

OPINION 6

WHY 'MAKE IN INDIA' CAN BE A GAME CHANGER

WORLD 8

THOUSANDS JOIN PRO-PALESTINIAN RALLIES

MONEY 10

AMUL SET TO ENTER EUROPEAN MARKET AFTER US SUCCESS

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GAUFF RALLIES TO REACH CHINA OPEN FINAL
12 SPORTS



Team India lifts the World Cup Time for Mahisasura Mardini

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

The air crackled with anticipation of India and Pakistan cricket match. Once again in the ICC tournament India beat Pakistan in Women's T20 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 match.

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

Indian star bowler Shreyanka Patil ended her spell with 2 wickets in the bank with one maiden over and Anurdhathi 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 AP/PTI

top order in high voltage 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

score for the team after she losing her partner Mandhana early in the innings. Shafali Verma couldn't lead the team for long in the run chase. Middle order batter Jemimah Rodrigues and Captain Harmanpreet Kaur's

steady partnership gave the team solidity in successfully chasing the target. Pakistan is still in the league with upcoming match against defending champions Australia on Friday. India managed to win this

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 the semi final stage.

Parties seek recognition in Jammu and Kashmir

PIONEER NEWS SERC ■ JAMMU/NEW DELHI/ CHANDIGARH

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 each.

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 seats.

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.

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said he was expecting a



Haryana and Jammu Kashmir assembly 2024 polls

comfortable majority for the Congress and cited the exit polls reports. Congress stalwarts Hooda, Kumari Selja 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 Independent candidates 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'. JKPC 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 Zuhair Yousuf Mir hinted that they can join the National Conference-Congress alliance to keep the BJP out of power.

Artist collapses at Ram Leela performance



SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

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 said on X.

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.

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 on Sunday.

According to police, the deceased, identified as Sushil Kaushik, who was a property dealer who became unconscious while performing in Ramlila. 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 media, Delhi Health

Rape and murder find more voice in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KULTALI/JOYNAGAR

Der lokkho taka nin ar 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 harassment of 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 victims' 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 the price of being born a girl in



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 ... a hard-earned Rs 9 lakh and an additional punishment by way of my house getting robbed for 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 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.

UN out of sync with reality: India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External 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. Citing many examples of inactions, he 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 function, even though the 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 organisations lack of action during global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. "Think 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 Navratri last week which also kick-starts 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, Ahmedabad, 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

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

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

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



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

The authorities will have to step up also, better planning for parking is a must. While some multi-storey parking lots have been established in Delhi and Mumbai, many more need to be built. The traffic police will need to manage traffic better and clamp down on illegal parking.

And of course, municipalities and public works departments will need to fix the roads. We have to make the festive season an

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

Traffic, transport and road experts says that wrongful parking too creates a traffic menace and the problem augments during the festive season. Markets and the peripheral localities are choked 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.

Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Central Vigilance Commissioner A.S. Rajeev visits Bokaro

PNS ■ BOKARO

A.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 India Limited (SAIL). On his arrival at Bokaro Niwas, Rajeev was accorded a Guard of Honour by CISF personnel.



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,

ACVO of BSL. Following this, the Vigilance Commissioner, along with SAIL's Chief Vigilance Officer, visited key production 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 facilities. Before 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 Kumar, Assistant Commandant under the guidance of U.R. Rameswaram, 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



of search operation in the 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 team recovered the 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 imparted to polling officials



PNS ■ Lohardaga

The third polling officials deputated 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, pre-poll 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

On 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, "Ya Devi 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 tradition of hospitality. The moment when the welcome



song was sung in front of the Goddess felt both historic and profoundly spiritual. 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 preservation 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 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 success. 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 ■ Jamsshedpur

With Durga Puja just around the corner, 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 festivities. Addressing the assembled officers, SSP Kaushal emphasized the importance of regular patrolling, especially 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 in one place. Continuous movement is crucial to maintaining peace and preventing 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

A 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 travel 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 infrastructure 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,



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."

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.

Adani University Holds its First Convocation

PNS ■ Ahmedabad

Adani University celebrated its first convocation ceremony today at its Shantigram campus, marking a significant milestone in the institution's journey towards academic excellence. Padma Shri Kartikeya Vikram Sarabhai, one of the world's leading environmental educators and the Founder & Director of the Centre 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 technology should empower, not exclude. 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 opportunities. 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 societal betterment. She urged the graduates to embrace

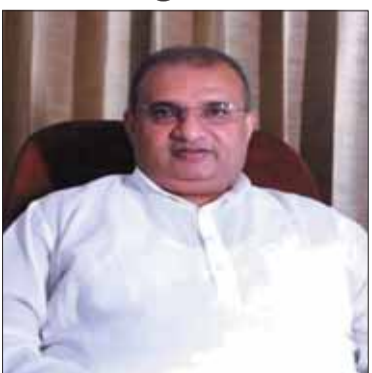
the changes and challenges of the professional world, emphasizing that excellence - rooted in Knowledge, Tenacity, Rationality, and Intelligence - will set them apart. Prof Ravi P Singh, Provost, Adani University, presented a report on academic milestones achieved by Adani University since its foundation 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 Singh. 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 parents.

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 Kalam

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 inauspicious.

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 surrounding 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. During its Antardasha and Mahadasha phases, Rahu may effect struggles and problems in various walks of life. But a posi-

tive 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. • 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

The state health department has 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 Dr Dharmendra Kumar. This rescheduling is in the larger interest of the patients. Now, first sitting OPD will



be from 9am to 2pm. Again the second sitting OPD will be from 3pm to 5pm. 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 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

State 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



JMM MLA Kalpana Soren addresses gathering during Maiya Samman Yatra in Simdega district on Sunday. PNS

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 Maiya Samman Yatra will continue in the future as well but we

will always be grateful to you for this love and affection of yours. MLA Kalpana Soren expressed her gratitude to the women present in the program, the sisters of JSLPS and the students of 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,

Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana 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 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 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, Jharkhand 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 Kulebira MLA Mr. Naman Vikas Kongadi. Officials from various departments and thousands of women were present in the program.

'DURGOSTAV 2024'

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

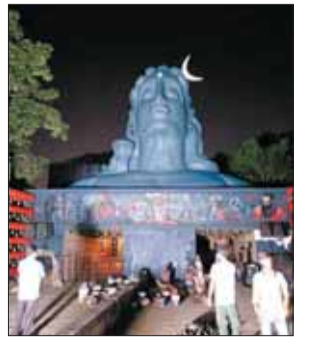
Laser Show to attract revellers here

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 all.

The centerpiece of this 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



pm to 5 am. The statue of Adiyogi and the laser show are being done at a whopping cost of Rs 20 lakh. The entrance gate of the pandal is a facsimile of the Kedarnath temple. This 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 'Abhaya Mudra' - a hand gesture that symbolises fearlessness, protection 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

Senior 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 introduced by the Hemant Soren-led 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 why similar schemes aren't

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 said. 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 has 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 significant backlash.

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

BJP SC Morcha chief Lal Singh Arya targets JMM gov't of delivering promises to people

PNS ■ Ranchi

National 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 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 journalist 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 of backward classes.

When the report came for giving reservation, he rejected it. Indra Gandhi formed Mandal Commission, but threw the Mandal Commission's recommendation in the dustbin. 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, Indra 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 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 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, 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 past.

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 State. In continuation of the same 5 and 10 Km long Wildlife Walkathon was hosted by Forest Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi on October 6th Walkathon start point was Van Bhawan Campus, Doranda Ranchi and enroute through Kadru Road to Argora Chowk to Birs 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 Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of Forest Force, Dr Sanjay Srivastava as special guest of the occasion were present in the events. On the said occasion

Shashikar Samanta PCCF 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 participation of Forest officer wives' association (FOWA) were also present. Walkathon hit the huge success as nearly 2500 persons participated in the event. Participants include Citizen Foundation NGO, TATA Steel and other Corporates, 1500 students from Lady K.C. Roy Memorial school Ranchi, DAV Alok Public School, Pundag, Ranchi, Saraswati Shishu Vidhya Mandir Durva Ranchi, Vidhyasagar School Doranda Ranchi and various other schools, Railway officials, NCC cadets. The session was kick started by releasing the ceremonial balloon and flagging off two awareness vans.

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

PNS ■ Ranchi

In a big boost to upgrading health care facility in State, Chief Minister Hemant Soren is laying the foundation stone of Apollo Multi Speciality Hospital in the Smart City area of Dhurwa on Monday. This 310-bed multi-speciality 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 hospital. 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 privilege 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 Karamchhari 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

India's dairy industry is on the brink of a historic milestone—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 titled "AMUL Model: Transforming Lives of Millions." He began by highlighting AMUL's monu-



mental role in shaping the Indian dairy industry and explained that the cooperative model has been key to India's dairy success. "Today, Amul collects over 310 lakh liters of milk daily, with 107 dairy plants across India producing over 50 products. Our cooperative model involves 36 lakh farmers, and we are selling over 22 billion packs annually. Our turnover has now reached ₹80,000 crores," 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. "This marks a historic

moment for Amul and India. 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 network, 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 bilateral talks amid strained ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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 visit.

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 Affairs.

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

"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 statement.

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

Lakshadweep. 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 projects.

CBI warns against 'digital arrest' scams



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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 showcase 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 website 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 trafficking or money laundering.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday will inaugurate DefConnect here, a significant step towards advancing 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 start-ups/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

Removal of an elected public representative should not be treated 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 in a house constructed on government 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 accommodation.

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 government land was ever raised when she filed her nomination papers," the bench said.

While noting that the vagaries 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 manner.

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.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting 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 in-charge 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 strangle 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

statement. "First, after a brief 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 2023-24," he said.

This shrinking of manufacturing is largely attributable to the PM's inexplicable trade policy - where it disincentivizes participation in global value chains (GVCs) through high tariffs while silently permitting Chinese dumping of mass imports, Ramesh alleged.

"Third, the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2022-2023 has revealed a decline in real wages and productivity for India's labourers. The growth in GVA per worker (a measure of labour productivity) slowed from 6.6% in 2014-15 to 0.6% by 2018-19," he said.

After Covid era statistical 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 that has been a consistent restraint on India's growth, he said.

"These are merely the issues that have surfaced in the past few weeks but the last ten years have seen other highly detrimental economic trends, including rising oligopolisation, mass unemployment, and high inflation," he said.

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

Signifying close defence ties between the two countries, Indian naval ships Tir, Shardul and

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

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

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

Coinciding with the visit of ITS, 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-RAF) 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 New Delhi. The visit of ITS 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

Flagging inequality in leadership 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.



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

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

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

"Your participation is very important to bring real change by strengthening the organi-

sation at the grassroots level," he said.

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

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

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

Haryana CM confident of BJP majority despite exit polls

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Rejecting 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)



kahenge EVM hai kharab (People will have their say on October 8, and they Congress will blame the EVMs)."

Asked how many seats the BJP will win in the 90-strong assembly, Saini said, "I have said we will form the govern-

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 work, the party will form the government with full majority.

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

"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," he said.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOTA (RAJASTHAN)

Asserting that India is essentially a Hindu nation, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said the Hindu society must unite for its security by eliminating differences in language, caste and regional disputes. He also underlined that the functioning of the RSS is not mechanical but idea-based. Addressing a 'Swayamsevaka Ekatrikaran' event in Rajasthan's Baran on Saturday evening, Bhagwat said the Hindus consider everyone as their own and embrace everyone. "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

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



BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

In a development mirroring the 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 Court. 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 ASI report. He added that this is crucial for moving the case forward, as it would determine whether the ASI's report becomes part of the 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 said.

RG Kar case: Junior doctors begin indefinite fast

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Seven persons, including three Sminors, 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 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 Chidiram Gupta (15) and Gitadevi Dharamdev Gupta (60), he said.

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

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

A shocking case of fraud has 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 individuals—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 convincing. 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 Modi remain so energetic, working 20 hours a day and always glowing?" they would ask. They claimed that Modi had used oxygen therapy to reverse his aging process, leading many to believe in the effectiveness of their so-called therapy. The couple charged unsuspecting victims between ₹50,000 and ₹2 lakh, promising miraculous results through what they described as cutting-edge Israeli technology. Using network marketing tactics, they added more than 500 people to their fraudulent scheme. Victims were told that they would receive treatment with an



"Israeli time machine," supposedly valued at ₹25 crores, which would make them young again. However, it was later revealed that the so-called time

machine was nothing more than a crude apparatus built from junk materials worth just ₹2.5 lakh. The scam caused significant harm to many of the victims. Some 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 clients. The couple reportedly introduced 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 scheme, with gift hampers for anyone who provided 50 new IDs. Renu Singh said she invested ₹9 lakh for 150 IDs and another ₹3.5 lakh to expand

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

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHMEDABAD

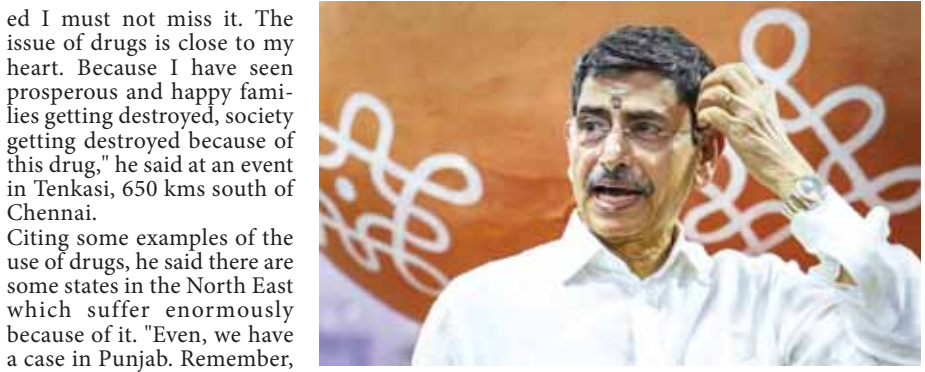
Authorities have seized a mephedrone (MD) drug valued at Rs 1,814 crore and its raw materials from a factory on the outskirts of Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal and arrested two persons in this connection, officials said on Sunday. Total 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, was seized in the raid and search operation carried out jointly by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, at the factory located in Bagroda industrial estate near Bhopal on Saturday, they said. This is the largest illegal factory ever busted by the Gujarat ATS. The unit had the capacity to manufacture 25 kg of MD drug per day, the ATS said in a statement. A process was underway to manufacture a large amount of the contraband when the raid was carried out, it said. During the operation, authorities seized 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, with an estimated value of Rs 1,814.18 crore in the international market, the ATS said. Two persons, identified as Amit Chaturvedi (57) and Sanyal Prakash Bane (40), were arrested during the raid, it said. During their preliminary interrogation, it came to light that Bane was earlier arrested in 2017 in a MD drug

seizure case at Amboli in Maharashtra and served five years in jail. "After his release, he conspired with co-accused Chaturvedi to illegally manufacture and sell MD to earn substantial financial profits. And decided to rent a factory on the outskirts of Bhopal," the ATS said. They took the factory on rent six-seven months ago, it said. Three-four months back, they collected the raw material and equipment and started manufacturing MD and selling it, the ATS said. In addition to the contraband, around 5,000 kg of raw materials, comprising chemicals and equipment, used for the production of MD, including grinders, motors, glass flasks, heaters and other apparatus, were also found during the raid, it said. Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi lauded efforts of the law enforcement agencies in combating drug-trafficking. "Kudos to Gujarat ATS and NCB (Ops), Delhi, for a massive win in the fight against drugs! Recently, they raided a factory in Bhopal and seized MD and materials used to manufacture MD, with a staggering total value of Rs 1814 crores," Sanghavi said in a post on X. "This achievement showcases the tireless efforts of our law enforcement agencies in combating drug trafficking and abuse. Their collaborative efforts are crucial in safeguarding the health and security of our society," he said.

TN Governor blames police for failure on tackling synthetic drugs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI

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 counterparts in Central agencies were recovering hundreds of kilograms 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 done. "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 decided I must not miss it. The issue of drugs is close to my heart. Because I have seen prosperous and happy families getting destroyed because of this drug," he said at an event in Tenkasi, 650 kms south of Chennai. 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 country which are affected by drugs. We must fight to finish it," he said, after inaugurating the 'Rally for a Drug-Free Tenkasi', organised by the Voice of Tenkasi



Foundation. 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 college 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 seized. "Three years down the line, I

have come across seizures of ganja, tons and tons of ganja seized but no synthetic nor chemical drug. How come Central agencies are able to seize hundreds of kilograms of these synthetic and chemical drugs, whereas our state enforcement agencies are not able to seize even one gram," he asked. 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 the drugs.

"We have the case of Afghanistan. They grow heroin, they grow opium and 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 billions 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

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



and the profit generated out of the operations were diverted to anti-national activities. This has upset the Muslim cleric and Islamist organizations which had demanded the chief minister to apologize to the Muslim community for the controversial statement. Jaleel, who was president of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) before he crossed over to the

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

Priyanka Gandhi slams Government over IMPCL 'privatisation' bid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka 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 concern among several local residents, 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 on 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 exposing 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.



FIRST COLUMN

LEADERSHIP AND MENTAL HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES

Supportive leadership can reduce stress and enhance job satisfaction



SAKSHI SETHI

In 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 negatively.

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



Beauty, 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, information databases, and delivery systems, standardise 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

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.



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Notably, beauty and wellness skill courses have been part of the curriculum 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 opportunities 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 well-being, 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 experience. 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 markets.

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

People increasingly seek professionals to help them achieve their desired makeovers, so it's time to adopt an inclusive approach to rebrand the traditional workforce as professionals in the beauty and wellness sector. (The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI; The views are personal)

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, ProClimate; views are personal)

extreme weather, leaving economic scars and jeopardising the 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 3.5 trillion. To address this, we need investment support amounting to USD 1.4 trillion

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 sustainability. 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 makes substantial expenditures as part of their Corporate

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 crucial policy alternative to

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

India's changing dynamics with the geopolitical powers 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.



KAVIM KUMAR KANDASAMY

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 far-reaching, the impacts of this Research shows that 55 vulnerable countries have suffered \$525 billion combined cli-

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 three-fourths of existing carbon emissions in the world—will end up emitting 38 per cent more carbon in 2030 than they

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

extreme weather, leaving economic scars and jeopardising the 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 3.5 trillion. To address this, we need investment support amounting to USD 1.4 trillion

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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 sustainability. 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 makes substantial expenditures as part of their Corporate

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 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, ProClimate; views are personal)

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Strike on mosque kills 19 as Israel bombards Gaza, Beirut

AP ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH
An Israeli strike on a mosque 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 men.



Palestinians search for survivors and bodies in the rubble of a mosque destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Deir al-Balah, Sunday. **AP/PTI**

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 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 remained in the heavily destroyed 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 reported 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 other 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

expanded the so-called humanitarian zone in southern 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 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 sites. 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 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 Hezbollah. The account of the Friday airstrikes that flung hospital doors off their hinges and shattered glass was the latest to detail attacks that Lebanon's health ministry says have killed dozens of health workers. Marjayoun hospital director Mounes Kalakesh said that even before Friday's attack, ambulance crews in the area were so reluctant to operate that the facility had not received anyone wounded for days. "We have not been able to work. There was fear and panic among the staff," he said. Kalakesh said the government hospital did not receive any warning from Israeli forces before the attack, even though 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 evidence. 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.

Thousands join pro-Palestinian rallies

AP ■ ROME
Police used tear gas and water 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 gatherings 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 authorize protests, citing security concerns. Some protesters, dressed in black and with their faces covered in black paint, threw stones, bottles and paper bombs at the police, who

responded with tear gas and 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 conflict. 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 counterdemonstrations took place without incident, it said. Several thousands of protesters gathered peacefully at Paris' République 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 scarves, 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-

eral other cities in the United 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 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 could turn violent.



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

International rescue teams reach Bosnia after floods

Sarajevo (AP): Rescue teams from Bosnia's neighbours and European Union countries on Sunday were joining efforts to clear the rubble and find people 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 dozens. Officials said that at least 10 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 above. 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 and that teams are arriving to help. Bosnia is a candidate country for membership in the 27-nation bloc. 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 Turkey 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 bid.

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 him. "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 responders who perished while trying to save others.

Trump, Musk address thousands

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
Former US president Donald 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 JD 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 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 Harris is a radical-left Marxist. She is a woman that is not respected in Congress. She was laughed at in 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 got 14 million votes. And she (Harris) got none. She was the



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

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 nominee ever to run for pres-

ident. She is much further left than crazy Bernie Sanders. She wants to open the borders. She took the most secure border in US history and turned it into the worst border in the history of the world.... She let in 21 million (2.1 crore) illegal aliens from all over the world, from prisons and jails and mental institutions and insane asylums. And they are terrorists at record levels, at levels we have never seen before," he alleged. In his brief speech, Musk said this is a must-win situation for the country. "President Trump must win to preserve the Constitution. He must win to preserve democracy in America. This is a must-win situation. So I have one ask for everyone in the audience, everyone who watches this video, everyone in the livestream. This one request is very important. Register to vote. And get everyone you know and everyone you do not know, drag them to register to vote.... Then make sure they actually do vote. If they do not, this

will be the last election. That is my prediction," he said. Musk said the true test of someone's character is how they behave under fire. "We had one president who could not climb a flight of stairs. Another who was fist pumping after getting shot. Fight, fight, fight. Blood coming down the face. America is the home of the brave. There is no truer test than courage under fire. So who do you want representing America?" he asked the audience. "This election, I think it is the most important election of our lifetime. This is no ordinary election. The other side wants to take away your freedom of speech. They want to take away your right to bear arms. They want to take away your right to vote effectively. You have got 14 states now that do not require voter ID. California, where I used to live, just passed a law banning voter ID for voting. I still cannot believe that is real. How are you supposed to have a proper election if there is no ID?" he asked.

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

Tunis (AP): Tunisians cast ballots Sunday in the country's third presidential election since the pro-democracy revolt known as the Arab Spring, while one of the candidates remains in prison. Voters are deciding who among three candidates will lead the North African nation for the next five years — President Kais Saied, imprisoned businessman Ayachi Zammel or Zouhair Maghzaoui, a leftist who supported Saied before choosing to run against him. Saied, the 66-year-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 paperwork 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 attorney 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.

Wounded Calif officer shoots man during 'unprovoked' knife attack

AP ■ SANTA MONICA
A California officer fatally shot 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 Santa Monica 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 man, 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.

CLIMATE CHANGE

A SILENT HEALTH CRISIS

Climate change highlights urgent need for action writes
ABHI SINGHAL

When 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 possible. 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 climate 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 worse 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 crisis." 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 and implementing solutions.

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The Perfect Health Partner in Daily Wellness

BY **JYOTI SINGH**

In today's fast-paced world, finding balance between work, personal life, and self-care can be a daunting task. Yoga, an age-old 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. How 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 peace. 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 to 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 grace. 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 evening to wind down. I 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 the time and variety of your practice. For beginners, starting with simple, yet effective poses is a key. A few asanas that I recommend include:

- **Tadasana (Mountain Pose):** A foundational standing pose that helps improve posture, balance, and concentration.
- **Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose):** This pose strengthens the back and opens up the chest, which can relieve tension from long hours at a desk.
- **Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward-Facing Dog):** A great full-body stretch that works on the hamstrings, shoulders, and back, and also calms the mind.
- **Balāsana (Child's Pose):** A restorative pose that's excellent for relaxation and mindfulness.
- **Anulom Vilom (Alternate Nostril Breathing):** A breathing technique that soothes the mind and helps balance internal energy.

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, and symptoms of depression. Breathing exercises like **Anulom Vilom** and **Bhramari Pranayama** activate the parasympathetic nervous system, helping your body and mind relax. By focusing on breath and movement, yoga 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. Also, try practicing at the same time every day, whether it's early morning or before bedtime. I deeply believe that every person is unique, and their yoga journey should reflect that. I don't believe in a one-size-fits-all approach. Different people come with different physical challenges, like back pain or arthritis, while others might be looking to enhance their mental health or manage stress. It takes the time to understand their goals, limitations, and lifestyle before they can design a program. 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 steps, maintaining consistency, and embracing both the mental and physical advantages, you can seamlessly integrate yoga into your life and experience its 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.

AYURVEDA The Source of Holistic Wellness

BY **SHAHNAZ HUSAIN**

Achieving 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 of 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 all the skin related ailments. The foundation of Shahnaz Husain Group is Ayurveda principles, the

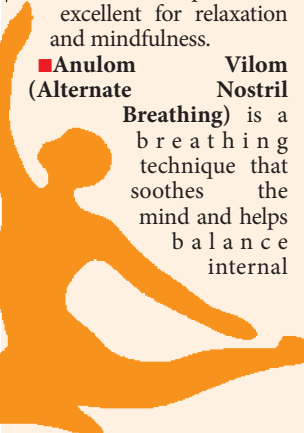


products that we formulate at our state-of-the-art R&D units. Our products are based on the ancient Ayurveda principles and formulations that increase the potency and efficacy of skin care products, providing care and cure. We optimise the formulations with plant extracts, exotic herbs, essential oils and Vitamin extracts that are sourced ethically in the purest form capturing the essence. I like to mention that today when people are looking for quick invasive anti-ageing solutions, I have come up with a plant based natural anti-ageing solution, our entire range of Plant Stem Cell contains plant extracts, renewing the supportive tissues, restoring the youthful properties of the skin.

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

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

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.



England aims to challenge struggling Pakistan in 1st test

AP ■ MULTAN

England is aiming to challenge 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.

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 captain sustained his hamstring injury during the Hundred and might return to lead the side in the second test, 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 doing things in my way."



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."

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

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."

Gauff rallies to reach China Open final

AP ■ BEIJING

Coco Gauff rallied from a set 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 final. 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 level at 4-4. Gauff held for 5-4 and broke Badosa again to force a deciding set. "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.

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, who beat the Italian in Beijing on Wednesday for his fourth title of the year, recorded his 10th consecutive win against 19-year-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 be able to win these kinds of matches."

second major of the year, fired 12 aces and 38 winners. "I felt quite comfortable today," said Sinner, who next plays Tomas Martin Etcheverry of Argentina. "I feel in good shape, which is very important for me. I was serving really, really 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. Yosuke Watanuki also surprised by beating No. 35-ranked Brendan Nakashima 7-6 (4), 6-3. The Japanese qualifier next plays seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz of the U.S. 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 run, 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 Ganges Grandmasters, maintaining a perfect record with four consecutive victories, earning them 12 match points and 49 game points. Defending champions Triveni Continental Kings played two matches on Saturday -- winning the first 15-3 against American Gambits, where Alireza Firouzja defeated world number two Hikaru Nakamura, but narrowly

losing the second to Ganges 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 Pipers. Big upset The final match saw the surprise of the day with Ganges Grandmasters, led by former World Champion Vishwanathan Anand,

finally breaking their losing streak with a 10-8 win over Triveni. With one win and 24 game points from four matches, they now sit in fifth place. Hikaru Nakamura's American Gambits are in last place, with only one match victory and 16 game points from three matches, having been dismantled 15-3 by Triveni. Anand's team, desperate for their first victory after three crushing defeats, was under immense pressure. Already reeling from an earlier loss in the day, Anand had to rally his team, using his authority as a former world champion to lift their spirits. But no pep talk could help on the board, where players had to prove they could outmanoeuvre their

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. Firouzja's stellar form 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, Parham Maghsoodloo, who had blundered a winning position in the previous match, redeemed himself with a key victory over Teimour Radjabov, keeping Ganges in the fight. With the junior board ending in a draw, the fate of the match rested on Valentina Gunina and Nurgul 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

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Amir Ali has been named A captain, with Rohit as his deputy, in the 18-member 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 26. 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



an important tournament in our calendar as always. The tournament will serve as a litmus test for the team

ahead of the Men's Junior Asia Cup Muscat 2024 in November this year," captain Ali stated in a Hockey India

release. "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 team, 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: Bikramjit Singh, Ali Khan Defenders: Amir Ali (C), Talem Priyobarta, 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 on Tuesday. Defending champion Leverkusen squandered an early two-goal lead over promoted Holstein Kiel and drew 2-2. It was only Kiel's

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

with one of the most ineffective forward lines in the league. The Kopenick-based team had only four goals from its opening five games. Former Union player Nico Schlottbeck offered assistance by conceding a penalty with a foul on the lively Benedict Hollerbach, and Kevin Vogt duly scored the opener from the spot in the 25th. The home team kept pushing and got its due reward before the break when Yorbe Vertessen let fly through a host of players for 2-0. Early in the second half, masked Union ultras displayed

an array of Dortmund scarves and banners presumably confiscated from their rivals before the game. They hung the tattered flags on the railings behind one of the goals and raised their fists, goading the Dortmund fans far away on the other side. Former Union player Julien Ryerson responded on the field in the 62nd by firing inside the far post for 2-1, set up by Julian Brandt after a period of pressure from the visitors but it wasn't enough. Also, Freiburg won at Werder Bremen 1-0, and Wolfsburg enjoyed a 3-1 win in Wolfsburg.