OPINION 6

THE DECEPTIVE FACADE OF CHINA'S MILITARY

WORLD 9

HEZBOLLAH'S DEPUTY LEADER VOWS TO FIGHT ON MONEY 10

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS I-T AUDIT REPORT FILING DATE

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KEEP GODS OUT OF POLITICS: SC

SUPREME COURT SLAMS ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

bserving that at least Gods should be kept out of politics, the Supreme Court slammed Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for prematurely going public with the claim that previous regime of YSR Congress Party used substandard ghee containing animal fat to prepare laddus at Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati.

Studying the lab report produced by the Government, the Apex Court on Monday, said that the ghee that had been sent for testing was rejected and not used for making laddus.
A Bench of Justices BR Gavai

and KV Viswanathan noted that the Chief Minister made the claim on September 18, even though the FIR in the matter was lodged on September 25, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted on September 26.
"It was not appropriate on the part of a higher constitutional functionary to go in public and make a statement which can affect the sentiments of crores of people," the Bench

The Bench said there is no conclusive proof yet to substantiate such a claim. It questioned the need to make a public statement on the issue remarked.



when a probe had already been ordered by the State into the allegations. Justice Gavai also asked whether there was any material with the CM to conclude definitively that animal fat had been used to prepare laddus at Tirupati Temple.

Justice Viswanathan observed that the ghee sample had been rejected as per reports. "So what was the need to go to the press at all, when you yourself ordered an investigation?" the judge asked. "At least the Gods should be kept away from politics," the Court

The Bench was hearing the petitions filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Subramanian Swamy, and former Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman YV Subba Reddy and historian Vikaram Sampath demanding court monitored probe on the allegations of presence of animal fat in the ghee used in

Tirupati laddus. Whether such a statement should have been made that affects the sentiments of the devotees? What was the need of going to the press and making a public statement devotees? What was the need of joing to the press and making a public statement devotees? What was the need of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains.

Congress has accused Naidu of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains.

when SIT was ordered? Prima facie there is nothing at least to show, no concrete proof to show at this stage, that the same ghee was used and procured. Even pending investigation when such statements are made by responsible public functionaries then what effect it will have on the SIT? What was the material?"

The Court told Senior Advocate Siddharth Luthra, representing TTD, that he was not answering the court's not answering the court's queries on this aspect. "You have still not answered. There is nothing to show that ghee was used. These are processes used to justify the rejection and stop payment!"

The Bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to consist it in deciding whether

assist it in deciding whether the investigation by the state-appointed SIT should continue or the probe should be conducted by an independent agency. The Bench has posted the matter for further hearing on October 3.

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu claimed earlier this month that animal fat was used in preparing Tirupati laddus during the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government in the state, triggering a massive political row. The YSR



BJP and Congress spat over remarks on PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and their parties engaged in war of words following the latter's remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public meeting in Jammu when he said he won't die before PM Modi is removed from power. Shah termed Kharge's remark as "absolutely distasteful and disgraceful". At an election rally in Jasrota in Jammu on Sunday, Kharge felt

dizzy and uneasy but resumed his speech after a brief pause, saying he won't die before PM Modi is removed from power. Shah said "in a bitter display of spite", Kharge unnecessarily dragged the Prime Minister into his personal health matters by saying that he would die only after removing

the Congress president Shri the Home Minister should Mallikarjun Kharge Ji has focus on serious issues such as outperformed himself, his leaders and his party in being absolutely distasteful and disgraceful in his speech.

He said Kharge's remarks showed how much hate and fear the Congress people have for PM Modi and that they are constantly thinking of him. "As for the health of Mr. Kharge Ji, Modi Ji prays, I pray and we all pray that he lives a long, healthy life. May he continue to live for many years and may he live to see the creation of a Viksit Bharat by 2047," the Minister said Union Minister. Minister said. Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Nirmala said the Congress leadership said the Congress leadership never loses any opportunity to display their hate towards Modi. "Aptly said, Home Minister Amit Shahji," Sitaraman said in a social media post.

Kharge responded to Amit Shah's attack on him and said

focus on serious issues such as the Manipur situation, census and a caste census. "Home Minister Amit Shah should focus on serious issues like Manipur, census and caste census. Your Government's own survey says that 92 percent of the employees cleaning urban sewers and septic tanks come from SC, ST, OBC categories," the Congress chief said.

"The BJP is against caste census because then it will be known by which work SC, ST, OBC, EWS and all other categories are earning their livelihood. What is their economic and social status? What kind of targeted benefits of Government schemes should they get?" Kharge said. He asserted that the Congress party is firmly committed to getting a caste census done. We will get it done," he added.

Continued on Page 8

ED books Siddaramaiah

PNS NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday booked Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and some others in a moneylaundering case linked to the Mysuru Urban Development Authority, taking cognisance of a recent state Lokayukta FIR, official sources said. The federal agency has filed

an enforcement case information report (ECIR) to book the Chief Minister and others, they said.



Siddaramaiah, his wife BM brother-in-law Parvathi, Mallikarjuna Swamy and Devaraju, from whom Swamy had purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi, and others have been named in the FIR registered by the Mysurulocated Lokayukta police establishment on September

The FIR was lodged after a special court in Bengaluru last week ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah in the case.

Continued on Page 8

Delhi road rage: One arrested for cop's murder

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday arrested a person n connection with the death of a constable, who was mowed down in an incident of road rage involving two men inside a car, in Outer Delhi's Nangloi area early on Sunday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Jimmy Chiram said the arrested person identified as Rajnish alias Sittu, a resident of Veena Enclave, was arrested in connection with the death of Constable Sandeep, 30. Rajneesh was sitting in the car at the time of the accident, from Noida. However, the man who was driving the car is still on the run. Earlier, some reports claimed that one of the occupants in the car was a liquor smuggler. "The offending vehicle has been seized. Multiple teams have been formed for investigation and several raids are ongoing in Delhi, UP, and Haryana to trace the other accused," said Chiram.

According to the FIR registered against two persons for murder, on Sunday at around 2 a.m., the constable Sandeep Malik allegedly stopped two occupants of a car from drinking alcohol inside the vehicle.

Continued on Page 8 | tricked into accepting 26

Kosi drowns Bihar in sorrow

 $F_{\mathrm{parts}}^{\mathrm{lood}}$ situation in several parts of Bihar worsened on Monday as embankments of Kosi river in Darbhanga district and Bagmati river in Sitamarhi were breached. officials said. Kosi river was in spate and

breached its embankment near Kartarpur block, inundating Kirtarpur and Ghanshyampur villages in Darbhanga late on Sunday, while seepage was reported in the embankment of Bagmati river in Runni Saidpur block in Sitamarhi district, they said. "The flood situation has worsened with fresh embankment breaches but it is under control. There is nothing to panic," an official

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Gujarat bullion trader has

Abeen duped of 2.1 kg of

gold after unidentified

conmen handed over counterfeit currency featuring

the face of noted bollywood

actor Anupam Kher. A h m e d a b a d

based bullion trader, Mehul

Thakkar has filed a complaint

with the Navrangpura police

station, detailing how he was

AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI



NDRF personnel conduct a rescue operation at a flood affected area, in Bihar's Supaul district

The State water resources and disaster management departments have been working on a war footing, he said. "Altogether six incidents of embankment breach have so far been reported from various parts of the State. Some of

bundles of counterfeit Rs 500

The fake currency which

conveyed to the trader as Rs

1.90 crore, also labelled "Resole Bank of India," and

was presented to his staff in

exchange for 2.1 kgs of gold

According to police complaints Thakkar, a gold dealer received a call from

another manager of a

jewellery shop Prashant Patel

whom the bullion trader

knew. Patel was eager to buy

on September 24.

them have already been repaired and work is going on for others," Bihar Water Resources Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said. The embankment of the Bagmati River at Madhkaul village in Sitamarhi and the

Gujarat man buys real gold with fake currency

transaction was pegged at Rs

1.90 crore.

Champaran were damaged due to excessive water pressure, resulting in inundation in the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, another official

"Water flowing above the embankments was reported Valmikinagar and from Kiratpur in Darbhanga. But now the water level in several rivers started receding. No casualty has been reported so far in Bihar due to the flood", the minister said.

Considering the gravity of the flood situation in north Bihar, six more teams of the National Disaster Management (NDRF) from Authority Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Ranchi in Jharkhand are being deployed, he said.

पांच की अपये RESOLE BANK OF INDIA

Continued on Page 8

meet Patel at an 'angadia

pedhi' (Hawala) office - a

 $T_{monsoon \ season \ officially}^{he \ 2024 \ southwest} \\ nded \ on \ Monday. \ India$ recorded 934.8 mm rainfall, the highest since 2020.

The country experienced a rainfall deficit of 11 per cent in June, followed by an excess of 9 per cent in July, 15.7 per cent in August, and 10.6 per cent in September.

The IMD had predicted above-normal rainfall (106 per cent of the long-period average) for the monsoon season this year.

It also accurately forecast below-normal monsoon rainfall for northeast India, normal rainfall for the northwest, and above-normal rainfall for central and southern peninsular regions.

traditional money-moving

service where they were

handed over bundles of what

they claimed were Rs 500

The unsuspecting staff was

told to count the 'money'

using a machine provided by the trio. Two of them then

went out with the gold

biscuits on the pretext of

fetching the remaining Rs 30

lakh from a neighbouring office, while a third one

notes.

stayed on.

CBI nabs 26 global cyber criminals PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

n a multi-State crackdown Ion organised cybercrime, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested 26 alleged cyber criminals involved in fraudulent activities targeting people globally, officials said on Monday. The action under operation Chakra-III started with raids at 32 different places across Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Visakhapatnam late night last Thursday. The central agency has seized Rs 58.45 lakh cash, locker keys and three luxury vehicles, they said. Four call centres — V.C.

Inconformities Pvt. Ltd at Regent Plaza, Pune; V.C. Infrometrix Pvt. Ltd, Murli Visakhapatnam; Nagar, Viajex Solutions, Hyderabad; and Atriya Global Services Pvt. Ltd, Visakhapatnam were among the places raided by the agency.
The CBI intercepted 170

Continued on Page 8 | people engaged in live online

criminal activities across the four call centers, the officials said. "The cyber criminals targeted

in this operation were involved in a range of illicit activities, impersonating... Tech support services and approaching victims, especially in the USA in the guise that the victim's systems have been hacked," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

He said the victims were convinced by the criminals that their identities had been stolen and that a large number of unauthorised transactions were being made in their bank accounts.

The scammers told the victims that they were under the scanner of investigation agencies of their respective countries, he added.

"The cyber criminals then induced the victims to transfer their bank holdings into new bank accounts given by cyber criminals in the guise of safeguarding their finances.

Continued on Page 8

Dadasaheb Phalke finally acknowledges Mrigayaa actor

2.1 kgs of gold, and Thakkar instructed his staff to

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

goers in the chartbuster "I am a disco dancer" Mithun Chakraborty, 74, has come a long way from the bylanes of Kolkata to reach peak stardom. Recognising Chakraborty's Recognising Chakraborty's contribution to Indian cinema, the Union government on bestowed Monday Dadasaheb Phalke award upon him. The announcement was made by Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on social media.

The veteran actor, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member, was recently awarded Padma

Bhushan, the third highest civilian honour. Dancing into the hearts of Congratulating Chakraborty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

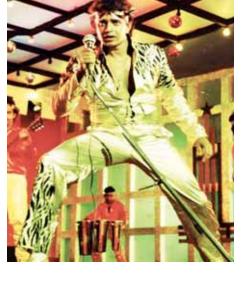
said the actor is a "cultural icon" Mithun admired across generations. s come a "Delighted that Shri Mithun Chakraborty Ji has been conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, recognising his unparalleled contributions to Indian cinema. He is a cultural icon, admired across generations for his versatile

> Vaishnaw said Chakraborty's "inspires

performances. Congratulations and best wishes to him," the Prime Minister said in a social media post.

remarkable cinematic journey generations". Dadasaheb Phalke Selection Jury has decided to award legendary actor, Sh. Mithun Chakraborty Ji for his iconic contribution to Indian Cinema," the minister said in the post. The award will be presented to Chakraborty at the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on October eight, Vaishnaw said. Though the actor made his

debut in film 'Mrigayaa', directed by renowned director Mrinal Sen, Chakraborty in 1976. He bagged his first National award for best actor, and tasted commercial success with his film 'Disco Dancer.' All the songs of the film including 'I am a disco dancer' and 'Yaad aa "Honoured to announce that the raha' were a huge hit in the late



Then followed several hits like 'Mujhe Insaaf Chahiye', 'Hum Se Hai Zamana', 'Pasand Apni Apni', 'Ghar Ek Mandir', 'Kasam Paida Karne Wale Ki' and 'Commando'. Chakraborty was also praised for his role in the 1990 film 'Agneepath', fronted by Amitabh Bachchan.

Chakraborty's unique moves, which popularised disco dancing, and fight scenes enthralled the audience all over the country and even in Russia. He earned two more National Awards for 1992's 'Tahader Katha' (best actor) and 1998's 'Swami Vivekananda' (best

supporting actor).
When he got the news about the award Chakraborty said his life

kept replaying in his mind, including the initial struggle for food and shelter. "I am short of words. It is an occasion which reminded me of the past. I went to Mumbai from Kolkata. In Mumbai, I did not have food and would sometimes sleep in the garden...

"This kept replaying. After all this, you get this huge honour. I have no words. I can only say I dedicate this award to my family and to fans all over the world. "You know my life has never been smooth, I did not get anything on platter, I had to fight for everything, but when the result comes like this, you forget all the pain, God has been kind," the actor told reporters in

comprising former Dadasaheb

a gem of a person," he added. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also congratulated the veteran actor. "Mithun Ji's illustrious career spanning several decades has not only enriched our films but has also set standards of excellence in acting. All my best wishes to him," Shah said. The three-member jury

Chakraborty also praised Prime Minister Modi. "I have great

respect for PM Modi, he is a

fantastic man. I know him, he is

awardee Asha Parekh, actorpolitician Khushbu Sundar and filmmaker Vipul Amrutlal Shah - selected Chakraborty for the prestigious honour.

Continued on Page 8

for iPhone, body thrown into canal

PNS LUCKNOW

delivery boy working for an Adelivery boy working for an was allegedly killed for an iPhone, and his body was thrown into the Indira Canal in Chinhat. The incident unfolded on September 23, when the victim, Bĥarat Kumar, a resident of Nishatganj, went missing. After searching for him at various places, his family filed a missing report on September 25. Following pressure from Bharat's family and their petitions to senior officials, police launched a probe. It was soon discovered that Bharat last talked to a man named Gajanand from Chinhat. The police questioned Gajanand's friend Akash, who eventually confessed to the crime.

According to Akash's confession, he and Gajanand murdered Bharat after robbing him of an iPhone worth Rs 1.5 lakh, which Gajanand had ordered online. He had chosen the cash-on-delivery option for the payment. The details of the case came to light on Monday. The police are currently searching for Bharat's body in the canal, where the accused allegedly disposed of it, stuffed in a sack. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) is assisting in the search.

Initial investigations revealed that Gajanand, a resident of Chinhat, had ordered the

iPhone, and on the night of September 23, Bharat went to his house to deliver it. When Bharat requested payment for the phone. Gaianand invited him inside. Once inside, Gajanand and Akash overpowered and strangled Bharat. They then stuffed his body into a sack and dumped it into the canal later that night.

DCP (East) Shashank Singh stated that police were able to track the accused through Bharat's phone location and call details. He confirmed that one of the suspects was in custody and was being interrogated. The police also raided Gaianand's house but were told by his sister that he was missing since September 24.

Meanwhile, a 32-year-old man was killed in a road accident in the Mohanlalganj police station area on Sunday night. Reports said that around 7:45 pm on September 29, he was struck by a speeding vehicle in Gopalkheda, near DLF Garden City. Police quickly arrived at the scene and transported the injured man, Roopchand Yadav from Gonda, to SGPGI, where he was pronounced dead. A police spokesman said that family members were present at the scene. They informed the police that Roopchand worked as a labourer in DLF Garden City. The PGI have sent the body for a post-mortem exam-

NOTICE

In my Passport No.L5179859 mv

name written as Mohd. Ajim & my

father's name as Mohd Nasim,

which is wrong, my correct name is

Mohd. Azeem & father's name is

Mohd Naseem. please correct

accordingly. Mohd. Azeem 465/34-

6G Hata Sitara Begam, Lucknow,

NOTICE

Yogesh Dixit S/o Mayank Dixit R/o

Gayatri Nagar Bhatu Farm Shuklaganj Distt. Unnao, I have lost,

last page of my House Original Chain deed dt. 13.07.2015, which is executed by Phoolwasa in favour

Manju W/o Mayank Dixit Regd. at

SRO, Unnao B. 1 Vol. 10091 Sl. 12226, I, have not used the said sale

deed in any financial institution.

FIR/LAR No. 202400007797734 Dt.

NOTICE

My name is MOHAMMAD

SHAFWAN SIDDIQUI which from

today will be known and known by

my new name MOHD SAFWAN.

Mohd. Safwan, son of Mohd. Ikram,

resident of Gandhi Nagar, Tirwa,

NOTICE

have changed my name from

NAZIRUL HASÁN RIZI to

NAZRUL HASAN RIZVI S/o NAJMUL HASAN RIZVI R/o

10/55- A Savitri Nagar Sanigawan

Rd, PS Chakeri Kanpur Nagar -21, In future I would be known &

NOTICE

I Mohd Usman Arif s/o Shabbeer

Ahmad r/o 196 Area and Post Shahpur Vill Shahpur Sarkande Dih

Tehsil Sadar Distt Sultanpur hereby

declare that my daughters name in Adhar card no. 7071 3215 8420

incorrectly mentioned as Kahkashan

Bano in her aadhar card rest other

academic records its mentioned as

Ansari Kahkashan Bano which is

true and correct. Hence she should

be known as and name should be

read and written as Ansari

NOTICE

I have changed my name from PRIYANKA GUPTA to RIDDHI PRIYANKA GUPTA, in future I

should be known and recognised as

RIDDHI PRIYANKA GUPTA wife

of Anand Kumar Gupta, resident-

9/21, Rana Pratap Marg, Suryodaya

NOTICE

Colony, Lucknow.

Kahkashan Bano in future.

recognise by this name only



NOTICE

I have changed my name from Vibha Mishra to Babby Kumari, in future i shall be known as Babby Kumari D/o shri ram kumar plot no. 75, D. Shyam Nagar, Rampuram, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from SYED NAFEES AHMAD to NAFEES AHMAD. In future I Shall be known as NAFEES AHMAD. NAFEES AHMAD, S/o Abdul Qaiyum, Kareha Karchhana Prayagraj UP.

जे०बी०एल० श्रीवास्तव यह सूचित करना चाहता हूँ कि प्लाट न० –14 / ३९ वन्दावन योजना, लखनऊ का आवंटन पत्र की मूल प्रति खो गयी है। जो कही विक्रय बंधक नहीं है। जिसका भविष्य में दुरूपयोग अवैध

NOTICE

I hitherto known as GANGA DEI W/o GANGA PRASAD R/o Vill Bethar, Mawaiya Mafi, Unnao (U.P.) 209801 I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as

NOTICE

I have changed my name BALI HARISH RAWAT for future purpose. Add- MOHAN UNNAO.

सूचना

मैनें अपना नाम KURAISA BEGUM से बदलकर KURAISA रख लिया है। Kuraisa W/o Ahmed Hasan R/o Chak Ismailpur, Post-Afoi, Fatehpur

NOTICE

I, JUNU TAMANG W/O Army No. 15178266A Rank HAV (OPR) ANMOL RAI Unit 641 (I) SATA BTY of C/o 56 APO.1 have change my name from JUNU TAMANG RAI to JUNU TAMANG due to wrong declaration signed. Both name JUNU TAMANG RAI and JUNU TAMANG pertains to one and the same person

NOTICE

In my paasport (Number M 1336375) my name is entered as Avdhesh kumar singh and DOB-05/04/1979 by mistake. While my correct name is Avadhesh and DOB is 01/01/1978, which is also entered in my adhar card. I want to known by my correct name AVADHESH and DOB-01/01/1978 Only. Kindly correct it accordingly. Avadhesh S/o Poornamasi R/o-287, Deenapanah Barabanki, UP-225306.

Delivery boy killed Politician's daughter-in-law Student tied to pole, beaten alleges dowry harassment

The daughter-in-law of a prominent political party leader and former president of an autonomous body of the Uttar Pradesh government has levelled serious allegations against her in-laws, accusing them of dowry harassment, police said on Monday.

An FIR has been registered at the Hazratganj women's police station and the investigation is ongoing, they added. The woman has also accused

her husband, a film director, of making obscene videos and photos of young girls under the pretense of helping them launch their acting careers. According to her complaint, her husband deceived aspiring actresses by promising them roles in films and then black-mailed them with explicit

She claimed that her husband's computer contains hundreds of such clips.
In addition to the allegations

against her husband, she also alleged that her father-in-law

Case registered after

two boys drown in

rainwater-filled pit

Lucknow (PNS): A case has been registered against illegal miners in connection with a

four-day-old incident in which

two boys drowned in a rainwa-

ter-filled pit in Sarojini Nagar

on Sunday. The case was filed

based on a complaint by lekh-

According to the complaint,

Manas, a Class IX student

from Murali Vihar, and Durgesh, a student from

Vishnu Nagar, along with a friend, went to bathe in the pit.

While bathing, both Manas and Durgesh drowned, while

the third boy managed to

The lekhpal alleged that illegal mining activities by unknown

individuals on airport land had created deep pits, which subsequently filled with rain-

water. The boys, unaware of the pit's depth, lost their lives while

swimming. Sarojini Nagar Inspector Rajdev Ram Prajapati

confirmed that a case had been

registered against unidentified

pal Rajesh Tiwari.

and other family members harassed and threatened her over dowry demands.

The complainant said that she got married in 2010 and that her in-laws demanded Rs 5 lakh in cash and a car shortly after the wedding.

"My brother arranged Rs 5 lakh in installments, but even after that, their demands didn't stop, and they started physically abusing me," she alleged. She also alleged that the situation ation worsened after the birth of her daughter, with the inlaws subjecting her to further insults and isolation.

According to her, they threatened to frame her and her brothers in false legal cases if the dowry demands were not met. "On September 27, I received

a death threat via a WhatsApp call, along with a threat to falsely implicate me brother in a drug case," she alleged. She further claimed that her husband's criminal activities spanned from Lucknow to Mumbai, where he allegedly

exploited young women by

The Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) plans to intensify its campaign

against the stray cattle menace

in the coming days. Current estimates suggest there are

250-300 stray cattle roaming around on city roads.

Animal welfare officer, LMC,

Abhinav Verma said that a

daily cattle-catching exercise

results in the capture of about

25-30, and sometimes up to

40, bovines. These animals are

taken to gaushalas and kanji

"There is a provision for releasing cattle to their owners upon payment of a Rs 10,000 fine per cow. We cur-

rently have around 10,000

cows in the gaushalas, while

the rest are in the Kanji house.

In the past month, we have

captured nearly 800 to 1,000

Highlighting a key issue, he said: "People in urban areas

stray cattle," he explained.

photos under the guise of casting them in films.

She said when she reported this to her father-in-law, he did nothing and instead told her to stay silent.

The complainant also recounted an incident where her husband allegedly abandoned her and their daughter in Mumbai, leaving them alone for months at a time under the excuse of work. When she objected, he allegedly threatened to commit suicide by jumping in front of a train.

An actress from Aliganj had filed a separate case in June 2024 against the same man. She had accused him of mak-She had accused nim of making pornographic videos of her after falsely promising work in a music video and exploiting her under the pretense of marriage.

On the night of June 16, the actress had alleged that she was assaulted by the man and his two associates near the Ishwar Dham Temple in Indiranagar. That case is also under investigation.

LMC to intensify campaign

against stray cattle menace

have set up dairies in their

homes. After milking, they

leave the animals on the

streets. If owners kept their

bovines tied at home, this problem wouldn't exist. Male

animals are also abandoned

The situation is complicated

further by conflicting interests between the LMC, which

seeks to control the stray pop-

ulation, and the Animal Husbandry department,

which aims to increase it through natural breeding and artificial insemination. "These efforts contradict each other,"

From 2019 to 2024, the LMC

has removed 1,411 illegal dairies from the city, yet the

issue of stray cattle persists.

Verma acknowledged that

some dairies may have been reestablished, leading to ongo-

All dairies within the city are

illegal, and complaints prompt

he added.

ing complaints.

their removal.

because they have no work."

up for buffalo theft attempt

BSc student was tied to a A BSc student was tied to a pole and beaten with belts by villagers in the Bakshi Ka Talab (BKT) area for allegedly attempting to steal a buffalo. Despite his pleas for mercy, the villagers tore his clothes, continued to assault him, and later dragged him to the police station.

The seriously injured student was admitted to a hospital by police following the incident, which occurred in Lahongpur village. According to the villagers, the youth was caught attempting to steal a buffalo tied outside a house at around midnight on Saturday.

When the buffalo's owner raised an alarm, the suspect tried to flee but was chased down and caught by local residents.

The accused, identified as Mohit Rathore from Maholi, is a BSc student residing in BKT. The situation escalated on Sunday when villagers gathered at the police station to protest after the incident came to light.

"To prevent reestablishment,

court orders mandate that

police take action indepen-

dently. When we close a dairy,

we notify the police commis-

sioner and the relevant police

station to ensure enforce-

Verma emphasised the chal-

lenges faced in controlling

"Owners often resist when

we attempt to catch their cattle. In areas like Indiranagar

and Ashiyana, political groups oppose our efforts, insisting

that animals should roam freely rather than be con-

fined in overcrowded gausha-

He also mentioned political

pressure regarding the release

of captured animals. Currently, the city has six

kanji houses, four of which are

operational. One kanji house

is dealing with encroachment

issues, as a woman is residing

there, and efforts are under-

way to address this situation.

the stray population.

las," he pointed out.

ment," he said.

Mohit's condition is said to be critical. With no signs of improvement, he has been shifted to a super-specialty hospital. In response, the police took action against those involved in the assault. An investigation revealed that Ramkumar Yadav, Hrithik Gupta, Narendra Yadav, Kallu, Sudhir, and others were responsible for apprehending and assaulting the student before taking him to the police

station. All of them were arrest ed and sent to jail on Sunday. When the villagers learned of the arrests, they gathered at the police station and created a ruckus, demanding their release. Farmer Ramkumar Yaday stated that around 9 to 10 people were present when the student was caught attempting to steal the buffalo, and the villagers chased and apprehended him after he tried to flee.

Youth arrested for false info about leopard sighting

A mid reports of wolves and leopards attacking people in the state, a youth from Ganga Kheda village in the Gosainganj area was arrested by police for providing false information about a leopard sightmid reports of wolves and ing to UP 112 on Sunday night. Gosaingani SHO Brajesh Kumar Tripathi stated that Shiv Prasad, a resident of Ganga Kheda in Mahura Kala village, called UP 112 to report a leopard in the area.

"In response, a police team was

dispatched for verification and necessary action. After questioning local residents, we found the report to be false. The teams combed the area for over two hours and also informed the Forest department," he said.

Villagers later clarified that they had actually spotted a jackal. As a result, the police arrested Shiv Prasad, who was later identified as a drug addict, for providing misleading information. "We are taking legal action against him," Tripathi

मनगर पी0जी0 कालेज, रामनगर, बाराबंकी द्वारा निम्न पद पर सीधी भर्ती हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते ह ादनाम- नैत्यिक लिपिक, पद सं0-01. ग्रेड वेतन- 2000 (5200-20200), आय सीमा 18-40 वर्ष, शैक्षिय ग्रेग्यता - 10+2 इंटरमीडिएट एवम् नाइलेट द्वारा प्रदत्त सी०सी०सी० प्रमाण-पत्र हिन्दी√ अंग्रेजी में कम से कम क्रमs 25-30 शब्द∕मिनट की टंकण गति। नोट शैक्षिक अर्हता एवं भर्ती की विधि शासनादेश संख्य अ/2015/581/सत्तर-2-2015-16 (645) 2011. उच्च शिक्षा अनुभाग-2. लखनऊ दिनोंक 03 नवम्बर 2015 व म्नुसार की जायेगी। आरक्षित वर्ग को नियमानुसार आयु में छूट देय होगी। आवेदन पत्र सादे पृष्ठ पर लिखा जाएग मस्त प्रमाण-पत्रों की सत्यापित प्रतियाँ, एक पासपोर्ट साइज फोटो आवेदन-पत्र पर चस्पा हो, दो स्वपता लिएं लफाफे जिस पर 27-27 रू० का डाक टिकट चस्पा हो. आवेदन पत्र के साथ संलग्न करते हुये सीलबन्द लिफाफे व जिस्टर्ड डाक 🗸 स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा सचिव, रामनगर पी0जी0 कालेज, रामनगर, वाराबंकी, पिन- 225205 के पते पर भेजें ाज्ञापन के प्रकाशन की तिथि से 21 दिन (अन्तिम तिथि 21.10.2024) के अन्दर तक प्राप्त आवेदन पत्र ही मान्य होंगे।

ानगर पीoजीo कालेज, रामनगर, बाराबंकी द्वारा निम्न पद पर सीधी भर्ती हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं वदनाम- प्रयोगशाला सहायक (भगोल), पद सं०- ०१. ग्रेड बेतन- २००० (5200-20200), आय सीमा १८-४५ वर्ष, शैक्षिक योग्यता 10+2+3 स्नातक विषय में भूगोल एवम् नाइलेट द्वारा प्रदत्त सी०सी०सी० प्रमाण-पत्र। नोट गैक्षिक अर्हता एवं भर्ती की विधि शासनादेश संख्या- 3/2017/5747/ सत्तर-2-2015-16 (645) 2011, उच्च शिक्षा अनुभाग-2, लखनऊ दिनाँक 01 अप्रैल 2017 के अनुसार की जायेगी। आरक्षित वर्ग को नियमानुसार आयु छूट देय होगी। आवेदन पत्र सादे पृष्ठ पर लिखा जाएगा। समस्त प्रमाण-पत्रों की सत्यापित प्रतियों, एक पासपोर्ट साईर कोटो आवेदन-पत्र पर चस्पा हो, दो स्वपता लिखे लिफाफे जिस पर 27-27 रू० का डाक टिकट चस्पा हो. आवेद पत्र के साथ संलग्न करते हये सीलबन्द लिफाफे को रजिस्टर्ड डाक / स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा सचिव, रामनगर पी०जी हालेज, रामनगर, बाराबंकी, पिन- 225205 के पते पर भेजें। विज्ञापन के प्रकाशन तिथि से 21 दिन (अन्तिम तिथि 21.10.2024) के अन्दर तक प्राप्त आवेदन पत्र ही मान्य होंगे।

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Study highlights challenges of vaccine hesitancy in rural areas

PNS LUCKNOW

A recent study conducted by experts across multiple disciplines has highlighted the challenges of paediatric vaccine hesitancy in rural Lucknow. Led by Dr Neha Thakur Rai, associate professor in the department of paediatrics at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, and qualitative researcher Hina Mehrotra, the study concluded this month (September).

Dr Thakur explained that the study aimed to identify factors contributing to vaccine hesitancy regarding new vaccines, enabling the government to address these issues effectively. 'Vaccine hesitancy is a significant barrier to vaccination coverage worldwide. The World Health Organization even ranks it among the top 10 public

health challenges," she noted. The study focused on understanding the factors influencing vaccine hesitancy among parents of children aged 12 to 17. While it primarily examined hesitancy towards COVID-19 vaccination, the findings are relevant to hesitancy surrounding any new vaccine. The research revealed that parents' reluctance to vaccination stemmed largely from fears of side effects. Specifically, 34% of parents delayed vaccination due to concerns about post-vaccine fevers and mild flulike symptoms. Moreover, 45% expressed skepticism about these symptoms, despite their mild and temporary nature.

Interestingly, 66% of parents proceeded with vaccination only after government mandates were imposed for accessing essential services, though many remained unconvinced due to fear rather

than a solid understanding of vaccine safety. Cultural beliefs also significantly impacted hesitancy.

"For instance, 22% of parents viewed post-vaccination fever as a sign of harm rather than a normal immune response," Dr Thakur explained.

The study also identified logistical barriers that made vaccination challenging for many families, with 40% of respondents facing difficulties accessing vaccination centres, particularly in remote areas like Bakshi Ka Talab and Malihabad.

Additionally, 32% were uncertain about proper dosing intervals and overall vaccine effectiveness, while 48% expressed concerns about long-term side effects on their children's health, despite 70% agreeing that vaccination is essential for preventing severe illness.

Maximum dengue cases coming from Aliganj, Indiranagar

Lucknow (PNS): The highest number of dengue cases in the city is being reported from Aliganj and Indiranagar, with 5-6 cases detected daily, according to an official from the CMO office. Efforts to combat dengue and malaria are being carried out in every zone, with teams deployed early in the morning by the Lucknow Municipal Corporation.

"Case-based activities follow these initial efforts," the official added. He noted that urban areas are more conducive to mosquito breeding compared to rural areas, leading to a higher incidence of dengue and malaria in the city. Joint director of vector-borne diseases programme of the Health department, Vikas Singhal, explained that urban environments provide ideal conditions for mosquito proliferation.

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARES OF

(Formerly Hindustan Lever Limited) Regd. Off. Hindustan Unilever Limited, Unilever House, B D Savant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (East) Mumbai - 400 099

HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LIMITED

as lost/misplaced and the Company intends to issue duplicate certificates in lieu thereof, in due course. Any person who has a valid claim on the said shares should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office within 15 days hereof.

Notice is hereby given that the following share certificates have been reported

Name of the holder	Folio No.	No. of shares	Certificate No.(s)	Distinctive No.(s)
1) Anita Dhanuka 2) Shriram Agarwal	HLL300 2670	(Rs.1/-f.v) 370	5296874	1253558771 TO 1253559140
Place: Kanpur				

Date: 01 October, 2024

OIPR-13102/11/0005/2425

CITYBRIEFS



CLEAN-UP DRIVE

well-being. The campaign con-

cluded with a plogging drive along the Gomti river and a 'Swachata Activity Exhibition' at Dilkusha Garden, showcasing innovative waste management practices.

Director of Nawab Wajid Ali

Shah Zoological Garden Aditi Sharma announced to host various competitions for school children and the open category during Wildlife Week from October 2 to 8. The event will kick off with a wildlife-themed fancy dress competition for students at Baradari, followed by a quiz on the Sarus crane. October 3 will feature a mehndi competition and a street play contest centered on wildlife and environmental themes. On October 5, there will be face painting and a 'Best Out of Waste' competition, while a rangoli contest for two student categories will be held on October 6. An art competition focused on wild animals' jaws, nails, and claws, as well as a photography contest on 'Wildlife of India,' will take

place on October 7. Winners will be given away prizes on



Sudheer Kumar from KHEO, Uttar Pradesh, along with certificates of appreciation. **TULSI GARDEN**

Gupta encouraged students to

continue such initiatives, and

prizes were awarded by Prof

A 'Tulsi Garden' was inaugurat-

ed at the Botanic Garden of CSIR-National Botanical Institute in Lucknow by CSIR-CIMAP director Dr PK Trivedi. Director of CSIR-NBRI Dr AK Shasany noted that this garden is the first of its kind at the Botanic Garden. Developed in collaboration with CSIR-CIMAP, the Tulsi Garden features ten elite varieties of Tulsi (holy basil), a flowering plant from the mint family, renowned for its aromatic leaves. This garden aims to promote the health benefits of Tulsi among the general public. Dignitaries also planted an olive sapling to commemorate the 'Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam' initiative of the Government of India. A large number of morning walkers, scientists, and staff

Ph. No.- 06658-222247 e-mail:- nac_ptg@yahoo.co.in web-site- www.nacpatnagarh.in

Letter No...1882/ Dated: ...26/09/2024 1st Corrigendum

NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, PATNAGARH

Financial BID For providing smooth sanitation services, the Tender committee has decided that each bidder must quote his rate not less than 3.85% and not more than 7% on T & P and Contractor

Profit only, unless bid shall be rejected. Also, wrong computation in finance bid will be liable for rejection. For reference Estimate is enclosed.

Detaestimate for sweeping of streets, collection of garbage, cleaning of drains & lifting of garbage from Ward No.1 to 15 of Patnagarh NAC

Population as per 2011 census	21024
Current Population (Approx.)	27000
Total nos. of labour required	(88) Nos.
Length of drain	25km
Length of Road	38 km
No. of Households	5528
No. of commercial units, Govt. and private institutions	

SI No	Details	Required Labour	Rate	No of Days	Cost (In Rs)
1	 Sweeping of Road (Lane/by-lane) as per requirement, bush cutting and shifting of dead animals, transportation of solid waste. (Un-Skilled) 		450.00	1	36,000.00
2	Labour (Semi-Skilled) Supervisor	4	500.00	1	2,000.00
	Labour (Skilled) Driver	4	550.00	1	2,200.00
3	TOTAL	88			40,200.00
4	EPF (13%)				5226
5	ESI (3.25%)				1306.5
6	Tools & Plants and Contractor profit (5% + 5% = 10%)				4,020
7	Vehicle (Tractor) with driver along with fuel 4 nos. Tractor (Detained hour 8 hrs & working hours 6 hours) @ 357.55 per hours.			1	8581.20
8	GRAND TOTAL (Per Day)				59,333.70
9	Annual cost			365 Days	2,16,56,801.00

Executive Officer

I have changed my name from ANAND KUMAR GUPTA to AANAND KUMAR GUPTA in the English alphabet, henceforth I should be known and recognised as AANAND KUMAR GUPTA son of Babu Ram Ashok Kumar, R/o 9/21, Rana Pratap Marg, Hazratganj,

During the 'Swachhata Hi Seva-2024' campaign, organised by HQ Madhya UP Sub Area and the Lucknow Cantonment Board from September 17 to October 2, soldiers, students, NCC cadets, and civil staff create a cleaner environment. Various activities spread awareness and encouraged participation in cleanliness efforts. Tree plantation drives enhanced local greenery, while a vibrant cycle rally promoted fitness and environmental consciousness. Health check-ups for Safai Mitra further supported community

October 8.

WILDLIFE WEEK

SCIENCE EXHIBITION

Maharaja Government PG College in

Ashiyana held a science exhibition on Monday. It was inaugurated by principal Dr Suman Gupta and programme coordinator Dr Kiran Yadav. Students from BSc first, second, and third years showcased impressive working and non-working models and posters on topics such as wastewater treatment, electrolysis, and solar energy. Faculty members, including Dr Kiran Yadav and Dr. Santosh Kumar, made useful were present on the occasion. contributions. Dr Suman

'Accidental Hindu' raised in Roman culture can't accept Ram Mandir: Yogi

PNS BAWANI/KHERA/ HISAR/PANCHKULA

In a veiled but scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the 'accidental Hindu' raised in Roman culture cannot accept the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

While campaigning in Haryana, the UP chief minister remarked, "The 500-yearlong wait has ended, and on January 22, 2024, Lord Shri Ram Lalla was enthroned in Ayodhya Dham by Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi. While the nation and the world celebrate the historic event, the unfortunate Congress, shedding crocodile tears, can-not stand this joy. This high-lights the contrast between Ram's culture and Roman cul-

He further stressed, "A person nurtured in Ram's culture has fought relentlessly for 500 years to uphold the honour of Lord Shri Ram. But, the unfortunate 'accidental Hindu' raised in Roman culture could not bear the sight of the enthronement of Lord Ram in Ayodhya Dham. Accidental Hindus can never truly be honest to the country and its people. Ram symbolises India. 'Jo Ram ka nahi, woh humare kisi kaam ka nahi' (Those who do not belong to Ram are of no use to

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held four public meetings in Haryana on Monday, urging voters to sup-port Kapoor Valmiki from Bawani Khera, Vinod Bhayana from Hansi, Captain Abhimanyu from Narnaund,

Ramkumar Gautam from Safidon, Gyanchand Gupta from Panchkula and Shaktirani Sharma from Kalka.

Hitting out at Rahul Gandhi further, Yogi said: "Those who claim there was singing and dancing at the inauguration of the Ayodhya Ram temple should remember that their family has been dancing and singing all their lives."

He added that Congress, by insulting Hindus, criticising Sanatan culture and undermining constitutional institutions abroad, calls into question its own credibility. "In 1526, the structure of slav-

erv was erected by demolishing the Ram temple. The Mughals and the British sought to erase every trace of Hindu religion and culture. Unfortunately, even the first government of independent India did not allow the nation to stand with pride. In 2014, Narendra Modi became prime minister. In 2017, the Bharatiya Janata Party formed the government in Uttar Pradesh. Once the double-engine government gained momentum, the 500-year-old problem was resolved in just two years. While 140 crore Indians are rejoicing, Congress is distressed by this development," he added.

While congratulating the people of Bawani Khera assembly constituency, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that the people here understand that if Congress comes to power, it will betray the country. He accused Congress of focusing on filling its own coffers rather than pursuing development. He also accused the Congress of neglecting the welfare of the poor. In contrast,



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing a public meeting at Bawani Khera in Haryana

he praised the significant development in Haryana under the "double engine" government. Yogi Adityanath also high-lighted the difference in approach, pointing out that Congress had stated that Muslims have the first right to the country's resources, whereas Prime Minister Modi asserts that the first right belongs to the poor, marginalised, Dalits, and the backward sections of society.

"Under Modi's leadership, India is emerging as a major power in the world. While 80 crore

people in India are receiving free rations due to the pandemic, Pakistan is moving around in the world with a begging bowl in its hand," he added.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that while Prime Minister Modi is focused on building the nation, the Congress, which ruled for 60 to 65 years, has repeatedly seized opportunities to loot the country, sending money to Swiss banks and other foreign locations.

"During the pandemic, while BJP workers followed the mantra of 'Seva hi Sangathan' at the call of Prime Minister Modi and party national president JP Nadda, Rahul Gandhi was nowhere to be seen. In moments of crisis, he remembers his grandmother in Italy, not India," he remarked.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asserted that when the Ram temple was constructed in Ayodhya under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Article 370 was also abolished. He noted that despite Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's opposition, Congress included Article 370 in the Constitution to maintain relations with Kashmir, ultimately leading to the rise of terrorism in the country. He further accused Congress of fostering a divisive environment among Hindus, leading to internal conflicts within the community.

Chief Minister Yogi stated that in the past, Uttar Pradesh experienced riots every few days due to "unfortunate individuals". However, he noted that for the last seven and a half years, the rioters were either in "jail" or in "hell". He emphasised that there are now no curfews or riots in UP, asserting that the situation

He criticised Congress for providing refuge to notorious mafias in Uttar Pradesh, claiming they had business partner-ships with them. Yogi Adityanath noted that the mining, animal, forest and land mafias were aligned with Congress, and urged the people to keep the party away from power. Describing Haryana as 'Veerbhoomi', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath remarked, "The hard work of the farmers here to feed the country is commendable. The soldiers from Haryana who protect the border give Pakistan a tough time."
Yogi Adityanath expressed his

excitement at seeing children portraying Ram, Sita, Hanuman, Laxman and Guru Vashishtha in Hansi. While criticising Congress, he told the gathering that they have decided that only Congress should don the costumes of Ravan, Meghnad and Kumbhkarna.

He emphasised that after coming to power in 1947, the issues that Congress had derailed were addressed first by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and later by Narendra Modi, resulting in the creation of a new India.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that Mahatma Gandhi believed the foundation of good governance in India could only be Ram Rajya. "Congress is the problem, and BJP is the solution. Congress is the mother of terrorism, extremism and corruption in the country. Those who talk about Rome and Italy should go there; why do they seek votes in Haryana, Hansi and Hisar?" he asserted. Reflecting on an anecdote from Jammu airport, Yogi shared, "A maulana greeted me with 'Ram-Ram', and I reciprocated. I was surprised and asked an officer if all the maulvis here say 'Ram-Ram'. He replied no; this is the effect of the removal of Article 370." Yogi Adityanath noted that those who once cursed Ram. Krishna and India are now saying 'Ram-Ram'. He emphasised that the stronger the BJP becomes, the stronger India will be, and as India grows stronger, people will witness more bhajans of Hare Rama-Hare Krishna on the streets. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath alleged that Congress does not believe in Lord Ram and Lord Krishna. He claimed that they advocate for land only for the Waqf Board, not for Ram and Krishna. He pointed out that Chand Mohammad has been given a ticket to loot Panchkula, asserting that even Lord Ram and Lord Krishna have turned their backs on the ill-fated Congress. Yogi emphasised the need for a strong and powerful government to ensure effective and honest governance. As elections approach, he noted that Congress' morale is declining as they realise their chances of success in Haryana are slim. He concluded with "Bharosa dil se, BJP fir se" (Trust from

the heart, BJP once again). Yogi pointed out that the Haryana elections would be held on October 5 and the counting of votes was scheduled for October 8. He added that Shardiya Navratri will commence on October 3 and Vijayadashmi will be observed on October 12, emphasising that the lotus should bloom before then to bring prosperity and development.

Address grievances of public promptly: CM



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath listening to the problems of people in Gorakhpur on Monday

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath listened to the problems of around 200 people during the Janata Darshan held at Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti within Bhawan Gorakhnath temple complex, for the second consecutive day on Monday, directing officials to promptly address their con-cerns. The chief minister collected the applications of all the citizens present at the Janata Darshan and forwarded them to the officials concerned, instructing them to ensure prompt and satisfactory resolution of each of the complaints.

"There is no need for anyone to feel anxious or distressed as all their issues will be resolved," he reassured the attendees. He advised the administration

handle public complaints in a timely, fair and effective manner. For specific cases, Chief Minister Yogi instructed officers to investigate if someone had not received the necessary support from the administration and to identify the reasons for such lapses. He also directed them to provide assistance to all the affected individuals immediately. He further directed strict legal action on land-grabbing complaints and emphasised resolving family disputes through mutual understand-

ing and harmony. As on previous occasions, many people came to the Janata Darshan seeking financial assistance for medical treatment. In response, Chief Minister Yogi Aditvanath instructed officials to expedite the hospital cost esti-

and police officers present to mation process and submit it to the government promptly. He said: "Sufficient aid for treatment would be provided from the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi interacted with children accompanying their families at the lanata Darshan. He showered them with affection and blessings and gave them chocolates. Earlier on Monday morning, after offering prayers to Guru Gorakhnath and paying homage at the samadhi of his guru, Brahmalin Mahant Avedvanath, Chief Minister visited the temple's gaushala. There, he fed jaggery to the cows, while also enquiring about their health and nutrition from the gaushala staff. He provided the necessary instructions to ensure their proper care.

Yogi seeks explanation from dist admns on complaint resolution shortcomings

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has sought explanations from various district administrations for their poor performance in addressing people's complaints received through the Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGRS), CM Helpline and on Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas. For the past several days, the chief minister has been receiving reports of delays and inaction in resolving grievances and has taken a firm stance against negligent officials. He has called for explanations from the district magistrates and senior superintendents of police/ superintendents of police of the districts involved.

It is anticipated that significant action may be taken against those found responsible for the negligence once the reports are Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently expressed displeasure during a high-level meeting over the negligence in resolving complaints received through the IGRS, CM Helpline, and on Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas. He instructed that reports be called for from the negligent officers. Following this, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh conduct-

ed a review of complaint resolution across the IGRS, CM Helpline and Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas. The review revealed poor performance in several districts between September 1 and September 25.

Many complainants expressed dissatisfaction, as recorded through feedback collected via the CM Helpline and CM Dashboard. Districts like Deoria, Bhadohi, Gonda, Lalitpur, Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Fatehpur, Azamgarh and Mirzapur reported dissatisfac-tion levels as high as 70 per

In response, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh reprimanded the district magistrates and senior superintendents of police/ superintendents of police of these districts and instructed them to make improvements. He is also preparing to submit the findings of the review to the Chief Minister's Office.

Experts suggest that based on the report, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath may take strict action against negligent officials. However, the review also highlighted districts that performed well in resolving complaints in August and September. In August, Auraiya, Lakhimpur Kheri and Lucknow were commended for their timely resolution and submission of special closure reports. Similarly, in September, districts such as Auraiya, Lakhimpur Kheri, Meerut, Saharanpur and Gorakhpur demonstrated strong performance. The chief secretary praised the district magistrates and senior superintendents of police/ superintendents of police of these districts and directed other officers to follow their example.

CM Yogi to honour Paris heroes today

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, committed to transforming Uttar Pradesh into Uttam Pradesh, will honour athletes who have brought glory to the nation and the state by representing India on the world stage in Paris. On Tuesday, 14 Olympians and Paralympians will be felicitated in the grand event at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan here. This includes seven medal-winning Olympians and Paralympians, along with seven athletes from the state who participated in the global sporting arena. A total prize pool of ₹22.70 crore will be distributed by Chief Minister Yogi to these athletes. The event will not only celebrate the achievements of these athletes on the global stage, but also serve to inspire the next generation of young talent. Among those to be honoured are Praveen Kumar, Suhas LY, Ajit Singh, Preeti Pal, Simran, Lalit Upadhyay, and Raj Kumar

Praveen Kumar, who clinched gold in the KT 64 event at the Paris Paralympics, will receive ₹6 crore. Suhas LY and Ajit Singh,



both silver medalists at the Paris Paralympics, will be awarded Rs 4 crore each. Preeti Pal, who earned two bronze medals, will receive ₹4 crore, while Simran, a bronze medalist, will be given ₹1 crore.

Pal, members of the Indian hockey team that won bronze at the Paris Olympics, will also receive ₹1 crore each.

Additionally, Parul Chaudhary, Anu Rani, Privanka Goswami, Prachi Chaudhary, Sakshi Kasana, Dipesh Kumar and Yash Kumar, who represented Uttar Pradesh at the Paris Olympics and Paralympics, will each be awarded ₹10 lakh for their contributions. Chief Minister Yogi will also interact with the athletes, sharing their inspirational stories to motivate and encourage future generations.

SP leader among two booked for abducting woman

Lucknow (PNS): A Samajwadi Party leader and another person have been booked for allegedly abducting a 22-year-old woman in Ballia district, police said on Monday. According to the FIR, the

woman visited the house of SP

leader Shambhu Nath Yaday last Wednesday and has been missing since then. The incident took place in the Ubhav police station area. Deputy Superintendent of Police Mohammad Faheem Oureshi said the woman's father filed a complaint against Shambhu Nath Yaday, a former chairman of the District Cooperative Bank and Pankaj Yadav alias Arpit. Citing Shambhu Nath Yadav's criminal record, the complainant said he feared for the life of his daughter, adding that she might be harmed. The FIR states that Pankai Yaday abducted the woman with Shambhu Nath Yadav's assistance. An investigation into the matter is underway police said. SP's district spokesperson Sushil Pandev confirmed that Shambhu Nath Yadav is a party leader and previously served as the chair-man of the District Cooperative Bank.

NOTICE INVITING BID (TENDER)

No. 550/DSGAH, Bhubaneswar

TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS AND CONTINGENT ARTICLES TO GOVERNMENT AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL PHARMACY, BHUBANESWAR, GOVERNMENT AYURVEDIC PHARMACY, BOLANGIRAND GOPABANDHU AYURVEDA MAHAVIDYALAYA PHARMACY, PURI ODISHA.

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers including wholesale co-operative organizations and Government/ Semi Govt. agencies for supply of raw materials and contingent articles to Government Ayurvedic Hospital Pharmacy, Bhubaneswar, Government Ayurvedic Pharmacy, Bolangir and Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya Pharmacy, Puri for preparation of Ayurvedic Medicines for the financial year

1.	Value of Tender	Rs. 1,05,00,000/- (One Crore Five Lakhs) Only
2.	Cost of Tender Book	Rs.1,050.00 (One Thousand and Fifty rupees only including GST)
3.	Availability of tender book	In the office of the Deputy Superintendent, GAH, BBSR only in shape of D.D./Bankers Cheque in favor of the Deputy Superintendent, Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Old Town, Bhubaneswar
4.	Mode of payment of cost of Tender Book	In shape of Demand Draft / Bankers Cheque in favor of Deputy Superintendent Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, payable at Bhubaneswar.
5.	Date of commencement of sale of Tender Book	Dt: 01.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 21.10.2024 at 4.00 P.M.
6.	Last date & time for submission of tender	Dt: 21.10.2024 at 4.00 P.M.
7.	Mode of submission of tender	To be received through a sealed Tender box kept in the office chamber of the Deputy Superintendent, GAH, BBSR, Odisha.
8.	Mode of submission of sealed samples	To be received by the Deputy Superintendent, GAH, BBSR, Odisha, and in his absence A.M.O., I/c-Pharmacy, Govt. Ayurvedic Hospital, Bhubaneswar will receive the samples at the time of submission of tender paper within the scheduled date and time.
9.	Date, Time &Place for opening of tenders	Technical bids will be opened on dt. 23.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M. at Governmen Ayurvedic Hospital Pharmacy, Bhubaneswar. The date, time & place of opening of the Financial Bids of the technically qualified bidders will be in

The tender inviting authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without

assigning any reason thereof. For details, please log on to www.ayushodisha.nic.in -Sd-Dr. Banditarani Mishra Deputy Superintendent Govt. AyurvedicHospital, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Yogi govt moots health helpline for rural women builds on these efforts, further Sitapur to have 200-bed hospital for males

Adityanath, is set to launch the fifth phase of its ambitious Shardiya Navratri. As part of this new phase, a dedicated

introduced soon particularly in rural areas. Modeled after the (EPC) mode under the supersuccessful 1090 Women vision of the Planning depart-Powerline initiative, the ment. The department has set helpline aims to provide accessible healthcare support to ject within 18 months of the women who often face barriers approval of the detailed project in discussing health issues due to social stigma.

One of the standout features of this helpline is the provision of tele-consultations with gynaecologists, offering expert medical advice without requiring women to travel to distant hospitals or clinics. This is especially significant for women in remote areas, where access to specialised medical care is limited. The helpline will

The Uttar Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath government, dedipital will be designed as a four-

cated to providing top-tier healthcare services in Uttar Mission Shakti' programme on October 3, the first day of district hospital for males in Sitapur. The project, to be built health helpline for women

-'Women Health Line', will be
executed in engineering, prothe target to complete the proreport (DPR), aligning with Chief Minister Yogi's vision to meet future healthcare needs. To accelerate the project, the preparation of key monitoring

documents, including the DPR,

is already underway. The hos-

empower women to seek time-

ly and confidential medical

assistance, bridging the gap in

healthcare services in rural

UP. Mission Shakti, launched

storey facility, including the ground floor, with specialised medical blocks on each level. It will be equipped with modern amenities such as a building management system, solar panels, a public address system, computerised communication and CCTV surveillance.

For timely execution, a phased deadline has been set for the construction. The project management consultancy agency will oversee the entire process, including the construction phase. The DPR and architectural design will be completed within 75 days, after which, upon approval, all construction and development work will be finalised within the stipulated 18 months (excluding the rainy season). Additionally, a 36-

on October 17, 2020, has been

Adityanath government, focusing on women's safety, dignity and empowerment. Over the

key initiative of the Yogi

long-term quality. In line with Chief Minister Yogi's vision, the male district hospital will be designed to meet future healthcare demands. The facility will be constructed according to the Uttar Pradesh Energy Conservation Building Code (UPECBC), incorporating rainwater harvesting and solar energy systems. Waste management will adhere to the Building Material and Technical Council (BMTPC) standards for safe disposal. The hospital building will feature an out-patient department (OPD), a waiting hall, two operation theatres (OTs), an intensive care unit (ICU), and

month defect liability period

has been established to ensure

examination rooms on the

years, the programme has expanded to include initiatives promoting women's employment, education and hygiene. The upcoming fifth phase

ground floor.

cementing the state government's commitment to improving the lives of women from all walks of life. According to the Women and

Child Security Organisation (WCSO), the new health helpline will not only provide immediate medical advice, but also help women navigate issues related to maternal health, reproductive health and mental well-being.

The helpline aims to address the pressing healthcare needs of women in rural regions, where access to quality medical care remains a challenge. he Yogi Adityanath government has continuously prioritised women's health, recognising the importance of safety, selfreliance and dignity for women and children across the state. Each phase of Mission Shakti has introduced groundbreaking reforms, starting with its inception in 2020, followed by the second phase on February 26, 2021, the third phase on August 21, 2021, and the fourth phase on October 14, 2022.

CMO inspects urban CHC, seeks info about OT, other services

The Health department on Monday made the people aware about heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) to mark the World Heart Day.

On the occasion, an NCD screening camp was organised at Urban Community Health Centre (CHC) Durgakund. The camp was inaugurated by Chief Medical Officer (CMO)

Dr Sandeep Chaudhary. More than 100 people were screened in the camp. In this, high blood pressure, sugar and ECG were also examined. During this, the officers and employees of the Health department also got blood pressure, sugar, ECG tests done.

The chief medical officer making the people aware said that



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary examining a patient at a screening camp in Varanasi

all people above 30 years of age should get blood pressure, sugar etc checked regularly. If the people. For this, yoga

"The current environment and

done every morning so that one remains healthy from heart, blood pressure, sugar problems etc", he said.

Dr Chaudhary inspected the urban CHC Durgakund. He also took information about operation theatre, lab, drug storage and other services. He informed that World Heart Day is celebrated every year on September 29 for public awareness.

On the occasion ACMO and Superintendent Dr Nikunj Kumar Verma, Deputy Chief Medical Officer (DyCMO) Dr Piyush Rai, NCD Nodal Officer Dr Yatish Bhuvan Pathak, MO Dr Praveen, NTPC's Dr Saurabh Pratap Singh, NCD Consultant from WHO Dr Yogesh Yadav along with other medical officers and health workers were present.

NKCP: 19 more farmers agree to sell land

Kanpur (PNS): As many as 19 more farmers have given consent to sell their about two hectares of land to the Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) for the New Kanpur City Project (NKCP). At a camp organised at KDA Greens Office, Singhpur, on Sunday, these small farmers signed on the consent letter to sell their land available in Singhpur Kachhar, Sambharpur, Gangpur Chakbada and Hindupur village in presence of the OSD/SDM Dr Ravi Pratap Singh, tehsildars Dr Archana Sharma, Ramnath, Amins Santosh Kumar, Ramlal and Manoj Kushwaha. OSD/SDM Dr Singh said on the basis of consent given by total 23 farmers, cheques and demand drafts worth ₹40 crore to purchase about four hectares of land from them were ready for delivery. The process for executing bainama and registry was on at sub-registrar office to secure possession on farmers' land.

Man stabs wife to death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A man stabbed his wife to death in Singhpur village under Vidhnu police area late on Sunday night. After killing his wife and establishing physical relations with her, he escaped from there. When the children woke up on Monday morning and saw the profusely bleeding body of their mother, they informed their maternal uncle living in same locality. On getting information police and forensic team rushed to the spot and recovered a cigarette packet, used condom, two wrappers and some medicine packets from

Sanjay Nagar of Singhpur was a labourer and engaged in sale and purchase of waste material. He was married to Guddan (30) of same village about 17 years ago. Guddan's brother Lavkush said late on Sunday evening, Sanjay Nagar had gone to Vidhnu to sell waste material on a bicycle. After selling the waste, he had returned

home with chicken and liquor. The couple had heated arguments on this. After forcibly getting his children to sleep on the rooftop, he killed Guddan and escaped from there. ACP Ghatampur Ranjit Kumar Singh along with Vidhnu police and forensic team rushed to the spot and carried out investigations. The body was sent for

ACP said on the complaint of Guddan's brother, a first information report (FIR) against her husband had been registered and raids are on to nail him. Three teams besides the surveillance squad have been deputed to nail the accused, he

MISHAP DEATH: One driver was killed when two truck containers collided head on on the narrow culvert on Lucknow-Bangermau road under Hasanganj Kotwali police station area of Unnao on Sunday night. On the other hand, the driver of the other truck container was referred to the Lucknow trauma centre. After the inci-

dent, there was a massive jam for about three hours. Reports said that Dipanshu (26) of Sikandrabad under Agrana police station, Hathras, was going towards Miyangani from Lucknow, while Saurabh (35). son of Ramkishan of Pakadpur Bajari, Sultanpur, was going to Varanasi with sugarcane. Around midnight on Sunday both the truck containers collided head on on Lucknow-Bangermau road on the narrow culvert in Musepur village. Police rescued drivers of both the truck containers with the help of hydra and admitted them to CHC where Saurabh was declared dead by the doctors. In view of his serious condition, Dipanshu was referred to Lucknow Trauma Centre. Kotwali in charge Chandra Kant Mishra said driver of one of the truck containers died after being trapped in its cabin while the condition of other driver was critical at the trauma centre. Meanwhile a motorcyclist was killed in Jalaun district on Monday morning.

Democracy is in ICU, alleges ex-V-C of LU



Ex-LU VC Prof Roop Rekha Verma addressing a seminar in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

 $F_{\text{C}}^{\text{ormer Vice-Chancellor (V-}}$ (LU) Prof Roop Rekha Verma alleged that democracy is in ICU right now and all institutions and society are sick. She was speaking as the main speaker at a seminar on 'Challenges of Democracy and Creation of New India' organised on the 117th birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh at Paradkar Bhawan here on Sunday under the auspices of Nagrik Samaj.

She said the soul of democraand protest if democratic methods are violated. "Along with the government, the public will also have to understand these rights of theirs and have the courage to demand answers. If these three conditions are not fulfilled, democracy can never be strong", Prof Verma said, adding that even before 2014, democracy was 'weak', but we could criticise the government without any danger but it is not the case now as now people are accused of treason. She alleged that the people demanding rights are not only being put in jail but now they are also being trapped Regarding the minorities, she in the net of treason.

while the Hindus into Brahmins and Thakurs", she said, praising the protest of IIT-BHU students in a rape case. "At present, democracy has been shattered, it does not have to be saved, it has to be restored", she said, adding that just conducting seminars will not work, we need to constantly go among the deprived classes and talk about the problems of their lives and make them aware, only then we will be able to create a new India. "We will have to work to create a free and violence-free society," Prof Verma said.

cy is the public at its centre who Addressing the seminar as a can express their disagreement special speaker, state chief of eonle's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) Seema Azad said today all the pillars of democracy have been put aside. 'The judiciary, which was the only pillar left till now, has also been put aside now", she said. Seema Azad said that fascism has come wrapped in this democracy. "The country is full of rape incidents, in which if we look at the role of the police and the government, they have always been in support of the rapists, like the cases of Hathras, Gohari etc. This situsaid incidents of lynching are "The Muslims are also being divided into Shias and Sunnis" happening almost daily and union activist VK many illegal things are being comed the guests.

done to scare them like running bulldozers. "Fascism is not just a unitary form of power but works to pit one section of the public against the other", she said, adding that the other", she said, adding that the three new laws are completely 'anti-democracy' in which the fundamental rights to file an FIR has been taken away. "The new law on lynching does not even mention killing on the basis of religion. These laws have brought out the cruel face of fascism. The country's netural resources are being natural resources are being looted and tribals are being forcibly removed. Army camps are being set up there", she said, appealing to all groups like women, tribals, farmers etc to express solidarity with each other. "Until this happens, we will not be able to establish democracy in the true sense", she said. While presiding over the seminar, historian Dr Mohammad Arif said we should be clear about the difference between the kind of new India the BJP-RSS government wants to build and the kind of new India we want to build. "Efforts are being made to eliminate the role of the people in democracy. Scientific consciousness is now being eliminated. This is also being done through the New Education Policy 2020. The law is for those who capture power, and to suppress the public", he said, adding that to save democracy, we will have to go to the streets and to come on a common platform. Many educationists, socio-political activists and thinkers from Varanasi and other districts of Purvanchal (eastern UP) were present in the programme. At the beginning, folk song writer Yudhishthira created an enthusiastic atmosphere through songs and Pragya presented a play on patriarchy. The programme was conducted by Vinay while trade union activist VK Singh wel-

BHU once again demonstrates excellence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has once again demonstrated its academic and research excellence, with 46 faculty members fea-tured on Stanford University's prestigious list of the top two per cent of scientists worldwide. This esteemed global list recognises the significant contributions of researchers across diverse fields and is compiled by Stanford University in collaboration with Elsevier, categorising scientists into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-

The career-based list includes 46 BHU scientists while the single-year list features 51 faculty members. The career data is updated through the end of 2023, while the single-year citations reflect achievements from the calendar year 2023.

Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain said, "It is encouraging to note that 46 faculty members from BHU family have featured in the Stanford list of top scientists. This reflects the world class research ecosystem and extraordinary research talent at BHU. I strongly believe that BHU has great potential to be counted amongst the leading

research universities of the world. Heartiest congratulations to all the scientists who have made it to the list."

Prof Shyam Sunder, Institute of Medical Sciences, stated, "I am very pleased with the Stanford University ranking me at the highest rank amongst BHU scientists, I have also been ranked number one in Tropical Medicine in India and sixth in the world. It is a great honour for me and for my university. It provides me with a great incentive to work harder and bring more laurels for my Alma mater." Prof Rajeev Pratab Singh from the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development said, "Besides other parameters the list is also based on H index and citations, hence, constantly being in the list acknowledges our research on waste management and ecotoxicology by the scientific com-munity worldwide in the field of environmental science."

The list is based on comprehensive metrics, including citation counts and H-index, reflecting the impact and quality of a scientist's work. It highlights leading researchers across various scientific fields, offering international recognition for

Death of MS student: FIR against 3 doctors

 $P_{\ against\ three\ doctors\ of}^{\ olice\ have\ registered\ an\ FIR}$ $against\ three\ doctors\ of$ $Swaroop\ Rani\ Nehru\ (SRN)$ $Hospital\ for\ their\ alleged$ involvement in the case of the suspicious death of Dr Kartikeya Srivastava, an MS student of Motilal Nehru Medical College, officials said on Monday.

On the complaint of the deceased's sister Dr Aditi Srivastava, a case was registered late on Sunday night against SRN's Hospital Dr Shivam Gupta, Dr Sachin Yadav and Dr Anamika under Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Deputy Commissioner of Police, (City) Abhishek Bharti said. Dr Srivastava alleged physical and mental abuse by a second-year senior student.

Dr Kartikeya Srivastava (28), a second-year MS student of Orthopaedics, was found dead in his car on Saturday night at SRN Hospital affiliated with Motilal Nehru Medical, police said earlier.

ACP Kotwali Manoj Kumar Singh on Sunday said that Dr Kartikeva Srivastava, a resident of Kotdwar in Uttarakhand, allegedly committed suicide by injecting himself with a poisonous substance. DCP Bharti said on Monday that the postmortem report of the deceased Kartikeya Srivastava is yet to come, only after which the real cause of death will be known. In the FIR, Dr Aditi Srivastava

alleged that since her brother was a junior resident and his second-year senior Shivam Gupta used to physically and mentally abuse him. Kartikeya had complained about this to Associate Professor (Orthopaedics) Sachin Yadav several times, but he did not

take any action. According to the complaint, knowing that Kartikeya had a problem with his leg, Sachin Yadav made him stand for 36 to 48 hours. Apart from this, a girl named Anamika, currently a junior resident (ophthalmology), was Kartikeya's friend for a vear and suddenly stopped talking to him. It said that when Kartikeva spoke to her about this, she told him that she was with someone else. The com-

underway, DCP said.

SEMINAR: A seminar on Business Ethics Beyond the Legal the Department of Commerce, Joseph School of Business

plainant said that she suspects

that her friend may have killed

Kartikeya to get rid of him. A detailed probe into the matter is

Studies & Commerce on Monday. Vice- Chancellor Prof Rajendra B Lal , who was the chief guest, inaugurated the seminar with his words encouragement and blessings. Participants from SHUATS, United University and Allahabad Degree College and SHUATS faculty members attended it. The Convenor Dr. Regina John, Associate Head, Department of Commerce, introduced the theme of the seminar. The convenor introduced the Resource persons Prof Tanuj Nandan, MNNIT Allahabad and Dr Philip Denis an academician from Varanasi. The resource persons talked about the Business Ethics and emphasised it's importance in our lives and in the business of today. The participants were enlightened with the insight provided by the prominent resource persons. The seminar concluded with the vote of thanks by convenor Dr Regina John who thanked the resource persons for their valuable inputs and participants and the organising team and Commerce department students. She thanked the co- convenors Dr. Sebastian T Joseph and Dr. Harshit E Williams and others for their continuous support and encouragement and guid ance to bring this seminar to a

Farewell ceremony held

A grand farewell ceremony was organised by IFFCO Officers' Association here in honour of the retiring officers Kripa Shankar, Chief Manager (Mechanical) and Dinesh Shankar, Manager Mechanical (PSG) here on Monday.

The retiring officers were honoured with a memento on the occasion. Senior



Executive (ED/Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia in his message a healthy, happy and long

The GMs respectively Sanjay Vaish, AP Rajendran, Sanjay Bhandari, PK Singh, IFFCO Officers' Association president Anurag Tiwari, General Secretary Swayam Prakash along with all the officials of IFFCO Officers' Association were present during the programme.

Capacity enhancement programme concludes

Varanasi (PNS): The national president of Indian Economic Association (IEA) and former Vice-Chancellor of Manipur Central University Prof AP Pandey, while addressing the young professors and research scholars as the keynote speaker on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the 12-day 'Capacity Enhancement Programme' organised by the Department of

Economics, BHU, in association with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Delhi, recently said that the guiding principles of research have been very clearly stated in our Rig Veda and Upanishads. "Today, the need is that our researchers should follow those principles and do welfare research work for the humanity of the world",

Kumar highlights need to combine Ayurvedic principles with cutting-edge scientific techs

Varanasi (PNS): The two-day national conference on Physiological and Clinical Aspects of Tridosha in Health and Disease (NCT-2024) organised by the Department of Kriya Sharir, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) started at KN Udupa Auditorium here on Monday.

on Monday.
At the inaugural session, the chief guest and Vice-Chancellor, International University of Vedic Wellness (IUVW) Prof Abhimanyu Kumar emphasised the need to adopt Ayurveda through a new perspective, integrating modern science and technology. He urged researchers and practitioners to view the traditional understanding of Tridosha as a dynamic and evolving system that can shape the future of per-

sonalized healthcare. Prof Kumar stressed that Vata, Pitta and Kapha are not merely theoretical concepts but powerful frameworks that, when combined with modern diagnostic tools, can guide predictive and

individualised treatments. Encouraging innovation, Prof Kumar highlighted the need to combine Ayurvedic principles with cutting-edge scientific tech-

Bioinformatics. He advocated for increased collaboration between Ayurveda, modern medicine, and biotechnology to better understand how doshaspecific treatments influence gene expression and disease mechanisms.

The integration of Ayurveda and technology, he suggested, could play a crucial role in building a robust, evidence-based global healthcare system.

Prof Kumar put forth the idea that the synergy of Ayurveda and modern science could unlock new possibilities in healthcare that meet global standards. Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda, IMS-BHU Prof PK Goswami presided over the function and emphasised the importance of the principles of Ayurveda in the current scenario of disease and management. "Ayurveda ancient Indian system of Medicine preaches about holistic and comprehensive approach to all aspects of the health of an individual and society as well as the cure of diseases of all living beings", he said, adding that Tridosha is the focal point where philosophical allpervading knowledge of Upanishad also exists.

nologies like Artificial The IMS-BHU Director Prof SN Intelligence (AI) and Sankhwar emphasised the importance of Ayurveda in integrative medicine. He expressed that this conference will be useful to learners of the fundamental principles of tridosha and its applicability in Ayurvedic diagnosis, therapeutics and lifestyle interventions and also uphold the role of Ayurveda in the contemporary health care system. Earlier, the scientific sessions in the morning hours dealt with the current understanding of human physiology, personality and lifestyle-related insights along with the ways of applying these in real-life situations concerning Ayurveda practice.

Prof Meera K Bhojani, the guest speaker from AIIA, Delhi talked about the assessment methods of dosha based on Tridosha functional state in health and disease by capturing the charac-

teristics of dosha. Prof Sarita Bhutada delivered a lecture on the relevance of Prakriti (Psychosomatic constitution) in the 21st century and discussed how the knowledge of Prakriti can be applied in daily life for personalised nutrition, maintenance of health, capturing aptitude for carrier, including the social interactions and social health.

Children showcase impressive drawings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Metro organised a special awareness programme in collaboration with the 'Madad Ki Raah Foundation' NGO, as part of the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' (SHS) campaign running from September 17 to

October Underprivileged children aged five to 12 years from the NGO showcased their impressive drawings on the t h e m e 'Swachhata Hi Seva'

Motijheel metro station. While holding their artwork, the children travelled on the Kanpur Metro, spreading a message of cleanliness awareness. Additionally, they were introduced to the world-class facilities and features of the Kanpur Metro. The children from the NGO arrived at Motijheel Metro Station around 1 pm where Kanpur Metro provided them with coloured wax pencils for their drawings. With enthusiasm, the children show-

cased their creativity, producing impressive artwork centred around cleanliness messages. As a token of appreciation, all participants received a book as a prize from Kanpur Metro. Following the drawing session, the children enjoyed a metro ride, proudly sharing the clean-

liness messages they had created. Passengers w e r e impressed enthusiasm of the children and

tant message they conveyed. The journey began at Motijheel station, went till IIT and concluded back at Motijheel station.

CAMP: On the occasion of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, The Sportz Hub (TSH), in association with the Indian Red Cross Society, will organise a blood donation camp on Tuesday. Addressing mediapersons, Chairman, Indian Redcross Society Dr Umesh Paliwal said the camp will be organised at TSH from 10 am to 2 pm.

Workshop on Jain Nyaya ends Varanasi (PNS): A 10-day

national workshop on 'Prameyakamalamartanda' written by Acharya Prabhachand, a book based on Jain Nyaya, sponsored by Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi, concluded at Parshwanath Vidyapeeth (PV) here on Sunday. The chief guest of the valedictory function was Dean of Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vigyan (SVDV) Faculty, BHU Prof Rajaram Shukla while the guest of honour was executive member of RSS Suresh Soni. The special guest was senior vice- president of PV Kunwar Vijayanand Singh. It was presided over by former head of Jain Buddhist Philosophy department, SVDV faculty, BHU, Prof Ashok Kumar Jain. PV director Dr Shri Prakash Pandey welcomed the guests. In the workshop, the scholars of Jain Nyaya from every corner of the country expressed their views as resource persons. As many as 52 participants from different states have participated in this workshop. Lectures of eight scholars have been presented. Prof Pradyumna Shah Singh from Jain-Buddhist Philosophy Department, SVDV BHU while giving a general introduction of Prameyakamalamartanda` said that the entire visible world is a



theorem and it is contemplated upon by proof. Pt Rajeshwar Vishwas Deshmukh said that there are three types of texts objective, characteristics and examination. Prof Dharmchand Jain, former head, Sanskrit department, Jayanarayan Vyas University, Jodhpur said that 'Prameyakamalamartanda' is a reliable text of Indian knowledge tradition. Prof Raja Ram Shukla, former V-C, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi, said book

the 'Prameyakamalamartanda' is not only helpful for Jain Nyaya but also in understanding other philosophies. Prof Anekant Kumar Jain of Shri Lal Bahadur Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi while explaining Naya in his lecture said that Naya means intention. The statement is considered to be of two types with the distinction of general and special. In Jain philosophy, an object is said to have many qualities. When we propound a special quality of an object, then it is Naya. Prof Shrevans Kumar Singhai, former dean of Central Sanskrit University, Jaipur Campus, said that there are three branches of philosophy - Tattvashastra, Gyanshastra and Ethics. Dr Yogesh Kumar Jain of Central Sanskrit University, Bhopal while telling about Kanada, the originator of Vaisheshik philosophy, said he did not store anything for himself, he used to satisfy his hunger by taking a grain of food wherever he found it. Prof Veersagar Jain of Shri Lal Bahadur Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi said 'Prameyakamalmartand' is a New

special treatise on Nyaya which is Prabhachandra's commentary Manikyanandi's Parikshamukh.



Rule of law key to social development: President Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said economic growth and social development are possible only where the rule of law is

Without maintaining law and order, ensuring justice and protecting citizens' rights, progress becomes a meaningless term, she said addressing a group of Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers, who had called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"One category of crime I would like to highlight here is crimes against women. While it is a complex phenomenon with its roots deep in a sick mindset as well as sickening social prejudices, it is, first of all, a crime. Therefore, fighting it requires action at many levels, but the first response comes from the police force," President

She said police officers working on these cases are expected to have exceptional sensitivity, empathy for the victim besides utmost commitment to the task of ensuring justice.

The president said police officers working on cases of crime against women are "expected to have exceptional sensitivity and empathy victim and



commitment to the task of ensuring

She said law and order is not only the bedrock of governance but also the very basis of the modern state, and asked the officers to be efficient, sympathetic, fearless as well as friendly. President Murmu said police officers' roles become more crucial as India aims to scale new heights in the years to come.

Economic growth and social development are possible only where the rule of law is upheld. Without maintaining law and order, ensuring justice and protecting citizens' rights, progress becomes a meaningless term,"

"The flip side, however, is that criminals and terrorists too have resorted to using technology. When cyber-crimes and cyber warfare are rising around the world, you will be expected to be tech-savvy and stay a step ahead of the criminals," President Murmu said.

the IPS. "I am told that in this batch there are 54 lady officers out of the total strength of 188. At 28.72 per cent, it is a sharp jump from last year's numbers as well as the average of recent years," the President said.

She said the role of lady officers goes much beyond addressing genderbased crimes.

Their increasing numbers can change the overall character of policing for the better, improve the police-community relations, and will prove beneficial to the nation too," the president said, addressing the IPS probationers of the 76 Regular Recruits (2023) batch.

President Murmu also advised the officers to make yoga a part of their routine and not ignore their mental well-being.

"I have spoken about the great responsibilities placed on your shoulders. These can sometimes be too stressful. I would like to offer you a word of advice in this regard.

"Never ignore your mental well-being. Make yoga, 'pranayama' and relaxation techniques part of your routine from now, and they will help you do your job better," she said. "The 'S' in 'IPS' stands for service", President Murmu said, and added that "one watchword above all is to serve the nation and its

Modi to launch projects worth ₹83,300 crore in Jharkhand



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $P_{\text{Modi will visit Jharkhand}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ on October two and lay the foundation stone, launch and inaugurate various projects worth over Rs. 83,300 crore in Hazaribag, Jharkhand, Prime Minister's Office(PMO)said here on Monday.

In line with his commitment to ensure comprehensive and holistic development of the tribal communities across the country, Prime Minister will launch Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan with a total outlay of over Rs 79,150

The Abhiyan will cover around 63,000 villages benefitting more than 5 crore tribal people in 549 districts and 2,740 blocks across 30 States and UTs.

It aims to attain saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, livelihood, through 25 interventions implemented by various 17 Ministries and Department of Government

In order to boost the educational infrastructure for the tribal communities, Prime Minister will inaugurate 40 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and lay the foundation stone for 25 EMRS worth over Rs 2,800 crore.

worth over Rs 2,800 crore.

Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple projects under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) worth over Rs 1360 crore 1360 crore.

It includes more than 1380 kms of road, 120 Anganwadis, 250 multi purpose centres and 10 school hostels.

Further, he will also unveil a series landmark achievements under PM JANMAN, which include, electrification of more than 75,800 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) households in around 3,000 Villages, operationalization of 275 Mobile medical units, operationalization of 500 Anganwadi centres, establishment of 250 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras and saturation of more than 5,550 PVTG Villages with 'Nal se



NHRC seeks report on tribal students electrocution

motu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

report that two students, execute such a hazardous task belonging to a Scheduled resulting in their deaths. death while cleaning a water report, carried on September tank on the instructions of the superintendent government-run hostel in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on September 25", the

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the chief secretary and the director general of police, the State government, seeking a detailed report within two

It appears that the hostel authorities have acted in an "insensitive manner" by asking the young boys to execute such a hazardous task resulting in their deaths, the Apex rights body said. It has issued a notice to the Madhya Pradesh government over reports that two tribal students were electrocuted allegedly while cleaning a It is also expected to include water tank on the instructions the status of the police of the superintendent of a investigation government-run hostel in Dhar district.

In a statement, the NHRC victims, the statement added.

authorities have acted in an "insensitive manner" by Cognisance of a media asking the young boys to

contact with a live wire connected to a water pump inside the tank while cleaning

They were spotted lying in the tank by villagers, who reportedly informed the hostel authorities, it said.

Commission observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious concern about human rights violations of the victim students.

has issued a notice to the chief secretary and the director general of police, the government of Madhya Pradesh, seeking a detailed report within two weeks, said a statement by the NHRC

compensation, if any, paid to

Accord 26, the students came into

Accordingly, the Commission

the aggrieved families of both

said, going by the reports, it appears that the hostel

The President asked the police officers to be tech-savvy and stay a step ahead of the criminals. Maintenance of law and order, crime prevention and detection as well as other aspects of policing have benefited from advances in technology, she said.

She expressed happiness over the rise

Indo-Pacific regional dialogue set to begin on October 3

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $S_{important}^{ituation\ in\ the\ strategically}_{Indo-Pacific}$ region will figure prominently during the three-day conference here starting October three. More than 20 countries will take part in the annual apex-level international Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue(IPRD), organized by the Indian Navy. Giving details, officials said here on Monday, in focusing upon "Resource-Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific, the 2024 edition of the IPRD would explore and elaborate upon the several dimensions of two vital pillars of the IPOI Web, namely, "Marine Resources" and

"Resource Sharing". This year's conference would concentrate upon the manner



contemporary geopolitics and are likely to do so in the foreseeable future. These include dwindling fish-

stocks - with a concomitant Illegal, increase Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, especially in oceanic areas beyond national

newly identified marine resource-geopolitics is the sources of energy. resources are driving geopolitical race for cobalt, In addition, offshore energy

lithium, nickel, and other hard-to-find minerals, as also rare earth elements (REE) such as tellurium and neodymium that are needed for the millions of batteries, solar panels, wind turbines, and other such renewable- and how cooperation, energy devices required to collaboration, and comity fully transition from in which traditional and Another manifestation of fossil-fuels to renewable

resources such hydrocarbons, are likely to retain their geopolitical significance, even as more unconventional ones, such gas hydrates and oceanic renewable energy resources – ocean-sourced hydrogen for example, appear likely to drive future geoeconomic strategies across the Indo-The IPRD-2024, through the

agency of a series of globally renowned subject-matter experts and eminent speakers, will endeavour to identify mega trends of resourcegeopolitics in the Indo-Pacific and posit policy-options that could be pursued to pursued to advantage.

Over a period of three days, it would also explore whether alternative within pathways of resourceparadigm

India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise begins in Uttarakhand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The eighth edition of achieved from the Joint India-Kazakhstan Joint Exercise are high degree of Military Exercise KAZIND- physical fitness, rehearsing 2024 commenced on Monday and refining drills for at Surva Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand and will conclude on October 13, defence ministry said here. The joint exercise has been held annually since 2016. Last edition of the Joint Exercise was held at Otar, Kazakhstan from October 30 to November 11 last year. The Indian Armed Forces,

comprising 120 personnel, are being represented by a battalion of the Kumaon Regiment along with other arms and services, as well as personnel from Indian Air Force.

The Kazakhstan contingent will be represented mainly by personnel from Land Forces and Air Borne Assault Troopers.

Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter terrorism operations in a sub conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The Joint Exercise will focus

employment of drones and counter drone among others. Joint Exercise KAZIND-2024 will enable both sides to share best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures of conducting joint operations. It will facilitate developing inter-operability, bonhomie

on operations in the semi-

urban and mountainous

terrain. Objectives to be

and sharing of best practices.

Tactical drills to be rehearsed

during the Joint Exercise

include joint response to a

establishment of a Joint

Intelligence and Surveillance

Centre, securing of helipad /

landing site, combat free fall,

Operations, Cordon and

Search operations, besides

tactical

operations at

terrorist

Special

Command

establishment

The Joint Exercise will also enhance defence cooperation, further augmenting bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.

and camaraderie between the

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh takes charge as IAF Chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, an accomplished fighter pilot with more than 5,000 hours of flying experience, on Monday assumed charge as new chief of the Indian Air Force, succeeding incumbent Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari who superannuated. Air Chief Marshal Singh was serving as Vice Chief of the Air Force in his previous assignment.

Born on October 27, 1964, Air Chief Marshal Singh was commissioned into the fighter pilot stream of the Indian Air Force in December 1984. In his long and distinguished service

spanning nearly 40 years, he has served in a variety of command, staff, instructional and foreign appointments. An alumnus of the National Defence



Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College, the air officer is a qualified flying instructor and an experimental test pilot with more

than 5,000 hours of flying experience on a variety of fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Air Chief Marshal Singh has commanded an operational fighter squadron and a frontline air base. As a test pilot, he led the MiG-29

upgrade project management team at Moscow. He was also the project director (flight test) at National Flight Test Centre and was tasked with flight testing of the Light Combat Aircraft,

The officer has held important staff appointments of Air Defence Commander at South Western Air Command and Senior Air Staff Officer at Eastern Air Command.

Prior to assuming the charge of Vice Chief of the Air Staff in February last year, he was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Air

Congress: Government employment

two armies.

Young travelers shape family vacations, says Hilton report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

An overwhelming 93 per cent of young travelers specifically Generation Alpha and Generation Z are actively involved in shaping their family's vacation according to a Interestingly, these young travelers are eager to explore both local and international destinations, showing a growing interest in cultures beyond Asia.

preferred Their destinations include India (34%), Singapore (28%), the USA (22%), and Australia and the UK (17%), said the "Small Voices, Big Choices: Hilton 2025 Trends Report". Revealing that these younger

generations are emerging as Alpha, those aged 14 and decision-makers, influencing destinations and activities, the report notes that Generation Z, born between in India, 76 per cent of parents 1997 and 2012, makes up 30 that young travelers in India



base their travel choices on their children's interests, demonstrating the power of youth preferences in shaping trips. Generation family under, comprises a quarter of India's population, while

per cent.

Although young travelers play a significant role in selecting activities and destinations, parents still handle logistical decisions like transportation (44 per cent), dining (40 per cent), and accommodation (32 per cent). The report notes trips per year, with 94 per cent traveling at least once annually. Looking ahead, 90 per cent of these youths plan to travel in the coming year, highlighting a strong demand for travel among younger

contrast, (Generation Y) tend to favor familiar Asian destinations for comfort and convenience, such as Japan and the Maldives. This generational shift is prompting the travel industry to innovate, creating more immersive and enriching culturally experiences that align with the values of these younger travelers.

Alexandra Jaritz, senior vice president brand management for Asia Pacific at Hilton, said that the preferences of Generation Alpha and Z are reshaping the travel landscape. "The travel landscape.

take an average of two to three demand for more meaningful, immersive, and culturally enriching experiences is prompting the travel industry to innovate. This shift reflects a broader

trend where younger generations seek not just to visit places but to engage with them in a deeper, more authentic manner." The findings are based on two

surveys: a global Ipsos poll and an APAC-focused OnePoll survey, indicating a comprehensive analysis of travel trends among young people in India and beyond.

While the Ipsos survey sampled 13,001 adults (18+) across 13 countries, the OnePoll survey included 8,000 Gen Z and Millennial parents (born in or before 1981) with children aged 6 to 19, from Australia, mainland China, India, Japan, and Singapore, said the report.

opportunities are half-truths PIONEER NEWS SERVICE The Congress on Monday

NEW DELHI

■ dismissed as "half-truths' the government's assertions of creating eight employment opportunities between 2021 and 2024 and 6.2 crore net subscribers joining the EPFO database, and said no "spin-doctoring" can take away from the fact that 2014-24 has seen "jobloss growth".

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said amidst the "U-turns and scandals" that have marked the last few months of this "tottering" government, "the nongovernment, "the non-biological PM and his drum beaters have tried to find some solace in their economic record, claiming to have



created eight crore employment opportunities between 2021 and 2024". This claim initially emerged from the RBI KLEMS data, which we had earlier countered on July 15th, 2024. The Government's spin doctors have now mustered another statistic - that of 6.2 crore net subscribers joining the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) database between September

2017 and March 2024. Both

claims are based on halftruths," he said in a statement. To justify its claim of eight new government adopts expansive definition employment, registering the quality and circumstances employment, Ramesh argued.

A large part of the claimed "employment growth" is recording unpaid household work done by women as "employment", he said, adding that it is not new job creation. Amidst the poor economic climate, the share of salaried, formal employment in the labour market has decreased, he said and pointed out that workers are moving to lowproductivity informal and agricultural jobs, which KLEMS is capturing as jobs

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Cauldron boiling

West Asia is once again on the precipice of a larger conflict, as tensions between Israel, Hezbollah and Iran reach a boiling point

he situation in the West Asia is becoming critical and it would not be surprising if the region is embroiled in a full-fledged war. The assassination of Hezbollah's longstanding leader, Hassan Nasrallah, marks a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Lebanese militant group. This development could pull not only Iran but also the United States into a broader and potentially devastating confrontation. Hezbollah, reeling from the assassination of its leader and the destruction of much of its command structure, finds itself at a critical juncture. With over a dozen of its top commanders eliminated and its communications infrastructure crippled, the group faces significant operational challenges. However, expecting Hezbollah to capitulate is unrealistic. The group, which has thousands of fighters and a sizable arsenal of longrange, precision-guided missiles capable of hitting major Israeli cities, has vowed revenge. With pressure mounting from within its ranks, there is a strong likelihood that Hezbollah



will attempt to launch a major offensive against Israel, potentially overwhelming Israeli air defences. If such an attack takes place and results in significant civilian casualties, Israel's response is expected to be swift and devastating, targeting Lebanon's infrastructure or even expanding the conflict to Iranian territory. Such a scenario could ignite a much wider conflict that drags the entire region into chaos.

For Iran, the loss of Nasrallah is as much of a blow as it is for Hezbollah. Iran, which has yet to respond to the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, is now facing heightened pressure from hardliners to retaliate. Iran's influence extends across the

region through a network of militias known as the 'Axis of Resistance,' which includes Hezbollah, the Houthis in Yemen, and various groups in Syria and Iraq. While Tehran will likely use these proxies to increase pressure on Israel, its response is expected to be measured to avoid triggering a full-scale war. Israel's intentions are now clearer than ever. The assassination of Nasrallah signals that Israel has no interest in halting its military campaign, despite international calls for a 21-day ceasefire, including one from its closest ally, the United States. Israel believes it has Hezbollah on the defensive and aims to continue its offensive until the group's missile threat is neutralised. A broader war would have catastrophic consequences, not only for the parties directly involved but for the entire region. Lebanon, already on the brink of economic collapse, could be devastated and any escalation could disrupt global oil supplies, sending shockwaves through the international economy. The coming weeks will be crucial in determining whether this conflict spirals into a wider regional war or if diplomatic efforts can halt the violence before it escalates further. As of now, this volatile region stands on the edge of a conflict with no clear resolution in sight. This is high time for the UN to step in and the West to make efforts for rapproachment else this region is going to burn for sure.



An artist prepares an environment friendly *puja pandal* ahead of Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata

The deceptive facade of China's military



BHOPINDER SINGH

Despite technological advancements, setbacks like the Zhou-class submarine sinking, reveal a widening gap between China's military claims and actuality

eception is at the heart of Chinese strategy and operations, especially on matters, the military. Ancient Sinological philosophers like Sun Tzu (The Art of War) had propounded extensively on cheating (likening it to a 'magic eapon') as a vital underpinning of deceptive warfare. The Chinese PLA Navy Submarine Academy has formally distilled four examples of deception in war (under the manual, Essentials of Sun Tzu and the Art of War and Submarine Operations'). Firstly 'Show yourself to intimidate the enemy, then 'Show the false to confuse the enemy, thirdly 'Create momentum to harass the enemy and lastly 'Deceive to obstruct the enemy. Herein, untruth is a natural necessity as per their established treatise. India would be well versed in how the Chinese would talk about the 1962 Indo-China War but remain conspicuously silent on the reversal of fortunes about the 1967 Nathu La and Cho La border clashes. While an estimated 340 Chinese soldiers had died then (88 on the Indian side) true to their downplaying style, they only accepted a figure of 32 fatalities. The Chinese are similarly circumspect or lying about the essential outcomes of the China-Vietnam War of 1979. This deliberate fudging of facts was to repeat itself in the 2020 India-China skirmishes on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). While India acknowledged the loss of its Bravehearts in the

bloody encounters, the Chinese shied away from acknowledging any of their own - this when the UŚ pegged the Chinese fatalities as 20-35, the Russians estimated Chinese loss of about 45, whereas the Australians insisted at least 41 Chinese killed. Almost a year later, the Chinese sheepishly admitted four fatalities killed in the Galwan clashes, as they gave away gallantry awards. True to their practised instincts. the Chinese always overstated

their gains and downplayed their

losses to deceive the onlookers

(especially their citizenry) to

retain 'manufactured' optics of

infallibility and invincibility, even

when the reality was a lot more

unheroic. This sovereign impulse of fake claims, downplaying failures, and overstating their capabilities has been elevated to a fine art, as is the won't of any authoritarian state reeling from regime insecurities.

It routinely manifests in their claims of making advancements in technologies, weaponry and platforms that are ostensibly cutting-edge and even ahead of peers like the United States or Russia. The reality is essentially predicated on reverse-engineering technologies that could be brazenly stolen or surreptitiously acquired - but the claim of 'homegrown' is gleefully posited.

A lot of 'fifth generation' fighters, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, Hypersonic technologies to Chinese nuclear submarines remain in public news but are essentially untested or unsubstantiated in live combat. While it has a considerable industrial base and budgetary allocation granted to its Defence Industry, like everything else in the Chinese realm, claims remain more impressive than reality. With this murky backdrop, came the recent news of the sinking of the latest Chinese nuclear submarine. The fact that the Zhou-class of attack submarine sank even before going into service, speaks volumes of the gap between purported tech-



AS IF ON THE REBOUND AND TO STITCH A COUNTER-NARRATIVE, CHINA IS BELIEVED TO HAVE

FIRED AN INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN, IN A MOVE THAT SEEMS DESIGNED TO DISTRACT AND DEFLECT FROM THE **EMBARRASSING** NEWS OF ITS SUNK SUBMARINE

nological advancements as opposed to factual efficacy. Incidentally, the US Deputy Secretary of State, Kurt Campbell, had confirmed that the Russians were helping China develop this submarine technology and that it too wasn't necessarily homegrown, as claimed. While this sinking of the submarine is believed to have happened in May earlier, it was never owned up by the Chinese and it took satellite images to unravel the sinking of the first-in-class nuclear-powered Chinese submarine. Ît is certainly a major setback for China's priority weapons programs that is key to its expansionist and hegemonic aspira-

As if on the rebound and to stitch a counternarrative, China is believed to have fired an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile into the Pacific Ocean, in a move that seems designed to distract and deflect from the embarrassing news of its sunk submarine and to reiterate its prowess and capability. Coming as the testing does after more than four decades routinely exposed. While still over the Pacific Ocean, it is a 'value player' for the desperunmistakably a 'signal' move to suggest that the 'Dragon' still retains sharp claws and fangs. Incidentally, the missile is part of the PLA's Rocket Force that was subjected to a sweeping corruption crackdown, purge, and complete overhaul last

year - something that could be inflicted again on the PLA Navy leadership, which was in charge of the sunk submarine. Already the chorus of substandard Chinese weaponry has gained decibels from traditional clients like Pakistan or from emerging ones like Bangladesh, who complained about the quality of spares for its navy. Russia's decline on the global stage as a military supplier has not resulted in an automatic transfer of business to the Chinese manufacturers, as earlier thought and the growing perception of 'Made in China' has a lot to do with the reactions. With the US returning to the Pakistani arms market (Islamabad accounts for over 50 per cent of Chinese exports), and the overall pressures of economic slowdown haunting the Chinese economy – Beijing is in a tight spot to invest, innovate, and deliver weaponry that truly delivers what it claims. It is premature to write off Chines 'Military-Industrial complex just yet, but the chinks in its armour are getting ate, authoritarian or 'paradise countries, its claim to cuttingedge technology is suspect.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views are personal)

The challenges of parenting in the age of technology



While the challenges are real, so too are the solutions — adaptation and patience remain the cornerstones of successful parenting in these digital times

onversations these days are rife with the refrain of how challenging life has become and how surfing the turbulent seas is not as easy as it used to be previously. It amuses me that we endorse this view readily despite the conveniences the modern world has introduced to us.

The all-round improvement in quality of life has done nothing much in terms of bringing us the sense of gratification that material accumulation is perceived to bring. Instead, we have only become crazier and more complaining. Among the things that we whine about there is one that stands out – the difficulty of being a parent in these times.

It is not like how it used to be when we were kids, they assert and are at a loss to keep their children under control be it about the use of gadgets or their demands for new-age comforts or following wellmeaning advice. Children these days have a way of growing up that parents can't seem to get a grip over, and parents are at their wit's end. Has parenting become so tough now, tougher than what

it used to be for our parents or theirs?

Before we delve into why it seems more difficult now than ever before, it is important to recognise that parenting has always been tough. Our grandparents may not have had to deal with social media addiction or the anxiety of being on constant alert, but they had their own set of worries—scarcity, lack of information, and fewer opportunities. Yet, they managed, just as we try to manage today. What, then, has changed so significantly that parents now feel a near-constant sense of overwhelm? For one, the digital age has transformed not only how we live but also how we raise chil-

Social media, YouTube, video games—all these distractions

are not just forms of enter- has been replaced with a tainment; they shape the way children think, act, and even perceive reality. Parents often feel powerless in the face of this digital onslaught, unsure line. Despite these challenges, how to manage screen time without seeming authoritarian or disconnected from

their children's world. This struggle is exacerbated by the speed at which technology evolves. By the time parents get a handle on one app or platform, their children have already moved on to the next one.

Then, there's the issue of peer pressure, not just on children but on parents too. The 'Instagram-perfect' life adds a layer of stress to parenting that previous generations didn't face. Parents today are not just competing with themselves to be the best versions of their upbringing—they are competing with a curated version of perfection they see online. The pressure to enrol children in extracurricular activities, make sure they're developing emotional intelligence, cultivate leadership skills, and create future 'success stories' can be crushing. Our grandparents' idea of

raising children to be 'good'

need to raise 'achievers,' and this shift in focus can leave parents feeling like they're running a race with no finish parenting isn't a lost cause. It is, and always will be, a journey of trial and error. The key is finding balance and knowing that perfection is neither attainable nor necessary. A good place to start is by building a stronger connection with your children. Parents also need to accept that they cannot fight all battles alone.

They must seek help. Many of the challenges we face today are new and unfamiliar, but that doesn't mean they are insurmountable. Just as previous generations found solutions to their problems, so too can we, but it will require adaptation, learning, and, most importantly, patience. After all, our children are not just products of their environment—they are reflections of the love, support, and wisdom we give them, no matter how fast the world around them changes.

(The author is a Dubaibased columnist, writing coach. Views are personal)

PERILS OF MUSI PROJECT

Madam - Congress government's extravagant plan to spend a staggering Rs 1.5 lakh crore on the Musi river beautification project. This expenditure raises serious questions about the government's priorities and its commitment to the welfare of the people of Telangana. As KTR has rightly pointed out, the government's focus on this project while neglecting the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, which is nearing completion, is a clear indication of their misplaced priorities. The Palamuru-Rangareddy project has the potential to transform the lives of countless farmers in the region, yet it seems to be overshadowed by the Musi project, which appears to be more about political gain than public welfare. It is also alarming to note that the estimated cost of the Musi project has tripled from Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore, suggesting a significant financial scan-

The government must provide a transparent explanation for this drastic increase in expenditure and ensure that the funds are used efficiently and for the benefit of the people. Furthermore, the government has failed to provide clear details about the expected benefits of the Musi project, such as the number of acres of farmland that will benefit, the amount of water that will be stored, and the anticipated industrial benefits. Without such information, it is difficult to justify the massive investment being made in this

Juloori B Saraswathi | Hyderabad

HEZBOLLAH LEADER ASSASSINATED Madam— The unstoppable Israel has once again inflicted another severe wound on Iran when Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah was assassinated in airstrikes by the Israeli defence forces at Lebanese capital Beirut. His death gave jolts to his shell shocked sympathisers in Iran, like the death of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh. But at the same

India's dominance in Asia

HE EDITO



he Australian think tank 'Lowy Institute' ranked India as the third strongest Asian power in the Asia Power Index. US and China occupied the first and second position

followed by India in the third place. Considering the economic growth, future potential and the diplomatic influence of India on an improvement, India successfully managed to rank better with passing years than the countries like Japan, Australia and Russia. The improvement from the side of India is particularly welcoming because India strives to make continuous improvement in its performance in all respects and also ensure holistic growth of Asia for a better future togeth-

The journey of India turning into the Asian giant is particularly strategic and India's efforts for industrialisation, infrastructural development, public policy and administration, good governance and holistic development are much appreciated in this regard.

Kirti Wadhawan Kanpur

western Sunni population in Syria for his atrocities and war crimes during the Al-Assad regime in the Civil War. The backto-back war between Hezbollah and Israel has spoilt the hope of a ceasefire and wreaked havoc on civilians through constant shelling in various human settlements for more causality.

It proves the hypocrisy of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who pretends to gather international support for isolated Israel in the UN General Assembly but on the contrary continues to provoke Iran for a wide-scale regional war and long-running conflict results in vicious ramifications. Lacking international suport for war crime and muscle approach, how long Israel will continue to push for war with the help of the US in Gaza, Lebanon and beyond, only time will tell Janga B Sunuwar | Jalpaiguri

NEPOTISM IN POLITICS

Madam — It refers to 'Stalin to succeed Stalin' (September 29). The biggest threat to Indian democracy is the time a cause for celebration for the northappointment of Udhayanidhi as Deputy

CM, which has proven the pervasiveness of dynastic politics and the prioritising of family interests over public welfare. It is easy for a son, daughter, or close relative of a leader to take over the political baton, while others have to spend a significant amount of time in the rough and tumble of politics. Political observers say that there is no harm if a political leader's son or daughter, or close relative, chooses to enter politics, but there is a thin line that separates dynasty politics and a worthy kin's choice to take a plunge.

But when we look into the pros and cons of dynastic politics, it highlights the deficiency it could bring to the ideals of democracy, questioning its legitimacy. The trend of dynastic politics will lead to the perpetuation of an elite class that transcends generations and will hamper the smooth inflow of capable, meritori-

ous candidates into politics. KV Chandra mouli | Mysuru

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FIRST COLUMN

THE SPIRITUAL **MEANING OF ZERO**

The symbol of zero holds profound meaning, it symbolises eternity



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

rero is the number people often feel, more so than one, isn't it true? Because more zeroes means more prosperity. However from a spiritual perspective, zero is the point from which all other numbers spring forth. Even visually the number zero is symbolic of a seed, womb or egg from which pure potential emerges. Since the zero also visually resembles a circle, it symbolises eternity, evolution, and infinity. Like an atom is to the physical world and a soul to the spiritual world, the zero is symbolic of both worlds.

Pythagoras viewed the sign of the zero as the container for all things and the birthing place of all other values. The discovery of zero changes the way we calculate, compute and communicate. All these tasks affect almost all fields of human activity today. Zero is counted as an even number along with positive and negative integers. It is important in the number-value system because it defines the value and place of a digit in a number as a thousand, hundred, ten or a million. In a way, it is a symbol that defines nothingness.

While zero is valuable in terms of its contributions to the myriad spheres of human life, it has been used to describe mystical concepts in religious and spiritual philosophies. In Hindi zero is called 'shunya' meaning a void, the supreme state of awareness where everything comes to nothingness. Spiritual seekers perceive this state as 'mukti' or nirvana in which the soul is restored to its original state free from all impressions, influences and impurities of the earthly life. Zero looks like an elliptical circle representing infinity the eternal cycle of cre-



ation. Everything returns to zero or nothingness before being created anew. Hence, most spiritual teachers emphasise attaining the zero state i.e. emptying the mind of all worldly thoughts and detaching from the awareness of the physical body to attain liberation and peace. The egg shaped symbol of the Soul or Supreme Almighty as a point of light surrounded by an oval aura also resembles a zero. In its original state, every soul is like a zero & it has no worldly identity or role but like a seed, it has infinite power and qualities merged within, which manifest when the soul enters the field of karma in this world.

The Supreme Almighty is the eternal seed who always exists in the zero state of awareness, detached from everything yet filled with infinite divine qualities and powers that support the whole creation. It is from this supreme state of nothingness that HE creates a perfect new world whenever the creation becomes degraded and old. Like zero, the soul essentially has an even or positive character. Just as the negative of 2 is - 2 which means lacking in 2, the lack of awareness of positive qualities manifests as negative or odd traits in the soul.

The number zero has very special functions in the calculation. Anything added or subtracted to zero remains unchanged. Any number multiplied by zero gives zero while any number divided by zero gives infinity. Interestingly, when we add zeros after a number, its value grows ten times. These specialities can be ascribed to the Almighty Supreme who remains unchanged in the cycle of eternity.

He does not enjoy the fruits of karma and nothing can be added, subtracted, multiplied or divided from his powers. When we multiply our powers by linking ourselves with him, we too become a zero like him filled with all divine virtues. So let us try our best to remain in the Zero state and achieve a higher state of consciousness to live a life that is minus all worries, tension & stress.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views

Revive shallow aquifers for urban water woes in India

Indian cities, plagued by over-extraction of deep groundwater must turn to the ancient underground reservoirs writes S VISHWANATH and ISHLEEN KAUR



• n India, groundwater plays a critical role in meeting urban water demands. These aquifers, found at relatively shallow depths, have served as vital sources of water for centuries. At a time when transporting water across long distances was inconceivable, communities turned to shallow aquifers to meet their water needs.

Found at accessible depths, they offered a cost-effective and reliable water supply for the growing populations. The dug wells and step wells, still standing today, are reminders of a time when water scarcity was addressed by harnessing rainwater to recharge shallow aquifers. However, as modern cities grew, the humble dug wells, once a ubiquitous part of the landscape, began to vanish. These wells have now largely been replaced by deep bore wells tapping into groundwater reserves at alarming depths.

India is the world's largest user of groundwater, consuming more than the United States and China combined. Urban areas, in particular, have increasingly relied on groundwater to supplement their needs, leading to a significant depletion of shallow aquifers, and for too long, groundwater management has been side-lined in urban planning. However recent climate challenges-unpredictable rainfall, flash floods, and urban water crisishave sparked renewed interest in groundwater management. Increasingly, rainwater harvesting and

are turning toward these natural underground reservoirs as a solution. Aquifers are now being studied for their potential to store excess rainwater and mitigate flooding. The launch of AMRUT 2.0 in 2021 marked a paradigm shift in water management, with groundwater finally being prioritized at the 'urban' scale. The mission recognised the need for cities to not only rely on groundwater but to actively manage

urban waterbody rejuvenation projects



URBAN AREAS, IN PARTICULAR, **INCREASINGLY** RELIED ON GROUNDWATER TO SUPPLEMENT LEADING TO A **SIGNIFICANT** DEPLETION OF

SHALLOW AQUIFERS, AND FOR TOO LONG, **GROUNDWATER** MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN SIDE-LINED IN URBAN PLANNING

and protect it. Under the mission, the Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) pilot project was initiated in 2022 in 10 cities. This initiative aimed to raise awareness among city officials and communities about the importance of shallow aquifers and demonstrate effective recharge structures to tackle critical issues like groundwater depletion, contamination and urban flooding. It sought to cre-ate an environment where cities could integrate shallow aquifer management into broader water strategies. By emphasising both simple and scientifically sound recharge methods, it aimed to revive approaches that have been overlooked in the pursuit of modern infrastructure. The proiect has vielded valuable insights for cities on effective shallow aquifer management.

This initiative has led to the development of 12 unique approaches and designs for recharge structures, tailored to local aquifer conditions. These ranged from the revival of existing wells and step wells in Dhanbad, Hyderabad, and Bangalore to catchment treatment of areas showing high recharge potential in Pune.

Cities such as Gwalior and Rajkot have undertaken detailed mapping of aquifer systems, and groundwater depths, and created an inventory of recharge structures at the city scale, facilitating informed groundwater management decisions. The project has also shown promising results in showcasing the sustainable use of these recharge structures to supplement water needs for local communities.

In Kanteerava Nagar, Bangalore, a dug well retrofitted under the

project is now supplying water to around 500 households with up to one lakh litre of water being pumped every day for non-potable use. Similarly, in Thane's Yeoor Village, tribal communities are benefiting from water sourced from desilted and retrofitted wells. In Dhanbad and Rajkot, where peri-urban areas heavily depend on shallow wells, the initiative has begun to expand beyond its pilot phase. Rajkot Municipal Corporation

has initiated work on constructing more than 100 additional recharge structures city-wide based on the SAM mapping, showing the renewed awareness and commitment to scale up shallow aquifer management. The project has been able to draw the attention of larger voices in the climate resilience and water

Bangalore's Climate Action Plan has now incorporated groundwater management as a vital aspect of making Bangalore climate

Pune has even established a dedicated groundwater cell in the municipal corporation to ensure that shallow aquifer management remains a priority in the city's future water plans. In FY 2024-2025, the Pune Municipal Corporation has allocated a dedicated budget of INR 1 crore for aquifer recharge structures, showing significant action in this direction. Despite the progress made through the SAM project, much work remains.

Cities need to acknowledge that deep aquifers hold vast reserves of water accumulated over centuries and must be typically reserved for emergencies, such as

In contrast, shallow aquifers hold

of defence for daily water needs, making them essential for urban areas. However, as cities grow, the natural processes that recharge these aquifers are being disrupt-

In the current situation, where urban development is increasingly characterised by impermeable surfaces, inhibiting rainwater infiltration and preventing natural recharge, cities need to make conscious interventions towards artificial recharge of shallow aquifers including rejuvenation of lakes, wetlands and river floodplains.

Îndia's groundwater crisis is complex, but the solution may lie beneath our feet. By managing shallow aquifers, cities can foster a more resilient and sustainable future. The SAM project provides a blueprint for this approach, but its lessons must be scaled up and implemented nationwide.

As India faces the dual challenges of urban growth and water scarciry, it is time to embrace the wisdom of our ancestors and integrate it with the science of hydrogeology.

By restoring shallow aquifers and making them a part of an integrated urban water management ecosystem, cities can ensure that this invaluable resource remains a dependable source of water for generations to come. In the words of Kabir: The well is one, and the water is the same. Let us remember that the water we draw today must sustain us tomorrow.

(S. Vishwanath is co-founder Biome Environmental Solutions, Bengaluru and Ishleen Kaur is senior environment specialist, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Delhi; views expressed are their own)

Right-wing and challenge for Indian Muslims: The path to reform and reconciliation

Indian Muslims must embrace internal reforms that align with a modern, secular framework, helping to bridge societal divisions

The rise of right-wing politics in India seems to . have solidified its presence, and the deepening of Hindu-Muslim fault lines is likely to persist. While liberal and secular parties may win several State elections, an increase in their numbers in Parliament or State legislatures is unlikely to mend the fragile communal ties. The division between communities has now reached a deeper societal level, presenting a grave challenge for Indian Muslims. To minimise this damage and repair the social fabric, it is essential to promote a counter-narrative grounded in secularism. Indian Muslims must focus on internal reforms within their own societal framework. While some right-



TARIQ ASHRAF

wing claims about Muslim life may be exaggerated or entirely untrue, certain aspects warrant closer introspection by the community itself. Although the issues have intensified since 2014, their roots can be traced back to much earlier times.

As Muslims, it is critical to that promote secularisation rework the internal narrative and processes within the community to align with secular

values. The painful legacy of India's partition, drawn along communal lines, has left a heavy burden on the Muslim community. In response, Indian Muslims need to go above and beyond to heal the sentiments and emotions of the majority community. Despite constitutional protections and safeguards, the community needs to focus on changing perceptions at both societal and communal levels. One step toward this change is to reform Muslim personal laws and harmonize them with a modern, progressive social order. Instead of framing personal law reforms as a Hindu-Muslim conflict, Muslims should see these reforms as standalone processes that benefit the community. A close examination of

reveal that reforms have already taken place in many Muslim-majority countries. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board missed a crucial opportunity to declare triple talaq un-Islamic before the government passed legislation against it. Similarly, the Shah Bano case harmed the Muslim community's interests and fueled the resurgence of rightwing mobilisation. The Muslim Personal Law Board has exacerbated the community's challenges by opposing every proposed reform instead of acting as a forward-thinking, responsible institution. Another significant issue facing Indian Muslims is the lack of leadership from within the intelligentsia. With few exceptions, Muslim leadership has

some outdated practices will



been monopolised by the clergy, leaving the community without enlightened, visionary, and progressive guidance. The void left by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has remained largely unfilled. Even leaders like Asaduddin Owaisi, despite their education and goodwill, have failed to adopt a liberal and secular approach in addressing legitimate community concerns. An aggrieved community must communicate in a conciliatory manner, rather than adopting a confrontational stance.

The Muslim leadership's approach to the Hijab controversy clearly illustrates this failure. While Muslim women are entitled to wear the Hijab as a matter of choice and religious freedom, elevating the issue to the extent of students quitting their studies was unwise. It is essential for religion to be separated from public life and confined to the private domain. Although this holds true for all communities, Indian Muslims must make this move more emphatically due to historical reasons. The community needs to create a secular platform to address its concerns. The severe political and socio-economic challenges facing Muslims today

cannot be ignored. One positive step in this direction has been the recent initiative by a group of retired civil servants from Delhi who attempted to engage with leaders from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). However, the initiative failed to gain traction as it was undertaken individually without an organizational framework. To be successful, such efforts must be scaled up to a national-level dialogue with a clear agenda involving eminent citizens from various levels, including state and central governments. It is imperative to address the widespread perception that the Muslim community is resistant to reform, reconciliation, and compro-

Before the Hindu-Muslim fault lines in India reach a danger-

ly needs a period of cooling off. Many right-wing grievances against Muslims lack substance and truth. In a society governed by constitutional principles and the rule of law, a community cannot be punished for the historical wrongs committed by its ancestors. To address the right-wing narrative effectively, the Muslim community must launch a

option. (The writer has been associated with the Centre for Policy Research, IIM Lucknow, University of Delhi, and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Views are personal)

secular, modern, and progres-

sive narrative based on evi-

dence, rather than countering with equally polarizing rhetoric. it is the only viable

Big fat Indian weddings to drive ₹5.9 lakh crore expenditure this festive season

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The big fat Indian wedding L season starting from November 12, 2024, is set to witness 48 lakh weddings, generating business worth Rs 5.9 lakh crore. The estimated figure is based on the data collected from 75 cities across the country who are dealing with wedding-related goods and services. The national capital is also estimated to see 4.5 lakh weddings and is expected to contribute a massive Rs 1.5 lakh crore alone in business. Last year, 35 lakh weddings generated a total business of Rs 4.25 lakh crore. These expenses range from Rs 3 lakh per wedding for 10 lakh ceremonies, to over Rs 1

crore for high-end weddings. This diverse spending spectrum is expected to fuel growth across various sectors, with significant demand for goods such as clothing, jew-ellery, electronics, and food

According to a study conducted by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), this year there is an increase in wedding date, which is expected to result in substantial growth in business. While there were 11 auspicious dates in 2023, this year there are 18.

In India, wedding expenditures peak during two distinct periods: November to mid-December and mid-January to July, commonly referred to as the 'Wedding Season'. These periods coincide with increased economic activity, especially during the first peak period which aligns with the festive season. Acharya Durgesh Tare, Convenor of CAIT's Veda and Spiritual Committee, said the wedding season will kick off from November 12 (Dev Uthani Ekadashi) and will last until December 16. The auspicious dates in November are 12, 13, 17, 18, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 29, while in December, the dates are 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16. Weddings will then pause for about a month and will resume from mid-January 2025 through March. The second phase of the wedding season is set to resume from



16 January 2025, after Makar Sankranti adding another wave of business opportuni-ties for traders and service

providers.
CAIT's National Secretary
General and Chandni Chowk MP, Praveen Khandelwal, ,

said the study also revealed that consumers are increasingly prioritising Indian products on the lines Prime Minister Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Vocal for Local' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India).

Indian products have made significant inroads in the market and their demand has increased dramatically overshadowing foreign goods, he

Additionally, services like banquet halls, event management, catering, transportation, and photography will also see a sharp rise in business. Another emerging trend this year is the increased expenditure on social media services for wedding coverage, as more couples look to enhance their digital presence during the festivities.

As per data, at least 10 lakh weddings will be solemnized with an expenditure of Rs three lakh per wedding; 10 lakh weddings with an expending; 10 lakh weddings, with an expenditure of Rs 10 lakh per wedding; 10 lakh weddings, with an expenditure of Rs 15 lakh per wedding; 7 lakh weddings, with an expenditure of Rs 25 lakh per wedding; 50,000 weddings, with an expenditure of Rs 50 lakh per wedding and 50,000 weddings, with an expendi-ture of Rs 1 crore or more per

diture of Rs 6 lakh per wed-

wedding.
According to traders, these estimates may actually be conservative, given the massive scale of economic activities expected during the wedding season.

Traders say the major sectors expected to see significant business which include clothapparel (10%), jewelry (15%), electronics, electrical appliances, and consumer durables (5%). dry fruits, sweets, and snacks (5%) and roceries and vegetables (5%) and gift items (4%) and other goods (6%). Besides, it is estimated banquet halls, hotels, and wedding venues are expected to generate revenue upto five percent of the 5.9 lakh crore business, event management (5%), tent decoration (12%), catering services (10%), floral decoration (4%),transportation and cab services (3%), photography and videography (2%), orchestra and bands (3%) light and sound (3%) and other services (3%) this

Rajnath Singh to launch car rally from National War Memorial

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday will give a send-off to a car rally from the National War Memorial here. It is a mega 7,000-km long 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally from Thoise in Ladakh to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh organised to mark the 92nd anniversary of Indian Air Force (IAF) on October eight.

Giving details, officials said the defence minister will flagoff the rally before it is formally flagged-off from Thoise, one of the world's highest altitude air force station at 3,068m above mean sea level, on October eight. Enroute, the air warriors will have 16 halts comprising interactions with students in various colleges and univer-



Kargil, Srinagar, Jammu, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Agra, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Darbhanga, Bagdogra, Hasimara, Guwahati, Tezpur, Dirang and Tawang. The rally will culminate on Ŏctober 28. The aim of the rally, organised by IAF in coordination with the veterans of Uttarakhand

War Memorial, is to raise

awareness among the people

about the glorious history of

sities. The halts will be Leh, IAF; the deeds of valour of the air warriors in different wars and rescue operations and attract the youth to serve the

motherland. Fifty-two (52) air warriors, including women, will be behind the wheels during this mega car rally, which will also witness the participation of former Air Force Chiefs in different legs. The IAF's Adventure Cell is leading and coordinating the rally.

Army recovers four bodies from Rohtang pass, 56 years after plane crash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Army has managed to I recover the bodies of four persons from Rohtang pass 56 years after their plane crashed there. The ill-fated IAF AN-12 aircraft was carrying 102 passengers. As of now, nine bodies including the latest have been recovered.

Giving details, army officials said here on Monday, in an extraordinary development, the ongoing search and rescue mission to recover the remains of personnel from the aircraft has achieved significant breakthrough.

The mission, led by the Dogra Scouts of Indian Army in collaboration with representatives of Tiranga Mountain Rescue, is part of the larger Chandra Bhaga Mountain Expedition. The joint team has recovered the remains of four more individuals from the site, marking a significant success in one of India's longest-running search and recovery operations.

The tragedy dates back to February 7, 1968, when an IAF AN-12 aircraft, carrying 102 passengers, went missing after taking off from Chandigarh and encountering severe weather conditions near the Rohtang Pass.

For decades, the wreckage and remains of the victims remained lost in the icy terrain. It was only in 2003 when mountaineers from the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering discovered the wreckage, sparking multiple expeditions over the years by the Indian Army, especially the Dogra Scouts, who have been at the forefront of search missions in 2005, 2006, 2013, and 2019.

Despite the treacherous conditions and unforgiving terrain, only five bodies were recovered by 2019. However, the Chandra Bhaga Mountain Expedition has now recovered four addi-



tional bodies, bringing renewed hope to the families of the deceased and the nation.

As of September 29, three fully intact bodies and remains of a fourth have been recovered from the snowbound moun-

Malkhan Singh (Pioneer). Identified by a voucher found in his pocket, Malkhan Singh's identity was confirmed with the help of documents obtained from Pioneer Records Office. His body was recovered nearly six decades after the ill-fated

Sepoy Narayan Singh (AMC). Narayan Singh, a sepoy from the Army Medical Corps (AMC), was identified by his paybook found on his person. Singh hailed from the village of Kolpadi, Chamoli Tehsil in Garhwal, Uttarakhand. His next of kin (NOK) is his wife, Basnati Devi. After years of uncertainty, his family can now finally lay him to rest with the dignity and honour he

While documents recovered from the third body have not conclusively identified the individual, details of the next of kin were found. The wife, Parvati Devi, and father, Netram, were notified of the discovery.

Craftsman Thomas Ćharan (EME). The remains of CFN Thomas Charan from the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) were identified, with further confirmation through his paybook. He hailed from Elanthoor, Pathanamthitta district in Kerala. His next of kin, his mother Eleama, has been informed of the discovery.

Chandra Bhaga Expedition has once again demonstrated the Indian Army's relentless determination to bring closure to families, even after half a century. The Dogra Scouts of Indian Army, renowned for their expertise in high-altitude operations, have led this mission with exemplary courage, battling through extreme weather conditions and hostile terrain to recover the remains of their fallen

This discovery also stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Tiranga Mountain Rescue, which has been instrumental in assisting the Indian Army during the expedition. The recovery of these bodies brings some solace to the families who have been waiting for decades, hoping for answers and the return of their loved ones.

comrades.

SC Orders IIT Dhanbad to admit dalit youth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday came to the rescue of a Dalit youth, who had lost his seat in IIT Dhanbad after missing the the acceptance fee by June 24, deadline to deposit a fee, by the deadline for depositing the asking the institute to admit requisite fees for blocking the

"We cannot allow such a young talented boy to go away. He cannot be left in lurch," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said.

The top court used its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution in asking the IIT Dhanbad to admit Atul Kumar into its Electrical Engineering BTech

"We are of the view that a talented student like the petitioner who belongs to a marginalised group who did all to secure admission should not be left out... We direct that candidate candidate is granted admission to IIT Dhanbad and let him be in the same batch to which he would have been granted admission if the fees would have been paid," the bench said in the order.

Article 142 of the Constitution empowers the top court to pass any order in the interest

of justice. The parents of Atul Kumar, 18, failed to deposit Rs 17,500 as

The parents of the youth also approached the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Jharkhand Legal Services Authority and the Madras High Court to save the hard-earned seat.

Kumar, the son of a daily wager, hails from a below poverty line (BPL) family living at Titora village in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes also expressed its inability to help

As he had taken JEE at a centre in Jharkhand, the youth had also moved the Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority which suggested him to approach the Madras High Court as it was IIT Madras that had conducted the exam. The high court had asked him to approach the top court.

Rahul to visit Kolhapur on October 4-5

T N RAGHUNATHA

head of the formal launch And of the party's electioneering for the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly polls, leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will take part in a series of programs during his visit to sugar-rich Kolhapur district in western Maharashtra on October 4 and 5.

use Rahul's two-day visit to Kolhapur to set the tone for the party's campaign for the State Assembly polls, for which the schedule is expected to be notified by the Election Commission of India (ECI) after the declaration of the results in the Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana Assembly polls on October 8. Rahul, who will arrive in Kolhapur on October 4, will unveil a huge statue of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji at Kasba Bawda.

On the following evening, the Congress leader will witness a dance drama - in which more 2,000 participants and half of them will sport dresses of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

On the morning of October 5, Rahul will pay his respects at the memorial of Maratha king social reformer



Chhatrapati Rajarshi Shahu, the first Maharaja (1900-1922) of the princely state of Kolhapur.

conference organised to commemorate the Indian Constitution.

"We have invited more than representatives from all religions and different NGOs. At this conference, Rahul Gandhi will interact with different sections of the society," former State minister and current MLC Satej Patil, who is hosting Rahul's two-day visit to Kolhapur, said.

Senior Congress leaders, including AICC general secretary Ramesh Chennithala, former Chief Ministers Sushilkumar Shinde, Prithviraj Chavan state Congress President Nana Patole, Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar and Congress legislative party leader Balasaheb Thorat will remain present on the occasion.

Gujarat man buys real gold with fake...

When the staff sent by Thakkar noticed the currency notes were fake after taking them out from plastic wrap for counting, they questioned the third person, who told them he was there just to deliver the counting machine for 'angadia pedhi', the complainant told the police.

It also later came to light that the 'angadia' office was opened by the accused persons two days before the incident, as per the complaint. An FIR has since been filed against the two unidentified suspects, and police have launched an

CBI books 26 global cyber...

"In some instances, the cyber criminals intimidated the victims into transferring funds to them through international gift cards or crypto currency. Extensive wrongful losses were incurred by the victims targeted by this criminal network," the statement

said. So far, the CBI has arrested 10 cyber criminals from Pune, five from Hyderabad and 11 from Visakhapatnam. Further investigation and questioning into the role of other workers at these illegal call centers is

ongoing, it said.
"These operations have resulted seizure of critical evidence digital incriminating material. 951 items have been seized including electronic devices, mobile phones, laptops, financial information, communication records and incriminating material used by this cyber crime network for criminal activity and to defraud victims,"

This operation has resulted in significant disruption and dismantling of a major trans national technology enabled crime network, he

spokesperson said.

Dadasaheb Phalke finally...

deserves.

Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri, who worked with the actor on films such as 'The Tashkent Files' and 'The Kashmir Files', also wished him in a social media post.

Chakraborty, whose real name is Gourang Chakraborty, is an alumnus of Pune's Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) who has predominantly worked in Hindi and Bengali cinema. A former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, Chakraborty joined the BJP ahead of the 2021 West Bengal Legislative Assembly election. The actor also served as the head judge or grandmaster' on the popular dance reality series 'Dance India Dance' from 2009 to 2018. In 2023, Waheeda Rehman was named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

ED books...

From Page 1

The order of the special court judge came a day after the high court upheld the sanction granted by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against the senior Congress leader on allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The ED has pressed sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to book Siddaramaiah in its ECIR, the equivalent of a police FIR. According to the procedure, the ED is empowered to summon the accused for questioning and even attach their assets during the investigation. In the MUDA site-allotment case, it is alleged that

compensatory sites were given to Siddaramaiah's wife in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land that was "acquired" by MUDA.

The Lokayukta FIR has been registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) like 120B (criminal conspiracy), 166 (public servant disobeying law, with intent to cause injury to any person), 403 (dishonest misappropriation of property), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 426 (mischief), 465 (forgery), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 340 (wrongful confinement) and 351

BJP and Congress...

Addressing the rally on Sunday, Kharge had said, "I am 83 years old. I am not perfect political statement to going to die so early. I will stay alive till PM Modi is removed from power". "I wanted to talk. But due to dizziness, I have sat down. Please pardon me," the Congress leader said. BJP slammed Mallikarjun Kharge, terming his remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi "absolutely distasteful and disgraceful". It also said Modi became the Prime Minister for a third consecutive term with the people's mandate and not because of the Congress

president's grace. BIP national spokesperson Syed Shahnawaz Hussain hit out at Kharge for his remarks and said Modi has become prime minister for the third consecutive term with the blessings of the people of the

country. Asked about Shah's attack on Kharge, Congress general India free from his rule. It is secretary Jairam Ramesh said, our intention and aim," Khera "In his election speech, said.

Kharge said 'I am not going to retire till I see the exit of the Prime Minister', which is a make. The non-biological prime minister and this selfdeclared Chanakya (Shah) have made disgraceful statements and they are now accusing Kharge." 'There is nothing wrong

about Kharge's statement. This is a deliberate distortion, a deliberate and malicious twist (to the Congress chief's remarks). If I start recounting all the nonsense spouted by the Prime Minister on the Congress and its leaders, I can go on and on," Ramesh said. Congress's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera also hit out at Shah over his attack on Kharge. "What Amit Shah has said in his tweet is wrong -that we hate Narendra Modi. We do not hate Narendra

Modi but we love our country

and hence, we want to make

Kosi drowns Bihar in sorrow...

From Page 1

They are being engaged in addition to the existing 12 teams of NDRF and 22 of State Disaster Management Authority (SDRF) deployed in the relief and rescue operation in the flood-affected districts," said a bulletin issued by the disaster management department on Monday.

"Despite water levels receding in several small rivers, the overall situation remained grim with over 16 lakh people affected by the deluge. No fatality has been reported so far," another official said. The Bihar Government said.

sounded an alert for floods in northern, southern and central parts of the state, following heavy discharge of water from Birpur and Valmikinagar barrages on Saturday and Sunday. However, the water

from Valmikinagar and Birpur barrages across the Gandak and Kosi rivers respectively reduced this morning, another official said.

The water discharge through Valmikinagar barrage was 5.62 lakh cusecs on Sunday, while the same was 1.89 lakh cusecs till 8 am on Monday, he said.

Similarly, discharge from the Birpur barrage was 6.61 lakh cusecs on September 29, and the same was reduced to 2.88 lakh cusecs till 8 am on Monday, the official

Affected districts in the state include West and East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur, Sheohar, Ggopalganj, Siwan, Saran, Vaishali, Patna, Jehanabad, Madhubani, Araria, Purnea, Katihar and Bhojpur.

Delhi road rage: One arrested for cop's...

As he closed in on the car of two men he had been chasing after rebuking them for drinking on the road, Delhi Police Constable Sandeep did not realise it was what they wanted. "Brother Bhandre, let's run Sandeep over and finish him," said accused Rajnish alias Sittu, to Dharmender alias Bhandre, who was driving the car. They waited for the constable to get close enough, according to the FIR registered in the

matter. Dharmender revved the throttle and hit Sandeep's motorcycle from behind, dragging him for some distance before hitting a stationary car and crushing the constable between the two cars, the FIR said. The gruesome incident was caught on CCTV camera.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday near Veena Enclave here when Sandeep, 30, was headed towards Railway Road from

Nangloi police station during duty hours in plainclothes. While Sandeep was on duty, he met his colleagues, Constables Khushi Ram and Sachin, who were returning home after duty.

"We spotted him (Sandeep) on his bike in plainclothes. I asked him about his duty hours and he told us that on the directions of his SHO (station house officer), he was on duty in plainclothes as incidents of thefts had increased in his beat area," Ram stated in the FIR.

As the three started moving towards Nangloi Railway Road, they saw a white Wagon R parked near a government school and that two men inside it were consuming alcohol, the FIR said.

"We identified one of the occupants as Dharmender alias Bhandre, who lives in Veena Enclave. Since I was previously posted at Nangloi police station, I knew Dharmender," Ram said in

When Sandeep objected to the duo drinking alcohol on the road, Dharmender shouted, "You are interfering in our personal matter. How dare you?"

Sandeep asked Dharmender and Rajnish to come to the police station but the two started moving towards Nangloi railway station in their car. Sandeep chased them on his motorcycle. Ram and Sachin also followed

them. slowed down the vehicle and waited for the three policemen to get close. As he approached the car, Sandeep asked the accused to stop their vehicle. Instead, Dharmender hit Sandeep's motorcycle with his car. Dharmendra stopped dragging Sandeep only after

his car hit the other car. While Ram and Sachin rushed to Sandeep's rescue, Dharmender managed to flee the spot, leaving behind the car. Rajnish was nabbed from year-old son.

the spot, the FIR stated. Ram and Sachin rushed Sandeep to Sonia Hospital. He was then referred to Balaji Action Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Rajnish managed to give the constables a slip while they were running around for Sandeep's treatment at Sonia Hospital. He was caught by police on Monday.

DCP Chiram said Rajnish was questioned and efforts were being made to nab After reaching near Jaat Dharmender. A senior police Dharmshala, Dharmender officer said they are also trying to ascertain if the accused have connections with bootleggers in the area. It will be clear once prime accused Dharmender is

> arrested, he said. Police said the car used by the two accused did not belong to any of them and the car owner was also being questioned. A 2018-batch constable, Sandeep was a native of Rohtak in Haryana. He is survived by his mother, wife, and a five-

Hezbollah deputy vows to fight on after Nasrallah

Hezbollah's deputy leader vowed to continue fighting Israel and said the militant group was prepared for a long war after much of its top command was wiped out, including its leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

In his first speech since Nasrallah was killed, Naim Kassem said in a televised statement Monday that if Israel decides to launch a ground offensive, Hezbollah fighters are ready to fight and defend Lebanon, where the group is

As deputy secretary-general, Naim Kassem now is the acting leader of Hezbollah until the group's leadership elects a replacement for Nasrallah. Israeli strikes have killed Nasrallah and six of his top commanders in the last 10

military says are thousands of militant targets across large parts of Lebanon. Over 1,000 people have been killed in Lebanon, nearly a quarter of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry, and the government says the fighting may have displaced up to a million people. Hezbollah has significantly increased its rocket attacks in the past week to several hundred daily, but most have been intercepted or fallen in open

Several people have been wounded in Israel. There have been no fatalities since two soldiers were killed near the border on September 19. Kassem said that despite the killing of Hezbollah's top military commanders over the past months, Hezbollah now is relying on new commanders.

our (military) capabilities," Kassem said. "There are deputy commanders and there are replacements in case a commander is wounded in

any post." Before he spoke, an airstrike levelled an apartment building and killed three Palestinian militants in central Beirut early Monday, as Israel appeared to send a clear message that no part of Lebanon is out of bounds.

As recently as two weeks ago, such a strike, outside of the main areas where Hezbollah operates and next to a busy transportation hub, would have been seen as an escalation and likely followed by a long-range Hezbollah strike into Israel. But the unspoken rules of the long-running conflict, and Hezbollah's ability to respond, are no longer clear.

Monday's strike but is widely assumed to have carried it

It's possible that Hezbollah is holding back to avoid an even bigger escalation, including a threatened Israeli ground inva-sion. But the militant group might also be in disarray after Israeli intelligence apparently penetrated its highest levels. The strike early Monday killed three members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a small, leftist faction that has not been meaningfully involved in months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

In the past week, Israel has frequently targeted Beirut's south-ern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence including the massive strike on Friday that killed Nasrallah but had not hit locations closHezbollah began firing rockets,

drones and missiles into northern Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack from Gaza into Israel sparked the war there. Hezbollah and Hamas are allies and both supported by Iran, and Hezbollah said it would continue the attacks in solidarity with the Palestinians until there was a cease-fire in Gaza. Israel has responded to the rockets with airstrikes in Lebanon, where Hezbollah is based, and the fighting has steadily escalated over the past year, displacing tens of thou-sands of people on both sides of the border. Israel has vowed to keep fighting until the attacks stop and its citizens can return to their homes. The United States and its allies have called for a cease-fire, hoping to avoid further escalation that could draw in Iran

and set off a wider war. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has shown little interest, as his country racks up military achievements against a long-Some Israelis broke into spon-

taneous celebrations after Nasrallah's death was announced. Videos circulated of crowds at bars singing a song in Hebrew mocking him. A news anchor on a pro-Netanyahu station sang and danced as the studio audience ioined in with him while a commentator on Israel's largest TV station offered co-panelists celebratory shots.

Hezbollah, which boasts tens of thousands of battle-hardened fighters and long-range missiles capable of hitting anywhere inside Israel, has long been seen as the most powerful militant group in the region both threatening and deterring Israel. Hezbollah fought Israel to a monthlong stalemate in

their 2006 war, But Hezbollah has never faced an onslaught quite like this one, which began with a sophisticated attack on its pagers and walkie-talkies in mid-September that killed dozens of people and wounded around 3,000 — including many fighters but also many

White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Israel's airstrikes in Lebanon had "wiped out" Hezbollah's command structure but warned that the group will work quickly to rebuild it.

"We're watching to see what they do to try to fill this lead-ership vacuum. It's going to be tough, he told CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday.



A billboard with a huge portrait of slain Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is installed on a building as minarets of a mosque are seen, in downtown Tehran, Iran, Monday. The billboard reads in Farsi on top left: "The beginning of Nasrallah.

Israeli airstrike hits Beirut for first time

AP JERUSALEM

The first apparent Israeli airstrike on central Beirut in nearly a year of conflict levelled an apartment building early Monday. It came after Israel hit targets across Lebanon and killed dozens of people, as Hezbollah sustained heavy blows to its command structure, including the killing of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah. The airstrike hit a multistorey residential building, according to an Associated Press journalist at the scene. Videos showed ambulances and a crowd gathered near the building in a mainly Sunni district with a busy thoroughfare lined with shops

The airstrike killed at least one person and wounded 16, an official with Lebanese Civil Defence said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media. He said the person killed was a member of the al-Jamaa al-Islamiya, or the Islamic Group, a Sunni political and militant group that is allied with Hezbollah.

A Palestinian leftist faction in Lebanon said three of its members were killed in the airstrike. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said in a statement early Monday that its military and security commanders in Lebanon, and a third member were killed in the

Neither militant group has played a significant role in the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Shiite militant group

Hezbollah. Also early Monday, another strike killed a commander with the militant group Hamas, which has a presence in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps. Hamas said Fatah Sharif and his family were killed in an airstrike on the Al-Buss refugee camp in the southern port city of Tyre. In the past week, Israel has frequently targeted Beirut's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong pres-ence — including a major strike on Friday that killed Nasrallah — but had not hit locations near the city centre. Earlier, Hezbollah confirmed that Nabil Kaouk, the deputy

killed Saturday, making him the seventh senior Hezbollah leader killed in Israeli strikes in a little over a week. They include the group's founding members who had evaded death or detention for decades. Hezbollah also confirmed that Ali Karaki, another senior commander, died in the strike that killed Nasrallah. Israel says at least 20 other Hezbollah militants were killed, including one in charge of Nasrallah's security detail.

head of its Central Council, was

The Lebanese Health Ministry said at least 105 people were killed around the country in airstrikes Sunday. Two strikes near the southern city of Sidon, about 45 kilometres south of Beirut, killed at least 32 people, the ministry said. Separately, Israeli strikes in the northern province of Baalbek Hermel killed 21 people and wounded at least 47. Lebanese media reported dozens of strikes in the central, eastern and western Bekaa and in the south, besides strikes on Beirut. Israel says it targets militants, but the strikes have hit buildings where

civilians were living and the death toll was expected to rise. In a video of a strike in Sidon, verified by the AP, a building swayed before collapsing as neighbors filmed. One TV station called on viewers to pray for a family caught under the rubble, posting their pictures, as rescuers failed to reach them. The Lebanese Health Ministry reported at least 14 medics were killed over two days in the south.

President Joe Biden said Sunday that he would speak soon with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and believes that an all-out war in the Middle East must be avoided. "It has to be," Biden told reporters at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware as he boarded Air Force One for Washington. Meanwhile, wreckage from Friday's strike that killed Nasrallah was still smoldering. Smoke rose over the rubble as people flocked to the site, some to check on what was left of their homes and others to pay respects, pray or simply to see the

Netanyahu adds rival to Cabinet

Jerusalem (AP): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed a former rival, Gideon Saar, as a member of his Cabinet on Sunday, expanding his coalition and strengthening his hold on office.

Under their agreement, Netanyahu said Saar would serve as a minister without portfolio and serve in the Security Cabinet, the body that oversees the management of the ongoing war against Israel's enemies across the Middle East. Saar (57) had hoped to replace Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, another rival of Netanyahu's. But a deal to become defence minister fell through several weeks ago after fighting intensified with Hezbollah along Israel's northern border, leaving the popular Gallant in office for

the time being.
Saar has had a strained relationship with the prime minister. He was once a rising star in Netanyahu's Likud party but angrily left it four years ago after accusing the prime minister of turning it into a "cult of personality" as he battled corruption charges.

Since then, however, Saar has struggled as leader of a small conservative party, enjoying little support with the broader public. While he and Netanyahu have little love for one another, they share a hard-line ideology toward Israel's Arab adversaries. In recent months, Saar has said Israel must fight until Hamas is destroyed. He also has called for tougher action against Hezbollah's sponsor, Iran. And like Netanyahu, he strongly opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state.

In a joint statement, they said they had put their differences aside for the good of the nation. Netanyahu's decision appears to have been driven in part by domestic politics. He faces a number of key political battles in the coming weeks — including the contentious issue of drafting ultra-Orthodox men into the army, passing a budget and taking the stand in his longrunning corruption trial.

Austria's Freedom Party secures first far-right national election win since World War II

The Freedom Party secured leader, he would need a coalialways said that we're ready to Wilders, whose party domithe first far-right national parliamentary election victory in post-World War II Austria on Sunday, finishing ahead of the governing conservatives after tapping into anxieties about immigration, inflation, Ukraine and other issues. But its chances of governing were unclear.

Preliminary official results showed the Freedom Party finishing first with 29.2 per cent of the vote and Chancellor Karl Nehammer's Austrian People's Party was second with 26.5 per cent, according to a near-complete count, national public broadcaster ORF reported. The centre-left Social Democrats were in third place with 21 per cent. The outgoing government — a coalition of Nehammer's party and the environmentalist Greens — lost its majority in the lower house of parliament.

Herbert Kickl, a former interior minister and longtime campaign strategist who has led the Freedom Party since 2021,

liamentary majority. Rivals have said they won't work with Kickl in government. The far right has benefited

from frustration over high inflation, the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also built on worries about migration. In its election programme,

titled "Fortress Austria", the Freedom Party calls for "remigration of uninvited foreigners", for achieving a more "homogeneous" nation by tightly controlling borders and suspending the right to asylum via an emergency law. The Freedom Party also calls for

an end to sanctions against Russia, is highly critical of Western military aid to Ukraine and wants to bow out of the European Sky Shield Initiative, a missile defence project launched by Germany. Kickl has criticised "elites" in Brussels and called for some powers to be brought back from the European Union to Austria.

But to become Austria's new position, because we have Dutch far-right leader Geert tion partner to command a par- lead a government, we're ready nates, the Netherlands' new to push forward this change in Austria side by side with the people," Kickl said in an appearance alongside other party leaders on ORF. "The other parties should ask themselves where they stand on democracy," he added, arguing that they should "sleep on the result". Nehammer said it was "bitter" that his party missed out on first place but noted he brought it back from lower poll ratings. He has often said he won't form a coalition with Kickl and said that "what I said before the election, I also

say after the election". More than 6.3 million people were eligible to vote for the new parliament in Austria, an EU member that has a policy of

military neutrality. Kickl has achieved a turnaround since Austria's last parliamentary election in 2019. In June, the Freedom Party narrowly won a nationwide vote for the first time in the European Parliament election, which also brought gains for other

"We don't need to change our European far-right parties. government, congratulated the Freedom Party on social network X. So did Alice Weidel, a co-leader of the Alternative for Germany party.

The Freedom Party is a longestablished force but Sunday's result was its best yet in a national parliamentary election, beating the 26.9 per cent it scored in 1999. In 2019, its support slumped to 16.2 per cent after a scandal brought down a government in which it was the junior partner. Thenvice chancellor and Freedom Party leader Heinz-Christian Strache resigned following the publication of a secretly recorded video in which he appeared to offer favours to a purported Russian investor. The leader of the Social Democrats, a party that led many of Austria's post-World War II governments, positioned himself as the polar opposite to Kickl. Andreas Babler ruled out governing with the far right and labelled Kickl "a threat to democracy".

Supplies rushed to isolated areas as Helene death toll rises to 100

AP PERRY

flood-stricken areas by Monday after Hurricane Helene left a trail of destruction across the US Southeast and the death toll from the storm rose to nearly 100.

At least 91 people across several states were killed. A North Carolina county that includes the mountain city of Asheville reported 30 people killed. Gov. Roy Cooper predicted the toll would rise as rescuers and other emergency workers reached areas isolated by collapsed roads, failing infrastructure and widespread

Supplies were being airlifted to the region around the isolated city of Asheville. Buncombe County Manager Avril Pinder pledged that she would have food and water to the city by Monday. "We hear you. We need food and we need water," Pinder said on a Sunday call with reporters. "My staff has been making every request possible to the state for support and we've been working with every single organization that has reached out. What I promise you is that we are very close."

Officials warned that rebuilding from the widespread loss of homes and property would be lengthy and difficult. The storm upended life throughout the Southeast. Deaths also were reported in Florida.

Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia. Cooper implored residents in western a hospital rooftop on Friday. North Carolina officials pledged to get

North Carolina to avoid travel, both for

More than 2 million homeowners and their own safety and to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles. More than 50 search teams spread throughout the region in search of stranded people.

> One rescue effort involved saving 41 people north of Asheville. Another mission focused on saving a single infant. The teams found people through both 911 calls and social media messages, North Carolina National Guard Adjutant General Todd Hunt said.

> President Joe Biden described the impact of the storm as "stunning" and said he would visit the area this week as long as it does not disrupt rescues or recovery work.

> In a brief exchange with reporters, he said the administration is giving states "every-thing we have" to help with their response to the storm.

Hurricane Helene roared ashore late Thursday in Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane with 140 mph (225 kph) winds. A weakened Helene quickly moved through Georgia, then soaked the Carolinas and Tennessee with torrential rains that flooded creeks and rivers and strained dams.

There have been hundreds of water rescues, including in rural Unicoi County in East Tennessee, where dozens of patients

and staff were plucked by helicopter from

other utility customers were sti power Sunday night. South Carolina had the most outages and Gov. Henry McMaster asked for patience as crews dealt with widespread snapped power poles. "We want people to remain calm. Help is

on the way, it is just going to take time," McMaster told reporters outside the airport in Aiken County.

Begging for help in North Carolina as that help is slow to arrive

The storm unleashed the worst flooding in a century in North Carolina. One community, Spruce Pine, was doused with over 2 feet (61 centimeters) of rain from Tuesday through Saturday.

Jessica Drve Turner in Texas had begged for someone to rescue her family members stranded on their rooftop in Asheville amid rising floodwaters. "They are watching 18wheelers and cars floating by," Turner wrote in an urgent Facebook post on

But in a follow-up message on Saturday, Turner said help had not arrived in time to save her parents, both in their 70s, and her 6-year-old nephew. The roof collapsed and the three drowned. "I cannot convey in words the sorrow, heartbreak and devastation my sisters and I are going through," she wrote.

S Korean court sentences to prison 3 cops over 2022 Halloween crush

court gave three police officers prison sentences on Monday over their botched handling of a 2022 Halloween crush in a Seoul nightlife district that killed nearly 160 people. It was the first conviction of officials over the failure by authorities to prevent or adequately respond to the overcrowding that occurred in the popular Itaewon district. No top-level officials have been charged or held accountable, prompting criticism from bereaved families and opposition

politicians. The crush, one of the biggest peacetime disasters in South Korea, caused a nationwide outpouring of grief. The victims, who were mostly in their 20s and 30s, had gathered in Itaewon for Halloween celebrations.

Court sentenced Lee Im-jae, the former chief of Seoul's Yongsan police station, whose jurisdiction includes Itaewon, to three years in prison. It sentenced another Yongsan police officer to two vears in prison and gave a third officer a suspended two-vear term.

The three officers were convicted of professional negligence resulting in death. The court ruled that the crush wasn't a natural disaster and could have been prevented or the toll reduced if the three officers had prepared properly for the crowd, alerted others of the danger quickly and supervised other police

officers appropriately. The police officers and prosecutors can both appeal the ruling. The court also ruled that Park Hee-young, head of

Seoul (AP): A South Korean The Seoul Western District the Yongsan ward office, and three other ward officials were not guilty. It said a ward office was unlikely to have a legal right to control or break up a crowd of peo-

> Bereaved family members criticized the acquittal of Park and the other ward officials. "Does this make sense? We can't really accept this," Lee Jeong-min, a representative of the families, told reporters.In early 2023, a police special investigation concluded that police and municipal officials had failed to formulate effective crowd control measures despite anticipating a huge number of people in Itaewon. Investigators said police also ignored hotline calls by pedestrians who warned of swelling crowds before the

surge turned deadly.

London (AP): Britain's last coal-fired power plant is closing on Monday, ending 142 years of coal-generated electricity in the nation that

sparked the Industrial

Revolution. The Ratcliffe-on-Soar station in central England is finishing its final shift at midnight after more than half a century of turning coal into power. The UK government hailed the closure as a milestone in efforts to generate all of Britain's energy from renewable sources by 2030. Plant manager Peter O'Grady said it was "an emotional day."

"When I started my career 36 years ago, none of us imaged a future without coal generation in our lifetimes," he said.

The shutdown makes Britain the first country from the Group of Seven major economies to phase out coal though some other European nations, including Sweden and Belgium, got there sooner

Owner Uniper says many of the 170 remaining employees By 2012 it had fallen to 39 per cent, and by 2023 it stood at the 170 remaining employees will stay on during a two-year

decommissioning process. Energy Minister Michael Shanks said the plant's closure "marks the end of an era and coal workers can be rightly proud of their work powering our country for over 140 years. We owe generations a debt of gratitude as a country."

The era of coal might be ending, but a new age of good energy jobs for our country is just beginning," he said. The world's first coal-fired electricity plant, Thomas Edison's Edison Electric Light Station, opened in London in 1882. Ratcliffe-on-Soar, which opened in 1967, is a landmark whose eight concrete cooling

towers and 199-metre (650-

foot) chimney are seen by millions of people a year as they drive past on the M1 highway or speed by on trains. In 1990 coal provided about 80 per cent of Britain's electricity.

More than half of Britain's electricity now comes from renewable sources such as wind and solar power, and the rest from natural gas and nuclear energy."Ten years ago, coal was the leading source of this country's power — generating a third of our electricity," said Dhara Vyas, deputy chief executive of trade body Énergy

Britain's last coal-fired electricity plant closing

iust 1 per cent, according to

figures from the National Grid.

"So, to get to this point just a decade later, with coal's contribution replaced by clean and low carbon sources, is an incredible achievement," Vyas said. "As we aim for further ambitious targets in the energy transition, it's worth remembering that few back then thought such a change at such a pace was possible." Coal has fuelled civil strife as

well as powering the country. Tens of thousands of miners

walked out in 1984 over plans by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government to close more than 20 coal pits. The strike lasted a year, divided communities and saw widespread violence as police clashed with pickets. The miners' eventual defeat helped break the power of Britain's trade unions and hasten the end of the mining industry and the communities that relied on it.

Coal remains a combustible issue. Plans to open Britain's first new coal mine in 30 years in northwest England divided residents, with some welcoming the promise of well-paid iobs and others opposing the pollution and carbon emissions it would bring. On September 13 the High Court struck down planning per-mission for the mine that had been granted by the previous Conservative government in

Another chapter in Britain's

carbon-burning industrial heritage ends Monday with the closure of the last blast furnace at one of the world's biggest steelworks, in Port Talbot, Wales.

Almost 2,000 jobs are being lost with the shutdown at the plant, owned by India's Tata Steel. Tata plans to replace the blast furnace, which runs on the coal derivative coke, with a cleaner electric furnace that will emit less carbon and require fewer workers.

At its 1960s peak, more than 18,000 people were employed at the Port Talbot steelworks, before cheaper offerings from China and other countries hit production.

Roy Rickhuss, general secretary of the Community union, said the closure "marks the end of an era, but this is not the end for Port Talbot."

"We will never stop fighting for our steel industry and our communities in South Wales,"

India's consumer durables market to become global powerhouse: CII

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndia's consumer durables I market is expected to touch a size of Rs 5 lakh crore by FY30 and will become the fourth largest in the world by 2027, industry body CII said on Monday.

While the country's products are inching towards global reliability, it is imperative to build a robust quality adopt ecosystem and standardisation in the sector and also export Indian standards globally, said B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII National Committee on Consumer Electronics and Durables.

the Speaking Consumer Electronics & Durables Summit 2024, Thiagarajan, who is also the Chairman and Managing Director, Blue Star Ltd, further said the next decade is expected to create multiple opportunities across the value chain in the sector.

"From finished goods as well as development of an component indigenous ecosystem, with the right focus on domestic scale, India's prospects of becoming global manufacturing powerhouse holds promise," he asserted.



goal of manufacturing to

contribute 25 per cent of the

GDP to the country. With

over USD500 billion in FDI

and the creation of over 8.5 lakh jobs, the progress is undeniable. The air

conditioning sector, for instance, is expected to become the largest in the world by 2040," Thiagarajan

On the quality front, he said

Indian products are inching towards global reliability.

"As strengthening the quality

ecosystem fosters consumer

trust in the products offered,

it is imperative to build a

robust quality ecosystem and

adopt standardisation in the

sector and export Indian

Thiagarajan said, "India is are well on track to meet the already the fastest growing major market for consumer durables in the world and is expected to become the fourth largest by 2027 with a projected market size to reach Rs 5 lakh crore by fiscal year 2030."

acknowledged the government's support to the through various sector initiatives, including the PLI scheme to boost competitiveness and make India a self-reliant and technologically advanced global player.

The momentum we are witnessing is a clear sign that India is emerging as a key global of manufacturing stage and we

standards also globally as envisioned by the Prime Minister and the government of India," he added.

By adopting and promoting Indian standards on a global scale, Thiagarajan said, "We can enhance our reputation in the international markets and ensure that our products meet the expectations of the consumers worldwide."

However, he said, "While we have made significant strikes, there is still more work to be done to drive growth in sector R&D and innovation is of paramount importance."

He said advancement in technology, particularly, artificial intelligence, has revolutionised the sector, presenting it with new market opportunities and innovative

applications.
"To harness the potential of these technologies, it is crucial for the industry to proactively invest in R&D aimed at integrating a R&D. aimed at integrating artificial intelligence into consumer electronics and durables to bring innovation to the sector," Thiagarajan asserted. To further boost the sector's competitiveness on the global stage, he said, "We must harness economies of scale and build a strong domestic

Government extends I-T audit report filing date



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The income tax department has extended the date for filing audit report for 2023-24 by 7 days till October 7. In a circular, the I-T

department said considering the difficulties faced by taxpayers in electronic filing of various audit reports under the Income Tax Act, the deadline is being extended from September 30 to October 7.

Moore Singhi Executive Director Rajat Mohan said technological issues in electronic filing of tax audit reports have pushed the government to extend government to extend timelines by 7 more days. "Load of filings is quite high on the portal in the last few days, throwing the entire ecosystem in a frenzy. Government should either upgrade the system to handle

such rush or stagger the

timelines for tax filings,"

Mohan said.

BharatPe, Ashneer Grover settle dispute, end months of legal battle

 $F^{intech\ firm\ BharatPe\ has}_{reached\ a\ settlement\ with}$ its former co-founder Ashneer Grover, ending months of acrimonious legal and public dispute, the two sides said on Monday.

As part of the settlement agreement, Grover will not be associated with BharatPe in any capacity nor be a part of the shareholding of the

company.
Grover will transfer a part of his shareholding to the BharatPe board and the rest BharatPe board and the rest will be managed by a family trust, keeping him off the company's capital table. Also, the two sides will not pursue legal cases, BharatPe and Grover said in separate statements. The settlement comes days after the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police arrested Deepak Gupta on charges of misappropriation of fintech Unicron's funds. Gupta is the husband of Madhuri Jain Grover's sister.

"Certain number of shares held by him will be transferred to the Resilient Growth Trust for the benefit of the company and his remaining shares will be managed by his family

"Both parties have decided not to pursue the cases filed," BharatPe said in a statement. It all started in January 2022 when Grover had to go on



leave following allegations of using abusive language against Kotak Mahindra Bank staff and fraudulent practices, which he denied.

BharatPe had roped in SAM, Alvarez and Marsal (A&M) and PwC for governance review in February 2022 after sending Grover on leave.

In a report by A&M, it was alleged that Madhuri Jain Grover and her family members, brother Shwetank Iain and brother-in-law Deepak Jagdishram Gupta were involved in financial irregularities at the company. BharatPe sacked its head of controls and Grover's wife Madhuri Jain Grover on February 23, 2022, for alleged financial irregularities ranging from producing fake invoices to billing the company for personal beauty treatment and

These followed allegations of illegitimate payments to bogus human resource consultants linked to Madhuri Jain's brother Shwetank Jain. Also, there were allegations of

trips abroad.

inflated transactions, undue payments through through vendors, vendors, transactions in input-tax credit, illegal payments to travel agencies, forged invoices etc. Grover quit as managing director of the firm on March 1, 2022, after an emergency arbitrator in the Singapore International Arbitration Centre held that there was no ground to stop governance review at the fintech firm. That followed months of

bickering by both sides. Grover in a post on X said, "I have reached a decisive settlement with BharatPe. I repose my faith in the management and board, who are doing great work in taking BharatPe forward in the right direction. I continue to remain aligned with the company's growth and success. I will no longer be associated with BharatPe in any capacity, nor be part of the capital table." Grover, who had previously accused the BharatPe board of

mismanagement, ended the post with "Peace!".

Coal will remain part of India's energy mix for decades: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the UK officially shut down its last remaining coal power plant on Monday, policy experts said coal will policy experts said coal will continue to be a part of India's energy mix for the next few decades, given that it is still a developing country with significant energy needs.

The UK on Monday closed its last coal power plant, becoming the first G7 nation to do so amid calls for a global

to do so amid calls for a global coal-free energy system by

plant opened in London in and until 2012, coal accounted for 39 per cent of UK's electricity

generation.
Global energy think tank
Ember said the closure of the UK's last coal plant means that more than a third of OECD countries are now coal-free, with three-quarters expected to eliminate coal power by 2030, in line with global climate goals aimed at limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) "Net Zero by report recommends that developed countries phase out unabated coal by 2030, while developing countries should aim to do so by 2040 to remain on track for global net-zero emissions by 2050.

The term "unabated" in this context refers to electricity production that does not use technologies designed to and reduce capture greenhouse gas emissions.

These developments occur as developed countries push their counterparts in the developing world to accelerate the phase-down of unabated coal power.

India, the world's secondlargest consumer of coal for



electricity generation after China, saw the share of coalfired power generation rise to 75 per cent in 2023-24 from

Europe and the US in 2023, it rose by 8 per cent in India and 5 per cent in China.

Policy experts say India is focusing on a long-term energy transition, where coal will continue to be part of the energy mix for the next few decades.

Sunil Dahiya, an independent analyst, said that while coal will not disappear in the near future, India must reduce harmful emissions from the air pollution control technologies and improving efficiency to curb carbon

According to climate activist Harjeet Singh, India has made remarkable progress in renewable energy, but the intermittent nature of these sources and the lack of scalable battery storage mean that coal still underpins its power supply and industries like steel and cement.

71 per cent in 2019-20.

That said, India's coal usage for power generation began several decades later than that of developed nations. While the UK's first coal power plant opened in 1882, India established its first major thermal power plant, the Hussain Sagar Thermal Power Station in Hyderabad, in 1920.

sector by deploying advanced

emissions.

"Yet, the cost of coal goes far beyond emissions destroys ecosystems, displaces communities, and deepens environmental injustice. India The world's first coal power According to the IEA, while must urgently shift away from coal consumption fell in coal, and the international community must provide the financial and technological support needed for a just transition -- for both people

and the planet," he said. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former deputy chairman of the erstwhile Planning Commission, said in a webinar organized by the think tank Centre for Social and Economic Progress last week that India can't cut down coal immediately and it is hypocritical in the West to focus solely on coal while ignoring oil and natural gas.

However, if we are going to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, we must recognise that we need to phase out thermal power.We should indicate to the world that India's emissions will increase for a while, then peak, and eventually decline. Right now, there's lot misunderstanding in the West about India's willingness to

reduce emissions, which is not true," he said. Sunita Narain, the director general of the Centre for Science and Environment, echoed this sentiment, saying that India is currently dependent on coal, as it remains the cheapest form of energy available.

UP Government to start paddy procurement from October 1

PTI LUCKNOW

The Uttar government Pradesh will paddy commence procurement across the state starting October 1 and payments to farmers will be processed within 48 hours of

The process will roll out in phases, beginning in western Uttar Pradesh and extending to the eastern districts later in the month, according to an official statement issued here on Monday.

Procurement will start on October 1 in the districts of Hardoi, Lakhimpur Kheri and Sitapur. It will be followed by procurement in Lucknow, Rae Bareli and Unnao from November 1, among others, the statement added.

"Paddy procurement will continue until January 31, covering various districts including Meerut. Moradabad, Saharanpur, Bareilly, Agra, Aligarh and Ihansi," it stated.

The minimum support price (MSP) for paddy has been set



at Rs 2,300 per quintal, while the price for grade A paddy stood at Rs 2,320 per quintal. Additionally, farmers will receive a reimbursement of Rs

20 per quintal for unloading, sieving and cleaning their produce, it added.

To facilitate this extensive procurement process, the Food and Civil Supplies Department has established around 4,000 purchase centers statewide.

Minister Chief Adityanath has directed that payments to farmers be processed within 48 hours of the sale, ensuring timely financial support, according to the statement.

"The Yogi government has

directed that payments to farmers be processed within 48 hours," it added.

Registration for the paddy purchase scheme commenced on September 1, with approximately 32,000 farmers already registered within the first month. The Agriculture Department estimates that the paddy cultivation area for the Kharif marketing year 2024-25 is 61.24 lakh hectares, with an anticipated production of 265.54 lakh metric tonnes and an average yield projected at 43.36 quintals per hectare.

Centre's fiscal deficit touches 27 per cent of full-year target in first five months



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first five months of the current fiscal touched 27 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed on Monday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit the gap between expenditure and revenue was at Rs 4,35,176 crore as of August-end, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 36 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2024-25 financial year. The deficit was 5.6 per cent of the GDP in

In absolute terms, the government aims to contain the fiscal deficit at Rs 16,13,312 crore during the current fiscal.

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for the first five months of 2024-25, CGA said the net tax revenue was Rs 8.7 lakh crore or 33.8 per cent of the BE for the current fiscal.

The net tax revenue collection was 34.5 per cent at July-end 2023.

The central government's total expenditure in the four months through August stood at Rs 16.5 lakh crore or 34.3 per cent of BE. The expenditure was 37.1 per cent of the BE in the year-ago period.

Of the total expenditure, Rs 13,51,367 crore was in the revenue account and Rs 3,00,987 crore was in the capital account.

Out of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 4,00,160 crore was towards interest payments. Fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowing that is needed by the government.

Solex Energy announces investment for Vision 2030



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Solex Energy Limited on Monday announced an investment exceeding Rs 8,000 crore as part of its Vision 2030 strategy. The initiative reflects Solex's commitment to advancing solar technology and scaling operations, positioning the company as a fully integrated solar player. Solex is exploring the development of a new cell manufacturing facility with an initial capacity of 2 GW, designed to scale up to 5 GW. Its module manufacturing capacity will also be increased from 1.5 GW to 15 GW. Solex aims to expand its workforce to over 25,000 to support this growth.Chetan Shah, Managing Chairman & Managing Director of Solex Energy Limited, said, "Vision 2030 represents a key milestone in our journey to becoming a

company. introduction of TOPcon Technology featuring Rectangular Cells, Solex Energy is raising the bar for efficiency and reliability." A major component of Vision 2030 is the launch of the Tapi-R series. This revolutionary solar module incorporates N-Type TOPcon Technology and a rectangular cell design, setting a new standard for solar energy generation in India. The series, named after the Tapi River, a symbol of vitality in the region where Solex is headquartered, and the "R" for its rectangular cell design, significantly enhances efficiency and power reliability. In addition to technological advancements, Solex Energy Limited is committed to supporting India's national goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based installed

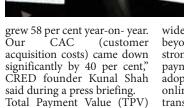
RED reduces losses by 41 per cent

PTI NEW DELHI

redit card bill payments Capp CRED on Monday reported 66 per cent year-onyear increase in revenue to Rs 2,473 crore in FY24, on the back of growth in monetised members and a drop in user acquisition costs.

Operating losses were reduced by 41 per cent from Rs 1,024 crore in FY23 to Rs 609 crore in FY24, a company statement

"This came on the back of some very exciting sort of for the platform surged 55 per pieces of execution that we cent to Rs 6.87 lakh crore, always had as a thesis, but it's always good to see that play out in action. The number of members that we monetised



users (MTU) rose by 34 per

while monthly transacting

wide range of payments beyond credit card bills, with wide range of strong adoption of P2P UPI payments. They also expanded adoption of CRED Pay across online merchants, boosting transaction volumes by 254 per cent during the year," the statement said.

Organic growth contributed to a high-quality user base and dropped customer acquisition "Members used CRED for a costs by 40 per cent, Shah said,

adding that 70 per cent of its behaviour. customer acquisition now comes through organic or referral channels.

The unicorn fintech launched its in-app vehicle management feature--CRED Garage--in September last year.

We managed to cross close to 4.2 million vehicles in the last financial year and now touching close 6.5 million vehicles on the platform. And it kind of demonstrates the power of the platform coming together where we are squarely focused on an audience segment," Shah said.

In July 2024, it introduced CRED Money, a tool that enables users to track, analyze, and reflect on their financial The entrepreneur also hinted at new products in the pipeline.

When you think from a capital investment and capital allocation perspective, there's a lot of exciting things coming up on the road map. A significant amount of our capital utilization is towards research and development costs, for example, things on products, investments on products that are in the works, and will come out pretty soon,"

Responding to whether CRED plans to go public, Shah said the company's still in its growth phase and doesn't intend to list anytime soon.

Tata Power inks pact with Rajasthan Government for investment in green energy

integrated

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

rata Power on Monday said it has inked an initial pact Rajasthan the government for investment of Rs 1.2 lakh crore, including Rs 75,000 crore in green energy, in the state's power sector. The 10-year plan aims to

Rajasthan's support transformation into a power surplus state, providing 24/7 clean, affordable, and reliable power supply. Investments will be made in renewable energy projects and manufacturing, transmission, distribution, nuclear power, rooftop

a company statement said. The MoU was signed during the 'Rising Rajasthan' Investor Meet in New Delhi on Monday.An amount of Rs 20,000 crore will be invested in the state transmission and distribution area to modernize the grid infrastructure, reduce energy losses, and improve power quality across the state. Besides, Rs 10,000 crore will be invested for transmission

installations, and EV charging,

opportunities to develop nuclear power plant. Nearly Rs 75,000 crore will be for renewable energy projects.

systems

crore has been earmarked for setting up 1 lakh EV charging points across Rajasthan. Rooftop solar power for 10 lakh households will support the PM Surya Ghar Yojana.

An investment of Rs 1,000

electricity capacity by 2030.

The MoU will have a transformative economic impact, creating over 28,000 direct jobs in the state. Tata Power already has a

significant footprint in Rajasthan, with a robust exploring portfolio of energy projects. The company commissioned 1 GW of solar projects and 185 MW of wind projects in the state.

USHA SLAMS EC MEMBERS FOR NOT FELICITATING OLYMPIC MEDALLISTS

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha on Monday said it is "deeply concerning" that the Executive Committee members failed to honour Olympic medallists and accused the Finance Committee of blocking funds intended to support Indian athletes' preparation for the Paris Games.

India secured six medals, including two historic bronze by young shooter Manu Bhaker, but Usha said the "EC does not want to celebrate their success" and it makes her "very sad."

"These athletes have made the nation proud, and it is the responsibility of the IOA to celebrate their achievements with the respect they deserve. It is deeply concerning that, even after returning home in mid-August, the EC has failed to discuss or take any steps towards organizing a formál felicitation ceremony," she said in a

She revealed that a proposal for a

each Olympic-bound athlete and Rs 1 lakh for each coach had been blocked by the Finance Committee. notably by IOA Treasurer Sahdev Yadav.

"I strongly believe that this grant would have given our athletes and their coaches the support they needed in the crucial period leading up to the Olympic Games.
"The refusal to disburse these funds

reflects a lack of understanding of the needs of athletes and shows a complete disregard for their preparation and well-being," she stated.

Highlighting the contrast with previous leadership, Usha pointed out that a successful felicitation ceremony was organised for the seven medallists from the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, even amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If my predecessors could celebrate the achievements of our athletes during a global pandemic, what is stopping the current EC members from doing the same? These medallists have worked tirely all the medallists have worked tirelessly to



they deserve to be acknowledged." Usha questioned the commitment of some EC members, particularly those who are former athletes.

"As someone who has represented India on the world stage, I understand the importance of recognising the hard work, sacrifices, and victories of our athletes. It is disheartening to see that others in positions of power, especially those who have also worn the national colours, are failing to uphold this duty."
The IOA had planned to award each

individual medallist between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1 crore, with coaches receiving Rs 15 lakh to Rs 25 lakh as

part of the official felicitation.

"By not following through on these plans, the IOA is letting down the athletes who have made our country proud. I urge the Executive Committee to take immediate action and ensure that our athletes receive the honours and recognition they deserve."

She reaffirmed her commitment to stand by the athletes, saying: "Our harassment against them.

Indian sport. I will not rest until they are given the due respect, support, and acknowledgment they have earned."

On Saturday, 12 members of the Executive Council had sent a letter to senior International Olympic Committee (IOC) official Jerome Poivey, accusing Usha of running the organization in an "autocratic" manner after she rejected their demand to remove Raghuram Iyer as IOA CEO during a contentious

meeting.
Usha called the accusations
"malicious and false," asserting that they aimed to undermine her leadership and the efforts to improve Indian sports. On Sunday, she criticized the dissenting council members for prioritizing personal power and financial gain over the welfare of the sport.

In a press release, Usha on Sunday alleged that several of these EC members have questionable track records, including accusations of gender bias and instances of sexual

World Cup winner Antoine Griezmann retires from international soccer after 10 years with France



World Cup winner Antoine Griezmann took the soccer world by surprise on Monday when he announced the end of his international career with

The 33-year-old Atletico Madrid player has played 137 matches with Les Bleus, scoring 44 goals during a successful 10vear tenure.

Griezmann started with France in 2014 in a friendly match against the Netherlands then quickly established himself as a time scorers behind Olivier Giroud,

stalwart of the team coached by Didier Deschamps with his versatile talent and influence as both a goalscorer and an assist

Only two players, Hugo Lloris and Lilian Thuram, have played more international games with France than Griezmann.

It's with a heart full of memories that I close this chapter of my life," Griezmann said in a message posted on Instagram. "Thank you for this wonderful tricolor adventure and see you soon."

Griezmann is fourth on France's list of all-

Thierry Henry and Kylian Mbappe. He won the 2018 World Cup and the Nations League three years later with his France

teammates. "After 10 incredible years, marked by challenges, successes and unforgettable moments, it is time for me to turn a page and make way for the new generation," he said. "I was lucky enough to experience some incredible moments alongside some exceptional teammates. We have shared victories that will remain forever engraved in our memories."

After a disappointing showing at the European Championship earlier this year, where France lost in the semifinals, Griezmann had lost some of his influence in Deschamps' team. His final appearance in the France kit was in September in a 2-0 win over Belgium in a Nations League match when he came on as a late substitute. Although Griezmann has admitted he struggled at the Euros, he was expected to keep on playing with France until the 2026 World Cup.

In his retirement message, Griezmann thanked Deschamps for his support over the last decade despite the coach's decision to make Mbappe France captain ahead of him last year following Lloris' retirement. Griezmann had previously said Deschamps' snub had been difficult to stomach.

Griezmann didn't say how long he'll continue with his club career.



Young Indian shuttler Raksha Kandasamy wins titles in Croatia and Belgium

PTI MUMBAI

Young Indian badminton player Raksha Kandasamy continued her brilliant run as she clinched back-to-back titles in the Croatian International and Belgium Junior tournaments.

The 16-year-old remained unbeaten throughout the two tournaments as she won each of her five games en route to her title wins.

Raksha defeated England's Leona Lee 21-9, 21-5 in the final of the Croatian International played at Samobor on Sunday. She had

earlier defeated Bulgaria's Stefani Stoeva 21-14, 21-23 in the semifinal and Poland's Joanna Rudna 21-11, 21-10 in the quarterfinal.

Earlier, Raksha had crushed the challenge from Tammi van Wonterghem of Belgium 21-5, 21-8 in the quarterfinals of the Belgium Junior event.

Siofra Ireland's Ireland's Siotra Flynn presented a strong fight against Rakha but the Indian prevailed 21-8, 19-21, 25-23 in their lastfour clash.

Raksha beat Germany's Gloria Poluektov 21-14, 10-21, 22-20 in the final played in the Belgian city of Herstal.

Delhi Capitals co-owner GMR group takes over Hampshire in county cricket



The GMR Group, co-owners of IPL franchise Delhi Capitals, on Monday capitals, on Monday completed an agreement with Hampshire to buy majority stake in the English county

Initially, the GMR Group will hold 53 percent stake in Hampshire, thereby making it the first county team to have an

In a phased manner through the next 24 months, the Indian conglomerate will acquire 100

percent stake. 'Hampshire Sport & Leisure Hampshire Sport & Leisure Holdings Limited, owner of the Utilita Bowl site and Hampshire Cricket, has signed and exchanged definitive agreements with GMR Global

agreements with GMR Global Pte Ltd (GGPL), marking the start of a significant strategic partnership," the club said in a statement in its website.

"As part of the agreement, GGPL will initially acquire a majority stake in Hampshire Sport & Leisure Holdings Limited, with the completed acquisition of 100% ownership expected within the next 24 months," the statement added. Kirankumar Granthi, Corporate Chairman of the GMR Group, said his aim will be to cultivate "value creation"

and providing opportunities to budding talents. "With this acquisition, along with our investments in the US, Dubai, and India, GMR is focused on engaging and connecting with the global youth. We are committed to

financial prudence, value and creating creation, opportunities for young talent. "Our vision is to transform sports into a platform that unites people and cultures, drives global excellence, and nurtures the creation of future

world champions," Granthi.

Currently, GMR holds a 50 percent stake in the Delhi Capitals (IPL and WPL), the Dubai Capitals (ILT20) and the Pretoria Capitals (SA20). Additionally, the GMR group

has invested in the Seattle Orcas in the Major League Cricket, USA. Under the new ownership structure, Hampshire's existing

leadership team will remain i Rod Bransgrove will continue as Group Chairman until at

least September 30, 2026, and David Mann will retain his role as the Group CEO. "This is the fulfilment of a

dream for me and, I hope, for all Hampshire Cricket supporters. After a thorough selection process, we chose GGPL (the parent company of GMR) as our partners due to their shared values and

commitment to our vision. "Becoming the first English cricket club to join an international cricket group will exciting open opportunities as we embrace the globalization of this great sport," said Bransgrove. Richard Gould, ECB Chief

in England and Wales, and underlines the continuing appeal of county cricket," said Gould.

Arsenal hosts PSG in Champions League game

AP LONDON

Days after professing his "love" and "respect" for Pep Guardiola, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has spoken in an equally effusive manner about another influential Spanish coach he will face in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Luis Enrique takes his Paris Saint-Germain team to Emirates Stadium for the most high-profile fixture in the second round of games in the new-look competition. Arteta and Enrique go way

back, having been together at Barcelona in the late 1990s and early 2000s when Arteta was starting out his professional career and Enrique was coming toward the end of his. Arteta said he "learnt a lot of things" from Enrique as a player and now as a coach, saying Monday his compatriot "brings a smile on my face."

"I am a huge admirer of him," Arteta said. "I remember his personality, huge character, huge energy, very supportive of his young players. What I love about him is that wherever he has been, as a player or as a manager, his fingerprints are all over place. You can see it's he thinks," Arteta said. "I think



his team. You can see PSG is his team. "He has this unbelievable power ... Then there's his approach to life, his profession - it's something to really look at and I learnt a lot

of things from him." Arteta spent much of last week talking about Guardiola and Manchester City amid the fallout from Arsenal's feisty 2-2 draw at the Premier League champions that appears to have ignited a rivalry between the teams.

He has long been viewed as a protégé of Guardiola, yet it seems that Enrique has been an influence, too.

"I love his honesty - he is very straightforward, he looks you

Arteta described PSG, where he enjoyed a spen on roan in 2000-01 alongside players like Ronaldinho and Nicolas Anelka, as a team "probably at

at Atalanta. Arteta said Arsenal will check on the fitness of fullbacks Ben

in the end, players appreciate

he enjoyed a spell on loan in the highest level you can find in European football." Enrique's side leads the French

league with five wins and a draw from the opening six games of its title defense and began the Champions League with a 1-0 win over Girona albeit courtesy of a 90thminute own-goal.
Arsenal started with a 0-0 draw

White and Riccardo Calafiori

Arteta talks up Enrique's 'unbelievable power' as | Chennaiyin FC aim for strong show against winless Hyderabad FC

Hyderabad FC would look for their first win of the season while Chennaiyin FC seek to move up the standings when the two sides face each other in an Indian Super League match here on

In their previous match, Hyderabad lost 0-2 to Punjab while Chennaiyin succumbed to a 0-1 defeat to debutant Mohammedan

Sporting. Hyderabad have a strong defensive structure that could trouble Chennaiyin. The two teams have clashed against each other on 10 occasions in the ISL and have registered four wins each, while two matches ended in a draw.

Meanwhile, CFC have scored in their previous four away matches. Their previous longest goal-scoring run in away games was 16 contests between January 2020 to February 2023.

Ahead of Tuesday's fixture, Hyderabad head coach Thangboi Singto hoped to draw inspiration from last season when his side triumphed over Chennaiyin. "I can see that the boys have gelled with each other in the



last few weeks of training. So far, we have played only away games, and our next match will be at home," Singto said on the eve of the game.

"Chennaiyin FC were the only team that we beat last season. Are we going to defeat them again? I wish.

"It won't be easy because of the kind of foreigners that they have brought in, and the Indian players are there; they are much better in terms of physicality and experience. It will be tough, but the only thing we can do is train and keep trying."

Chennaiyin head coach Owen Coyle said while their start has been better than the last

worked upon. "I'd love to be sitting here with six points, for sure. We're

grey areas that need to be

obviously on three, which is better than we were this time last year. But six was achievable. So, we have to take that punch to the nose and look to bounce back quickly," he stated. Chennaiyin's

Choudhary has taken eight shots from inside the box this season. Hyderabad's Abdul Rabeeh's 50 touches inside the opposition's box since the beginning of the year is the most by any player from the Executive Officer, welcomed the acquisition. "This is an exciting time for Hampshire Cricket. I am

pleased to see GGPL's commitment to continuing to develop Hampshire's cricket teams and pathways and enhance facilities at Utilita Bowl, and their respect for the traditions of the game in this country.

"This announcement also demonstrates the global interest in investing in cricket

Atletico equalises late against Madrid in derby interrupted after objects thrown on the field

Angel Correa scored in stoppage time and Atletico Madrid drew 1-1 with Real Madrid in a tense Spanish league derby that was interrupted for more than 15 minutes in the second half after Atletico fans threw objects onto the field.

Correa equalised for Atletico in a breakaway five minutes into added time with a goal that was initially disallowed for offside but was awarded after video review. Éder Militão had given Madrid the lead in the

The draw left Madrid in second place, three points behind leader Barcelona, which lost 4-2 to Osasuna on Saturday to end its seven-game winning streak. Atletico was third, two points behind Madrid after eight rounds.

"I always think positively," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti

"We moved closer to the leader and we have been playing well." The derby was interrupted shortly after Madrid's goal at the Metropolitano, with the referee sending the players to

the locker rooms after Atletico fans kept throwing objects onto the field.

Militão had celebrated near the sideline in front of Atletico fans, and Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was seen appearing to provoke Atletico fans after Militão scored.

"What the fans did wasn't right but we are not helping when we provoke them," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said. "I'm not justifying what the fans did, but we need to help as

It was Courtois who alerted the referee about the objects



including lighters - being thrown onto the field near

Atletico defender José María Giménez and midfielder Koke Resurrección went to talk to the fans in the section behind Courtois' goal. That section is where usually the more radical Atletico supporters are located. Atletico coach Diego Simeone also asked several times for the fans to behave.

A message over the stadium loudspeakers said the match was being interrupted for 15 minutes, and that it would be suspended if the problem continued.

The interruption came a day after the Spanish league said it would ask police to act against the promoters of a social media campaign which the league said was aimed at promoting racist acts against Madrid star Vinícius Júnior at the derby.

The social media campaign was based on a hashtag encouraging Atletico fans to wear face masks, apparently to make it more difficult for authorities to identify individuals who participate in racist chants or insults.

Social media videos showed

chanting "Vinícius is different." Vinícius occasionally clashed with Atletico players at the Metropolitano. Atletico's Marcos Llorente was

Atletico fans before the match

sent off in stoppage time.

OTHER RESULTS: Fourthplace 10-man Athletic Bilbao conceded a stoppage-time

equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Sevilla at home, while Giovani Lo Celso scored an 85th-minute goal in Real Betis' 1-0 home win over Espanyol.

Iago Aspas got an 81st-minute equaliser for Celta Vigo in a 1-1 draw against visiting Girona.



INDIA PUSH FOR VICTORY WITH T20-STYLE BATTING

Trying to force a result in the limited time available, India played a sensational T20-style cricket to take a 52-run firstinnings lead against Bangladesh in the second Test, infusing life into the rain-hit contest here on Monday.

The sun shone bright in the Kanpur sky after two gloomy days and the on-field action finally began after losing eight sessions. India had six sessions to force a win, and the hosts did everything they could on the fourth day of the

The pitch hardly offered assistance to India bowlers but the hosts still bundled out Bangladesh for 233 in their first innings, built around Mominul Haque's patient unbeaten 107.

India then unleashed their batting might on the visitors, striking at 8.22 runs per over to reset the records for fastest team 50 (18 balls), 100 (74 balls) and 200 runs

(24.2 overs) in Test cricket. India declared their second innings at 285 for nine to have another go at the visiting batters. At stumps, Bangladesh were 26 for two with Zakir Hasan and Hasan Mahmud becoming off-spinner

They were trailing India by 26

runs. India are going for the kill as an outright victory will consolidate their top position in the World Test Championship (WTC) table. Considering the tougher assignments ahead, especially the Australia Tour, India need to log as many vines as possible assigned. many wins as possible against comparatively easier rivals to get some cushion before the tough overseas rubbers. Young opener Yashsvi Jaiswal (72

off 51 balls) set the tone with three boundaries in the opening over bowled by Hasan Mahmud and bowled by Hasan Mahmud and skipper Rohit Sharma (23 off 11) bludgeoned Khaled Ahmed for two consecutive sixes - one landing on the roof of the stadium. It was clear that India were showing an urgency to surpass the Bangladesh total quickly after more than two days' play was lost to bad weather. to bad weather.

The onslaught surprised the rival attack but the home fans were rewarded for visiting the stadium. Adopting a see-the-ball and hit-the-ball approach, India the-ball approach, India completed the fastest team fifty in three overs.

Realising the ineffectiveness of his Bangladesh pacers,



introduced spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz and he responded to the call by castling Rohit.

Jaiswal completed his fifty with a single off left-arm spinner Taijul Islam and continued in his aggressive fashion. His innings, which contained 12 fours and two sixes, was cut short by Mahmud. The young opener added 72 runs for the second wicket with

Shubhman Gill (39). Rishabh Pant did not last long but there was no change in approach for the hosts with Virat Kohli and KL Rahul building on the foundation with their swift 87-run

stand for the fifth wicket.

In a breathtaking show, Indian batters hit 28 fours and 11 sixes, collecting 158 runs in boundaries. In the process, Kohli became only the fourth player in history to complete 27,000 runs in international cricket across formats.

Ravindra Jadeja also cherished a rare double of 300 Test wickets and 3000 Test runs. He is the second quickest to complete the double behind England great Ian Botham. He also became only the seventh Indian to take 300 Test wickets when he dismissed Khaled



Samit Dravid misses India U19 first game against Australia

Injured Samit Dravid was ruled out of the opening four-day game between India U-19 and Australia U-19 and is also unlikely to be fit in time for the second match of the

on Monday.

National Cricket Academy (NCA) recuperating from a knee injury that forced him to sit out of the three-match youth one-dayers against the Aussies recently.

He was expected to make his India U-19 debut at Puducherry but did not feature in any of the three matches. India had won the series 3-0. "As of now he's at the NCA, recovering from his knee injury. So, I don't know yet. It looks unlikely," head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar was saying quoted as ESPNCricinfo.

In fact, for Samit, son of former India captain and head coach Rahul Dravid, this is the last chance to represent India at the

U-19 level. He is set to turn 19 on October 11 this year, which will also make him ineligible for playing for India in the ICC 2026 Under-19 World Cup.

"His MRI scan was done during the one-day matches. We thought of giving him a go at the four-day game, but let's see how he progresses at the NCA. We are waiting for their The series opener began here report. We also have a second match," a source close to the development told PTI

> The second four-day match will start from October 7 at Chepauk, hence Samit has another week to recover from the knee injury.

Kanitkar said playing four-day red-ball game at the Under-19 stage will help the development of players.

"It's a great initiative to play Test games because red-ball [cricket] really tests you. There's enough time for the bowlers to plan and make strategies. So, for both batters and bowlers and even for fielders it's the ideal challenge to see where you stand.

To be able to play against a foreign side is a great thing. I know a lot of people, including myself who played Under-19 cricket against foreign teams and it really helped us a lot," Kanitkar added.

Good to get some overs under the belt at home as we would need to bowl a lot more in Aus: Bumrah

PTI ■ KANPUR

Jasprit Bumrah is gradually increasing his workload at home as the India pace spearhead knows he would be required to bowl a lot more overs during the five Test series in Australia.

'After the two Test series against Bangladesh, India will host New Zealand for three games before departing for Australia.

"You have to be smart (to stay fit for Australia) and it's good to get some overs under the belt here although the number of overs to be bowled will be a lot more in Australia," Bumrah told host broadcaster ahead of the fourth day's play.
'Day two and three of the Kanpur

Test were wiped out due to a wet outfield at the Green Park stadium

'Weather is not in your control, it is the way it is. Good to get some time to relax. You've to quickly adjust to the changing conditions here after Chennai, quickly adapt and communicate with others, like



Comparing Kohli and Babar baseless,

about changing lines and lengths," said Bumrah.

The five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy begins in Perth on November 22.

Bumrah relishes playing Test matches and is determined to give his best in the format.

"My favourite format is the Tests, I've always said that. I'm trying to give my absolute best in this format," said the champion bowler who has featured in 36 Tests since making his debut in

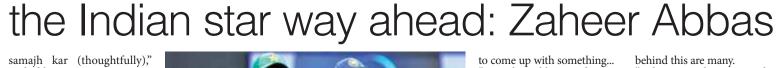
PTI ■ SHARJAH

Pakistan great Zaheer Abbas feels the comparisons between Virat Kohli and Babar Azam are baseless as the Indian superstar is a lot more consistent than the under-fire Pakistan batter.

Once regarded as part of the 'Fab Five' including Kohli, Steve Smith, Joe Root, and Kane Williamson, Babar is currently enduring extended slump in form.
"Yeh fizool ki baatein hai

comparisons are pointless). Virat Kohli scores in every match the other player (Babar) doesn't score in any match so then how can you compare. The person who scores, he is the bigger player," Abbas told PTI on the sidelines of the Cricket Predicta Conclave Kohli has here. international hundreds to his name while the much younger Babar has scored 31 centuries across formats.

Abbar also acknowledged the consistency displayed by India across formats and said the Rohit Sharma-led team will be a strong contender for the upcoming Champions Trophy. "Indian team overall is very good. Their batters are doing well and the bowlers both are good. It is a very balanced team, one that plays soch



"They have a very good captain, who understands cricket very well. So, when everything is going in your favour it is smooth sailing. That's the case with India rio now.

said Abbas.

"There is a very good chance of them doing well (at the Champions Trophy) because they have a balanced team," the 77-year-old said.

Hailed as the 'Asian Bradman' for insatiable appetite for runs, Abbas was one of the most elegant batters of his time. He played 78 Tests and 62 ODIs for Pakistan, accumulating 5062 and 2572 runs

respectively.
TEAMS IN T20S CAN WIN BY FLUKE, NOT IN TESTS: The 77-year-old strongly believes that Test cricket truly tests the players' character, resilience, mental strength, technique, and consistency. "Test cricket is real cricket. That it is the real Test of any

player, bowler. At one point India and Pakistan's Test team



boards are realising that we can't go on without Test cricket.

"How many T20s can you play? How many white-ball tournaments can the ICC organise? Maybe 2 or 3 but in the end you have to return to ODI or Tests.

"If you continue Test cricket the cricket will last longer. I know people like to get results fast but slowly they will get bored of T20s and we need Tests and ODIs."

An increasing number of

boards to focus on careers in T20 franchise leagues, a worrying trend that Abbas believes should be addressed. "Test cricket is ultimate. Anyone can win in T20. Teams can win by fluke. But that is not the case in Test cricket as it has two innings. You have the scope to do well in one innings. Test cricket teaches you a lot.

central contracts from their

"I know a lot of the players don't want to play Test cricket and play T20 instead. That needs to be stopped. They need

to come up with something... Something like you have to play at least 5 or 6 Test matches a year then you can play ODI matches need to be allotted," he added.

boys are working hard."

Pacer Shaheen Afridi repla

LOSS TO BANGLADESH WAS A HUGE SETBACK: Once a cricketing powerhouse, Pakistan now find themselves in a difficult situation. Their downward spiral began with the Asia Cup last year which was followed by the team's early elimination from the ODI World Cup in 2023 and the T20 World Cup this year. Earlier this month they suffered their first-ever Test series loss to Bangladesh.

"Bohot bada dhakka tha (It was a huge setback) that Pakistan lost to Bangladesh. We never thought that not only Pakistan will lose but it will lose so bad.

cricket abhi "Pakistan daamadol hai (is not doing great). The performance has dropped. I am hopeful that it will get better. The reasons

behind this are many. "It happens, the West Indies used to be the best in the

world, that's not the case now. or T20s. Every year a But I'm hopeful that Pakistan minimum number of Test cricket returns to the top, the

Babar as skipper in T20Is after the 2023 ODI World Cup but the former was reappointed as the captain earlier this year. Abbas urged the PCB to take some action before the issue escalates further. "Yes, there have been rivalries

in the Pakistan teams in the past but the board should take note of the rivalry between Babar and Shaheen fast. The faster the better because it will keep on escalating.

"Rivalry is good, but it should not become serious, if it does, it harms the team," said Abbas. Abbas, former Pakistan player Mudassar Nazar and former Pakistan coach Dav Whatmore spoke at the conclave to celebrate the the centenary episode of Cricket Predicta, the largest cricket live stats based

We've players who will help India dominate cricket for 10 years: Laxman

He accepted the job with trepidation but batting great VVS Laxman says he is now a content man as head of BCCI's Centre of Excellence, having played his part in creating a "supply chain" that will help India dominate world cricket across formats for at least the next decade. Laxman took over as the head of the erstwhile National Cricket Academy (NCA) in 2021 from his one-time teammate Rahul Dravid, and built on the excellent platform that was already laid out. NCA has been refurbished into a CoE by the Board and was inaugurated on Sunday. Laxman got a one-year extension into the position after his original tenure ended earlier this year.

"I can say with a lot of confidence, barring a couple of skillsets, I think, for the next 10 years, we've

our country proud. I'm not only talking about men's, but also women's (cricket) as well. We're blessed to have that kind of talent," Laxman told a select media gathering at the Centre of Excellence.

He said India's dominance in world cricket is a perfect reflection of its steady "supply chain."

"We won the (T20) World Cup (2024) in the West Indies which was a great result. But if you see all the three formats, we have dominated. Not only the rankings, we have dominated (other aspects

"There is a supply chain as far as cricket is concerned. That means the amount of players we have at our disposal, it is a real blessing." The 49-year-old said grooming the players without tinkering with their natural game, was essential to maintain that supply chai.

"The whole idea is to monitor got a lot of players who will make them, how to groom them, so that



they realise their potential. It's not "...Because ultimately the state professional. They understand that we dictate them (players) that you have to do this or you have to change (technique).

"Ultimately the player should feel comfortable, acknowledging and accepting that option. We don't want the player to suddenly feel the burden of whose advice he has to listen to.

The former India batter then explained how monitoring of the "targeted" players was done at the

"When Rahul was the head coach of the Indian team, he used to take care of the contracted players and we at NCA used to take care of the targeted players, emerging players and the under-19 players," he recalled.

For this purpose, Laxman said he and the other support staff created a wonderful synergy with various state associations to ensure continuity and similarity in coaching.

association coaches spend a lot more time with a player than what we do. We also have an athlete management system. A profile is created for all the players who come and attend the ZCA and the NCA camps...right from their reports of skills to the fitness to the musculoskeletal screening report. "Now, we are going to even request the state association to follow that process. So, at least 50 players of each state association — 25 men and 25 women — should be there

on the watch list. "We will know how the player has progressed and it will become very easy for anyone who is taking care of that player to know what the player has gone through every year," he elaborated on the process. Along with skill enhancement, Laxman said keeping the players in a good mental state is also important for their growth.

what is needed for them to be in the best mindset when they are competing at the highest level. As far as the junior cricketers are concerned, we have got mental conditioners who spend 8 to 10 days with the players," he said.

IMPORTANCE OF 'A' TOURS: Laxman described the significance of 'A' tours in preparing a player to

"Every year we make sure that we have at least two A Series. Sometimes it can be challenging because we want to have an A Series whereas the other boards will be busy with their own domestic cricket. Or they may not

tackle all kind of conditions.

be ready to accommodate us. "But at least we try to have two A Series. The A programme allows us to go to different parts of the world and get experience. So that when they graduate to the national team, it is not a surprise to them," added "The players themselves are so Laxman.

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