



**OPINION 6**  
WALKING THROUGH THE  
WOODS IN UK

**WORLD 8**  
I PLEADED GUILTY TO JOURNALISM  
FOR FREEDOM: ASSANGE

**MONEY 10**  
CAR SALES FLUCTUATE IN  
SEPTEMBER

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## NO DIVINITY ON THE ROAD

SC to give guidelines on removing illegal religious structures



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will lay down pan-India guidelines on demolition of properties and any religious structure in the middle of a road, be it a 'dargah' or a temple, "has to go" because public interest is paramount. The SC reiterated that merely because somebody is an accused or even a convict cannot be a ground for demolition of property. A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said unauthorised construction made by any person, irrespective of his religion or belief, has to be removed. The Bench reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas which have alleged that properties, including those accused of crime, were being demolished in several states. The SC said its September 17 order, which had said there will be no demolition of properties till October 1 without its permission, will continue till it decides the matter. "Whatever we are laying down, we are a secular country. We are laying it down for all the citizens, for all the institutions, not for any particular community," the Bench said. "On the first day we had pointed out, if there is any religious structure on the middle of a road, may it be a

'dargah' or some temple, it has to go because public safety and public interest is paramount," it said, observing that there cannot be a different law for a particular religion. "We are going to make it clear that merely because somebody is an accused, or even somebody is a convict, can't be a ground for demolition," said the court. The SC made it clear that it will not protect any encroachment on public places, roads, footpaths, government lands, forests, water bodies and the likes. "Whatever directions we issue, it will be applicable pan-India," it said, adding, "We will take care to ensure that our order does not help the encroachers on any of the public places." During the hearing, the Bench observed that notices for demolition of properties be sent through registered post to the owners and it should also be displayed on an online portal so that a digital record is there. It also observed that judicial oversight may also be required over the correctness of order passed by the authorities. The Bench suggested there should be a time window of 10 or 15 days between the order of demolition and its implementation so that people can make alternate arrangement. "... it is not a happy sight to see women and children on the roads," the Bench observed, adding, if

demolition is done after 15 days, nothing is going to be lost. The SC was hearing the petitions filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and others seeking directions to various state governments to ensure no further demolition of properties of those accused in cases of rioting and violence takes place. The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind had earlier filed a plea in the SC over the demolition of some buildings in Jahangirpuri area of the national capital.

## War in West Asia will hit fuel in India

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
NEW DELHI

The ongoing geopolitical crisis in West Asia, and further escalation in the Israel-Iran-Lebanon conflict is likely to impact India soon. Industry insiders said it is certain that crude oil and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports will get dearer since the supply could hit both the international and domestic markets. India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement. "Our economy is too sensitive to oil price volatility and it directly affects



inflation, trade imbalance, foreign exchange reserves, and an acute fluctuation in rupee valuation. While the situation is precarious and both the government as well as business stakeholders are keeping a watch on the hourly crisis in West Asia, we are evaluating the current global oil flows as international oil prices could see an increase

anytime. For India it's a festive season and it heavily impacts us," an industry source explained, on conditions of anonymity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu over the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Modi expressed his concerns about the escalating tensions

in West Asia, emphasising that "terrorism has no place in our world." According to media reports, crude oil futures on Tuesday declined 0.5 per cent to Rs 5,739 per barrel as participants trimmed their positions on low demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for October delivery fell Rs 3 or 0.5 per cent to Rs 5,739 per barrel with a business volume of 17,697 lots. Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude was trading 0.18 per cent higher at USD 68.29 per barrel, while Brent crude was trading 0.17 per cent up at USD 71.82 per barrel in New York.

## Record voter turnout in J and K



People wait in queues to cast their votes at a polling booth during the third and final phase of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, at Gurez valley in Bandipora district, J and K, Tuesday  
PTI

MOHIT KANDHARI ■  
JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir recorded an overall voter turnout of over 62 per cent in all three phases of the maiden Assembly polls, held after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A in 2019. The entire poll process was completed peacefully amid unprecedented security arrangements. However, the 2024 Assembly polls could not breach the previous best 65.91 per cent voter turnout recorded during the 2014 Assembly polls. In 2008, a 61 per cent voter turnout was recorded across Jammu and Kashmir. The highest voter turnout of over 66 per cent was recorded across 40 Assembly segments across seven districts on Tuesday. The first and the second phases witnessed 61.38 and 57.31 per cent voter turnout respectively. The first-time voters, belonging to the West Pakistani refugee community, Valmikis, and Gorkha community danced to the polling booths in jubilation and also distributed sweets as they exercised their right to franchise for the first time in the Assembly polls. In the Jammu region, 18 out of

24 Assembly segments (across Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and Udhampur districts) witnessed over 70 per cent voter turnout while only two assembly segments of Bahu and Jammu West witnessed less than 60 per cent polling till 5 pm. In Kashmir valley, only two Assembly segments of Gurez and Handwara witnessed over 70 per cent voter turnout while seven segments (across Bandipora, Kupwara, and Baramulla) witnessed over 60 per cent voter turnout. Five Assembly constituencies witnessed over 55 per cent voter turnout and 2 Assembly segments of Sopore and Baramulla witnessed less than 50 per cent voter turnout on Tuesday. Stakes were high for the Bharatiya Janta Party in the final round of polling across 24 Assembly segments. Compared to 2014, the 11 Assembly segments of Jammu district witnessed approximately eight per cent less polling in 2024. The significant drop in voter turnout may alter the poll results on seats that were witnessing close contests between the BJP and the Congress/National Conference. BJP is placed comfortably in the Udhampur district.

### Nation pays tribute to Gandhi ji and Shastri ji on their Birth Anniversary

On 2nd October, 2014  
Bapu's Dream became Nation's Resolve  
when Swachh Bharat Mission was initiated through the  
visionary leadership of the Prime Minister

2nd October 2024, Celebrating Glorious Decade of Swachh Bharat Mission

Let's make Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024 memorable  
Let us all come together today from 9 AM to 10 AM and  
contribute to cleanliness across the country

Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024  
Chief Guest - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister  
10 AM onwards, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Over the last 10 years, under the exemplary leadership of PM Modi,  
remarkable public participation has transformed cleanliness into National culture,  
achieving numerous significant milestones

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Ensuring a dignified life through the construction of 12 crore toilets | 100% villages now Open Defecation Free                     | Solid and Liquid Waste Management Systems in villages as well |
| Waste being collected in 97% wards of the cities                       | Solid Waste Processing in cities increased from 18% to 78% | 5,000 Waste Management Startups launched                      |

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# Char Dham Yatra gains momentum, 20K pilgrims visit on Monday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Char Dham Yatra has picked up pace again with the rainfall halting in the State. According to official sources, there is considerable enthusiasm among pilgrims due to the better management of the pilgrimage and safety measures put in place by the State government. On Monday, a total of 20,497 pilgrims visited the Char Dham shrines with the maximum number - 7,350 visiting Kedarnath. About 38 lakh pilgrims have visited the Char Dham temples so far this year. The manner in which the State government put in all its resources to restore arrangements after the Kedarnath disaster has strengthened the confidence of the pilgrims in the government, officials said.



18,000 persons and transported them safely to their destinations. Restoring routine life in the valley, the bridge path was repaired and the pilgrimage resumed. Officials stated that the second phase of the Char Dham Yatra is now picking up pace. A considerable number of people have registered for the pilgrimage in October and November. On Monday, 22,224 persons visited the Char Dham along with Gaumukh and Hemkund. These included 6,811 pilgrims who visited Badrinath while 3,619 visited Gangotri, 2,717 visited Yamunotri, 1,632 visited Hemkund and 115 visited Gaumukh.

The number of pilgrims visiting Char Dham Yatra this year will set a record. Till September 30, 37.91 lakh pilgrims had visited the Char Dham while 56.13 lakh pilgrims had visited the Char Dham during the entire pilgrimage season last year. Similarly, 46.29 lakh people had visited the Char Dham in 2022 while 34.77 lakh had visited the Char Dham in 2019. During 2020 and 2021, 3.30 lakh and 5.29 lakh had visited the Char Dham shrines respectively with the Covid-19 pandemic causing a considerable drop in pilgrim numbers. The Char Dham Yatra started on May 10 this year compared to April 23 last year.

for better management of the pilgrimage, 20 parking lots have been made on the Kedarnath route and a QR code based system has been used for parking management. Further, 850 CCTV cameras and eight drones are also being used to keep an eye on the pilgrimage. A total of 56 tourism assistance centres have been set up to help the pilgrims while 657 sanitation workers have been deployed to keep the trek clean. Apart from this, the Health department has set up 50 screening kiosks on the pilgrimage route. A total of 156 ambulances have been deployed on the pilgrimage route while eight blood banks and two storage units have also been established.

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that a convenient, safe and well organised Yatra is the State government's top priority. "Our government is committed to ensuring a safe environment for the pilgrims. The Char Dham Yatra is also linked to the State's economy. We will have to further expand the facilities considering the rapid pace at which the pilgrim numbers are increasing. Steps are being taken for this purpose," he said.

The authorities believe that As part of measures taken

# Agniveers to infuse youthful energy in Indian Army: Governor

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The governor lieutenant general (retd) Gurmit Singh has said that the training and capability of

Dipendra Chaudhary, director brigadier (retd) Amritlal, lieutenant general (retd) Ashwani Kumar, major gen-



Agniveers of the Indian Army is of the highest level. He said that the Agniveers will infuse youthful energy in the army. The governor said this while interacting with a group of ex-servicemen at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday.

eral (retd) OP Soni and others attended the meeting.

He said that the Agnipath scheme is extremely important for nation building and national security, as it not only increases the representation of youth in the armed forces, but also encourages a spirit of healthy competition among them. The governor said that he has interacted with the commanders who train the Agniveers and their passion and training standards are of highest order.

Singh said that the Uttarakhand government has decided to provide reservation for Agniveers in various departments of the State including police and work is being done in this direction. He added that similar efforts to provide reservation to Agniveers are also being made in other States.

The governor added that enthusiasm is clearly visible among the youth for the Agnipath scheme and this will contribute significantly to the security and development of the country.

The ex-servicemen discussed the problems being faced by them in ECHS and CSD facilities in remote areas and other issues with the governor. The governor assured them that appropriate action will be taken on all the suggestions. Singh said that he will hold a meeting with MD, ECHS regarding the problems being faced in ECHS. He said that the ex-servicemen should play their part in the anti-addiction campaign, home stays, promotion of honey production and other areas.

The Soldier Welfare department secretary

# Joshi tells officials to expedite Sainya Dham construction

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Soldier Welfare minister Ganesh Joshi inspected the under construction Sainya Dham in Guniyal Gaon, Dehradun on Tuesday. The minister expressed annoyance at the slow pace of the construction and directed the officers concerned to expedite the construction work which is in the last phase. He said that special focus should be on maintaining the divinity and magnificence of the Sainya Dham.

from the homes of 1,734 martyrs and sacred water of 28 rivers is emplaced. He informed that arrangements for sound and light show and musical show will be made in the Sainya Dham and it will have auditorium, tanks and other equipment. The minister said that the Dham is being constructed to express gratitude towards martyrs and to preserve the glorious past of valour of the armed forces.

Interacting with the media persons, the minister said that Sainya Dham is being constructed on the idea of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is a dream project of the State government. He said that the Dham is being constructed after the study of martyrs' memorials in different parts of the country. In the central pillar of the Dham, soil

He added that once completed the Sainya Dham will be dedicated to the Veer Naris and the people of the State and it will inspire the future generation to love the motherland. The MD of Peyjal Nigam (work execution agency) Ranvir Singh Chauhan, deputy director colonel (retd) MS Jodha and others accompanied the minister.

# Congress had 3 D- Darbari, Damad & Dealer- govt in Haryana: Dhama

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama addressed an election rally in support of his Haryana counterpart Nayab Singh Saini at Ram Charan Majra in Ladwa on Tuesday. The CM also participated in election meetings at Kalanaur and Rohtak on the day in support of the BJP can-

Narendra Modi has taken many historic decisions and Haryana has progressed under BJP rule.

He said that under the leadership of PM Modi, the BJP gives guarantees of development, prosperity and transparency in governance to the people of Haryana. On the other hand the Congress wants to push Haryana back into the mire of corruption and nepotism. Terming the Congress party as the mother of corruption, the CM said that its leaders have only engaged in filling their coffers. The Hooda government was only engaged in welfare of son-in-law (damad) and not of the general public and during the Congress government the three Ds-Darbari (courtiers), Damad and Dealer - held sway, he said.



Continuing his diatribe on the Congress, the CM said that the Congress party has deceived the martyrs also. He said

that the Hooda government had demolished the memorials of the Kargil martyrs and the party opposes the armed forces of the country. Dhama said that the Congress party had raised questions on the surgical strikes and it can embrace terrorists also for votes. He warned that giving another chance to Congress means blocking the path of development.

He said that the BJP government under Prime Minister

didates. Voting for 90 member Haryana Vidhan Sabha will be held on October 5. In these meetings the CM exhorted the people to vote for the BJP candidates and elect the BJP government for the third consecutive time.

# 85 MBBS seats of govt medical college Haridwar included in the State counselling

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After the approval given by the National Medical Council (NMC) to the government medical college, Haridwar, the HNB Uttarakhand Medical Education University will include 85 seats of the State quota of this college in the third round of the centralised State counselling slated on October 9 for admission in the medical colleges of the State. The NMC has approved 100 seats for the first year course of MBBS for the government medical college Haridwar for the session 2024-25. As per the rules 15 per cent of the seats in a government medical college are reserved for central quota (central counselling) while 85 per cent are filled by the State quota from the NEET score.

Education University, Vijay Juyal said that the last date for depositing the fee for the students of the second round of counselling is October 5 and thereafter the third round of the counselling will be held on October 9. He said that the students who have already got admission in other government colleges can also opt for the Haridwar medical college. At present there are four government medical colleges in Uttarakhand. These are government medical college Dehradun (150 seats), government medical college Srinagar (150 seats), government medical college Haldwani (125 seats) and Government medical college Almora (100 seats). Now after the approval given by the NMC, government medical college Haridwar will be the fifth government medical college in the State.

The controller of examinations of the HNB Uttarakhand Medical

# UJVN Limited generates record power in Sept

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The management of the UJVN Limited has claimed that the corporation has produced record power in the month of September. The UJVNL managing director Sandeep Singhal informed that the corporation generated 721.188 million units (MU) of electricity in September 2024 which is the highest ever production for the month in the history of the corporation. Earlier the highest power generation in the month of September was last year when 706.08 MU of electricity was generated. Singhal said that due to the better maintenance and work plan the availability of the machines in September 2024

was 90 per cent which helped in maximising generation.

He further informed that the Chibro, Khodri, Dhalipur, Kulhal, Tiloth, Dharasu, Cheela, Vyasi and Gilogi units generated more electricity than the target. Singhal said that the UJVN Limited has generated 3,425,885 MU of electricity in this year so far which is 151,586 MU more than the power generated in the same period last year. The MD expressed happiness at record power generation and attributed this to the work culture of the corporation and hard work of the employees.

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# LAC situation stable but sensitive amid India-China standoff: Army Chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

The situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh is stable but not normal and remains sensitive, Army Chief General Uday Kumar Singh said here on Tuesday. His remarks came in the backdrop of continuing standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries in the region.

Though a “positive signalling” is coming out from the diplomatic talks between the two sides, the execution of any plan depends on the military commanders on the ground, he said.

In the entire gamut, the “trust” has become the “biggest casualty”, General Dwivedi said at a curtain raiser event on Chanakya Defence Dialogue.

“The situation is stable, but it is not normal and it's sensitive. If that be the case what are we wanting. We are wanting that the situation that was there pre April 2020 should be restored,” he added. The military standoff between the two sides began in early May of 2020.



The full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points. “Till the time the situation is not restored, as far as we are concerned, the situation will remain sensitive, and we are fully operationally prepared to face any kind of a contingency,” the Army Chief said.

He listed several pending issues such as troops on ground, buffer zones along the LAC and resumption of patrolling by troops as planned.

General Dwivedi also briefly touched upon the Indian military's overall approach towards China. “As far as China is concerned, it has been intriguing our minds for quite some time. And I have been saying that with China, you have to compete, you have to cooperate, you have to coexist, you have to confront and contest,” he said.

India and China held two rounds of diplomatic talks in July and August with an aim to find early resolution of outstanding issues in their standoff on the LAC in

Army Chief said that country is carrying out “artificial immigration” and “settlements”. “No problem, it is their country,” he said, adding India is also having “model villages” in border areas. “But more importantly, now the state governments have been empowered to put in those resources and this is the time when the army, state governments and supervision by the central government are all coming together,” he said. The model villages that are being built now will be even better, the Army Chief said. He said there is no Chinese population close to the LAC and that is the reason Beijing is carrying out the “artificial immigration”.

The Army Chief also cited how the Chinese fishermen first came to the South China Sea and then the military arrived.

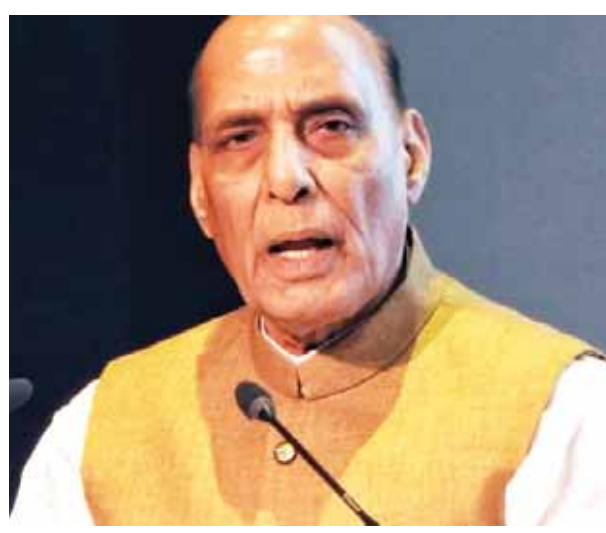
Last month, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks in the Russian city of St Petersburg with a focus on finding an early resolution to the row. In the talks held on the sidelines of a conclave of

BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) nations, the two sides agreed to work with “urgency” and “redouble” efforts to achieve complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

In the meeting, Doval conveyed to Wang Yi that peace and tranquility in border areas and respect for the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are essential for return of normalcy in bilateral ties. The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas. The two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff. India has been pressing the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas. The two sides held the last round of high-level military talks in February.

# 30 lakh defence pensioners linked to SPARSH: Rajnath Singh



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said here out of a total of 32 lakh defence pensioners, 30 lakh have been successfully linked to the SPARSH (System for Pension Administration (Raksha)) portal. He made this observation during the 277th Annual Day celebrations of Defence Accounts Department (DAD) at Bharat Mandapam.

While commending DAD's focus on technology adoption, the defence minister asserted that despite numerous challenges, the department has been successful in the implementation of this web-based system, which processes pension claims and credits the pension directly into bank accounts of defence pensioners without any external intermediary. He commended the efforts of DAD towards modernisation and strengthening of the country's defence ecosystem through optimum utilisation of resources, efficiency and transparency in accounting and adoption of latest technologies. He lauded the department for focusing on every little detail, which leads to necessary improvements in defence related policies and proposals.

Reflecting on the progress achieved in the defence sector in the last few years, Rajnath Singh stated that there was a time when acquisitions were mainly dependent on imports, and the positive impact of defence expenditure on the economy was very limited. He added that due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government's efforts to attain self-reliance, India is today seen as a defence exporter.

The defence minister urged the DAD to prepare a roadmap to make the department a 'Centre of Excellence' in the field of defence finance and economics. He also batted for establishing a robust and comprehensive data management system that gives analytical reports to the government on the impact of defence expenditure on the country's economy, such as the contribution of defence vendors in revenue generation and employment generation. This will prove to be helpful in establishing a holistic policy regime, which would develop a sense of 'Whole of the Government approach', he added.

Tracing its roots to the appointment of the Military Pay Master in 1747, the DAD has continuously re-invented itself to provide exemplary services to the Armed Forces, and in turn to the Nation, in the fields of Internal Audit, Accounting, Financial Advice and Defence Pensions Management.

# Arti Sarin appointed first woman DG of AFMS PM sends birthday greetings to former president Kovind

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI



Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, on Tuesday became the first woman officer to take over as the Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DGA-FMS). The DGA-FMS is directly responsible to the Ministry of Defence for overall medical policy matters which relate to the Armed Forces, defence ministry said here.

Prior to assuming the appointment of 46th DGA-FMS, the Flag Officer held the coveted appointments of DG Medical Services (Navy), DG Medical Services (Air) and Director and Commandant of Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune.

She is an alumna of AFMC, Pune and was commissioned into the Armed Forces Medical Services in December 1985. She is an

(Southern Command)/AFMC Pune, Commanding Officer, INHS Asvini, Command Medical Officer in the Indian Navy's Southern and Western Naval Commands.

The Flag Officer has the rare distinction of serving in all three branches of the Indian Armed Forces, having served as Lieutenant to Captain in the Indian Army, from Surgeon Lieutenant to Surgeon Vice Admiral in the Indian Navy and as an Air Marshal in the Indian Air Force. The Flag Officer has been recently appointed as a member of the National Task Force by the Supreme Court to formulate safe working conditions and protocols for medical professionals. She has been at the forefront of motivating young women to join the Armed Forces and is a shining icon for the Nari Shakti initiative of the Government.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday greeted former president Ram Nath Kovind on his birthday, and said he is widely respected for his service to society and con-

tribution to national progress. Kovind, who served as the President from July 2017 to July 2022, turned 79 on Tuesday.

“Birthday greetings to our former President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji. He is widely respected for his service to society and con-

# India to support Jamaica's development in key sectors: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Jamaican counterpart Andrew Holness prior to their meeting at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Photo By: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

India has been a “trusted partner” in Jamaica's development journey and it is ready to share expertise in a range of areas, including digital public infrastructure, biofuel, innovation and health with the Caribbean nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Tuesday.

He made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

In his media statement, Modi said he and Holness also discussed regional and global issues and agreed that all tensions and disputes should be resolved through talks and that both sides will continue to work towards ensuring global peace and security.

India and Jamaica are unanimous that reform of all global institutions, including the UN Security Council, is necessary, he said.

Modi said India has been a “trusted and committed” development partner in Jamaica's growth journey and it will remain so.

“We are ready to share our experience with Jamaica in areas of digital public infrastructure, biofuel, innovation, health, education and agriculture,” he said.

In the defence sphere, we will move forward on imparting training and capacity building of Jamaica's armed forces, Modi said.

The prime minister also identified organised crime, drug trafficking, terrorism as common challenges facing both nations. India-Jamaica relations are based on shared history, democratic values and strong people-to-people ties, he added. Holness arrived here on Monday. It is the first ever bilateral visit of a prime minister of Jamaica to India.

# Experts urge NAT to enhance blood donation safety

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

As India grapples with a persistent blood donation deficit, experts have advocated for the mandatory implementation of Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) to enhance the safety of patients in need given that the rate of infections is higher in replacement donors.

NAT is an additional blood safety measure in addition to ELISA screening method as it directly detects the genetic material (RNA & DNA) of the infecting organism or viruses namely HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in reducing their window periods.

On the National Voluntary



Blood Donation Day marked on October 1, the experts also stressed on an urgent call to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation and the pressing need for voluntary contributions.

“Voluntary blood donation has seen growth, yet we still have a significant gap in meeting national demand,” said Dr Rishi Raj Sinha, Transfusion Medicine Specialist at AIIMS Delhi.

Anubha Taneja Mukherjee, Member Secretary of the Thalassemia Patient Advocacy Group, emphasised that many people are unaware of the urgent need for blood, which affects their motivation to donate.

contracting infections like HIV, as well as a general lack of awareness about the needs of patients requiring regular transfusions, said the medics.

To address the safety concerns surrounding blood supply, especially for patients needing frequent transfusions like those suffering with blood disorders such as hemophilia and thalassemia, experts favoured the NAT.

For instance, thalassemia patients often need transfusions every 15 to 20 days. “This (NAT) highly sensitive testing method can detect even minute amounts of viruses in donated blood, significantly improving the safety of transfusions,” said Dr Sinha. He explained that while all donated blood undergoes testing, NAT offers a crucial enhancement by reducing the risk of transmitting infections such as HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C through early detection.

VK Khanna, Director of the Institute of Child Health Preeti Tuli Thalassemia Unit at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi too agreed that implementing NAT testing would particularly benefit patients with conditions requiring regular transfusions, such as thalassemia, sickle cell disease, and cancer.

# Defence Minister flags off car rally to celebrate IAF's 92nd anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday here flagged off “Vayu Veer Vijeta” car rally from the National War Memorial to mark the 92nd anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

With the send-off, over 50 air warriors, including women, have left for Thoise in Ladakh, from where they will undertake an expedition to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, covering a total of 7,000 kms across nine States/Union Territories (UTs). The rally will also witness the participation of former Air Force Chiefs in different legs.

Speaking on the occasion, the defence minister lauded the air warriors for serving the motherland in difficult circumstances with bravery, dedication and patriotism. “IAF has achieved significant feats in its bid to protect the country and its people. It is

capable of giving a befitting reply to the country's enemies by striking them deep into their territory. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to equip IAF with most advanced aircraft/platforms and make them more capable through the ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ initiative,” he said.

The defence minister extended his best wishes to the air warriors, who will be part of the rally that would traverse through tough and varied terrains.

The formal flag-off will take place on October eight from Thoise, which is one of the world's highest altitude air force station at 3,068m above mean sea level. The air warriors will halt at Leh, Kargil, Srinagar, Jammu, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Agra, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Darbhanga, Bagdogra, Hasimara, Guwahati, Tezpur and Dirang, before concluding the rally in Tawang on October 29, 2024.

# IIT Madras innovates laser heating for retinal drug delivery

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

In a ray of hope for millions suffering from retinal disorders in the country, researchers at IIT Madras have developed a groundbreaking method to enhance drug delivery directly to the retina by utilising mild laser heating. The innovative approach promises to significantly improve the efficacy of treatments administered through eye injections.

Published in the peer-reviewed Wiley Heat Transfer journal, the research focuses on overcoming the challenges posed by the gel-like vitreous humour in the eye, which is often replaced by less viscous fluids after retinal laser surgery.

Traditional methods of drug delivery rely on slow natural diffusion, which can take hours or even days for drugs to reach effective levels at the target site.

Prof. Arun Namasimhan, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras, designed an experiment using



a glass eye mimic geometrically similar to the human eye, water, and silicone oil for the vitreous liquid and a heater to simulate laser heating. The researchers injected a dye as a drug mimic at specific points in the vitreous region of the eye, and measured concentrations at different retinal locations with and without heating the vitreous liquid. Remarkably, while natural diffusion alone took 12 hours to achieve effective concentration, the application of mild heating reduced this time to just 12 minutes.

“While with natural diffusion alone, the drug mimic took 12 hours to achieve effective concentration at the target region of the retina, heating



## 40 schools participate in waste management centric awareness programme

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In order to raise awareness among the general public, the Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation organised a waste management centric awareness programme at 40 schools in Dehradun on Tuesday under the theme of 'Swachhata Hi Seva - Swabhav Swachhata and Sanskaar Swachhata'. Large-scale collection of single-use plastic waste was carried out for recycling purposes during the programme. The primary goal was to raise awareness in society, particularly students, about waste management and to collect plastic



waste on a large scale for recycling. Students and community members were educated on the detrimental impacts of plastic waste. Apart from this, meaningful conversations took place with school authorities and students on the importance of using plastic alternatives and embracing effective waste management practices during the programme.

SDC Foundation member Dinesh Semwal informed that they have successfully set up 210 plastic banks in Dehradun within the last 11 months under the Plastic Bank Project. He shared insights from this initiative, mentioning that the foundation currently manages these plastic banks in partnership with 69 Maggi points along the Dehradun-Kimadi-Mussoorie route, 64 educational institutions, 40 accommodations, nine universities and colleges, seven resident welfare associations, seven showrooms and various other establishments, impacting more than 80,000 individuals in Dehradun. Praveen Upreti of SDC Foundation underlined the importance of collective action in maintaining cleanliness during the programme. He encouraged all to contribute towards ensuring the well-being of society and the environment. Upreti also spoke of the foundation's goal to establish 300 plastic banks in Dehradun, engaging about 100,000 students and community members in managing plastic waste in the near future.

## HelpAge India conducts a seminar on challenges faced by senior citizens

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

HelpAge India organised a seminar on the challenges and solutions for elderly individuals at Doon Library and Research Centre on Tuesday to mark the International Day of Older Persons. During the event, meaningful and positive steps were discussed for the elderly who feel isolated from society and family. A panel discussion was held on the subject of policy and law in dealing with the challenges of the elderly.

Speaking on the occasion, founder and senior advocate of Samadhaan NGO, Renu D Singh emphasised the importance of providing mental support to the elderly, as they often become mentally weak in old age. She also highlighted issues such as mobility problems, property usurpation and sexual exploitation faced by elderly individuals, emphasising the need for a system to provide immediate help under the national policy for old persons. Further, senior journalist Ramesh Kudiyal suggested the establishment of community halls and entertainment options for the elderly to help combat loneliness and provide them with opportunities to interact with others of the same age. Apart from this, the State head



of HelpAge India, Chaitanya Upadhyay discussed the organisation's 46 years of work in promoting the health and development of the elderly. He stressed the need for collective efforts to improve the social, economic and practical lives of the elderly. He emphasised the urgency of addressing the various challenges faced by the elderly in society and the need to accelerate efforts to support them.

## Temperature remains above normal in Doon, light rain likely in four districts

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Even as the withdrawal of monsoon continues in various regions of the country, temperatures have risen one to three degrees Celsius above normal in Dehradun and elsewhere in the State. The State meteorological centre has forecast that very light to light rain/thunderstorms are likely to occur in Pithoragarh, Nainital, Almora and Champawat districts on Wednesday. Dry weather is likely to prevail in the remaining districts of the State today.

The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a mainly clear to partly cloudy sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 32 degrees Celsius and 22 degrees Celsius

respectively in Dehradun today. While no significant rainfall was reported in the State on Tuesday, the maximum and minimum temperatures were 32.4 degrees Celsius and 22.1 degrees Celsius respectively

in Dehradun today. While no significant rainfall was reported in the State on Tuesday, the maximum and minimum temperatures were 32.4 degrees Celsius and 22.1 degrees Celsius respectively

in Dehradun today. While no significant rainfall was reported in the State on Tuesday, the maximum and minimum temperatures were 32.4 degrees Celsius and 22.1 degrees Celsius respectively

| NORTHERN RAILWAY<br>EXPRESSION OF INTEREST   |  |
|--|--|
| The Divisional Railway Manager (Medical), Northern Railway Moradabad for and on behalf of president of India invites sealed EOI on the prescribed form for the under noted work. |  |
| N.I.T. No  | DHMBLP24 Dated: 01/10/2024   |
| Name of work   | Registration of retail suppliers for supply of branded (Including narcotics) medicines (Surgical), Orthopaedic Implants, CAPD Fluids, Dental, Laboratory items, Suture Materials & all other Emergency Items under Local Purchase at Northern Railway Divisional Hospital Moradabad-244001 year 2024 |
| Approximate Cost   | Rs. 1.62 Crore   |
| Completion period  | Two year   |
| Earnest Money  | Rs. 3,20,000/only  |
| Website for application  | <a href="https://ireps.gov.in">https://ireps.gov.in</a>  |
| Last date, Time and Place for submission and opening of EOI  | Tender can be submitted till 16.10.2024 up to 10:00 hrs. and will be opened on same day at 11:00 hrs   |
| Site of viewing EOI and relevant document.   | online on <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a>   |
| Cost & Postal Charge for the EOI Documents   | Nil  |
| SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE   |  |
| 3038/24  |  |

## पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank

Recovery Center, PNB House, BHEL, Sector-IV Haridwar-249403. Email: [cs8238@pnb.co.in](mailto:cs8238@pnb.co.in)

(NOTICE UNDER 13 (2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 OF SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT RULES 2002)

I being an Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor Bank has a reason to believe that all of you the under mentioned notices cannot be served ordinarily as attempted earlier except through this substituted service. As such, all of you the under mentioned notices are hereby informed and called upon through this public DEMAND NOTICE under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 to make payment of the amounts due against each of you, as mentioned below, within 60 days, or the bank will proceed U/s 13 (4) of the said Act for taking possession of the secured property/ies/Assets mentioned against account and thereafter to sell the same to realize its dues with further interest till realization along with costs as contemplated under the said Act. **Needless to mentioned here that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to bank for recovery of its dues, against you.** The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| S. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor   | Details of Security/Property  | Date of Demand Notice | Due Amount  |
|--------|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| 1.     | Branch: Roorke Ramnagar<br>Borrower : 1. Late Smt. Suman Lata W/o Sh. Ishwar Dayal, Represented through her legal heirs: at House No. 504/4 (old) and new no. 940, Western Amber Talab, Roorkee, Haridwar. A. Sh. Ishwar Dayal S/o Sh. Sobha Ram (Legal Heir), 504/1 (old) and 931 (New No.), Western Amber Talab, Roorkee, Haridwar- 247667. B. Smt. Ruchika Tayal D/o Sh. Ishwar Dayal (Legal Heir), 504/1 (old) and 931 (New No.), Western Amber Talab, Roorkee, Haridwar- 247667. C. Smt. Tripti Goyal D/o Sh. Ishwar Dayal (Legal Heir), 504/1 (old) and 931 (New No.), Western Amber Talab, Roorkee, Haridwar- 247667. D. Smt. Khushoo Aggarwal D/o Sh. Ishwar Dayal (Legal Heir), 504/1 (old) and 931 (New No.), Western Amber Talab, Roorkee, Haridwar- 247667. E. Sh. Shubham Aggarwal S/o Sh. Ishwar Dayal (Legal Heir), 504/1 (old) and 931 (New No.), Western Amber Talab, Roorkee, Haridwar- 247667. F. Sh. Ishwar Dayal S/o Sh. Sobha Ram (Co-Borrower and also legal heir of Late Smt. Suman Lata), 504/1, East Amber Talab, Roorkee, Haridwar- 247667. 3. Guarantor: Shri Vinay Kumar S/o Shri Jitendra Kumar, 64, Simli, Laksar, Haridwar- 247663. | Residential House No. 504/4 (old) and new no. 940 measuring in East- 28 ft., in West- 25' ft., in North- 19' ft. and South- 17 ft. 11 inch having total area 477 sq. ft. or 44.31 sq. mtrs. situated at Western Amber Talab, Roorkee, Haridwar registered vide sale deed in Batti No. 1, Zild No. 2419 at pages 1 to 20, serial No. 13267 dated 12.11.2012 in the office of Sub-registrar Roorkee which is bounded as: East: 11ft way and House of other, West: House of other, North: Property of another, South: House of other. Note: The above property is also mortgaged in NPA account of M/s Ganga Upbhokta Bhandar (38898008700017681) and having extension of charges. | 21.09.2024            | Rs. 54,38,908.24 + Future interest & other Charges and Legal Expenses w.e.f. 01.09.2024 |

Date: 01.10.2024 Place : Haridwar Authorised Officer



उत्तराखण्ड शासन



एक धर्म सर्वधर्म को जोड़



(2 अक्टूबर, 1869 – 30 जनवरी, 1948)

# राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी

## को उनकी जयंती पर

# शत शत नमन

सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा जनहित में जारी

[www.uttarainformation.gov.in](http://www.uttarainformation.gov.in) [uttarakhandDIPR](https://www.facebook.com/uttarakhandDIPR) [DIPR\\_UK](https://www.youtube.com/uttarakhandDIPR) [uttarakhand DIPR](https://www.youtube.com/uttarakhandDIPR)









School bus in Bangkok catches fire, more than 20 feared dead

A bus carrying young students with their teachers caught fire in suburban Bangkok on Tuesday...

plumes of black smoke pouring out as it stood on the side of the road. Bodies were still inside the bus hours after the fire.

told reporters later that two more survivors had been found, reducing the number of those still missing to 23...

northern suburb of the capital. A rescuer at the scene told Suriya that the fire likely started after one of the tires exploded...

Road ahead may be stormy, Xi warns as China celebrates 75th National Day

China celebrated its 75th National Day Tuesday, with President Xi Jinping issuing a stern warning that the road ahead for the Communist nation won't be smooth...

seas, even stormy seas," Xi said at a banquet on the eve of the anniversary as China tries to regain economic momentum amid an increasingly challenging set of geopolitical headwinds.

Party, the military and the Presidency, 71-year-old Xi is currently in his unprecedented third five-year term and expected to continue life-long in power.

ed to Taiwan, which over the years emerged as the self-governing island adhering to a democratic system. But 75 years on Taiwan's integration with the mainland continues to be an unfinished agenda for China's Communist Party...

South Korea unveils its most powerful missile

South Korea unveiled its most powerful ballistic missile and other weapons that could target North Korea during a massive Armed Forces Day ceremony on Tuesday...

President Yoon Suk Yeol told thousands of troops gathered at a military airport near Seoul. "That day will be the end of the North Korean regime," Yoon said.

ceremony in an apparent demonstration of its security commitment to its Asian ally. South Korea also flew some of its most advanced fighter jets. Later Tuesday, South Korea paraded its troops and weapons through the streets of Seoul...

nuclear weapons preemptively in potential conflicts with South Korea and the United States. Last month, concerns about North Korea's bomb programme further grew after it published photos of a secretive facility to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.

Public Notice

To be known to all that, Smt. Promila Raweri wife of Late Shri Satish Kumar Raweri, R/O 4/63, First Floor, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, is the absolute owner/mutatee of physical possession of D.D.A. BUILT-UP SFS Flat No. F/228/B, 1st FLOOR, BLOCK-BG-1, SITUATED AT PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110063...

Public Notice: This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Kiran Verma, Mrs. Vinida & Mr. Vivan are the Owners of DLU property bearing No. D-65, (Block No. D-6 & D-7) Area measuring 57.40 sq. mts. Situated in the layout plan of 'Kishan Nagar'...

Public Notice: The General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Ratan Kumar Sharma S/o Sh. R. P. Sharma and his wife Mrs. Rajni Shama R/o A-3/4-D, Green Apartment, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-63 have severed all relations with their son Udit Sharma and his wife Himanshi Sethi...

Public Notice: To whomsoever may it concern. The general public is hereby informed that our client, M/S Panchsheel Buildtech Private Limited, having their corporate office at G-34, Sector 63, Noida - 201301...

Public Notice: Be it known to all that my client Sh. Bahadur S/o Sh. Padeshri, R/o G-73, Block-G, Saurabh Vihar, Jaitpur, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044 hereby declares his son Mr. Anand Kumar from all his movable & immovable properties...

Public Notice: Re: Built-up Plot No. 97, area measuring 132 sq.mtr., Kharsa No. 10/18, in Village Qutubpur, Situated in Unauthorized Colony in Sector 11, Phase-I, Naigarh, Delhi-110071.

Public Notice: Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. who are indebted to our client, Mrs. Hem Lata, she is the sole and absolute owner of the said property...

Public Notice: TO WHOMSOEVER MAY IT CONCERN. The general public is hereby informed that our client, M/S Panchsheel Buildtech Private Limited, having their corporate office at G-34, Sector 63, Noida - 201301...

Public Notice: The Annual General Body Meeting of JAMIA TUL-BANAT-AL-ISLAMIA (Educational & Social Society) Registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, is going to be held on 27.10.2024 at the Madarsa premises Plot No. B-112, Zayed College, Shaheen Bagh, Street No. 07, to consider the following agenda:

Public Notice: Re: Built-up Plot No. 97, area measuring 132 sq.mtr., Kharsa No. 10/18, in Village Qutubpur, Situated in Unauthorized Colony in Sector 11, Phase-I, Naigarh, Delhi-110071.

Public Notice: TO WHOMSOEVER MAY IT CONCERN. The general public is hereby informed that our client, M/S Panchsheel Buildtech Private Limited, having their corporate office at G-34, Sector 63, Noida - 201301...

Public Notice: TO WHOMSOEVER MAY IT CONCERN. The general public is hereby informed that our client, M/S Panchsheel Buildtech Private Limited, having their corporate office at G-34, Sector 63, Noida - 201301...

VARIOUS TYPES OF BRIDGE RELATED WORKS: E-Tender Notice No. DCBL/12/2024/MLG, dated: 28-09-2024. Open E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:

ENGINEERINGWORKS OVER LUMDING DIVISION: Tender Notice No.: 29 of 2024, Dated: 27-09-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:

NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, PATNAGARH: Ph. No.-06658-22247 e-mail- nac\_ptg@yahoo.co.in web-site- www.nacpatnagarh.in

Public Notice: TO WHOMSOEVER MAY IT CONCERN. The general public is hereby informed that our client, M/S Panchsheel Buildtech Private Limited, having their corporate office at G-34, Sector 63, Noida - 201301...

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY 'Serving Customers with a Smile'

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY 'Serving Customers with a Smile'

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY 'Serving Customers with a Smile'

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY 'Serving Customers with a Smile'

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE: The Divisional Engineer-I, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open electronic tenders for under noted work...

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER'2024: E-Auction programme for Sale of Railway Scrap material under jurisdiction of Dy.CMM/NFR/New Jalpaiguri for the month of OCT'2024 is hereby fixed as under:

GOVERNMENT OF GOA National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Directorate of Health Services, Campal, Panaji, Goa 403 001.

TENDER NOTICE: Sealed tenders are hereby invited by National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for supply of Cyphenothrine 5% EC (300 litres).

ELECTRICAL TRD WORKS AT ALIPURDIA DIVISION: E-Tender Notice No. AP-EL-TRD-05-24-25-RT2. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:

DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES: (As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.))

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66

PUBLIC NOTICE: To be known to all that we, ANJANI KUMAR BISHNOI son of SH. MADAN LAL BISHNOI and RUPA VARSHNEI wife of SH. SUNIL KUMAR VARSHNEI, have applied for conversion of H.NO.-5241, PANCHSHILA, PARK, NEW DELHI from lease hold Freehold Built up Residential No.LD411785/COM/18072024 in DDA.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS: CHANGE OF NAME: I, Shivendra Pratap Singh R/o 3358/4, 3rd Floor, Narang Colony, Tri Nagar Delhi-35, Informed you that my minor son Sharan Pratap Singh and Sarvan Pratap Singh both are the same and one person and shall hereafter be known as Sharan Pratap Singh.

(A) Pending criminal cases: Sl. No., Name of Court, Case No. and dated, Status of case(s), Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences: Sl. No., Name of Court & No. date(s) of order(s), Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed, Maximum Punishment Imposed

VERKA: THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66

# India's manufacturing growth hits eight months low in September

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
India's manufacturing sector growth fell to an eight-month low in September amid softer increase in factory production, sales and new export orders, a monthly survey said on Tuesday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 57.5 in August to 56.5 in September, registering the weakest pace of growth since January. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "Momentum in India's manufacturing sector softened in September from the very strong growth in the summer months. "Output and new orders grew at a slower pace, and the deceleration in export demand growth was



especially evident as the new export orders PMI was the lowest since March 2023," Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said. The September PMI data revealed a mild setback in manufacturing growth across India. For the third straight month, rates of expansion in factory production and sales receded. Morevoer, international orders rose at the slowest pace in a year-and-a-half.

intensifying the compression on manufacturers' margin. "Weaker profit growth might have an impact on companies' hiring demand, as the pace of employment growth slowed for a third month," Bhandari noted. Hiring growth also receded in September, reflecting a reduction in the number of part-time and temporary workers. Going ahead, the overall level of business confidence fell to its lowest since April 2023. Around 23 per cent of Indian manufacturers forecast output growth in the year ahead, while the remaining firms predict no change. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

# Car sales fluctuate in September

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Indian automotive market has showcased a diverse performance among key players in September, reflecting varying consumer preferences and market conditions. Talking about the stats, Mahindra & Mahindra reported a notable 24% surge in SUV sales, achieving 51,062 units compared to 41,267 units in the same month last year. The company also saw overall sales, including commercial vehicles (CVs) and three-wheelers, rise 16% year-on-year to 87,839 units. As the festive season approaches, Mahindra is also set to launch the much-anticipated Thar RoXX on October 3. Conversely, JSW MG Motor India experienced an 8% decline in retail sales, with only 4,588 units sold compared to 5,003 units in September 2022. The automaker noted that new energy vehicles (NEVs) accounted for 49% of their total sales, emphasizing a shift in consumer interest amidst market challenges.



Toyota Kirloskar Motor reported a 14% increase in wholesales, reaching 26,847 units, up from 23,590 units last year. The brand's success is attributed to significant growth in its SUV, MPV, and small car segments, bolstered by strategic operational improvements that reduced waiting periods for popular models. Hyundai Motor India faced a 10% dip in total sales, down to 64,201 units from 71,641 units in the previous year. Domestic dispatches also fell by 6%, with exports down 25%. The

company noted that SUVs now comprise 70% of its overall sales and introduced new models to attract consumers during the festive season. In addition the domestic dispatch of vehicles to dealers saw a 6 per cent dip to 51,101 units last month from 54,241 units in the year-ago period. Finally, Maruti Suzuki India showcased a slight 2% increase in total sales, reaching 1,84,727 units, up from 1,81,343 units a year prior. Sales of compact cars, including Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift, Tour S and WagonR, however, declined to 60,480 units as compared to 68,551 units in the year-ago month. However, domestic passenger vehicle sales declined by 4%, despite growth in utility vehicle sales. Exports showed positive momentum, rising to 27,728 units from 22,511 units last September. Overall, the fluctuating sales figures reflect a complex landscape in the Indian automotive market, influenced by consumer trends, economic conditions, and the approaching festive season.

# Andhra Pradesh notifies new liquor policy

**PTI ■ VIJAYAWADA**  
The Andhra Pradesh government has notified a new liquor policy, allowing private retailers to sell spirits on the lines of Haryana and others with the state expecting to rake in Rs 5,500 crore revenue. In a complete overhaul of excise policy based on best practices from other states, Andhra Pradesh has decided retail sales of liquor through 3,736 notified private shops across the state. The new policy will take effect from October 12, 2024, as per the notification dated September 30, 2024. The permission to sell IMFL (Indian-made foreign liquor) and FL (foreign liquor) will be granted to private persons or entities through a selection process, the notification said. The period of licence for



selling IMFL and FL by shops shall be from October 12, 2024 to September 30, 2026, it added. Out of the total number of shops to be licensed in 2024-26, as many as 3,396 will be in the open category, while 340 shops will be reserved for allocation to 'Geetha Kulalu' (a toddy tapping community) with a view to empower them and promote equity and social justice. The selection process for granting licence will be through a draw of lots and an applicant can apply for more than one shop. There shall be no restriction on the number of shop licences a person can hold, it added. Applicants will have to deposit a non-refundable fee of Rs 2 lakh for each shop. As per the notification, the retail excise tax (RET) ranges from Rs 50 lakh for locality with population of 10,000 to Rs 85 lakh per annum for a

municipality or municipal corporation having population above 5 lakh during the fiscal 2024-2025. It will be increased by 10 per cent for 2025-26. The overall exercise is estimated to result in the state government raking in Rs 5,500 crore. The RET per annum shall be paid in six equal advance instalments as applicable for each year during the licence period 2024-26. As per the notification, the retailer margin will be 20 per cent on issue price across all categories of IMFL and FL, including beer, wine and RTDs (ready to drink). For the premium stores, the notification said, "In order to provide an enhanced and high-end retail experience within the state of Andhra Pradesh, a total of 12 Premium Store Licences shall be granted as a separate category." These premium stores shall be strategically located across major municipal corporation cities namely Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Rajamahendravaram, Kakinada, Guntur, Nellore, Kurnool, Kadapa, Anantapur or any other city as notified by the state government from time to time, it added. A cabinet sub-committee of the state government had studied the excise policies of states such as Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and also took extensive feedback from key stakeholders, before framing the latest policy. It had assessed the performance of the existing policy with respect to public health impact and other critical metrics including revenue generation efficiency, the state government said.

# SEBI to enhance F&O regulations

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Capital markets regulator Sebi is expected to take measures regarding the Futures and Options (F&O) segment very soon, in a bid to enhance investor protection, its senior official said on Tuesday. In addition, Sebi has urged the government to introduce tax breaks for subscribers of municipal bonds, which are crucial for funding infrastructure development. The regulator will make a case for a tax break for municipal bonds during a meeting with the finance commission, the regulator's whole time member Ashwani Bhatia said here. Since 1997, municipalities have raised Rs 2,700 crore through bonds for infrastructure projects. Talking about F&O, Bhatia said, "Sebi is very soon going to do something about F&O. Study has come (recently)". The regulator, in its consultation paper recently, proposed seven measures to tighten the rules for index derivatives-- revise the minimum contract size and require upfront collection of option premiums intra-day monitoring of position limits, rationalisation of strike prices, removal of calendar spread benefit on expiry day and increase in near contract expiry margin. If implemented, these measures



would help in improving risk management and increase transparency in the derivatives market. In its consultation paper, the regulator had suggested to revise the minimum contract size for index derivatives in two phases, considering market growth. In phase 1, the minimum contract value at the time of introduction should be between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 20 lakh. After six months, phase 2 will raise the minimum value to between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 30 lakh. The current minimum contract size of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh was last set in 2015. A recent study by Sebi revealed that 93 per cent of over 1 crore individual F&O traders incurred average losses of around Rs 2 lakh per trader (inclusive of transaction costs) during the three years from FY22 to FY24. The aggregate losses of individual traders exceeded Rs 1.8 lakh crore over the three-year period between FY22 and FY24.

# CAG: Development of hinterland essential for India's goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Without the development of hinterland, India cannot become Viksit Bharat or a developed nation by 2047, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu said on Tuesday. Noting that decentralisation of power has not taken to the extent it should have happened, he said, gram sabha or rural bodies are yet to get its due importance in the federal structure. "Without the development of grassroots level at the local level, we cannot achieve

Viksit Bharat. More than 50 per cent people live in rural area, and until their governance, their development, their administration, their resources are not augmented, we will not be able to reach (Viksit Bharat goal). As our prime minister says that if everyone take one step, we will have 1.4 billion steps... That is why Jan Bhagidari is important," he said. There are about 2,60,000 panchayats and 7,000 urban local bodies in the country. He emphasised the need for strengthening of local bodies

so that efficiency of government schemes are achieved and the sooner it happens, the better it is for the country. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be achieved without strengthening local bodies, he said, adding, that accounting and auditing play important roles in flow of funds to the local bodies. With regard to urban local bodies, the CAG said, municipal corporations cannot be given permission to raise resources from market if they have not followed proper accounting norms.

# Lenders recover ₹ 3.5 lakh crore through IBC: IBBI Chairperson

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Lenders have recovered Rs 3.5 lakh crore through resolution of stressed assets under the insolvency process in the last eight years, a period during which NCLT approved 1,000 resolution plans, IBBI Chairperson Ravi Mital said on Tuesday. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) provides for a market-linked and time-bound resolution of stressed assets. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) are key

institutions in the IBC ecosystem. In the last two years, NCLT has cleared 450 resolution plans. This accounts for 45 per cent of the 1,000 such plans approved in the last eight years, Mital said at a function to mark the eighth foundation day of the IBBI. According to him, Rs 3.5 lakh crore has been recovered directly by lenders, of which Rs 1 lakh crore was in the last two years. Under the IBC, the recovery is about 84 per cent of the assets' fair value, as per official data. Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said a continuously improving and evolving bankruptcy system is important for economic growth.



# Digi Yatra to be made available in regional, international languages

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Digi Yatra, which seeks to provide seamless movement at airport check points, will be made available in regional and international languages, according to a senior official. The facility is now available at 24 airports and is expected to be rolled out at 4-5 more airports in the coming months. Digi Yatra Foundation CEO Suresh Khadakhavi on Tuesday said a pilot project is likely by June next year for connecting two countries with Digi Yatra. Under the pilot project, foreign citizens will be able to use Digi Yatra. Speaking at the CAPA India Digital Aviation Summit in the national capital, Khadakhavi said a campaign will be started to sensitise passengers about the facility. While Digi Yatra is slowly gaining traction, concerns have been expressed in various quarters about the privacy of data of the passengers. He said Digi Yatra will be made



available in regional and international languages. Based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), Digi Yatra provides for contactless, seamless movement of passengers at various check points at airports. A not-for-profit entity, the foundation is the nodal agency for Digi Yatra, which was introduced in December 2022. The shareholders of the foundation are Airports Authority of India (AAI), Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL), Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (HIAL) and Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL).

# Jet fuel prices cut, LPG hiked



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Jet fuel, or ATF, price was on Tuesday reduced by 6.3 per cent to its lowest level this year, while the rate of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants was hiked by Rs 48.5 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price trends. Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price was cut by Rs 5,883 per kilolitre, or 6.29 per cent, to Rs 87,597.22 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the lowest price of jet fuel this year. The price reduction, the second in a month, will help ease the burden of airlines for whom fuel makes up for almost 40 per cent of the operating cost. Prices were on September 1 cut by Rs 4,495.5 per kl, or 4.58 per cent. The ATF rate in Mumbai was reduced to Rs 81,866.13 per kl on Tuesday from Rs 87,432.78 previously. Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes. Alongside, oil firms increased the price of commercial LPG

# Reliance Infra approves US \$ 350 million fundraise

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Board of Directors of Reliance Infrastructure Limited (Reliance Infrastructure) on Tuesday approved raising of funds upto US\$ 350 million (INR 2,930 cr) to VFSI Holdings Pte. Limited, an affiliate of Värde Investment Partners, LP, a leading global alternative investment firm. The FCCBs will be unsecured and will have ultra-low cost coupon of 5% p.a. with a long maturity of 10 years. The FCCBs will be convertible into Equity Shares at INR 330 per share. The Board of Directors also approved an Employees Stock Option Scheme (ESOS) for all employees of the Company and its subsidiaries. ESOS provides for grant of upto 2,60,00,000 fully paid-up equity shares of INR 10 each, representing approximately 5% of the Company's fully diluted capital.

## INBRIEF

- PARAMJEET SINGH GETS WARM FAREWELL**  
PATIALA: Er Paramjeet Singh, Director Generation, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited was given farewell on his retirement on Monday.
- MOU BETWEEN CCRH AND SRMIST**  
Central Council for Research in Homeopathy has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST). The partnership aims to enhance collaborative research efforts by leveraging the advanced infrastructure of SRMIST.
- 5000 LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED IN NARELA**  
NARELA: On Sunday a ceremony was held in the Comfort Zone to commemorate the birth anniversary of martyr Bhagat Singh. The event's organizer Dheeran Maan shared that hundreds of tractors and vehicles formed a rally.
- GNDU 'B' ZONE ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL CONCLUDED**  
AMRITSAR: Zonal Youth Festival of Zone 'B' of the Guru Nanak Dev University was concluded in Dasmesh Auditorium of the University.
- REC SIGNS MOU WITH GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**  
NEW DELHI: REC Limited has signed MoU with Govt of Rajasthan, Department of Finance during the Rising Rajasthan Investors meet today. As per MoU, REC will provide Rs. 50,000 Crore annually to finance projects for a period of six years.

# MANE LEADS AIR RIFLE DOMINANCE WITH DOUBLE GOLD

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
It was double delight for Parth Rakesh Mane as he was crowned junior world champion in 10m air rifle and also claimed a team gold to lead India's impressive performance at the ongoing ISSF Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru. In a thrilling 24-shot final, the 16-year-old Mane overcame a field oozing class with consummate ease, shooting 250.7 to edge out reigning junior Asian champion Huang Liwanlin of China by 0.7 points. Braden Peiser of the USA took the bronze medal. Paris Olympic silver medallist Victor Lindgren of Sweden was fourth while reigning double junior world champion Romain Aufrere was sixth. Parth's own compatriots, the in-form Ajay Malik and the seasoned-at-15 Abhinav Shaw finished fifth and seventh

respectively. Ajay went down in shoot-off to Lindgren to finish with 186.7 while Abhinav bowed out in seventh with 144.2. Mane also won the men's team event alongside Ajay Malik and Abhinav Shaw. India's third gold of the day came when Gautami Bhanot, Sambhavi Kshirsagar and Anoushka Thakur also picked up the junior women's 10m air rifle team title. Earlier in the 62-strong qualification round, Malik secured second place with a score of 628.8, followed by Mane in fourth with 627.7, and Shaw in sixth with 627.0 after 60 shots. Their combined total of 1883.5 easily surpassed teams from the USA (1877.6) and Germany (1873.9) to win the team gold. Two other Indians in the fray Umamahesh Maddineni (625.5) and Talwar Singh (625.2) finished 13th and 14th respectively.

## INDIA SURGES AT LIMA JUNIOR WORLDS



Three Indians also made the junior women's air rifle final but missed out on individual medals. Gautami Bhanot finished second in the 90-strong qualification field with a score of 634.7 as China's Wang Zifei topped with a junior world record score of 635.7. Shambhavi Kshirsagar finished fourth (632.6) and Ojasvi Thakur (631.4) qualified in fifth place. Anoushka Thakur was 17th with 627.5, while Saumya Khedkar was 20th with 627.4. Gautami then finished fourth in the final, going down to the bronze-winning US athlete by 0.2 after the 20th shot. She finished with a score of 209.3. Shambhavi (188.4) was fifth and Ojasvi (146.1) bowed out in seventh place. Gautami and Shambhavi, however, combined effectively with Anoushka Thakur to clinch the team competition, bossing USA with a junior world team record score of 1894.8. Norway was third. Indians also competed in the junior men's and women's skeet competition at the shotgun ranges but couldn't reach the finals. Gurfateh Singh Sandhu finished 29th with a score of 112 in qualification, while Bhavtegh Singh Gill shot the same score in the junior men's skeet to finish 31st on countback. Harmehar Singh Lally was 44th with 107. In junior women's skeet, Mansi Raghuvanshi was the best placed Indian in shotgun. Her score of 109 giving her 8th place as she missed out on qualification by a point. Mufaddal Dessawala and Shivani Raikwar shot scores of 98 each to finish in 30th and 31st positions respectively. With five gold medals till date, India continues to lead the overall medal tally at the championship.



## Ronaldo scores winner for Al-Nassr in AFC Champions League Elite

**AP ■ RIYADH**  
Cristiano Ronaldo scored the winning goal as Al-Nassr of Saudi Arabia defeated Al-Rayyan of Qatar 2-1 in the AFC Champions League Elite group stage on Monday. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner missed Al-Nassr's opening 1-1 draw against Al-Shorta of Iraq two weeks ago because of a viral infection. On Monday, he had a goal ruled out for offside, but his shot into the top corner with 14 minutes remaining in Riyadh proved to be decisive. Former Liverpool forward Sadio Mane headed home for Al-Nassr just before the break and the points seemed secure when Ronaldo added a second. Al-Rayyan came back in the game three minutes from the end when Roger Guedes scored from close range. Al-Nassr, seeking a first Asian

title, hung on, however. Riyadh Mahrez scored his first goal of the season as Al-Ahli of Saudi Arabia won at Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates 2-0 for a second straight win. The Algerian attacker, who joined the Jeddah club from Manchester City in 2023, had been struggling for fitness. Mahrez opened the scoring after just three minutes. He ran on to a long pass from defender Roger Ibanez and shot home from inside the area. He returned the favor seven minutes before the break as his corner was headed home powerfully by Ibanez. Elsewhere, Al-Sadd of Qatar defeated Esteghlal of Iran 2-0, whose Tehran rival Persepolis drew with Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan 1-1. The 24 teams are divided into two groups of 12 - one based in the west and one in the east - with the top eight from each progressing to the round of 16.

## HI announces 40 probables for national camp to prepare for home series against Germany

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Hockey India on Tuesday announced a 40-member core probable squad for the senior men's national coaching camp in Bengaluru to prepare for the upcoming two-match home series against world champions Germany. The team for the two matches against Germany to be played at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on October 23 and 24 will be selected from the camp. The camp will run from October 1 to 19. The team heads into this camp following their recent successes that include a second consecutive bronze medal at the Paris Olympics and a successful title defence at the Asian Champions Trophy in China. The focus will be on honing



skills of the players and strategies during matches, a Hockey India release said. India captain Harmanpreet Singh said the camp will help in ensuring that the team is well-prepared and in peak condition before facing Germany. "Playing against the world champions is a tremendous opportunity for us to showcase our abilities, and having an exciting mix of players in this camp will allow us to improve our strategies and build the cohesion needed," he said. "Each player in this core group brings unique strengths and varying levels of experience and we'll be focusing on how to harness these individual talents and help us grow as players. "Our objective is to create an environment where everyone pushes each other and by the end of this camp, we want to be an even stronger and better coordinated team."

**Goalkeepers:** 1. Krishan Bahadur Pathak; 2. Pawan; 3. Suraj Karkera; 4. Mohith  
**Defenders:** 1. Jarmanpreet Singh; 2. Amit Rohidas; 3. Harmanpreet Singh; 4. Sumit; 5. Sanjay; 6. Jugraj Singh; 7. Amandeep Lakra; 8. Nilam Sanjeev Xess; 9. Varun Kumar; 10. Yashdeep Siwach; 11. Dipsan Tirkey; 12. Mandeep Mor  
**Midfielders:** 1. Rajkumar Pal; 2. Shamsheer Singh; 3. Manpreet Singh; 4. Hardik Singh; 5. Vivek Sagar Prasad; 6. Nilakanta Sharma; 7. Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh; 8. Mohammed Raheel Mousen; 9. Vishnukant Singh; 10. Rajinder Singh; 11. Poovanna CB  
**Forwards:** 1. Abhishek; 2. Sukhjeet Singh; 3. Lalit Kumar Upadhyay; 4. Mandeep Singh; 5. Gurjant Singh; 6. Angad Bir Singh; 7. Aditya Lalage; 8. Bobby Singh Dhami; 9. Sudeep Chirmako; 10. S. Karthi; 11. Maninder Singh; 12. Shilanand Lakra; 13. Dilpreet Singh.

## Mumbai City FC hope happy homecoming against high-flying Bengaluru FC

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Mumbai City FC would look to notch their first win of the Indian Super League (ISL) this season and move up the points table when they face high-flying Bengaluru FC in a clash between two heavyweights here on Wednesday. Bengaluru have made a commanding start, winning all their three outings so far to sit atop the points table, while Mumbai are surprisingly placed at 11th after two away matches, with just one point. Mumbai have found the back of the net in their previous eight matches at home and are looking to equal their longest such ISL run, having done so in nine meetings between October 2022 and February 2023. Interestingly, they have also won their previous three matches versus Bengaluru. Bengaluru have scored one-third of their goals in the competition this year within the opening 15 minutes, the highest such rate for any team so far. Mumbai City head coach Petr Kratky said his team needs to avoid conceding goals from set-pieces. "We need to get better in the area where it's hurting us. And, we have to stop it as soon as possible because, in two games, we conceded five goals and four goals from set-pieces, which is unacceptable for me," he said.



"We have to keep working and keep going. We need to analyse and identify what's (going) wrong and have to find why. The 'why' is very important. "If we know why we're conceding, why we're losing, or why we're not getting the points, then we can figure out what to fix. So, this is our and my first goal!" On the other hand, BFC head coach Gerard Zaragoza expressed his happiness at the impressive start but admitted that they cannot afford to slow down yet. "Let me enjoy. Three games, three wins, and we are happy. But it's too early," he noted. "Mumbai City FC will be there, and Odisha FC will be there. We are going to Mumbai, and it will be difficult there." The two sides have faced each other on 16 occasions in the tournament, with Mumbai winning on eight instances, as against seven victories for Bengaluru. One match ended in a draw. Meanwhile, Bengaluru FC legend and former India captain Sunil Chhetri has netted nine times versus Mumbai City in the competition. He will be aiming to become the first Indian to score on 10 occasions against a single opponent in the ISL.



## Pegula out of China Open after a 4th round loss to Badosa

**AP ■ BEIJING**  
Paula Badosa reeled off 11 of the last 12 games in a 6-4, 6-0 victory over US Open finalist Jessica Pegula at the China Open on Tuesday to reach her eighth career quarter-final at a WTA 1000-level event. From 3-1 down in the opening set, former No. 2-ranked Badosa dominated in her first-ever win over third-ranked Pegula. "She's one of the players I never want to face -- she's very solid, hits very flat, changes very well direction," said Badosa, who was 0-3 previously against Pegula. "I prepared myself for a battle, but I think today everything worked pretty well. "Every point was very important for me, especially against Jessica, because she can come back at any moment." Badosa next faces 35-year-old Chinese player Zhang Shuai, who continued her resurgence with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Magdalena Frech of Poland. Zhang entered the China Open on a 24-match losing streak and ranked No. 595, but she's yet to drop a set in four

matches this week. That includes eliminating US Open semi-finalist Emma Navarro in straight sets for her first win over a Top 10 player in two years. Zhang is now in her first women's tour quarter-final since Tokyo in 2022, and her first at a WTA 1000 tournament since Cincinnati in the same year. Later Tuesday, No. 14-ranked Anna Kalinskaya was scheduled to meet Yulia Starodubtseva of Ukraine, before the marquee women's match of the day between four-time major winner Naomi Osaka and sixth-ranked Coco Gauff. It will be the first meeting between the two Grand Slam champions in over two years, with the head-to-head series tied at 2-2. On the men's side, Carlos Alcaraz was playing fifth-ranked Daniil Medvedev in the first semi-final, with the Spaniard holding a 5-2 advantage in their head-to-head history. Defending champion and top-ranked Janner Sinner was set to face No.

# Women's soccer on a high as new Asian Champions League launches

**AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR**  
Women's soccer is on a high in Asia after some World Cup performances that captivated nations, raising expectations for the new AFC Champions League. North Korea's win over Japan in the women's Under-20 World Cup last month has the women's game back in focus across the continent. Australia's run to the semi-finals at the Women's World Cup it co-hosted last year with New Zealand drew record crowds and attention to the talent in the region. Now, the continental club championship has been revamped and the group stage of the Women's Asian Champions League launches this week with the Urawa Red Diamond Ladies flying the flag for Japan. The Reds defeated South

Korea's Incheon Red Angels in the final of the Women's Club Championship in May, a pilot tournament for the AFC's Women's Champions League, and would like nothing more than to repeat that success. "To have two Asian nations in the (under-20) World Cup final is good for Asia and good for us, too, as we have rivals to compete with," Urawa coach Naoki Kusunose said. "We are grateful for this new challenge in club soccer - and we want to move on to the next step and win the Women's AFC Champions League." The 12-team tournament, including four teams that advanced through a preliminary stage, is divided into three groups of four. Urawa kicks off against India's Odisha on Thursday and will go on to face Ho Chi Minh City and Taiwanese team Taichung Blue Whale.



The Group C games will take place in Vietnam as each group is played in a single venue over nine days, with the top two advancing to the quarter-finals next March along with the two best third-placed teams. The semi-finals and final will be held in May of 2025. Australia's Melbourne City is in Group B and kicks off

against Iran's Bam Khatoon in Thailand. Melbourne City who will also face Kaya-Iloilo of the Philippines and Thailand's College of Asian Scholars. "For women's football in general in Asia, it's a great opportunity," Melbourne City coach Michael Matricciani said. "To be in the inaugural campaign, it's an honor for us representing Australia, and also an opportunity for silverware and to test ourselves against the best in Asia." Incheon Red Angels are in Group A along with Sabah of Malaysia, China's Wuhan Jiangda and Abu Dhabi Country Club from the United Arab Emirates. The Asian Football Confederation has confirmed that the champion will receive at least USD 1.3 million in prize money. "We are confident that the

competition will empower women in Asian football, contributing to gender equality and breaking down societal barriers, to make a positive impact on the growth of the women's game," AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said in a statement. With varying degrees of professionalism in the women's game across the continent, going deep into the tournament can make a difference financially. There are concerns, however, that the new tournament does not reflect the reality of women's soccer in Asia. FIFPro Asia/Oceania, part of a worldwide organization representing 65,000 soccer players, compiled a report on the tournament in August based on 88 players who participated in the pilot Women's Club Championship.

It found that just 62% of players in the tournament identified as professional, less than half earned more than USD 10,000 from soccer per season and a quarter reported that the sport was not their primary income. FIFPro wants more co-operation between the AFC and other stakeholders. "Whilst the potential of the women's game in Asia is immense, we must ensure it is developed in a way that is responsive to the lived realities illustrated in this report," said Kathryn Gill, a FIFPro board member and former Australia international. "This can only occur through establishing a genuine partnership between the AFC, leagues, clubs and players, and not through unilaterally overlayering regulations that are fit for men's competitions onto female competitions.

# We were willing to get all out for 100: Rohit on India's boldplay in Kanpur Test

PTI ■ KANPUR

India were willing to take the risk of being bowled for 100-odd in its bold push for a result in the weather-hit second Test against Bangladesh, said Rohit Sharma after the hosts pulled off a dramatic win here on Tuesday.

India managed to win the game comfortably on day five despite two full days were lost due to wet outfield at the Green Park Stadium. Even on day one, only 35 overs possible. After bowling out Bangladesh for 233, India batted in T20 mode to smash 285 in 34.4 overs before declaring their first innings. Having lost two batters overnight, Bangladesh were bowled out in their second innings at stroke of lunch and India ended the game in the second session.

"Once we lost two and a half days, when we came on day 4 we wanted to get them out as quickly as possible and see what we can do with the bat. When they got bowled out for 230, it wasn't about the runs we



get but the overs we got at them," said Rohit at the post-match presentation.

"To make a game out of it on that pitch was a superb effort. It was a risk we were willing to take because when you're trying to bat like that, you can be bundled out for a low score. But we were ready for it even if we got bowled out for 100-120. It was India's record extending 18th series win in a row at home. Among the new players, Rohit was pleased by Akash

Deep's relentless effort.

"He's been good (Akash Deep). Lot of domestic cricket he has played. When you come up through the ranks like that, there are a lot of overs in the legs. He has the quality and the skill. Good body as well - can bowl long spells. You have to make sure you prepare your bench strength," said the skipper. It was the first Test series under new head coach Gautam Gambhir who overtook the

responsibility from Rahul Dravid.

"We had a fantastic time (with Dravid) but life moves on. Gautam Gambhir, I've played with him and know what sort of mindset he comes in with," said Rohit. Ashwin was named player of the series for his all-round show. He rated the improbable win as "massive" in the context of World Test Championship. "When we bowled them out

yesterday, it was little after lunch. Rohit was keen that we needed 80 overs to bowl at them.

"And the moment he came inside out and gave that talk where we're going to go after it even if we get out under 230. It's not only him saying it, he went out there and hit his first ball for six. He set the tone that way," said the premier spinner. Opposition skipper Najmul Hasan Shanto said that team's batting through the two Test series let them down.

"Both the Tests we didn't bat well. In these conditions we need to bat well. If you look at our batters - we played 30-40 balls and got out. It's important in a Test match, when batsmen get in, you should look to score big runs," said Shanto.

"The way Ashwin and Jaddu batted at that time (in Chennai after India were six down) - they batted really well. As a bowling unit we need to look at those moments - how we can get those wickets. That partnership cost us that game," added Shanto.



|                       | R ASHWIN | M MURALITHARAN |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------|
| TEST MATCHES          | 102      | 133            |
| SERIES PLAYED         | 42       | 61             |
| WICKETS               | 527      | 800            |
| PLAYERS OF THE SERIES | 11       | 11             |

## ASHWIN TIES MURALITHARAN MAN OF THE SERIES MARK

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has etched his name in the records book once again, equalling the most number of Player of the Series in Test cricket's history, with his stellar performances in Bangladesh series Ashwin now stands with Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

They both now share the 11 Player of the Series accolades. Ashwin performance in the Bangladesh series conquered many records in history of cricket. Ashwin's took 11 wickets and scored 114 runs in both the innings two Test matches.

Ashwin performances throughout his test career gave many cherish moments for India. In first test match in Chennai his crucial knock of 113 runs gave team a fighting total and took 6 wickets in second innings for winning the Test match.

Ashwin awarded his 11th number of Player of the series. Back from his Test debut in 2011 he has only played in 42 series so far. On the other hand Sri Lankan legend Muralitharan featured in a total of 61 series for Sri Lanka during his 18-year-long career and won the Player of the Series award on 11 occasions.

In the list of most number of Player of the Series Ashwin alongside with muralitharan tops the list followed by Jacques kallis (South Africa)-9, Imran Khan (Pakistan)-8, Richard Hadlee (New Zealand)-8, Shane Warne (Australia)-8. For India Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag are second in the list of India

players with most Player of the Series awards in Tests five number of occasions they were rewarded. Virat Kohli has three Player of the Series awards to his name in Tests, whereas Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, and Rahul Dravid in their careers with four Player of the Series awards each.

Ashwin who considered as an All-rounder batting at number eight scored six centuries allowed him to match New Zealander Daniel Vettori who scored five centuries batting at lower order for their team. The 38 year old spinner currently ranks number two in ICC Test All-rounder rankings.

Ashwin's heroic show in the second Test against Bangladesh has tossed him to the top of the wicket-takers list in the ongoing 2023-25 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

He has taken 53 wickets from 10 matches at an average of 21.18 and a strike rate of 37.30, surpassing Josh Hazlewood, who is second in the list of most wicket takers with 51 wickets.

It would be an epic battle to see in the upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy later this year in Australia which might be his last Border Gavaskar feat in Australia currently he is second most wicket taker after Nathan Lyon in Border Gavaskar Trophy.

This achievement further highlights Ashwin's crucial role in India's Test cricket success marks as one of the greatest spinners of his generation. Ashwin's ability to adapt to different conditions and bowl effectively in all phases of the game and made him a nightmare for batsmen worldwide.

## Sabalenka extends winning streak, Osaka to play Gauff at China Open

AP ■ BEIJING

Aryna Sabalenka's dominant hard-court season showed no signs of slowing down as she cruised to a 6-2, 6-2 win over Ashlyn Krueger at the China Open on Monday for her 14th consecutive victory.

The three-time Grand Slam winner started her streak with a title at Cincinnati in August and continued with a run to the championship at the U.S. Open earlier this month. She also won the Australian Open earlier in the year.

The second-ranked Sabalenka converted five of her seven breakpoint opportunities in a lopsided contest against Krueger and will next face Madison Keys, hoping to equal her career-best 15 consecutive victories set in 2020-21. Keys had a 6-3, 6-3 win over Beatrice Haddad Maia of

Brazil. Haddad Maia won the Korea Open last week but struggled to combat the baseline power of Keys.

Former No. 1 Naomi Osaka continued her positive start with new coach Patrick Mouratoglou with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Katie Volynets, advancing to a round of 16 match against sixth-ranked Coco Gauff.

It will be the first meeting between the two Grand Slam champions in more than two years, with the head-to-head series tied at 2-2.

"It's going to be a really cool test for me," Osaka said. "She's played really well this year. I'm excited to play the match, and I know people are excited to watch the match."

Osaka, who returned from maternity leave at the start of this season and is No. 73 in the current rankings, fired five aces and produced three service breaks.



Ministry of Tribal Affairs  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEDICATED TO  
TRIBAL WELFARE**



Launch of

**DHARTI AABA JANJATIYA GRAM UTKARSH ABHIYAN**  
and Inauguration, Foundation Stone Laying and dedication to the Nation  
of projects for Tribal Welfare and Development worth ₹83,700 crore

From the Sacred Land of Dharti Aaba **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**

by

**Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**

Wednesday, 02nd October, 2024, 02:00 PM onwards, District - Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

### KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE ABHIYAN

₹79,156 crore outlay for holistic development of Tribal Communities

25 schemes of 17 ministries to reach every village and every house simultaneously

Ensuring benefits of Welfare Schemes to more than 5 crore Tribal population living in 63 thousand villages

Basic facilities like Pucca House, Tap water, Electricity, Roads, Ayushman Bharat Card, Ujjwala Yojana, Education, Health, Nutrition, Schools, Hostels, Mobile Medical Units, Anganwadi and Mobile Connectivity under the Abhiyan

Focus on complete coverage of various schemes including Agriculture, Fisheries And Animal Husbandry to 24 lakh Patta Holders under Forest Rights Act (FRA)

Live Telecast of the Program on DD News @TribalAffairsIn MinistryofTribalAffairs