OPINION 6

MONEY 10

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.17 Issue 274 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable



WORLD 8

GAUFF RALLIES TO REACH CHINA OPEN FINAL 12 SPORTS

Team India lifts the World Cup Time for Mahisasura Mardini

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

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

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

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



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

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

losing her partner Mandhana early in the

Shafali Verma couldn't lead the team for long in the run chase. Middle order batter Jemimah Rodrigues and Captain Harmanpreet Kaur's team solidity in successfully chasing the target. Pakistan is still in the league

with upcoming match defending champions Australia on Friday.

India managed to win this

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

Parties seek recognition in Jammu and Kashmir

PIONEER NEWS SERC ■ JAMMU/

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

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

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

Haryana Former Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said he was expecting a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Artist collapses at Ram Leela performance



SAUMYA SHUKLA **NEW DELHI**

on Sunday.

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

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

Delhi Health

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

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

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

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

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

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

simply looked the other way. The teenager was raped in 2020 and she ended her life in 2022 as her parents failed to get her justice. The incident — dating back two years — that was nearly dead and forgotten suddenly rematerialised on Saturday after an 11-year-old girl was raped and murdered at Mahishmari village in Joynagar sub-division once again in South 24 Parganas district.

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

"We have no security ... is this



Representative file photo

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

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

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

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

with reality: India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

Minister He also highlighted the organisation's lack of action during global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. "Think

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



Not only administration, roads users too be blamed

Fear of traffic chaos spoils the festive season fun

BY KUSHAN MITRA

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

occasion to be stuck in a car or motorcycle. Traffic, transport and road

occasion to celebrate, not an

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

Central Vigilance Commissioner A.S. Rajeev visits Bokaro

.S. Rajeev, Vigilance Commissioner from Government of India, visited Bokaro today. He was accompanied by S.N. Gupta, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Steel Authority of Ìndia Limited (SAIL). On his arrival at Bokaro Niwas, Rajeev was accorded a Guard of Honour by CISF person-

As part of his visit, Rajeev first toured the model room at the Steel Building in Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) to gain insights into the plant's layout and production processes. He was briefed by S.N. Gupta, along with Birendra Kumar Tiwari, Director-in-Charge of BSL, and other senior officials including Gyanesh Jha,



Following this, the Vigilance Commissioner, along with SAIL's Chief Vigilance Officer, visited key produc-tion units of the Bokaro Steel Plant, including the Coke Ovens, Blast Furnace, SMS-II & CCS, Hot Strip Mill, and Cold Rolling Mill-III. During the visit, they received detailed explanations of the production processes at these

departing from Bokaro in the afternoon, A.S. Rajeev met with senior officials of BSL at Bokaro Niwas. In a separate meeting, SAIL's Chief Vigilance Officer, S.N. Gupta, also interacted with the vigilance officers from BSL and SRU, discussing matters pertinent to the vigilance department.

Alert CRPF jawans foil Naxal plan

Nityanand Dubey

Garhwa

The Battalion of 172 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) foiled an important Naxalite conspiracy in Thalia village of Budha
Pahad area under
Bhandaria police of the
district. This special operation was conducted under the leadership of Neeraj Assistant Kumar, Kumar, Commandant under the Rameswaram, Commandant Deputy Commandant and under the supervision of Nripendra Kumar Singh, Commandant. The operation started on Sunday at 6 am in the morning. In which the operation team was assigned the task



area of Thalia village. During the operation, at around 10 am, when the forces were searching the village. Where CT/GD Sunil Kumar informed about a possible IED at a suspicious place. The security forces searched the place carefully and recovered two grenades and 06 detonators from the middle of a dense tree. This information was immediately given to the commandant.

On the instructions of the Commandant, the operation recovered explosive materials safely following the prescribed

protocol and under security cover. The recovered grenades and detonators posed a serious threat to the security forces and local villagers. The aim was to cause heavy damage. The quick action of the CRPF not only averted a major threat, but also foiled the Naxalite conspiracy in time. The security forces are continuously running a tough campaign against the Extremists in the area.

Training imprated to polling officials



PNS ■ Lohardaga

The third polling officials deputed for the Assembly General Election 2024 were given training in two shifts on Sunday at Chief Minister Excellent District Nadia Hindu Plus Two High School, Lohardaga. A total of 521 officials were given training in this. In the training, the third polling officials will be trained in the voting process to discharge their responsibilities without fail, work with better coordination with their colleagues, cooperate with the presiding officer and work with better coordination

with the colleagues, and get information about voting material. Detailed information related to storage and use of materials, sealing materials required for EVMs and VVPATs, prepoll preparation, preparation for polling day, mock poll, mistakes made on polling day, commencement of polling, filling of required forms. Information given by master trainer. In the training, Sub-Divisional Officer Amit Kumar, District Panchayati Raj Officer Anjana Das, Circle Officer Ashutosh Kumar and other officials gave important instructions to the polling officials.

Navratri celebrations: Dandiya and Garba Event at DAV Sector 4

PNS ■ Bokaro

n the auspicious occasion of Navratri, DAV Sector 4 organized a grand cultural event featuring Dandiya and Garba dances, along with the invocation of Goddess Durga. The program began with the invocation, Sarvabhuteshu Sarvarupe?a," reflecting the divine presence of the Goddess in all forms, emphasizing her dedication to the welfare of humanity. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the eternal prayer of "Asato Ma Sadgamaya, Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya," which represents the journey from ignorance to enlightenment. Following this, the students welcomed the guests with a melodious song, "Prangan Mein Aapka Swagat Hai,' showcasing the Indian tra-dition of hospitality. The moment when the welcome



song was sung in front of the Goddess felt both historic and profoundly spiri-

The highlight of the event was the enthusiastic Dandiya and Garba performances by the young students, along with their mothers. Children from UKG and Classes 1 and 2 donned traditional attire, holding dandiya sticks, and

danced with joy.
Addressing the parents, teachers, and students, the school principal, Sarbendu Shekhar Kar, emphasized the importance of nurturing spirituality among children. He said, "Developing spirituality in children promotes

peace of mind, intellectual growth, and the preserva-tion of moral values. Through dance and music, these higher values can be effectively instilled in young minds."

He further added, "While the knowledge of the Vedas is crucial, the education of science is equally indispensable. We are committed to midding attudents towards. guiding students towards excellence in the field of science, including taking the top performers to ISRO."

Overall in-charge, Mr. L.K. Sinha, extended his heartfelt wishes to the entire DAV family on the occasion of Durga Puja and thanked everyone for making the event a grand suc-

cess. This celebration not only highlighted cultural awareness but also showcased the perfect blend of spirituality and maternal strength, leaving an unforgettable impression on all present.

Steel City police release helpline numbers ahead of Durga Puja

PNS ■ Jamshedpur

Tith Durga Puja just around the corner, **V** the district administration and police are in full alert mode to ensure the festival is celebrated in a peaceful and safe environment. In a proactive move, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishore Kaushal held a key meeting on Sunday with Tiger Mobile, Tango, and PCR jawans at the PCR premises. The objective was to review security arrangements and give necessary instructions to law enforcement teams to maintain law and order during the festiv-

Addressing the assembled officers, SSP Kaushal emphasized the importance of regular patrolling, espe-cially in crowded areas where large gatherings are expected. He instructed the teams to remain vigilant and mobile, ensuring that no disturbances arise. "No

team should remain stationed Continuous movement is crucial to maintaining peace and inconvenience to the public during the Puja," he said. One of the key concerns raised by the police was rash driving, which often spikes during festival times. SSP Kaushal revealed that specific areas prone to reckless driving have been identified, and special traffic monitoring teams will be deployed at these spots. "Immediate action will be taken against those engaging in rash driving.

Bokaro-Dhanbad route via Bhatua Sector 11 poses risk with no streetlights

R SHARMA ■ BOKARO

major roadway connecting Bokaro and Dhanbad, which passes through Sector 11 and Bhatua village, has become a concern for commuters due to the absence of streetlights. This critical route, vital for reducing travel time between the two cities, poses risks for nighttime travelers who are forced to navigate in near-complete darkness. Hundreds of vehicles trav-

el along the road daily, and as night falls, drivers rely solely on headlights to maneuver through the dim stretch. The road's narrow lanes and heavy traffic make it difficult for vehicles to spot pedestrians and cyclists, heightening the risk of accidents as visibility decreases.

The road plays a crucial role in easing transportation between the industrial hubs of Bokaro and Dhanbad. benefiting both residents and the economy. However, the lack of lighting infra-structure along this vital route has been highlighted by frequent commuters, many of whom express concerns over the dangers they face when traveling at night.
"This road is important,

improve safety

connecting Bokaro and Dhanbad, but the complete darkness after sunset makes it challenging to drive safely," said one local commuter. Another regular traveler commented, "We rely on this road, but the absence of lighting makes it hard to see pedestrians and oncoming vehicles. It's a safety risk.

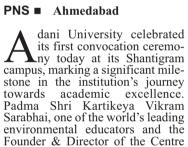
While the issue of missing streetlights has been raised

commuters, local authorities reportedly are aware of the situation. Residents have expressed improvements will be made soon, as the installation of streetlights could significantly

on the road. conclusion, the installation of proper street lighting along this key route would not only improve safety but also enhance the overall travel experience for commuters. As the road remains an essential link between

major industrial cities, any steps taken to improve its infrastructure would be a welcomed relief for residents and daily travelers alike.

As the festive season begins, the need for streetlights on this key route becomes even more critical. The increased traffic during the celebrations adds to the urgency of ensuring the safety of commuters.



for Environment Education (CEE) delivered the convocation address. The convocation was presided over by Dr Priti Adani, President of Adani University. 69 Post Graduate students of MBA (Infrastructure Management), MBA (Energy Management) and MTech (Construction Engineering

and Management) programs received their degrees, while 4 students received Gold Medals for their exemplary performance at the convocation, marking the beginning of their journey as proud ambassadors of Adani University. Addressing the graduates, the Chief Guest Mr Kartikeya Sarabhai said, "As you embark on this new chapter, it's crucial to reflect on the challenges that await you and the skills you will need to navigate them

effectively."

Mr Sarabhai emphasized the need for inclusivity in development, urging future leaders to engage with communities and collaborate with various stakeholders. He also addressed the impact of technological disruption, asserting that techshould empower, not

In her address, Dr Priti Adani,



President of Adani University congratulated the senior leadership, faculty and administrative staff for their relentless efforts in establishing the university, which received formal approval in 2022.

Highlighting the transformative power of education, Dr Adani stated. "Education has an incalculable luminosity". She reiterated the university's commitment to shaping a new India by focusing on research and innovation in life sciences, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of "Atma Nirbhar Bharat". She mentioned that "Failures simply help put you on the path to greater progress," urging them to see setbacks as growth opportuni-

etal betterment.

She expressed her aspiration for Adani University to achieve global recognition, calling on graduates to be ambassadors of their alma mater

and apply their knowledge for soci-She urged the graduates to embrace

professional world, emphasizing rooted in that excellence -Knowledge, Tenacity, Rationality, and Intelligence – will set them

apart. Prof Ravi P Singh, Provost, Adani University, presented a report on academic milestones achieved by Adani University since its foundation as a university. While presenting the university's report for the year 2023-24, Prof Singh said that over the past year, we have reached significant milestones at Adani University. "Our partnership with professionals from the Adani Group enriches the learning experience by bringing real-world insights into the classroom. Students have gained hands-on experience through visits to key sites and capstone projects", mentioned Prof

The Convocation function was attended by the members of the Governing Body, Board of

Management, Academic Council, Board of Studies, and several distinguished guests from Corporates and partners from Academics and Research fraternity, alongside the graduating students and their paratra

About Adani University:

The University has been envisioned to focus on transdisciplinary research, knowledge creation and teaching-learning processes in the areas of Infrastructure, Energy, Technology, and Digital Healthcare. The University adopts an ecosystem approach to Higher Education within its campus which includes not only the courses, disciplines, and research; but also, skill development, professional development, teacher training, entrepreneurship development, innovation, product development, IPR creation, quality & certification, consultancy, and collaborative research through partnerships with Industry and Institutions across the world. Currently, the University offers Engineering, Technology and Business Management (Undergraduate and Post-graduate) programs (B. Tech, M. Tech, and MBA), flexible NEP-compliant integrated B. Tech + MBA program along with interdisciplinary Doctoral program (PhD) with 1500+ students.

Adani University is the first University in the State of Gujarat to have undergone and certified with ISO 21001:2018 certification which is considered as Gold Standard for Management Systems in higher education.

Shree Guru Rajan Ji explains Rahu

by Gaura Gupta

shadow planet and the king of meteors in the solar system, as mentioned in Hindu texts, Rahu is believed to be a malefic planet that tries to eclipse the Sun, and the time it is believed to influence is considered inauspi-

During the churning of the ocean (samudra manthan), Svarbhanu (an asura), disguised as a deva, drank the elixir (amrita). Once Svarbhanu is caught and is dissected into two pieces by Vishnu ji's discus (sudarshana chakra). These two pieces became Rahu (the upper part) and Ketu (the lower part).

Rahu and Ketu can even block the Sun and Moon, causing solar and lunar eclipses. Like it causes eclipse (grahan) and masks the Sun from this world, even for a few minutes, Rahu may overshadow the mind during Rahu Kalam, causing it to go blank, thus barring mental clarity. From a scientific perspective, the quantum of UV radiation augments the belief sur-

rounding Rahu Kalam. Ancient astrologers noted that



during Rahu Kaal, the amount and strength of UV rays was the highest and increased exposure to UV rays had negative effects on health. Rahu, a significant entity in astrology, affects your life in variant manners. The influence of Rahu in your life depends upon its position in your birth chart.

Inclined to working autonomously, if it is one's ascendant Lord, it may tend to bring challenges in life. its Antardasha and Mahadasha phases, Rahu may effect struggles and problems in various walks of life. But a positive Rahu may see you succeed especially in politics, business, social activism, thus bringing prosperity, and social recognition. Rahu's impact on life is quite based on its position and its association with other factors in the birth chart.

Rahu Kalam is a certain amount of time each day that lasts approximately for one and half hour. One of the eight segments of the day between sunrise and sunset that is calculated by taking the total time between sunrise and sunset at a given place and then dividing this time duration by eight, Rahu Kalam timings and duration are not same for any two locations due to difference in local timings of sunrise and sunset

Therefore, Rahu Kalam should be looked at for each day. During the day, we calculate the eight parts of Rahu Kalam by dividing the hours between sunrise and sunset equally. Each day of the week has a different Rahu Kaal time, which depends on the local times of sunrise and sunset. To find out the exact Rahu Kalam for your location, it's a good idea to consult a local panchang (astrological calendar). Rahu Kalam times for each day

of the week: On Monday, Rahu Kalam is from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., which falls in the second part of

the day. • On Tuesday, Rahu Kalam is from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., during the seventh part of the day. • For Wednesday, Rahu Kalam occurs from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30

p.m., in the fifth part of the day. v Thursday's Rahu Kalam is from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the sixth part of the day.

• Friday's Rahu Kalam takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., during the fourth part of the day.

• On Saturday, it's from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., in the third part of

the day. • And Sunday's Rahu Kalam occurs from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., during the eighth part of the day. Money Matters, Important Meetings and Decisions, Starting Journey, New Ventures, Legal Matters, Marriage Ceremonies and other Auspicious Activities may be Avoided during Rahu Kalam.

MMCH Daltonganj reschedules OPD timings

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

he state health department rescheduled timing for the first sitting and second sitting of the out patient department popularly known as OPD in the MMCH Daltonganj. An office order of the medical superintendent of the MMCH Daltonganj to this effect, based on the letter of the director medical education, on pursuance of the medical superintendent of the MMCH Daltonganj Dr Dharmendra Kumar the first sitting of the OPD has been extended by one hour. There is a one hour reduction in the second sitting of

the OPD. The new schedule for the OPD will come into effect on / from October 14 said Dharmendra Kumar. This rescheduling is in the larger interest of the

Now, first sitting OPD will



be from 9am to 2pm. Again the second sitting OPD will be from 3pm to

Dr Dharmendra Kumar said "Great rush of patients is seen in the first sitting OPD. Patients come here from far off locations. An hour extension will help them most."

Dr Dharmendra Kumar further said "If patients pour in the first sitting OPD, their number trickles in the second sitting. Hence there is a reduction of one hour here." Medical officer said "We

believe our esteemed doctors and health personnel will be providing best of services available with the MMCH Daltonganj to the patients.

In other major stride the MMCH Daltonganj conducted a successful second total hip replacement surgery in a week or so informed Dr Dharmendra Kumar.

The second THR was conducted by a team of doctors and OT assistants under the stewardship of the head of the orthopedic department Dr Shashi Kant Suman who was ably assisted by Dr Hari Om, Dr Rajesh, anaesthetist Dr Deepak.

The 70 year old patient Bhola Sharma of Harihurganj who had this THR is fine.

The first THR here was done by civil surgeon Dr Anil Kumar, Dr Perween Siddharth, Dr Hari Om and others on a poor woman.

Maiya Samman Yojana

Women are getting financial assistance from Govt, Baby Devi

Second phase of Maiya Samman Yatra was held at Simdega, Kolebira and Gumla district

PNS ■ Ranchi

tate Excise and Prohibition Minister Baby Devi on Sunday addressing a program organized in Simdega, Kolebira and Gumla district as part of second phase of Maiya Samman Yatra, said that the Hemant government is thinking about the poor. It is giving them financial support. Now women do not need to beg in front of anyone. The government is giving them financial assistance. The amount they can spend on themselves along with their children. The government will soon increase this honor amount.

Agriculture Minister Deepika Pandey Singh said that the state government is giving priority to sports and players. The government is taking many important decisions in this direction. They are encouraging the players. She told the people of the state that we have all come to say and listen to your heart. Tell your problems openly. The government waived electricity bills worth crores of rupees. She said that many thanks and gratitude for the love you people have shown on our visit. She said that I thank you on behalf of my ministry for the coarse grain revolution that Gumla district has brought and I want to tell you that due to lack of rain, this time the state government has passed Rs 50 crore for farmers to encourage coarse grain and I am happy that the maximum registration has also come from your district. Under the leadership of the honorable Chief Minister Hemant Soren, we will bring



prosperity in the lives of all the brothers

and sisters living in the state.
The entire state is thanking Chief Minister Shri Hemant Soren in one voice for the electricity bill waiver that took place recently. Agricultural loan up to two lakhs was waived to provide relief to the farmers. Our government is constantly trying to provide you maximum benefits. I would request my brothers and sisters, especially those who are farmers, to join the government schemes and take advantage of it. The Mainiya Samman Yatra will continue in the future as well but we

JMM MLA Kalpana Soren addresses gathering during Maiyan Samman Yatra in Simdega district on Sunday. PNS will always be grateful to you for this love

> MLA Kalpana Soren expressed her gratitude to the women present in the program, the sisters of JSLPS and the students of

and affection of yours.

Inter College and said that she is very happy to receive so much love from the people of the state. She said that today the word Maiya is spread all over Jharkhand and the credit for this goes to the Chief Minister of the state, Mr. Hemant Soren. He thought about half the population of the state. He thought about strengthening the position of women. Apart from this,

is also running for the education of the girls of the state.

Under this scheme, financial assistance is being provided to the girls from class 8th to class 12th. Addressing the girl students, she said that you dream, your dreams will be given flight by your own grandfather Chief Minister Mr. Hemant Soren. Mrs. Kalpana Soren expressed her gratitude to Nari Shakti. Addressing the women of Gumla, she said that who has brought the Gumla, she said that who has brought the Sarvajan Pension Scheme (pension scheme for all), who is thinking all this? It is the thinking of your grandfather Chief Minister Mr. Hemant Soren. May there be happiness and smile on your face. If there is happiness on the faces of our mothers and sisters, elders in the family, children, then your Hemant Dada. Hemant son have then your Hemant Dada, Hemant son have

worked to give that happiness. Simdega MLA Bhushan Bada said that the schemes brought by the Jharkhand government are for the common people. Every person born in the state of Jharkhand, every mother, every sister and every brother will definitely get the schemes run by the government. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Jharkĥand is moving ahead on the path of development. The benefits of the government schemes are now reaching the villages. Especially the amount of Maiya Samman Yojana is reaching 99% of the women of the village. Every year the scheme amount will be increased. Our effort is that those who have migrated from here should also get the benefit of this scheme. The program was also addressed by Gumla MLA Mr. Bhushan Tirkey and Sisai MLA Mr. Jigga Susaran Horo and Kolebira MLA Mr. Naman Vikas Kongadi. Officials from various departments and thousands of women were present in the program.

<u>'DURGOSTAV 2024'</u>

'Adiyogi' the theme at Ranchi Railway Station pandal this year

Laser Show to attract revellers here

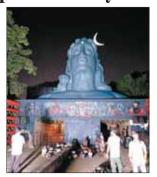
Divya Modi ■ Ranchi

Ranchi is gearing up to celebrate Durga Puja in great style with each pandal attempting to outdo others in terms of artistry and devotion. Among these the Ranchi Railway Station Durga Puja Samiti is capturing the essence of spirituality and grandeur with its fascinating 'Adiyogi' theme for this Durga Puja.

Being decked up since 1947, the Ranchi Railway Station Durga Puja Samiti has portrayed a myriad of themes over the years. From creating a facsimile of the famous Sabarimala temple to showcasing the renowned dance forms Kathakali and Mohiniyattam to the traditional boat race Vallam Kali conducted during Onam, this puja pandal has done it

year's celebration at the venue will be a majestic Adiyogi idol standing tall at a breathtaking 50 feet in height which is bound to leave visitors awe- struck with its towering presence. Laser show 'Divya Darshan' similar to the ones in Coimbatore will be a major point of attraction for revellers. The timings for the same will be from 6

The centerpiece of this



pm to 5 am. The statue of Adiyogi and the laser show are being done at a whopping cost of Rs 20

The entrance gate of the pandal is a facsimile of the Kedarnath temple. This gate will be about 30 feet gate will be about 30 feet in height and will feature Shivling, Nandi, bells and trishul on either side. The idol of Goddess Durga will also be seen in the 'Abhaydaan Mudra'- a hand gesture that symbol-

hand gesture that symbolises fearlessness, protec-tion and peace. The remaining six hands of the deity will be seen holding her weapons. The idol will be about 11 feet in height. The interiors of the pandal will showcase various postures of yoga and the seven yoga chakras. The entire pandal is being built at a budget of approximately Rs 50 lakh. Pandal hoppers can start visiting from Chaturthi- October 6 while the idol immersion will take place on October 13.

Dr. Ajoy criticizes BJP's 'Panch Pran' election slogan as gimmick



PNS ■ Jamshedpur

enior Congress leader and former Member of Parliament Dr. Ajoy Kumar has strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) newly announced election slogan, "Panch Pran," labeling it as a mere attempt to deceive the people of Jharkhand ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. Speaking to the media, Dr. Kumar said the BJP's promises are designed to mislead voters, particularly targeting economically vulnerable sections, without any real intention of fulfilling them. Dr. Kumar highlighted the ongoing Maiya Samman Yojana, a scheme intro-duced by the Hemant Sorenled Jharkhand government, which provides ?1,000 per month to women to empower them economically. According to him, instead of supporting this initiative, the BJP filed a petition in the Ranchi High Court to halt the scheme. He questioned the BJP's recent promise of offering ?2,100 per month to women in Jharkhand, asking

being implemented in BJP-ruled states. "If the BJP is serious about women's empowerment, why are they not providing such benefits where they are in power?" he remarked.

Dr. Kumar also addressed the BJP's promise to offer gas cylinders for ?500, calling it another hollow pledge. He pointed out that similar announcements had been made in other states before, but people are still waiting for these promises to be fulfilled. "If BJP is promising gas cylinders for ?500 in Jharkhand, why aren't they offering the same to the rest of the country? It shows their intentions are purely election-driven, not aimed at genuine public welfare," he

He further criticized the Modi government's track record, pointing to the 2014 promise of providing 2 crore jobs per year, which he claimed never materialized. "Unemployment reached a 20-year high, and inflation is crippling the common man, but the BJP is more concerned about retaining power than addressing these pressing issues," Dr. Kumar added. The Congress leader concluded by saying that the public has seen through the BJP's "rhetoric" and is increasingly rejecting their electoral tactics, citing the recent example of Haryana, where BJP faced a signifi-

Cong is against reservation to SC/ST and OBCs, says Arya

BJP SC Morcha chief Lal Singh Arya targets JMM govt of delivering promises to people

PNS ■ Ranchi

ational President of BJP Scheduled Caste Morcha Lal Singh Arya targeting Congress, JMM said that before the Lok Sabha elections, Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, and other leaders of Indi alliance used to show constitution book saying that that if Modi and BJP are given 400 seats, they will change the constitution, BJP will end reservation. Congress and Indi alliance will protect the constitution and reservation. By doing this, Rahul Gandhi incited Dalits, tribals, backward people and got some percentage of votes. But, after the Lok Sabha election Rahul Gandhi during his recent visit to America talking to jour-nalist said that if Congress comes to power in India, they will end reservation. This is the double character of Congress. Before Lok Sabha elections for getting votes, there was one face but after the Lok



Sabha elections, their other face has come to the fore. The general public says that Rahul Gandhi is a big lie machine. He has also proved this through

his character. He said that not only Rahul Gandhi talks about ending reservation, but in 1961, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had written a letter to all the Chief Ministers of the country saying that we are not in favor of reservation. Reservation gives birth to commissions and second class people. He had written a letter to the Chief Minister against reservation. Pandit Nehru had formed Kaka Kalelkar's committee for reservation

backward classes.

When the report came for giving reservation, he rejected it. Indira Gandhi formed Mandal Commission, but threw the Mandal Commission's

recommendation in the He said that Rajiv Gandhi even said that reservation gives birth to idiots. The backward classes SC, ST do not need reservation, but the Muslim people need reservation. Now Rahul Gandhi talks about ending this reservation. This means that Rahul Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, that is, the entire Congress is against reservation. They are also against the Constitution.

Arya addressing a press

conference at party office said that the Indi alliance will also lie somewhere in the Jharkhand elections. They will do the work of They will do the work of conspiracy. He said that the way the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha government in Jharkhand said that they will give employment to five lakh youth, but 5 years are about to pass and they have not given employment to even 1 lakh people. This means that Jharkhand Mukti Morcha along with the Indi along with the Indi alliance also took votes from the youth and then beat them with lathis after demanding employment. Not only this, the scheduled tribes in Jharkhand need caste certificates for jobs and employment. The JMM government does not even issue certificates. The president of the

Bharatiya Janata Party and the SC Morcha are the leaders of the opposition. They have to agitate in the districts to issue caste certificates in Jharkhand, but the JMM government does not issue certificates. On the strength of power, protection of the government and by intimidation, peoand by intimidation, people of the scheduled castes are being forced to convert their religion. Their lands are being occupied. They are also being beaten and driven out of villages. Many such incidents have come to light in the recent

Ranchi Forest Department held 70th Wildlife Week Walkathon



PNS ■ Ranchi

seven days long Wildlife Week 2024, is being celebrated by Jharkhand State Forest department all across the

In continuation of the same

5 and 10 Km long Wildlife Walkathon was hosted by Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi on October 6th Walkathon start point was Van Bhavan Campus, Doranda Ranchi and enroute through Kadru Road to Argora Chowk to Birsa Chowk to Hinu Chowk and ended at Van

Bhawan, Doranda. Secretary Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Aboobacker Siddique P graced as Chief Guest of the occasion and Principal Conservator of Forest and Head of Forest Force, Dr Sanjay Srivastava as special guest of the occasion

cum nodal officer WLDB, Satyajit Singh PCCF Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, Sanjay A Latkar, ADG of Police, SR Natesha CCF Wildlife and all the senior forest officers, including active par-ticipation of Forest officer wives' association (FOWA) were also present. Walkathon hit the huge

Shashikar Samanta PCCF

success as nearly 2500 persons participated in the

Participants include Citizen Foundation NGO, TATA Steel and other Corporates, 1500 students fromLady K.C. Roy Memorial school Ranchi, DAV Alok Public School, Pundag, Ranchi, Saraswati Shishu Vidhya Ranchi, MandirDurwa Vidhyasagar School Doranda Ranchiand various other schools, Railway officials, NCC cadets.

The session was kick started by releasing the ceremowere present in the events.
On the said occasion off two awareness vans. nial balloon and flagging

CM to lay foundation stone of Apollo Hospital in Smart City

Hospital will have everything required for advanced care like state-of-the-art cath labs, MRI, operation theatre, ICU, CT scan, PFT

why similar schemes aren't

PNS ■ Ranchi

In a big boost to upgrading health care facility in State, Chief Minister Hemant Soren is lay the foundation stone of Apollo Multi Specialty Hospital in the Smart City area of Dhurwa on Monday. This 310-bed multi-specialty hospital will have renowned heart care, state-of-the-art cancer treatment, compassionate maternal health, specialized pediatrics. This hospital will be with you at every stage of your life.

More than 50 clinical specialties including cardiology will be available here. Specialists and equipment will always be available for gastrosciences, neurosciences, renal sciences, orthopedics and joint replacement, oncology, emergency and trauma prevention. This hospital will have everything required for advanced care like state-of-the-art cath labs, MRI, operation theatre,



ICU, CT scan, PFT etc. For the construction of the hospital, Ranchi Municipal Corporation has taken land from Ranchi Smart City and made it available to Apollo management free of cost. This hospital will soon take shape on 2.75 acres of land in the smart city and will provide treatment to the patients of Jharkhand in their own city. It is worth noting that Apollo stands in the front row in the list of world famous hospitals for cutting-edge innovations and quality healthcare in the health sector.

Sources said that the foundation stone of Apollo Hospital is seen as big boost in health care facility as now the patients of Jharkhand will be free from visiting big hospitals in other cities of the country for the treatment of serious diseases and

this will be possible due to the noble efforts of the Government of Jharkhand in the health sector and the commitment of Apollo Hospitals Enterprises to provide better health services.

Treatment of major disease will be possible in Ranchi itself, for which the people of Jharkhand have to turn to cities like New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad. Actually, this is going to be possible due to the personal efforts of the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Hemant Soren and the noble efforts of the state government.

This hospital will be constructed on 2.75 (three and a quarter acres) acres of land in Ranchi Smart City area. This land has been made available to Apollo management free of cost by Ranchi Municipal Corporation. This hospital will have 310 beds.

It will always be equipped with state-of-the-art Cath Labs, MRI, Operation Theatres and ICUs equipped not only with technology but also with the promise of life saving interventions and unprecedented procedures.24 hour emergency service will be available in this hos-

Through this hospital, world class quality healthcare will be made available to all the patients of Jharkhand. People of Jharkhand will not have to wander to other cities for quality healthcare. Infrastructure will be available in proportion to the number of patients in proportion to the population of 22 lakh in and around Ranchi. Government's commitment to health. The state government is committed to providing quality healthcare to every citizen. The Jharkhand government envisions a future where every life is valued, where health is not a privi-

lege but a right. To realize this vision, the Jharkhand government has joined hands with Apollo Hospitals, India's symbol of medical excellence. For nearly four decades, Apollo Hospitals has been at the forefront of healthcare innovation in India.

Caption: CM Hemant Soren 1: A delegation of MPW Karamchari Singh meet Chief Minister Hemant Soren at his official residence in Ranchi on Sunday.

XLRI: India to produce one-third of the world's milk, says Amul MD

PNS ■ Jamshedpur

▼ndia's dairy industry is on the brink of a historic Imilestone—producing one-third of the world's total milk. This significant revelation was made by Jayen Mehta, Managing Director of Amul and the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF), during his keynote speech at the 11th Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Oration, hosted by XLRI - Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur, on October 5th, 2024.

The annual oration, organized by the Fr. Arrupe Center for Ecology and Sustainability (FACES), is a tribute to Dr. Verghese Kurien, the visionary founder of AMUL, affectionately known as the "Milkman of India." Dr. Kurien's pioneering work in building the cooperative dairy model not only revolutionized India's milk production but also uplifted millions of rural farmers, making India the world's largest milk producer. During the event, Mehta delivered an engaging oration "AMUL Model: Transforming Lives of Millions." He began by high-

lighting AMUL's monumen-





he remarked. Mehta also shed light on Amul's recent ventures into international markets, noting their success in launching Amul milk in the U.S., with plans to enter the European market soon. This global expansion is not only a testament to AMUL's growing brand strength but also positions India as a major player in the global dairy sector. marks a historic

now reached ?80,000 crores,"



We are now ready to make our mark in Europe and beyond, furthering Dr. Kurien's vision of making India the dairy capital of the world," he added.
The AMUL cooperative

model, developed under the leadership of Dr. Kurien, has been instrumental in transforming the lives of millions of rural households. Over 70 million rural households are part of this vast dairy net-work, with 70% of the workforce comprising women. Mehta emphasized that this inclusive and sustainable approach to dairy farming is what sets AMUL apart. "Dr. Kurien believed that if India could offer a gift to the world, it would be the cooperative system—a gift that has transformed not only our dairy industry but rural economies across the nation.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

'digital arrest' scams



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{emoval of an elected public}} \\ \\ R^{\text{emoval of an elected public}}$ treated lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas, the Supreme Court has said as it set aside an order for removal of a woman sarpanch in a Maharashtra vil-

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

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

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

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

matter of removal of an elected public representative should not be treated so lightly, especially when it concerns women

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

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

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

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

various levels.

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

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

It said what is more worrying is the casual approach adopted by government authorities in summarily removing an elected representative.

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

grow their businesses, companies are using profits to reduce debt burdens, he claimed. "We are witnessing a growing financialisation of the Indian

economy, with India Inc - perhaps taking its cue from the government - focusing on stock market valuations rather than top-line revenue growth," Ramesh said.

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



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

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

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

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

ductivity) slowed from 6.6% in

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

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

irregularity, worker productivity contracted in FY23 again, Ramesh said, adding that this decrease in labour productivity has impacted real wage growth, especially amidst rising inflation. As real wages stagnate, consumption will remain weak resulting in the low investment

After Covid era statistical

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

tion, mass unemployment, and high inflation," he said. "Bombastic claims on the economy are being made by the non-biological PM and

his drumbeaters. But what these claims conceal are the choke points that will strangulate growth in the years to come if not taken seriously

now, in a spirit of humility," Ramesh said in his statement.

Indian naval ships arrive in Oman for joint exercise



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Haryana CM confident of BJP majority despite exit polls

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

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

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

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

RaGa advocates for increased women's participation in politics

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

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



'With the thought of 'Aadhi

Abadi, Poora Haq', we are ded-

icated to this goal.

If you too are ready to bring this change, then join 'Shakti Abhiyan," the Congress leader

"Your participation is very important to bring real change by strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level,

"Let us become participants of this change, from the village to the nation," Gandhi said and shared a link to register for 'Shakti Abhiyan'.

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

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

PTI CHANDIGARH

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

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

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

degi jawab, aur yeh (Congress)



on October 8, and they Congress will blame the

Asked how many seats the BJP will win in the 90-strong assembly, Saini said, "I have work, the party will form the said we will form the governgovernment with full majori-

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

The BJP worked for every section without any discrimination and on the basis of this

exit poll predictions for Haryana, he said they forecast a Congress victory in Chhattisgarh and showed the party ahead in Uttarakhand as well.

Commenting further on the

ty, he further said.

"The exit polls have their own theory and they have their own system, but we work on ground. Our leaders are directly connected with people. The people of Haryana want the BJP to come to power for a third time. We are forming the government for a third time,"

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

India is essentially a Hindu nation: RSS chief

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RG Kar case: Junior doctors begin indefinite fast

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

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

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

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



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

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

this will hurt their ego.'

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

Fire in building claims seven lives in Mumbai

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

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

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

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

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

Sunday flayed the Tamil Nadu

Police, alleging that the state

sleuths were unable to seize

even one gram of synthetic

drug, whereas their counter-

parts in Central agencies were

recovering hundreds of kilo-

grams in the state. Terming

the prevalence of drugs

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

Government alone cannot

eradicate it, but only through

a mass movement it can be

"Our country is celebrating the festival of Navratri, and

normally I do not move out of

Chennai during these nine

days to ensure that I attend

the pooja in the evening at Raj

Bhavan. However, when I was

invited to this event, I decid-

done.



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

ed I must not miss it. The

issue of drugs is close to my

prosperous and happy fami-

lies getting destroyed, society

getting destroyed because of

this drug," he said at an event

in Tenkasi, 650 kms south of

Citing some examples of the

use of drugs, he said there are

some states in the North East

which suffer enormously

because of it. "Even, we have

a case in Punjab. Remember,

till about 40 years back, it was

the most advanced and front-

ranking state in the country.

Within three decades, drugs

destroyed it and today it

(Punjab) is struggling to come

out of it (drug culture). There

are many areas in our coun-

try which are affected by

drugs. We must fight to finish it," he said, after inaugu-

rating the 'Rally for a Drug-Free Tenkasi', organised by

the Voice of Tenkasi

machine was nothing more

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

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

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

duced two investment

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

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

scheme, with gift hampers for

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

the business. The couple ini-

tially promised her a return of

?3.5 lakh and ?2.1 lakh with-

in a year, but after a year, they

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

their so-called therapy. The couple charged unsuspecting victims between

However, it was later revealed

than a crude apparatus built from junk materials worth just ?2.5 lakh. The scam caused significant harm to

TN Governor blames police for failure on tackling synthetic drugs

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

young people, school and col-

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

"Three years down the line, I

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

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

Priyanka Gandhi slams Government

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

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

Muslim MLA blames community members for gold smuggling, hawala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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



and the profit generated out of the operations were divert-

ed to anti-national activities. This has upset the Muslim cleric and Islamist organizations which had demanded the chief minister to apologize to the Muslim community for the controversial state-Jaleel, who was president of the banned Students Islamic

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

over IMPCL 'privatisation' bid PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation



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

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

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

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

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Change on the cards

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

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



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

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



Artistes take part in 'Garba', in Ahmedabad

Why 'Make in India' can be a game changer



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

INTERNATIONAL

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

why India's current focus on

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

tive-correction, and exporting

our civilizational ideas glob-

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

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

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

THE EDITOR

Overcoming Phobia: A Journey of inner strength and inspiration



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> the lives that ignites the spirit. (The author is an electrical

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

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

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

SECULAR CREDENTIALS INTACT

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

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

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

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

Address the demands of Ladakh

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

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

needs to be done. Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

A BETRAYAL OF TRUST

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

dent SIT is a commandable step. Any allegations of adulteration or misus-Vinod Johri | Delhi ing of any ingredients in the Tirumala days fasting protest, getting no results they began another Delhi Chalo Padyatra for their rightful claims, despite being totally peacefull protest, were detained by the Delhi police, sparking outrage across the

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

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

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

Fiza Fatima | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN

LEADERSHIP AND MENTAL HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES

Supportive leadership can reduce stress and enhance job satisfaction



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

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

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



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

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

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

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Elevate wellness experts as industry leaders



DINESH SOOD

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



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

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

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

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

Early introduction of beauty and wellness



OUR COUNTRY'S

BEAUTY AND WELLNESS

INDUSTRY PRESENTS UNPARALLELED **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** AND GLOBAL PLACEMENTS. RECOGNISING THIS, THE **GOVERNMENT** HAS INITIATED **VARIOUS** MEASURES TO CREATE **PERTINENT** CONTENT, **CURRICULA AND** INFORMATION

DATABASES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

deauty and wellness services.

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

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

Mobilising climate finance in India: Uncovering alternative routes

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



nomic scars and jeopardising marginalised.

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

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

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

Social Responsibility. We have an opportunity here to strategically align these CSR

funds in a manner that accelerates our efforts of achieving SDGs. According to provisional data from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), spending on health reached Rs 9,987 crore in FY22, compared to Rs 8,382 crore on education. In contrast, spending on the environment was Rs 2,837 crore in FY22, which is double the Rs 1,337 crore spent in FY21. There is a major scope for increasing the quantum of CSR funds being streamlined towards carbon projects. This notion reverberates further in the Reserve Bank of India's report on currency and finance, wherein equitable CSR funding is listed as the amounting to USD 1.4 trillion tures as part of their Corporate crucial policy alternative to

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

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

Strike on mosque kills 19 as Israel bombards Gaza, Beirut

AP DEIR-AL-BALAH

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

The military says it has

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

some 1,200 people in the October 7 attack and took another 250 hostage. They are still holding around 100 captives, a third of whom are believed to be dead. In Beirut, airstrikes lit up the skyline and loud explosions echoed across the southern suburbs, known as the Dahiyeh, throughout the night, as Israel struck what it said were Hezbollah militant Lebanon's state-run National

News Agency said the area was hit by more than 30 strikes overnight, the heaviest bombardment since September 23 when Israel escalated its air campaign.

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

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

Kalakesh said the government hospital did not receive any

to work. There was fear and

panic among the staff," he

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

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

International

rescue teams

reach Bosnia

Sarajevo (AP): Rescue teams

from Bosnia's neighbours and

European Union countries on

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

ple still missing from floods and landslides that devastated

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

heavy rainstorm overnight on

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

Officials said that at least 10

dozens.

after floods

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

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

ings expected to continue over the weekend and peak on Monday, the date of the anniversary. In Rome, several thousands demonstrated peacefully Saturday afternoon until a smaller group tried to push the rally toward the center of the city, in spite of a ban by local authorities who refused to

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

authorize protests, citing secu-

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

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

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

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

dent, it said

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

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



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

Nurse, his dog dies trying to save man from floods

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

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

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

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

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

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

trying to save others.

Trump, Musk address thousands

PTI WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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



rally at the Butler Farm Show, Saturday in Butler, Pa.

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

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

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

history of the country.
"Here are the facts. My opponent, Kamala Harris, is the most incompetent and far-left (Harris) got none. She was the nominee ever to run for pres-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

people are still unaccounted for many of them in the village of Donja Jablanica, in southern Bosnia, which was almost completely buried in rocks and rubble from a quarry on a hill Residents there have said they heard a thundering rumble and saw houses disappear before their eyes. Luigi Soreca, who heads the EU

mission in Bosnia, said on X that the EU stands with Bosnia the 27-nation bloc.

help. Bosnia is a candidate country for membership in Authorities said Croatian rescuers have already arrived while a team from Serbia is expected to be deployed in the afternoon, followed by a

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

Wounded Calif officer shoots man during 'unprovoked' knife attack

AP SANTA MONICA

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



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

officer was not immediately

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

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

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

Imran's party vows to continue protest

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Former National Assembly speaker and senior PTI leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Naqvi also announced that

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

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

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

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

In Lahore, around 30 supporters of Khan's party, including lawyers, were arrested after they managed to reach historic Minar-e-Pakistan premises demanding the release of their leader, police

said on Sunday. More than 200 PTI workers, including Khan, have been booked under terrorism charges, they added.

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

Pope Francis names 21 new cardinals

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

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



new intake who is over 80 and hence too old to vote for new

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tapped the Rev. Timothy

Radcliffe, a British theologian who is one of the spiritual

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

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

'Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan positive development'

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

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

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

that both countries must seize al stability," the newspaper quot-

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

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

"In such a situation, both Pakistan and India need to act responsibly and reasonably. This is a crucial moment that requires thoughtful and measured actions to ensure regioned him as saying. Kasuri said that given the ten-

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

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

Nepal President Paudel appoints Prakash Man Singh Raut as new CJ

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

ed for the post by the



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

1 dead as Russia strikes Ukraine with drones and missiles

AP KYIV

One person has died after Russian forces attacked Ukraine overnight with 87 Shahed drones and four different types of missiles, officials said Sunday.

A 49-year-old man was killed in the Kharkiv region after his car was hit by a drone, said regional Gov. Óleh Syniehubov. A gas pipeline was also damaged and a warehouse set alight in the city of Odesa, Ukrainian officials reported.

Ukraine's air force said in a statement that air defences had destroyed 56 of the 87 drones and two missiles over 14 Ukrainian regions, including the capital, Kyiv.

Another 25 drones disappeared from radar "presumably as a result of anti-aircraft missile defense," it said.

The barrage comes a day after



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said

Saturday that he will present his "victory plan" at the October 12

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

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

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

Brazilians vote in local elections

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

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

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

Marçal sparked more contro-

versy on Friday, when he pubument was widely debunked by local media that pointed to inconsistencies including the fact that it was signed by a doctor who had passed away.

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

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

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

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

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

Lanka parties busy forming alliances to face Nov election

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

election. No major party has yet submitted their nominations to contest any of the 22 electoral districts

despite the opening of the nominations last Friday. The nominations for the election

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

the September 21 presidential election, said it is in the process of finalising its candidates list. 'We have already changed the political culture with our governance so far during the last two weeks, we will continue the good work after the parliamentary election with new faces," Samantha Vidyaratne, an NPP leader said. Former president Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP), the grand old party in the country, had unsuccessfully tried to merge with its offshoot Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party to face the election.

Wickremesinghe finished third behind the SJB leader Sajith Premadasa in the presidential election.

The split votes between Premadasa Wickremesinghe, who together polled 50.03 per cent, helped incumbent Anura Dissanayake

In this undated photo provided on Saturday by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, visits to watch an artillery exercise at an undisclosed place in North Korea. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: "KCNA" which is the abbreviation

North Korea and China mark their 75th anniversary of ties

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

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

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

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

said that China is ready to jointly promote "the stable and further advance of the socialist cause in the two countries," KCNA said. Since North Korea and China established diplomat-

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

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

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

North Korea and Russia have moved significantly closer to each other amid widespread outside suspicions that North Korea has supplied conventional weapons to Russia for its war in Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance. During a meeting in Pyongyang in June, Kim and Russian President itary assistance if either country is attacked, in what was considered the two countries' biggest defense deal since the end of the Cold War.

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

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

groups said they were too trying to forge alliances.

the pioneer

Amul set to enter European market after US success

PTI ■ JAMSHEDPUR

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

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

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

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



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

founder of AMUL.

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

cooperation has sparked a new revolution in India."

Amul collects over 310 lakh litres of milk daily, with 107 dairy plants across India and over 50 products, Mehta said, adding that 22 billion packs

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

Nirmala Kurien - daughter of Dr Verghese Kurien, said more than half a century ago her father dared to dream that a milk-deficient country could day become selfsufficient.

Today, India stands as the world's largest producer of milk, she added. Director of XLRI Jamshedpur

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

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

PTI JAMSHEDPUR

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

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

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



is ongoing, and procurement under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) continues, with processing expected to increase as procurement grows.

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

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

enhanced from 15,900 MT to 33 900 MT

The wine units at Parala and Jarol have a combined annual capacity of 1.50 lakh litres." A new vinegar unit at Parala

has an annual capacity of 50,000 litres, while a new pectin unit at Parala can produce 1.2 metric tons per day, and the ready-to-serve juice unit now has a daily capacity of 20,000 litres, he noted. HPMC has also expanded its market presence by engaging pan-India distributors and opening new retail outlets at Delhi Metro stations and other prominent locations across the country.

implementing expansion

projects to increase mine

production capacity to 12.2

million tonne per annum, its

CMD Ghanshyam Sharma

The move will boost domestic

production of copper and reduce dependence on

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

MT in FY23, registering a rise

had recently said.

imports.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

cross-country

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

Consumers, globally and in

India, are shifting towards low-sugar and no-added sugar varieties of beverages amid heightened health awareness.
"The CSD market is also

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

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

"However.



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

aerated beverages are placed Pointing out that India is one

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hindalco, JSW Steel bid for Jharkhand copper mines

time data on procurement,

transportation, crushing at

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

linkage, which is ensuring

transparency and efficiency in

services provided to apple growers," the chief minister

said."HPMC has enhanced its

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

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

the grading and packaging

capacity has been

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Both mines have a combined capacity of three million tonne per annum. HindaÎco Industries and JSW

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

month of October. While one of these blocks is virgin, the other one is closed

is likely to take place in the

for the past 20 years. Hindustan Copper had earlier invited applications for appointment of mine developer-cum-operator (MDO) for re-opening and expansion of Rakha Copper Mine and development and operations of underground



Mine at Chapri. Hindustan Copper had said

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

of 13 per cent. The ongoing expansion project i.É. Development of underground

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

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

Auto industry expects robust sale during festive season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

same period last year.

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

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

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

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

"I think it has been a



will define what happens in the remaining part of the vear," he said.

Everybody is looking forward the festive seasons, especially from the industry, he added

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

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

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

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

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

requirements.

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

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

Livguard unveils high-frequency solar inverters

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Lithium Batteries, they also feature built-in Wi-Fi for easy performance tracking via smartphones. Their UPS function ensures uninterrupted power for PCs and household appliances. The brand also launched

groundbreaking other products like cutting-edge lithium-based ESS, highefficiency Bi-facial panels, and high-efficiency DCR

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

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

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



PNS NEW DELHI

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

TDFC FIRST Bank on

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

Retail Liabilities and Branch

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

Mcap of nine of top-10 most valued firms erodes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The valuation of Reliance

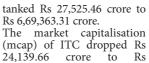
Industries declined

1,88,479.36 crore to

18,76,718.24 crore.

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

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



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

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

INBRIEF

LECTURE SERIES HELD AT GNDU

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



comprehensive

services to its clients.

16 RAIL COACH RESTAURANTS OPERATIONAL ACROSS NFR



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The future of the country and if India is ready

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

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

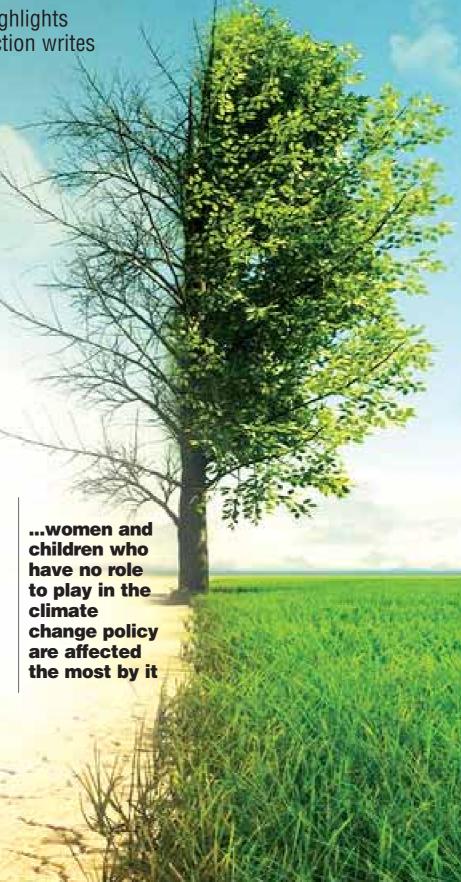
The panel also had a serious exchange of words to into the issue of water, water sanitation and air pollution in Delhi (being a major affect to health).

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

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

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

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



AYURVEDA The Source of Holistic Wellness

BY SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

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

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

The nature or the internal-set up of an individual is all about the individual topology, it requires proper care. However, with prolonged use of chemical products, adverse effects are seen that damage hair and skin. It is all due to reaction to certain

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

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

AYURVEDA FOR CARE AND CURE

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

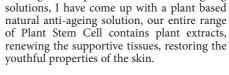
AYURVEDA IS THE NATURAL SKINCARE

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

AYURVEDA FOR **HEALTHY SKIN**

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





capturing the essence.

KEY BENEFITS OF USING AYURVEDA SKINCARE

Ayurveda helps eliminating accumulated toxins.

products that we formulate at our

and formulations

efficacy of

sourced ethically in the purest form

I like to mention that today when people are

looking for quick invasive anti-ageing

state-of-the-art R&D units. Our

products are based on the

ancient Ayurveda principles

increase the potency and

products, providing care and

cure. We optimise the formulations with plant

extracts, exotic herbs, essential

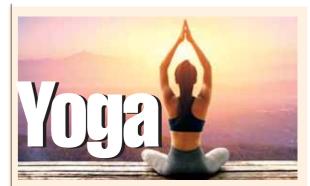
oils and Vitamin extracts that are

skin care

- Naturally restores the skin beauty and radiance.
- Addresses the root cause of any issue related to skin and body.
- Improves the skin quality and texture. Natural organic ingredients such as honey, aloe vera, and shea butter, etc. promote
- healthy skin and smooth texture. Ayurveda products are cruelty-free and ethically sourced.
- Natural skincare and cure products by
- Shahnaz Husain are on par with global sustainable beauty standards.

In conclusion I would like to add that Ayurveda skincare and haircare products are more like treatment products, as the principle itself is all about curative and preventive measures of healing. Investing in natural skincare is essential for your overall wellness and is the best holistic way of living in harmony with the environment and

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



The Perfect Health **Partner in Daily Wellness**

BY **JYOTI SINGH**

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Mountain

■Tadasana

the time and variety of your

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

strengthens the back and opens up the chest, which can relieve tension from long hours at a desk. ■AdhoMukhaSvanasana (Downward-Facing Dog):

A great full-body stretch that works on the hamstrings, shoulders, and back, and also calms the mind. ■Balasana (Child's Pose):

A restorative pose that's excellent for relaxation and mindfulness. Vilom **■**Anulom

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

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

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

Breathing exercises like

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

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

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

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

I deeply believe that every

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

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

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

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

The author is a PG Diploma, MA in Yog Science and founder of Sparsh Yog.

England aims to challenge struggling Pakistan in 1st test

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

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

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

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

lead the side in the second test,

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

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



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

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

Masood lost 3-0 to Australia in

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

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

spin options."

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

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

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

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

with only one half-century in

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

Gauff rallies to reach China Open final

AP BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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

Gauff held for 5-4 and broke Badosa again to force a

"I felt like I was playing the right way the whole time, just a couple of unforced errors, she was playing well too, Gauff said on court.

"I was trying to stay focused. Mentally, I just tried to reset. I got down a couple of times, and I tried to bounce back." With all the momentum, Gauff broke Badosa three more times - for the loss of one of her own - as she clinched the match in 2

hours, 20 minutes. Gauff also lost the first set to Naomi Osaka in the fourth round before winning by walkover and against No. 115-ranked Yuliia Starodubtseva in the quarterfinals.

"I've had tough opponents the whole tournament," Gauff said.

MastersCarlos Shanghai Alcaraz and top-ranked Jannik Sinner showed no



signs of fatigue from their China Open final this week as they advanced in Shanghai with comfortable straight-set victories in their opening matches.

The second-ranked Alcaraz, "I feel in good shape, which is who beat the Italian in very important for me. Reiiing on fourth title of the year, recorded his consecutive win against 19year-old Shang Juncheng of

China 6-2, 6-2 The Spaniard won the first nine points of the match and four of seven break points as he rushed into a third-round meeting with another Chinese player, Wu Yibing. "I'm not used to playing against players younger than me," Alcaraz said.

"He has been playing good tennis lately, lifting his first ATP (title in Chengdu), so I'm pretty sure he's going to

climb the rankings.
I'm just happy to to be able to win these kinds of matches." Sinner, who is dealing with a doping case, had a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 outing against Taro Daniel of Japan for his 250th career win. Sinner, who won the U.S Open last month for his

second major of the year fired 12 aces and 38 winners. "I felt quite comfortable today," said Sinner, who next Tomas Martin Etcheverry of Argentina.

well, especially in important moments, and was moving well."

Third-ranked Alexander Zverev began with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci, while fourth-ranked Novak Djokovic had a tougher task prevailing 7-6 (3), 7-6 (9) over Alex Michelsen of the United States.

No. 65-ranked Jakub Mensik of the Czech Republic broke sixth-ranked Andrey Rublev seven times on his way to an upset 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-3

victory. Watanuki also Yosuke surprised by beating No. 35ranked Brendan Nakashima 7-6 (4), 6-3. The Japanese qualifier next plays seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz of the U. Global Chess League: Alaskan Knights stay unbeaten; Ganges break losing streak

Global Chess League: Alaskan Knights stay unbeaten; Ganges break losing streak

PTI ■ LONDON

PBS Alaskan Knights Continued their unbeaten while Ganges Grandmasters secured their first win in a dramatic day three of the Tech Mahindra

Global Chess League here. The PBS Alaskan Knights extended their lead with a dominant 12-3 win over the Grandmasters, maintaining a perfect record with four consecutive victories, earning them 12 match points and 49 game

Defending champions Triveni Continental Kings played two matches on Saturday -winning the first 15-3 against American Gambits, where Alireza Firouzia defeated world number two Hikaru Nakamura, but narrowly

losing the second to Ganges finally breaking their losing Grandmasters. Triveni remained in second

place with six match points and 43 game points, just six behind the leaders.

Alpine Sg Pipers also impressed, defeating upGrad Mumba Masters 12-4. They now sit in third place with six match points, though

their 27 game points from three matches leave them behind Triveni. UpGrad Mumba Masters, in fourth place, have only one win from four matches and 29 game points after losing to the

The final match saw the surprise of the day with Ganges Grandmasters, led by former World Champion Vishawanathan

streak with a 10-8 win over Triveni. With one win and 24 game

points from four matches, they now sit in fifth place. Hikaru Nakamura's American Gambits are in last place, with only one match victory and 16 game points

Triveni. Anand's team, desperate for their first victory after three crushing defeats, was under

from three matches, having

been dismantled 15-3 by

immense pressure. Already reeling from an earlier loss in the day, Anand had to rally his team, using his authority as a former world champion to lift their spirits. But no pep talk could help on the board, where players had to prove they could

opponents. After the coin toss, Triveni

played with the white pieces, putting Anand on the back foot as Black against Alireza Firouzja.

The young French star steadily built-up pressure, and by move 22, had a winning position. Despite Anand's best efforts

to resist, he eventually had to concede defeat, giving the lead to Triveni. stellar form Firouzja's

continued, having defeated three giants -- Carlsen, Anand, and Nakamura -- over the past two days. Meanwhile, Ganges' Arjun Erigaisi settled for a fourth

consecutive draw, splitting the point with Wei Yi, a further sign of his struggling form. Triveni extended their lead when Alexandra Kosteniuk

beat Vaishali Rameshbabu. However, Maghsoodloo, who had blundered a winning position in the previous match, redeemed himself with a key victory over Teimour Radjabov, keeping Ganges in

With the junior board ending in a draw, the fate of the match rested on Valentina Gunina and Nurgyul Salimova.

In a drawn position, Gunina pushed too hard despite her team being ahead. She eventually lost on time, handing Ganges the crucial four points they needed to pull off their first win of the tournament.

The final score of the match was 10-8, for Ganges.

Amir Ali to lead Indian Jr hockey team in Sreejesh's coaching debut

outmanoeuvre

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Amir Ali has been named captain, with Rohit as his junior hockey squad for the Sultan of Johor Cup that will mark the first assignment for head coach PR Sreejesh in Malaysia from October 19. India will begin their campaign against Japan on October 19, followed by matches against Great Britain (October 20), hosts Malaysia (Oct 22), Australia (Oct 23) and New Zealand (Oct 25). The top two teams will make the final slated for October

Defender Amir Ali and forward Gurjot Singh were part of the senior team that defended their title at the Asian Champions Trophy in Moqi, China.

Amir seamlessly filled in for the injured defender Sanjay during the tournament, while Gurjot led the forward line, showcasing immense potential. The Sultan of Johor Cup is

a litmus test for the team Ali stated in a Hockey India



our calendar as always. The tournament will serve as November this year," captain

Asia Cup Muscat 2024 in

"All the players are excited to play some intense hockey matches in Malaysia

Vice -captain Rohit expressed enthusiasm at being coached by Sreejesh, saying, "We have an Indian hockey legend taking charge of the whole team is raring to go. PR Sreejesh is one of the most experienced players to play for India, and we look forward to making him proud in our first tournament.

"The mood in the camp has been excellent and we want to capitalise on this by showcasing our potential at the Sultan of Johor Cup."

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Singh, Ali Khan Bikramjit Defenders: Amir Ali (C), Priyobarta, Talem Shardanand Tiwari, Sukhvinder, Anmol Ekka, Rohit (VC) Midfielders: Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Mukesh Toppo,

Chandan Yadav Forwards: Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha,

Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Konain Dad.

Underdogs strike as Bayern rivals Leverkusen and Dortmund drop points in Bundesliga

AP ■ Berlin

Bayern Munich won without playing on Saturday as Bundesliga rivals Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund dropped points to

modest opponents. Dortmund slumped at Union Berlin to a 2-1 defeat without injured forward Karim Adeyemi, who starred in the team's 7-1 rout of Celtic in the Champions League Tuesday.

champion Defending Leverkusen squandered an early two-goal lead over promoted Holstein Kiel and drew 2-2. It was only Kiel's second point in its debut top-

flight season. Leverkusen played in a special black jersey with red trim to commemorate the club's 120th anniversary, and for Xabi Alonso it was also a special occasion - the Spanish coach took over exactly two years before. Leverkusen fans didn't have to wait long to celebrate after Victor Boniface opened the scoring in the fourth minute and Jonas Hofmann made it 2-0 four minutes after that. Leverkusen looked set for a rout.

But the home team failed to make more of its dominance -Boniface had another goal



ruled out for offside and Kiel secured a lifeline before the break when Max Geschwil scored after a corner. Fiete Arp scored an unlikely equalizer from the penalty spot in the 69th. "I wouldn't say arrogance, but I'd say there's a bit a complacency. We need to stay concentrated, because we want to be a better team," Alonso said.

We could win a few games, and not win a few games, up and down, but that's not our goal. Today we didn't have the best competitive mindset." Dortmund disappoints Union illustrated early on against Dortmund why it's the club

league. The Köpenick-based team had

only four goals from its opening five games. Former Union player Nico

offered Schlotterbeck assistance by conceding a penalty with a foul on the lively Benedict Hollerbach, and Kevin Vogt duly scored the opener from the spot in the 25th. The home team kept pushing and got its due reward before the break when Yorbe Vertessen let fly through a host of players for 2-0.

Early in the second half. masked Union ultras displayed

with one of the most an array of Dortmund scarves ineffective forward lines in the and banners presumably confiscated from their rivals before the game.

They hung the tattered flags on the railings behind one of the goals and raised their fists, goading the Dortmund fans far away on the other side.

Former Union player Julien Ryerson responded on the field in the 62nd by firing inside the far post for 2-1, set up by Julian Brandt after a period of pressure from the visitors but it wasn't enough.

Also, Freiburg won at Werder Bremen 1-0, and Wolfsburg enjoyed a 3-1 win in Wolfsburg.

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