia, Monsignor Paskalis Bruno Syukor. They both belong to the Franciscan religious order and are two of the four new Franciscan cardinals.

In addition to Syukor, Asia gets two more cardinals in Monsignor Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, the archbishop of Tokyo; and Monsignor Pablo Virgilio Sinogco David, the Kalookan, bishop of Philippines.

Aside from Asia the other region where the church is in charge of the migrants

growing is Africa, which got two new cardinals: the arch-bishop of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Monsignor Ignace Bessi Dogbo, and the bishop of Algiers, Algeria, Monsignor Jean-Paul Vesco.

"Francis has again continued to extend the reach of the college of cardinals," said Christopher Bellitto, a church historian at Kean University in Union, New Jersey. "Like his predecessors, but even more so, he's making sure that Catholic leaders from the church's edges have a voice at the big table.

Even before Sunday's announcement, Francis had already named the vast majority of the voting-age cardinals who will one day vote in a conclave. According to Vatican statistics, before Sunday, 92 of the cardinals under 80 had been named by Francis, compared with 24 named by Pope Benedict XVI and six by St. John Paul II. Added to their ranks on Sunday were two Vatican officials who hold positions that don't usually carry with them a cardinal's rank: the official

opment office, the Rev. Fabio Baggio, and the official who

organizes the pope's foreign travels, the Rev. George Jacob Koovakad. In a nod to the current synod underway at the Vatican this month debating the future of the church, Francis also

tapped the Rev. Timothy

Radcliffe, a British theologian who is one of the spiritual

advisers for the meeting. Bellitto said it was "nonsense' to read the new cardinals as Francis doing something unique to try to stack the deck. "Every school superintendent, president, and prime minister picks people in their image to help their vision," he said in an email.

The nomination of Bychok gave Ukraine its only cardinal and sent a subtle political message as Russia's war grinds on. Ukraine's ambassador to the Holy See, Andrii Yurash, praised the nomination, even though Francis chose the head of Ukraine's Greek Catholic Church in Australia over the Kyiv-based head, His Beatitude Sviatoslav

## 'Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan positive development'

Lahore(PTI): Pakistan's former foreign minister Khursheed Mahmood Kasuri has termed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's upcoming visit to Islamabad a "positive development", saying it may help ease tensions between the two neigh-

India on Friday announced that Jaishankar would lead a delegation to Pakistan to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, scheduled to take place on Oct 15 and 16 in Islamabad. However, Jaishankar ruled out chances of bilateral talks during his visit to Pakistan.

"Jaishankar's visit is of multilateral nature, nevertheless it may help ease tensions between the two neighbouring countries," Kasuri was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper on Sunday. Kasuri, who served as Pakistan's foreign minister from 2002 until 2007 during Gen Pervez Musharraf's regime, said

this opportunity. "Resuming dialogue will help restore people-to-people contacts and may pave the way for restoration of road, rail and air links," he said.

Kasuri suggested that at the time of great tensions in West Asia, where Israel had been targeting the people of Gaza and Lebanon, Pakistan and India might have been encouraged to lower tensions, the paper said. "At the time of the ceasefire between the two countries in the past, the UAE ambassador claimed to have played a role; he said and added both the countries were nuclear powers and had a strong army so it was in their mutual interest to lower tension in the region.

"In such a situation, both Pakistan and India need to act responsibly and reasonably. This is a crucial moment that requires thoughtful and measured actions to ensure region-

that both countries must seize al stability," the newspaper quoted him as saying. Kasuri said that given the ten-

sions between the two countries, India could have sent a low-level delegation but it didn't. He said Pak-India relations were unpredictable and they could take unexpected turns as happened on many occasions in the past. He said it should not be forgotten that the late external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj had also visited Islamabad in 2015 to attend the Heart of Asia Conference amidst tensions

'Despite that, the meeting was utilized by both sides for sidelines meetings between the two foreign ministers," Kasuri said. The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

between the two countries.

## Nepal President Paudel appoints Prakash Man Singh Raut as new CJ

Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel on Sunday appointed Prakash Man Singh Raut as the new Chief Justice of the country. Paudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Justice Raut at a special ceremony organised at Sheetal Niwas, the President's Office, according to officials. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by high-ranking officials, including Vice President Ramsahay Prasad Yaday, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Speaker Devraj Ghimire, and Chairman of the National Assembly Narayan Prasad Dahal. Raut's name was recommend-

ed for the post by the



September 16. His appointment comes after the retirement of outgoing Chief Justice Bishowambhar Shrestha, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 65 on Saturday.

Constitutional Council or

## 1 dead as Russia strikes Ukraine with drones and missiles

**AP** KYIV

One person has died after Russian forces attacked Ukraine overnight with 87 Shahed drones and four different types of missiles, officials said Sunday. A 49-year-old man was killed in the Kharkiv region after his

car was hit by a drone, said regional Gov. Óleh Syniehubov. A gas pipeline was also damaged and a warehouse set alight in the city of Odesa, Ukrainian officials reported. Ukraine's air force said in a

statement that air defences had destroyed 56 of the 87 drones and two missiles over 14 Ukrainian regions, including the capital, Kyiv. Another 25 drones disappeared

from radar "presumably as a result of anti-aircraft missile defense," it said. The barrage comes a day after



Volodymyr Zelenskyy said

meeting of the Ramstein group of nations that supplies arms to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy presented his plan to US President Joe Biden in Washington last week. Its contents have not been made public but it is known that the plan includes Ukrainian membership in NATO and the provision of long-range missiles to strike inside Russia. In a statement Sunday, the Ukrainian leader paid tribute to the country's troops, which he also described as "preparing (for) the next Ramstein.

'They demonstrate what Ukrainians are capable of when they have enough weapons and sufficient range," he said in a statement on social media. "We will keep convincing our partners that our drones alone are not enough. More decisive steps are needed — and the end of this war will be closer.

## **Brazilians vote in local elections**

Rio De Janeiro (AP): Brazilians began voting in the first round lished on social media a falsiof local elections on Sunday for fied medical report indicating councilors in the country's 5,569 municipalities.

In Sao Paulo, three mayoral candidates are running neckand-neck, including incumbent Ricardo Nunes, left-wing lawmaker Guilherme Boulos and self-help guru turned farright politician Pablo Marçal. A runoff is scheduled for Oct. 27. Much of the attention leading up to Sunday's vote has been on Brazil 's biggest city, where the race has been marred by episodes of violence involving Marçal.

Last month, José Luiz Datena, a former TV presenter turned candidate, slammed Marçal with a metal chair during a televised debate following references to allegations of sexual misconduct. În a later debate, an aide to Marçal thumped an adversary's counterpart, resulting in a bloody face. Marçal sparked more contro-

ument was widely debunked by local media that pointed to inconsistencies including the fact that it was signed by a doctor who had passed away. Boulos, a longtime campaign

versy on Friday, when he pub-

er for housing rights who is backed by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, vehemently denied the veracity of the document. On Saturday, a judge sitting on Sao Paulo's electoral court ordered the suspension of Marçal's Instagram account for 48 hours and deemed that there are "indications of various offenses under the Electoral

Some of former President Jair Bolsonaro 's political base has been drawn to Marçal, enthralled by his fiery rhetoric, although the far-right leader is supporting Nunes.In Rio de Janeiro, incumbent Eduardo Paes is hoping to avoid a second-round runoff. Polls indicat-

ed until recently that was possible. But his principal challenger Alexandre Ramagem polls in recent weeks, rendering the outcome of Sunday's vote uncertain

Ramagem, the former chief of Brazil's intelligence agency under Bolsonaro, is being investigated as part of a wider probe into alleged spying on political opponents. He has denied the accusations

Bolsonaro is backing Ramagem, and his ascent in the polls is widely attributed to the former president's campaigning on his behalf. More than 155 million Brazilians are eligible to vote. Forty-three percent of the electorate is in the southeastern region, where Rio and Sao Paulo are located. Women make up around 52% of voters. Nearly 1,000 transgender politicians are running Sunday in every one of Brazil's 26 states, according to the nation's electoral court, which is tracking them for the first time.

#### Lanka parties busy forming alliances to face Nov election

Colombo (PTI): All major political parties in Sri Lanka are shortlisting candidates and attempting to forge new alliances as thea country prepares for the November 14 parliamentary election.

No major party has yet submitted their nominations to contest any of the 22 electoral districts despite the opening of the nominations last Friday.

The nominations for the election

will close on October 11. The ruling National People's Power (NPP) party, which won the September 21 presidential

election, said it is in the process of finalising its candidates list. 'We have already changed the political culture with our governance so far during the last two weeks, we will continue the good work after the parliamentary election with new faces," Samantha Vidyaratne, an NPP leader said. Former president Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP), the grand old party in the country, had unsuccessfully tried to merge with its offshoot Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party to face the election.

Wickremesinghe finished third behind the SJB leader Sajith Premadasa in the presidential election. The split votes between

Premadasa Wickremesinghe, who together polled 50.03 per cent, helped incumbent Anura Dissanayake

to win the presidential poll. The UNP is in the process of finalising an election pact with groups which had broken away from the Rajapaksa family-dominated Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party to contest under the cooking gas cylinder symbol which Wickremesinghe used during his presidential bid. "We will contest most districts under the gas cylinder symbol with one or two districts under UNP's elephant symbol," the party chair Vajira Abeywardena said. Méanwhile, Tamil political groups said they were too trying

In this undated photo provided on Saturday by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, visits to watch an artillery exercise at an undisclosed place in North Korea. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the

event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot

be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: "KCNA" which is the abbreviation

## **North Korea and China mark** their 75th anniversary of ties

Seoul(AP): The leaders of North Korea and China marked the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations on Sunday by exchanging messages that expressed hopes for stronger ties, as outsiders raised questions about their relationship.

The message exchange came as North Korea and Russia have been sharply expanding their cooperation while China apparently keeps its distance. Experts say that the level of exchanges and commemorative programs between North Korea and China in the coming months will provide a clue to the exact status of their ties. In a message sent to Chinese President Xi Jinping, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un

said his government will "steadily strive to consolidate and develop the friend-

ly and cooperative relations" between the two countries, according to North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency. Xi, in his message to Kim,

said that China is ready to jointly promote "the stable and further advance of the socialist cause in the two countries," KCNA said.

Since North Korea and China established diplomatic ties on Oct. 6, 1949, their relationship has often been described as being "as close as lips and teeth." China, North Korea's biggest trading partner and main aid provider, has been suspected of avoiding fully implementing U.N. sanctions on North Korea and sending clandestine aid shipments to help its impoverished neigh-

against U.S. influence on the Korean Peninsula. But many observers say China is reluctant to form a

three-way, anti-West alliance with North Korea and Russia as it prefers a stable regional security environment to tackle numerous economic challenges and maintain relationships with Europe and its Asian neighbours.

North Korea and Russia have moved significantly closer to each other amid widespread outside suspicions that North Korea has supplied conventional weapons to Russia for its war in Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance. During a meeting in Pyongyang in June, Kim and Russian President

itary assistance if either country is attacked, in what was considered the two countries' biggest defense deal since the end of the Cold War.

North Korea is locked in confrontations with the U.S., South Korea and their partners over its advancing nuclear program. Kim has said he was forced to expand both nuclear and conventional capabilities to cope with US-led security threats.On Sunday, KCNA reported that Kim oversaw a live artillery firing drill by cadets of a military academy. After watching the drill, Kim said training programs at the military academy must focus on "the guerrilla war tactics to wipe out the enemies through rapid bor stay afloat and contin-ue to serve as a bulwark value to serve as a bulwark pact stipulating mutual mil-ue to serve as a bulwark value val

to forge alliances.

# Amul set to enter European market after US success

**PTI** ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Managing Director of AMUL and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) Javen Mehta said AMUL's recently launched milk in US has been "highly successful" and they are now ready to enter the European market, which would mark a historic moment for the brand.

Delivering the 11th Dr Verghese Kurien Memorial Oration on "AMUL Model: Transforming Lives Million" organised by a private business management institute here on Saturday, Mehta said "India is now the largest milk producer in the world and is set to produce one-third of the world's total milk in the coming years", XLRI in a statement said.

"Dairy isn't just a business-it's a lifeline for rural India," he

Talking about Amul's recent launch of milk in the US, Mehta said it has been "highly successful", and they are now ready to enter the European market for the first time.



To stay relevant, Amul focuses on offering protein-rich, organic, and chemical-free products that customers trust, while continuously expanding capacity infrastructure, he said while praising the ecosystem are sold annually. developed by Dr Kurien, Amul has a turn

founder of AMUL.

Mehta said "If India could offer a gift to the world, it would be the cooperative working system-a gift Dr Kurien gave us. His belief in

cooperation has sparked a new revolution in India." Amul collects over 310 lakh litres of milk daily, with 107 dairy plants across India and

over 50 products, Mehta said, adding that 22 billion packs

Amul has a turnover of Rs 80,000 crore and is now ranked as the strongest dairy and food brand globally, owned by 36 lakh farmers, he claimed. Addressing the gathering,

a milk-deficient country could day become selfsufficient. Today, India stands as the world's largest producer of milk, she added. Director of XLRI Jamshedpur

Nirmala Kurien - daughter of

Dr Verghese Kurien, said

more than half a century ago

her father dared to dream that

Fr S George said Dr Verghese Kurien's life was characterized by a commitment to making a

## Himachal processes record 1,545 mt apple juice: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

PTI JAMSHEDPUR

The Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation has processed a record 1,545 metric tonnes of apple juice concentrate across its three plants this year so far, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Sunday. "It includes 814 metric tonnes (MT) from the Parala plant in Shimla district, 653 MT from the Parwanoo plant in Solan district, and 78 MT from the Jarol plant in Mandi district," he added.

He said the Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (HPMC) is crushing nearly all apples procured, with minimal fruit being sold through auctions. "92 per cent of the apples procured this season are being processed, due to strict adherence to procurement standards," he noted.

The chief minister said that under the MIS this year, a total of 29,200 MT of apples have been procured in the state. Of this, 19,437 MT were purchased through 206 procurement centres of HPMC, while 9,764 MT were procured through 109 centres of Himfed



managed through this online

system, which provides real-

time data on procurement,

transportation, crushing at

processing plants, auction of fruit, booking of CA stores and direct bank transfer

linkage, which is ensuring

transparency and efficiency in

services provided to apple growers," the chief minister

said."HPMC has enhanced its

processing capacity, with this year's crushing capacity increasing from 21,000 MT to

39,000 MT compared to the previous year. Additionally,

the grading and packaging

capacity has been

"Procurement

The apple season in the state is ongoing, and procurement under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) continues, with processing expected to increase as procurement grows.

In an effort to enhance the quality of apple procurement under the MIS, HPMC has piloted the purchase of 1,219 MT of apples from farmers using crates.

For the first time, apple procurement has also begun in the remote area of Pangi in Chamba district," he said. HPMC has introduced an online portal to improve the

enhanced from 15,900 MT to 33 900 MT

The wine units at Parala and Jarol have a combined annual capacity of 1.50 lakh litres." A new vinegar unit at Parala has an annual capacity of 50,000 litres, while a new pectin unit at Parala can produce 1.2 metric tons per day, and the ready-to-serve juice unit now has a daily capacity of 20,000 litres, he noted. HPMC has also expanded its market presence by engaging pan-India distributors and opening new retail outlets at Delhi Metro

stations and other prominent

locations across the country.

### High GST rates hinder growth of India's carbonated soft drinks market

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

arbonated soft drinks Csegment in India is unable to reach its potential in terms of scale expansion due to barriers such as high taxation under the GST regime despite government's initiatives like 'Make in India' and in India' Bharat', 'Aatmanirbhar according to a report by economic think tank ICRIER.

comparative data on sugarsweetened beverages (SSB) taxes collated by the World Bank shows that India has one of the highest tax rates for carbonated soft drinks (CSDs) at a total tax rate of 40 per cent as of 2023.

cross-country

Over 90 per cent of countries that tax SSBs have a lower tax rate than India, as per the report titled 'Carbonated Beverages Industry in India: Tax Policy to Promote Growth, Innovation and Investment'.

Consumers, globally and in

India, are shifting towards low-sugar and no-added sugar varieties of beverages amid heightened health

awareness.
"The CSD market is also changing from its traditional high sugar carbonated beverages to low-sugar and fruit-based and/or flavoured carbonated drinks to zerosugar aerated water, catering to changes in consumers' choice for healthier options and government policies like layered-sugar-based taxes," the report said. Producers, across the globe,

are reformulating their products to meet consumer demand, and these are supported through government policies and both and non-fiscal incentives. In India too, producers are re-examining their product portfolios and coming up with products like zero-calorie, low/no sugar content.

"However.



government initiatives like Make India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the CSD segment is unable to reach its potential in terms of scale expansion due to barriers such as the high tax brackets and compensation cess under the GST regime, implemented since 2017," it

aerated beverages are placed Pointing out that India is one

in the highest GST slab of 28 per cent with a compensation cess of 12 per cent, irrespective of their sugar or fruit content.

The high tax of 40 per cent, irrespective of sugar content, is making it difficult for innovative firms to come up with low-sugar varieties and scale up and existing firms to invest in product reformulation," the ICRIER report said.

cross-country Citing comparative data on SSB taxes collated by the World Bank, the report said India has one of the highest tax rates for CSDs at a total tax rate of 40 per cent as of 2023. Over 90 per cent of countries that tax SSBs have a lower tax rate than India. The Indian CSDs market is

relatively small. It generated revenue worth USD 18.25 billion in 2022, and grew at a said. CAGR of 19.8 per cent Currently, carbonated or between 2017 and 2022.

of the largest global producers of fruits such as mango, banana, guava, papaya, sapota, pomegranate, and lime, and sugar, which in some cases are used in the CSD category, the report said,"It has the potential to be used in greater capacity, if the right policies promote their uses in CSDs.

"While the Indian consumer wants to experiment with different products such as low-sugar CSDs or fruitbased CSDs, and startups are trying to come up with new products, investment, varieties product innovation is much lower in CSDs in India," it said.

'This is primarily because of treatment of this sector as a high tax revenue earner previously by the states through their state excise and now by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, which has recommended a high tax and cess on CSDs," the report said.

### Hindalco, JSW Steel bid for Jharkhand copper mines

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla Group firm Hindalco Industries and Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel are in the race for two copper mines in Jharkhand which will be put on sale this month, sources said.

Both mines have a combined capacity of three million tonne per annum.

HindaÎco Industries and JSW Steel will be vying for stateowned Hindustan Copper Ltd's two copper mines in Iharkhand, sources said. The auction of both the mines

is likely to take place in the month of October. While one of these blocks is

virgin, the other one is closed for the past 20 years.

Hindustan Copper had earlier invited applications for appointment of mine developer-cum-operator (MDO) for re-opening and expansion of Rakha Copper Mine and development and operations of underground



Mine at Chapri. Hindustan Copper had said

in its recent report that Rakha Mining Lease expired in 2021 and extension of mining lease period is under progress with the Jharkhand government. Further, the application for grant of stage one forest clearance over remaining forest area within mining lease has been accepted by Project Screening Committee The site inspection by various authorities of State Forest department has completed. Copper Hindustan

production capacity to 12.2 million tonne per annum, its CMD Ghanshyam Sharma had recently said. The move will boost domestic production of copper and reduce dependence on

implementing expansion

projects to increase mine

imports. The company achieved ore production of 3.78 million tonne in FY24 against 3.35

MT in FY23, registering a rise of 13 per cent. The ongoing expansion project i.É. Development of underground

mine below the existing open cast mine at Malanjkhand Copper Project (MCP) will augment the ore production capacity from 2.5 MTPA to 5 MTPA. The ore production from the

open cast mine has now been exhausted and the underground mine is operating below the existing open cast mine leaving some barrier pillars.

## Auto industry expects robust sale during festive season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI Auto industry players are robust

performance in the ongoing festive period to lift overall consumer sentiment and set the tone for the rest of the year amid slowing demand. The festive season usually commences with Onam and ends with Diwali every year. Kia India National Head of Sales and Marketing Hardeep Singh Brar told PTI that the last 3-4 months were not good for the industry as sales declined compared to the same period last year.

"With pent-up demand of the last few months there and government investment starting to flow in, we feel things should start improving from here onwards," he noted.

Brar said the booking momentum in September was good, which is a strong indication for October.

"And this time, all festivals are in October..We expect about 5-10 per cent sales growth during the period as compared to last year," he

Brar said that in the January-April period, the passenger vehicle industry witnessed a growth of 7 per cent, but in May-September, there was a dip of about 2-3 per cent, leading to the buildup of

inventory. Motor India Nissan Managing Director Saurabh Vatsa said the entire industry is looking at the festive season to bring some cheer after witnessing tough three

"I think it has been a



will define what happens in the remaining part of the

vear," he said. Everybody is looking forward the festive seasons, especially from the industry, he added

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Business, Sabari Manohar said the company is witnessing enhanced footfalls and enquiries

"Key to meeting this rising demand has been our operational strategic improvements, such as the introduction of a third shift. has significantly optimised our supply chain, particularly for high-demand models like the Urban Cruiser HyRyder, where waiting periods have been reduced," he said.

Additionally, there is a clear shift in sentiment, with an increasing embrace of ecochallenging period. The friendly technologies, not maintaining the health of o festive period will define the only in urban areas but also dealer network," he added.

quarter, and the third quarter in Tier II and Tier III markets, Manohar said Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Partho Banerjee said the company is trying to increase its sales by bringing in some limited edition

models He noted that during Ganesh Chaturthi and Janmashtami, the company witnessed good traction in sales and has been able to generate volumes as the business requirements.

Passenger Tata Motors Vehicles MD Shailesh Chandra said in its monthly statement registrations have picked up pace towards the end of the month (September), which augurs well for the festive

period ahead. We remain focused on driving consumer preference for our exciting range of vehicles while maintaining the health of our

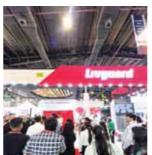
## Livguard unveils high-frequency solar inverters

PNS NEW DELHI

T ivguard has launched their Lnew line of High-Frequency Solar Inverters at the 17th Renewable Energy India Expo (REI) 2024. These products were unveiled at the İndia Expo Center, Greater Noida during the ceremony led by Mr. Alankar Mittal, President Business Unit Head, Solar & Exports.

The REI Expo is Asia's leading B2B platform for renewable energy, attracting over 800 exhibitors and 40,000 visitors, including industry experts.

launched These newly Hybrid Series and Off-Grid Series inverters are designed for higher efficiency with transformer-less technology, making them more reliable and compact. Compatible with both Lead Acid and



Lithium Batteries, they also feature built-in Wi-Fi for easy performance tracking via smartphones. Their UPS ensures uninterrupted power for PCs groundbreaking

function and household appliances. The brand also launched other products like cutting-edge lithium-based ESS, highefficiency Bi-facial panels, and high-efficiency DCR

These products add to Livguard's range of solar solutions catering residential and small business needs.

Livguard's wide range of solar solutions like Off Grid solutions, On Grid Solutions, Hvbrid solutions Lithium ESS offer multiple mode operation for battery and grid preference, higher ROI and un-interrupted use of solar energy for savings and backup respectively. With Livguard's Livmonitor 360 app, you can monitor solar generation through an easy one-click step!

"Livguard Solar and Livfast Solar continue to lead the way with innovations that are transforming India's energy landscape," said Mr. Alankar Mittal, President Business Solar Unit Head, International Business.



PNS NEW DELHI

challans.

TDFC FIRST Bank on **■**Saturday announced its integration with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) portal, enabling seamless GST payments. Customers will now benefit from an intuitive, hassle-free payment experience, with instant hassle-free payment confirmations and easy access to downloadable

This new integration will allow IDFC FIRST Bank customers to pay GST through a variety of digital channels, including the Bank's user-friendly Retail and Corporate Internet Banking platforms and its nationwide branch network. Mr. Chinmay Dhoble, Head -

Retail Liabilities and Branch

Banking, IDFC FIRST Bank, said, "As a customer-first bank, we are committed to providing seamless, easy-touse solutions to our customers. This integration with the GST portal is another step in our mission to offer universal banking solutions. Our aim is to ensure a quick, simple, and efficient tax payment experience. We encourage our customers to use this facility to easily pay their GST through IDFC FIRST Bank's online and branch channels". IDFC FIRST Bank is one of the select Scheduled Private Sector Banks to be authorised for GST collections, further underscoring the Bank's

commitment to providing

comprehensive

services to its clients.

## Mcap of nine of top-10 most valued firms erodes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nine of the top-10 most valued firms together lost a whopping Rs 4,74,906.18 crore in market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank taking the steepest hit, in line with weak trends in equities.

Markets faced heavy drubbing last week amid worsening tensions in the Middle East and foreign fund outflows. In a holiday-shortened week, the BSE benchmark plummeted 3,883.4 points, or 4.53 per cent.

The valuation of Reliance

Industries declined

1,88,479.36 crore to

18,76,718.24 crore.



**HDFC** Bank's market valuation slumped 72,919.58 crore to 12,64,267.35 crore.

valuation Bharti Airtel's plunged Rs 53,800.31 crore to Rs 9,34,104.32 crore and that of ICICI Bank tumbled Rs 47,461.13 crore to Rs 8,73,059.59 crore. The valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) plummeted Rs 33,490.86 crore to Rs 6,14,125.65 crore and

tanked Rs 27,525.46 crore to Rs 6,69,363.31 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of ITC dropped Rs

24,139.66 crore to Rs 6,29,695.06 crore and that of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) eroded by Rs 21,690.43 crore to Rs 15,37,361.57 crore State Bank of India's valuation went lower by Rs 5,399.39 crore to Rs 7,10,934.59 crore. However, the mcap of Infosys climbed Rs 4,629.64 crore to Rs 7,96,527.08 crore.

Reliance Industries retained the title of the most-valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and LIC. that of Hindustan Unilever

#### **INBRIEF**

**LECTURE SERIES HELD AT GNDU** 

AMRITSAR: Jallianwala Bagh Chair of the Guru Nanak Dev University has started the lecture Series on the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. Recently, it organized its first lecture on the theme ' Kulin Varg di Jallianwala Bagh de Katleaam bare drishtikon di charcha".



16 RAIL COACH RESTAURANTS OPERATIONAL ACROSS NFR



MALIGAON: N. F. Railway has opened Rail Coach Restaurants across its major stations. These restaurants have been opened strategically at vacant space in the circulating area providing dining opportunity to both the rail passengers as well as general public, N. F. Railway has modified some of its discontinued coaches, which are not fit for train operation, into coach restaurants

## CLIMATE CHANGE A SILENT Climate change highlights urgent need for action writes **ABHI SINGHAL** HEALTH CRISIS

hen we talk about health and wellness of ones health, the obvious fact that is associated and should be adjoined with are the surroundings and the climate. The climate has been adversely been affected from the past many years, in turn affecting our health and increasing the threats.

Climate needs to be addressed as a serious issue which needs to be looked into as soon as

To address all these issues Partnership for Impact have launched Voices for Impact. Their agenda for the discussion was Addressing Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier. This issue what discussed and had a panel discussion with Ms. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India; Dr Aditya Bahadur, Director, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Dr Shagun Sabarwal, Asian Regional Director, Co-Impact.

The panel discussion was not just about explaining climate change but also finding a solution to the problem, understand it better, and looking at a partnership which can really have a solid impact.

The discussion was more about the awareness that the climate change is a threat to health in ways people wouldn't know and it has a lot of barriers and layers which need to be solved for getting the solution to the same.

The discussion also got a moment on gender inequalities and came forward was the fact that women and children who have no role to play in the clime change policy are affected the most by it.

Natasha Godinho, Vice President of GHS, moderating the conversation said, "Climate change is not just a health crisis or water crisis or a whole food crisis, it's so much more, and women and children just happen to be the face of this crisis. Years of inequitable social structures and patriarchal systems have left women in a worser position than men, and the lack of access to financial resources, land ownership and property rights have meant that women are far older than men."

The future of the country and if India is ready

to embrace the change in climate Vini Mahajan said, "I think we will do it when it becomes a crisis. India is great at dealing with

It is important for everyone to have the knowledge of how the climate change each day with every passing heatwave, every passing disaster is affecting us and majorly our health and wellness.

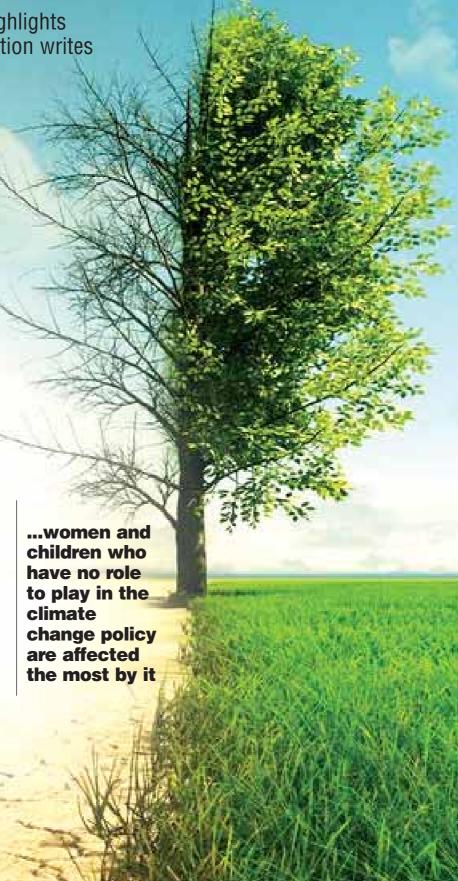
The panel also had a serious exchange of words to into the issue of water, water sanitation and air pollution in Delhi (being a major affect to health).

Climate change was connected to many possible outcomes and solutions in the discussion. It meant that when it comes to climate, rather than thinking only about new things, we have to see that how can climate responses be integrated into current systems. So our social protection systems, are designed to target the most vulnerable. They have a huge reach in India. Can we start to integrate them is a question.

Dr Shagun Sabarwal took an emphasis on AI and the big learning models, and their usage of a lot of water to keep them cool, or even the minerals that are needed. She addressed this as one of the major concerns saying that ,"So to me, it's like we solve one problem and then have another problem."

The significance of localisation was explained in the same regard which made the conversation even more insightful.

"I feel like India's Social Protection Program also demonstrates how you can localize effectively, where funds from MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) are effectively controlled by local institutions, and there are moves to integrate climate risk in MGNREGA, which I'm confident in the years to come will be delivered. So I would say localization is a very important solution" explained Dr Aditya Bahadur on talking about policies and their effectiveness in ways. The overall conversation gave a jist about differently raised problems due to climate and the importance of speaking about the same publically to curate answers implementing solutions.



## AYURVEDA The Source of Holistic Wellness

BY SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

chieving perfect health and skin cannot be done by quick fix solutions. I have observed that today's youth are obsessed with an easy to do skincare regime and quick resolution to their skin or hair related issues. However, often I like to emphasise on the importance of Ayurveda and its principles. For instance, when you have a skin concern, it is deep rooted in the imbalance and toxins within the body. Over the time when someone keeps using

chemical-based products, they are prone to accumulate toxins due to the presence of harmful chemicals in the products and makeup they use. I always advocate against the use of chemical products. Redirecting the scenario to the current situation where the majority of people are using chemical laden products, I always bring their notice to our natural products based on ancient

principles of Ayurveda. The nature or the internal-set up of an individual is all about the individual topology, it requires proper care. However, with prolonged use of

chemical products, adverse effects are seen that damage hair and skin. It is all due to reaction to certain harmful substances. For instance, I was approached by a

client for skin concern where she suffered pigmentation, I could see that it is the effect of prolonged use of chemical cosmetics that caused her skin tone to become uneven. Providing the right solution based on care and cure just like Shahnaz Husain Group products, I suggested her to use our pigmentation gel and cream. Our products are purely based on ancient principles of Ayurveda and are infused with herbs, plant extracts, essential oils and Vitamins that ensure product efficacy and safe use for any age and both the genders.

#### **FOR EVERY SKIN AND HAIR ISSUE, THERE IS A PERFECT SOLUTION IN NATURE, IT IS** AYURVEDA.

AYURVEDA FOR CARE AND CURE

After watching firsthand experience of chemical-based products, I began looking for solutions, thus began my journey with Ayurveda skincare. The ancient Indian practice of this incredible wellness Ayurveda is something that I introduced to the world, being a pioneer in Ayurveda based skincare products, people began realising how miraculous it is. Another notable fact is that Ayurveda provides us with daily life care and cures that are relevant to all the individual's needs and their unique requirements as per their tendencies. Ayurveda can truly transform your life when you apply it.

#### AYURVEDA IS THE NATURAL SKINCARE

The ancient principles of Ayurveda believe that the bodily ailments are the result of accumulated toxins in our body that hinder the proper flow of Prana or the life source that is connected to our bodily movements. It highly impacts the individual on emotional, cellular, psychological and conscious levels.

#### AYURVEDA FOR **HEALTHY SKIN**

I am a firm preacher and believer that healthy skin is beautiful skin, having said that I would like to add that Ayurveda is always at the helm of providing unique solutions to





I like to mention that today when people are looking for quick invasive anti-ageing solutions, I have come up with a plant based natural anti-ageing solution, our entire range of Plant Stem Cell contains plant extracts, renewing the supportive tissues, restoring the youthful properties of the skin.

#### **KEY BENEFITS OF USING AYURVEDA SKINCARE**

- Ayurveda helps eliminating accumulated toxins.
- Naturally restores the skin beauty and radiance.
- Addresses the root cause of any issue related to skin and body.

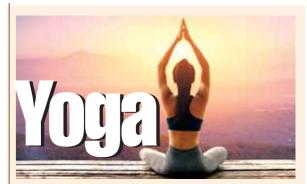
Improves the skin quality and texture.

- Natural organic ingredients such as honey, aloe vera, and shea butter, etc. promote healthy skin and smooth texture.
- Ayurveda products are cruelty-free and ethically sourced.
- Natural skincare and cure products by Shahnaz Husain are on par with global sustainable beauty standards.

In conclusion I would like to add that Ayurveda skincare and haircare products are more like treatment products, as the principle itself is all about curative and preventive measures of healing. Investing in

natural skincare is essential for your overall wellness and is the best holistic way of living in harmony with the environment and

This article is authored by SHAHNAZ HUSAIN, a pioneer and leader of Ayurvedic beauty care, who has achieved unprecedented international acclaim for her practical application of Ayurveda.



## The Perfect Health **Partner in Daily Wellness**

#### BY **JYOTI SINGH**

**▼**n today's fast-paced world, finding balance between work, personal life, and self-care can be a daunting task. Yoga, an ageold discipline that brings harmony to the mind, body, and spirit, provides an effective way to find balance. But how do we incorporate this timeless discipline into our modern, busy lives? Here are some practical advice and guidance for integrating yoga into daily routines.

accessible and transformative yoga can be for anyone, whether you're a seasoned practitioner or a curious beginner. Yoga can fit seamlessly into your day, helping you achieve not only physical wellness but also mental clarity and

Yoga is not just a physical practice but a complete lifestyle. In today's world, where stress, anxiety, and physical discomfort from sedentary lifestyles are rampant, yoga offers a way counteract these challenges. Yoga helps in developing mindfulness, building strength, and improving flexibility, but more importantly, it teaches us to breathe, be present, and balance our inner and outer worlds. Incorporating yoga into your daily life doesn't just keep you fit, it helps you handle daily stresses with more ease and

It all begins with intention and small steps. Start by dedicating just 10-15 minutes of your day to yoga. Even a brief yoga session can yield significant results. You don't need to carve out a large block of time; yoga can fit into your morning before work, during lunch breaks, or even in the often advise people to start with simple breathing exercises, stretches, or Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutations), which engage

the whole body. If time is tight, I suggest breaking it into chunks. Morning could be for deep breathing and basic stretches, while the evening could focus on a few asanas (poses) to release tension.

For beginners, starting with simple, yet effective poses is a key. A few asanas that I recommend include:

Gradually, you can expand

the time and variety of your

■Tadasana (Mountain Pose): A foundational standing pose that helps improve posture, balance, and concentration. **■**Bhujangasana (Cobra

Pose): This strengthens the back and opens up the chest, which can relieve tension from long hours at a desk. ■AdhoMukhaSvanasana

(Downward-Facing Dog): A great full-body stretch that works on the hamstrings, shoulders, and back, and also calms the mind.

■Balasana (Child's Pose): A restorative pose that's excellent for relaxation and mindfulness.

Vilom **■**Anulom (Alternate Nostril Breathing) is a breathing technique that soothes the mind and helps balance internal

What makes yoga so accessible is that it requires no fancy equipment. Just a mat and a small, quiet space at home is enough to get started.

Yoga is a holistic practice that impacts both the mind and body. Many people think of yoga only as a physical exercise, but its mental health benefits are equally, if not more, important. Regular practice of asanas combined with pranayama (breathing exercises) and meditation helps reduce stress, anxiety, symptoms depression.

Breathing exercises like Anulom Vilom and Bhramari Pranayama activate parasympathetic nervous system, helping your body and mind relax. By focusing on breath and movement, also fosters mindfulness, teaching us to stay present. This can prevent overthinking and help manage the pressures of daily life. Over time, yoga trains your mind to be more

resilient and positive.

Consistency is a key in yoga, but it's not about perfection. Life can be unpredictable, and it's natural to miss a day or two. The key is to stay motivated and not lose heart. I always advise my students to set achievable goals. Even practicing for 10 minutes a day is better than an intense 1-hour session once a week. Make it part of your routine - like brushing your teeth - so it becomes a habit, not a task.

One tip that works for many people is to create a dedicated yoga space at home, however small. When you associate a certain area with yoga, it becomes easier to get into the mindset to practice. evening to wind down. I Also, try practicing at the same time every day, whether it's early morning or before bedtime.

> person is unique, and their yoga journey should reflect that. I don't believe in a onesize-fits-all approach. Different people come with different physical challenges, like back pain or arthritis, while others might be looking to enhance their mental health or manage stress. It takes the time to understand their goals, limitations, and lifestyle before they can design a program.

I deeply believe that every

For example, corporate professionals who sit at a desk all day need a practice that targets back and neck pain and helps them relax after a long day. On the other hand, an athlete might need a more rigorous, dynamic practice to build strength and flexibility. This customization ensures that yoga becomes an integral part of each individual's life, addressing their specific

needs. Incorporating yoga into your daily routine is simpler than it may seem, with benefits that reach far beyond just physical well-

being.
By beginning with small maintaining steps, consistency, and embracing both the mental and physical advantages, you can seamlessly integrate yoga into your life and experience transformative power.

As I emphasize, "Yoga is a journey, not a destination. Begin where you are, and grow from there." The author is a PG

Diploma, MA in Yog Science and founder of Sparsh Yog.

## England aims to challenge struggling Pakistan in 1st test

England is aiming to struggling struggling Pakistan with a new-look pace attack in the opening test of a three-match series, starting in the searing heat of Multan on Monday.

Fast bowler Brydon Carse will make his test debut with Gus Atkinson set to play his first overseas test after his impressive home season against the West Indies and Sri Lanka.

All-rounder Chris Woakes was penciled in to the starting XI after Ben Stokes was ruled out for the fourth successive test match due to ongoing rehabilitation on his injured hamstring. Woakes will be playing his first match in twoand-a-half years and it will be his first test in Asia since 2016. Carse's pace gave him the edge over Olly Stone and Matthew Potts for the tour of Pakistan and England hopes the Durham pace bowler will the batters by clocking over England will be led by Ollie Pope, who guided the team to a 2-1 home series against Sri Lanka in the absence of the injured Stokes. The England sustained captain hamstring injury during the Hundred and might return to lead the side in the second test,

"I was kind of just learning on the job," Pope said. "Obviously my first time captain abroad. Ben's going to be around as well... so I can listen to the voices around me but still keep doing things in my way."

also in Multan.

England flattened Pakistan 3-0 through its high-risk, highreward "Bazball" approach during the 2022 tour when it playeď at Multan, Karachi and Rawalpindi.

They were scheduled to play at the same venues this time around, but renovation work at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi for next year's Champions Trophy forced the Pakistan Cricket Board to organize back-to-back tests at Multan with Rawalpindi set to



host the third test from Oct. 24. England also named spinners Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir in the playing XI in anticipation of the pitch flattening out in temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius that are expected over the next week in Multan. Leach was the second highest wicket-taker in the last series in Pakistan with 15 wickets.

Everyone's so happy to have Leach in and around the squad for this series," Pope said. "We obviously saw how well he bowled last time here on pitches that (are) always offering a great deal ... And he's worked closely with Shoaib Bashir throughout his Somerset career and those guys go really well." Pakistan has strengthened its batting line-up by including all-rounder Aamer Jamal for the first test after being routed 2-0 by Bangladesh at home in the last series. Shan Masood has lost all five test matches since he was elevated to red-ball

Masood lost 3-0 to Australia in

his debut series as test skipper when Jamal took 18 wickets and came in handy as a batter down the order. Jamal missed the series against Bangladesh because he was undergoing rehabilitation on a back injury. "We have got an edge with the return of Aamer Jamal," Masood said. "He also bats down the order and picked up 18 wickets. We have (leg-spinner) Abrar and (off-

spinner) Salman to give us

spin options."

Pakistan has a woeful record in home test matches and hasn't won at home since beating South Africa 2-0 in early 2021, while losing to England, Australia and Bangladesh. New Zealand also came close, but Pakistan managed to draw the series 0-0. Pakistan had its moments to beat England when both teams last met at Multan two years ago. Leg-spinner Abrar

Ahmed made an impressive debut by grabbing 11 wickets before Pakistan narrowly lost by 26 runs when Mark Wood, missing in this series due to injury, claimed the key wicket of Saud Shakeel.

"It was my dream debut and last time we lost quite close, Abrar said on the eve of the first test. "I hope to give a match-winning performance this time around and bring

some happy moments." Pakistan's top-order batters have long been struggling and premier batter Babar Azam hasn't scored a half-century in his last 16 test innings. Opener Abdullah Shafique also struggled against Bangladesh while Masood couldn't convert starts into big scores with only one half-century in

four innings. But Masood insisted Pakistan needed to give its struggling batters a longer run as he searched to win key moments miomei series against England. "We and find momentum in the aggressive

'We came close to winning last time, but we let the matches slip away," Masood said. "We know how they play, but at the end of the day we have to see how to tackle it.

## Gauff rallies to reach China Open final

**AP** BEIJING

oco Gauff rallied from a Cset down for the third consecutive match as she beat Paula Badosa 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the China Open final on Saturday.

The sixth-ranked Gauff will play Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic in Sunday's

Muchova defeated Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen 6-3, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

Gauff, who has a 7-1 record in tour finals, has made a habit of slow starts in Beijing this week and the script played out again as the No. 19-ranked Badosa took a tight opening set, saving 10 of 11 break points.

The Spaniard then built a 3-1 lead in the second set before 2023 U.S. Open champion Gauff shifted the momentum by saving four break points and then breaking back to

Gauff held for 5-4 and broke Badosa again to force a

"I felt like I was playing the right way the whole time, just a couple of unforced errors, she was playing well too, Gauff said on court.

"I was trying to stay focused. Mentally, I just tried to reset. I got down a couple of times, and I tried to bounce back." With all the momentum, Gauff broke Badosa three more times - for the loss of one of her own - as she clinched the match in 2 hours, 20 minutes.

Gauff also lost the first set to Naomi Osaka in the fourth round before winning by walkover and against No. 115-ranked Yuliia Starodubtseva quarterfinals

"I've had tough opponents the whole tournament,' Gauff said.

MastersCarlos Shanghai Alcaraz and top-ranked Jannik Sinner showed no

signs of fatigue from their China Open final this week as they advanced in Shanghai with comfortable straight-set victories in their opening matches.

who beat the Italian in very important for me. Reiiing on fourth title of the year, recorded his 10th his consecutive win against 19year-old Shang Juncheng of China 6-2, 6-2

The Spaniard won the first nine points of the match and four of seven break points as he rushed into a third-round meeting with another Chinese player, Wu Yibing.
"I'm not used to playing against players younger than me," Alcaraz said.

"He has been playing good tennis lately, lifting his first ATP (title in Chengdu), so I'm pretty sure he's going to

climb the rankings.
I'm just happy to to be able to win these kinds of matches." Sinner, who is dealing with a doping case, had a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 outing against Taro Daniel of Japan for his 250th career win. Sinner, who won the U.S Open last month for his

second major of the year fired 12 aces and 38 winners. "I felt quite comfortable today," said Sinner, who next Tomas Martin Etcheverry of Argentina.

The second-ranked Alcaraz, "I feel in good shape, which is

well, especially in important moments, and was moving well."

Third-ranked Alexander Zverev began with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci, while fourth-ranked Novak Djokovic had a tougher task prevailing 7-6 (3), 7-6 (9) over Alex Michelsen of the United States.

No. 65-ranked Jakub Mensik of the Czech Republic broke sixth-ranked Andrey Rublev seven times on his way to an upset 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-3 victory.

Watanuki also Yosuke surprised by beating No. 35ranked Brendan Nakashima 7-6 (4), 6-3. The Japanese qualifier next plays seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz of the U. Global Chess League: Alaskan Knights unbeaten; Ganges break losing streak

## Global Chess League: Alaskan Knights stay unbeaten; Ganges break losing streak

PTI ■ LONDON

**P**BS Alaskan Knights Continued their unbeaten while Ganges Grandmasters secured their first win in a dramatic day three of the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League here. The PBS Alaskan Knights extended their lead with a

dominant 12-3 win over the Grandmasters, maintaining a perfect record with four consecutive victories, earning them 12 match points and 49 game

Defending champions Triveni Continental Kings played two matches on Saturday -winning the first 15-3 against American Gambits, where Alireza Firouzia defeated world number two Hikaru Nakamura, but narrowly

losing the second to Ganges finally breaking their losing Grandmasters. Triveni remained in second

place with six match points and 43 game points, just six behind the leaders. Alpine Sg Pipers also impressed, defeating upGrad

Mumba Masters 12-4. They now sit in third place with six match points, though their 27 game points from three matches leave them behind Triveni. UpGrad Mumba Masters, in fourth place, have only one win from four matches and 29 game points after losing to the

The final match saw the

surprise of the day with Ganges Grandmasters, led by former World Champion Vishawanathan

streak with a 10-8 win over Triveni. With one win and 24 game

points from four matches, they now sit in fifth place. Hikaru Nakamura's American Gambits are in last place, with only one match victory and 16 game points

from three matches, having

been dismantled 15-3 by

Triveni. Anand's team, desperate for their first victory after three crushing defeats, was under

immense pressure. Already reeling from an earlier loss in the day, Anand had to rally his team, using his authority as a former world champion to lift their spirits. But no pep talk could help on the board, where players had to prove they could

opponents. After the coin toss, Triveni

played with the white pieces, putting Anand on the back foot as Black against Alireza Firouzja.

The young French star steadily built-up pressure, and by move 22, had a winning position. Despite Anand's best efforts

to resist, he eventually had to concede defeat, giving the lead to Triveni. stellar form Firouzja's

continued, having defeated three giants -- Carlsen, Anand, and Nakamura -- over the past two days. Meanwhile, Ganges' Arjun

Erigaisi settled for a fourth consecutive draw, splitting the point with Wei Yi, a further sign of his struggling form. Triveni extended their lead when Alexandra Kosteniuk

beat Vaishali Rameshbabu. However, Maghsoodloo, who had blundered a winning position in the previous match, redeemed himself with a key victory over Teimour Radjabov, keeping Ganges in

With the junior board ending in a draw, the fate of the match rested on Valentina Gunina and Nurgyul Salimova.

In a drawn position, Gunina pushed too hard despite her team being ahead. She eventually lost on time, handing Ganges the crucial four points they needed to pull off their first win of the tournament.

The final score of the match was 10-8, for Ganges.

Vice -captain Rohit expressed

enthusiasm at being coached by Sreejesh, saying, "We have

an Indian hockey legend

whole team is raring to go. PR

Sreejesh is one of the most

experienced players to play

for India, and we look

forward to making him

taking charge of the

## Amir Ali to lead Indian Jr hockey team in Sreejesh's coaching debut

outmanoeuvre

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Amir Ali has been named captain, with Rohit as his junior hockey squad for the Sultan of Johor Cup that will mark the first assignment for head coach PR Sreejesh in Malaysia from October 19. India will begin their campaign against Japan on October 19, followed by matches against Great Britain (October 20), hosts Malaysia (Oct 22), Australia (Oct 23) and New Zealand (Oct 25). The top two teams will make the final slated for October

Defender Amir Ali and forward Gurjot Singh were part of the senior team that defended their title at the Asian Champions Trophy in Moqi, China.

Amir seamlessly filled in for the injured defender Sanjay during the tournament, while Gurjot led the forward line, showcasing immense potential.

The Sultan of Johor Cup is a litmus test for the team Ali stated in a Hockey India



an important tournament in our calendar as always The tournament will serve as

ahead of the Men's Junior Asia Cup Muscat 2024 in November this year," captain

proud in our tournament.
"The mood in the camp has been excellent and we want to

capitalise on this by showcasing our potential at the Sultan of Johor Cup." Squad: Bikramjit

Goalkeepers: Singh, Ali Khan Defenders: Amir Ali (C), Priyobarta, Talem Shardanand Tiwari, Sukhvinder, Anmol Ekka, Rohit (VC) Midfielders: Ankit Pal,

Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Mukesh Toppo, Chandan Yadav Forwards: Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha,

Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Konain Dad.

## Underdogs strike as Bayern rivals Leverkusen and Dortmund drop points in Bundesliga

AP ■ Berlin

Bayern Munich won playing on Saturday as Bundesliga rivals Bayer Leverkusen Borussia Dortmund dropped points to modest opponents. Dortmund slumped at Union Berlin to a 2-1 defeat without injured forward Karim Adeyemi, who starred in the team's 7-1 rout of Celtic in the Champions

League on Tuesday. Defending champion Leverkusen squandered an early two-goal lead over promoted Holstein Kiel and drew 2-2. It was only Kiel's second point in its debut top-flight season.

Leverkusen played in a special black jersey with red trim to commemorate the club's 120th anniversary, and for Xabi Alonso it was also a special occasion - the Spanish coach took over

exactly two years before. Leverkusen fans didn't have to wait long to celebrate after Victor Boniface opened the scoring in the fourth minute and Jonas Hofmann made it 2-0 four minutes after that. Leverkusen looked set for a

But the home team failed to make more of its dominance - Boniface had another goal ruled out for offside and Kiel secured a lifeline before break when Max Geschwil scored after a corner. Fiete Arp scored an unlikely equalizer from the penalty spot in the 69th.

wouldn't say arrogance, but I'd say there's a bit a complacency. We need to stay concentrated, because we want to be a better team, Alonso said.



'We could win a few games, and not win a few games, up and down, but that's not our

"All the players are excited to

play some intense hockey

matches in Malaysia

Today we didn't have the best competitive mindset." Dortmund disappoints
Union illustrated early on
against Dortmund why it's
the club with one of the
most interfective forward

lines in the league. The Köpenick-based team had only four goals from its opening five games.

Former Union player Nico Schlotterbeck offered assistance by conceding a penalty with a foul on the lively Benedict Hollerbach, and Kevin Vogt duly scored the opener from the spot in the 25th.

The home team kept pushing and got its due reward before the break when Yorbe Vertessen let fly through a host of players for

Early in the second half, masked Union ultras displayed an array of Dortmund scarves and banners presumably confiscated from their rivals before the game.

They hung the tattered flags on the railings behind one of the goals and raised their fists, goading the Dortmund fans far away on the other side.

Former Union player Julien Ryerson responded on the field in the 62nd by firing inside the far post for 2-1, set up by Julian Brandt after a period of pressure from the visitors but it wasn't enough.

Also, Freiburg won at Werder Bremen 1-0, and Wolfsburg enjoyed a 3-1 win in Wolfsburg.