



OPINION 6

TRANSFORMING INDIA THROUGH 'MAKE IN INDIA'

WORLD 8

CHINA URGES ALL PARTIES TO COOL DOWN TENSIONS IN WEST ASIA

MONEY 10

INDIA'S SEVEN PER CENT GROWTH FAILS TO GENERATE JOBS: RAGHURAM RAJAN

BHOPAL, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

Established 1865

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RETURNS MISSING MBAPPÉ, RODRI, BARELLA 12 SPORTS

WEST ASIA ON FIRE



People check the site of the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut's southern suburbs, Sunday AP/PTI

PTI ■ JERUSALEM/ BEIRUT

The Israeli military said Sunday that it killed another high-ranking Hezbollah official in an airstrike as the Lebanese militant group was reeling from a string of devastating blows and the killing of its overall leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

senior commanders, Ali Karaki, died in the Israeli airstrike that killed its top leader Hassan Nasrallah on Friday. Israel has killed several top commanders in the Lebanese militant group in recent weeks in a series of strikes.

Hezbollah has also been targeted by a sophisticated attack on its pagers and walkie-talkies that was widely blamed on Israel. A wave of Israeli airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon has killed at least 1,030 people - including 156 women and 87 children - in less than two weeks, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

many staying with friends or relatives, or camping out on the streets, Environment Minister Nasser Yassin told The Associated Press. Hezbollah has continued to fire rockets and missiles into northern Israel, but most have been intercepted or fallen in open areas. No Israelis have been killed since the latest wave of strikes on top Hezbollah leaders began on Sept. 20. Kaouk was a veteran member of Hezbollah going back to the 1980s and served as Hezbollah's military commander in southern Lebanon during the 2006 war with Israel. He often appeared in local media, where he would comment on politics and security developments, and he gave eulogies at the funerals of senior militants. The United States had announced sanctions against him in 2020.

Kashmir reacts, India bleeds

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The situation remained volatile in several parts of Kashmir after sporadic protests broke out over the killing of Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli air strike in Lebanon. People took to the streets in Srinagar and Budgam to condemn Nasrallah's death, chanting anti-Israel and anti-US slogans.



Reacting strongly to the developments the BJP on Sunday lashed out at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for "shedding crocodile tears" and indulging in "vote bank politics" after the former Chief Minister cancelled her poll campaign over the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Abdullah condemned the actions of Israel and called for world support to end the ongoing massacre of innocent people in Gaza and Lebanon. Another Shia leader and former Minister Imran Reza Ansari labelled him as a 'Lion'. Ansari posted a message on X, "A lion has fallen, his roar remains. In every heartbeat his struggle sustains. I am suspending all campaigning activities to honour the supreme sacrifice made by Shaheed Sayed Hassan Nasrallah".



A braveheart of Jammu and Kashmir police, Head Constable Bashir Ahmad, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty after neutralising a Pakistani terrorist in the Billawar tehsil of Kathua district

Terror in Jammu, one personnel killed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A braveheart of Jammu and Kashmir police, Head Constable Bashir Ahmad, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty after neutralising a Pakistani terrorist in the Billawar tehsil of Kathua district late Saturday evening, was eagerly waiting to come home to finalise the marriage arrangements of his elder daughter and son. On Sunday his mortal remains, draped in the tricolor, reached home after a formal wreath-laying ceremony at the police lines.

Shocking road rage in Delhi NCR, two dead

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old Delhi Police constable was crushed to death in a road rage incident late Saturday night in the Nangloi area after asking a driver to move his car in the national capital. The constable was reportedly dragged for 10 metres before being hit by another vehicle. The incident occurred when the constable was monitoring the area due to a rise in burglaries, dressed in civilian clothes.



A damaged car that was involved in an accident, outside Nangloi police station, in New Delhi, Sunday Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Nangloi police station. He is survived by his mother, wife, and a five-year-old son. The incident occurred around 2.15 am near Veena Enclave when Sandeep was going towards Railway Road from Nangloi Police station during duty hours dressed in civilian clothes.

constable's motorcycle from behind and dragged him for about 10 metres before hitting another car, it said. CCTV footage revealed that Sandeep had taken a left turn into a narrow lane and indicated the Wagon R to slow down when the vehicle suddenly sped up and hit his bike. The impact caused Sandeep to be dragged along with his bike for about 10 meters before the Wagon R hit a parked car.

Intense rain claims 125 lives in Nepal, jeopardise Bihar

PTI/PNS ■ KATHMANDU/PATNA

The death toll from rain-triggered floodings and landslides across Nepal climbed to 125 on Sunday, police said. Large swathes of eastern and central Nepal have been inundated since Friday, with flash floods reported in parts of the country. Due to the prevailing situation the border districts of neighbouring Bihar remained vulnerable as the State Government sounded an alert for floods in northern, southern and central parts of the State following heavy discharge of water from Birpur and Valmikinagar barrages on Sunday.



say that while climate change is changing the amount and timing of rainfall across Asia, a key reason for the rise in the impact of floods is the built environment, including unplanned construction, especially on floodplains, which leaves insufficient areas for water retention and drainage.

Chandrayaan-3 lands at Shiv Shakti Point



Chandrayaan-3 landed on possibly oldest craters of Moon, say researchers File Photo

Iconic trams of Kolkata to chug away into history

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore once called tram a "link between life and literature" even as he described in his Sahaj Paath how "the roads of Kolkata have become like a snake on which the Tram hurtles," down.

Chakrabarty said that the Government had decided to discontinue the tram services as it was not only slow but also consumed huge space. "Trams are the part of Kolkata's heritage ever since it started its journey in 1873, but one has also to consider the operational costs, its low speed and not lest the space it consumes" all considering the fact that unlike Delhi or Mumbai which have more than 20 per cent of their surface areas comprising roads Kolkata has only six per cent.



FILE PHOTO

second "a date has not been fixed as we are not going to end it today or tomorrow." He said the decision was in contemplation for quite some time (years) when several tram routes in North Kolkata were phased out without notice fearing public backlash. Despite the idea being in

contemplation from as early as the Left regime it was the TMC Government that set out to blemish the cat sand hastened up the speed of tram's withdrawal particularly after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told in one of her public speeches how tram tracks had become a nuisance on

thoroughfares like the Hazra Road that leads to her Kalighat residence making it risky for the bikers who "may any moment skid off their vehicles due to the tram lines." Kolkata was the first to get trams on February 24, 1873, with horse-drawn cars running on tracks. "A big horses' stable

was set up at Raja Bazaar off Sealadah to supply the horses for trams. Subsequently tram was modernised with steam power in 1882, whereas first electric-powered tram was introduced in 1900 a few years after Madras (presently Chennai) got its own electric tram. More recently AC trams were introduced in 2013.

association said adding "at Rs 6 and 7 tram is perhaps the cheapest service in the city which this Government is trying to discontinue and which we will not let happen."

mode to allow the vehicle of the past to survive. The PIL was filed in 2022 and is still continuing. In the PIL Sulagna Mukherjee, the petitioner pointed out that at time different cities of the world were increasingly embracing tram services for its "green" attributes the State Government is going to discontinue it.

Delay in Congress' State executive helping Jitu Patwari

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

When you hit rock bottom, the only way you can go is up. The age-old dictum is proving right for the Congress, as a delay in the announcement of the state executive is helping the party garner greater contributions from its leaders in Madhya Pradesh.

Congress Committee soon after the assembly election debacle for the party in December 2023, is perhaps coming to terms with late Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's observation that 'inaction is action in itself.' After decades in the doldrums, Congress has gained considerable ground in the state under Patwari, who has been ironically but robustly supported by the delay. Over the years, the announcement of the party state executive has led to protests and faction feuds between the various regional warhorses and satraps that comprise the grand old party in the state. This time too, the announcement was expected to trigger trouble for the Congress, especially as several new and young leaders are in the fray

for a position in the MPCC, owing to the migration of a large number of party leaders to the Bharatiya Janata Party. While talk of the state executive started soon after Patwari's elevation, the Congress central leadership has staggered the announcement in an ostensible effort to allow Patwari to consolidate his position before the state executive takes charge. Formation of Congress state units has never been an easy equation, as several elements, including regional balance and satrap egos, need to be factored into the combination before it is placed for public scrutiny. Aspiring positions in the state executive, Congress leaders and workers are known to fully dedicate themselves to political work in the months leading

up to the announcement, as they believe that the limelight would help them secure a better position in the party. Party insiders say that this time all the regional satraps—Kamal Nath, Digvijay Singh, Arun Yadav, Ajay Singh, and their supporters—are actively participating in party programs and agitations in their respective regions. In keeping with party tradition, the supporters of these senior leaders are expecting to be included in the state executive and are wholeheartedly participating in party programs. During former Union Minister Kamal Nath's tenure as PCC Chief, there was a jumbo state executive, as more than 2,000 party leaders and workers were included in the body to

avoid the possibility of a free-for-all between the various factions. Party sources predict that the state executive will be much smaller this time around, and only a select few will find a place. They added that Patwari is likely to announce his new executive soon, as he is buoyed by the recent success of party agitations. State Congress Media in-charge Mukesh Nayak told The Pioneer that though the announcement was expected earlier, the new state body will now be declared during Navratri. Notably, the central leadership of Congress is busy with assembly elections in Haryana, and the results will be declared on October 8; it is highly unlikely that the announcement will precede the results.



Students go through a model of 'Common Jezebel Butterfly' after it was inaugurated on the 27th anniversary celebration of Regional Museum of Natural History in Bhopal on Sunday.



Workers prepare a Durga Puja pandal ahead of the Navratri festival at Barkheda Pathani in Bhopal on Sunday.

Land freed from encroachment made fertile and Transformed into 'Hari Bagiya Poshan Vatika'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

This unique initiative, carried out by ten women from the self-help group with the support of local authorities, earned them national recognition from Prime Minister, Modi, instilling a sense of pride among the village women

Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again highlighted the commendable efforts taking place in Madhya Pradesh during his 'Mann Ki Baat' program, aired on Sunday, September 29. He praised the women of the self-help group from Gram Panchayat Khaup in Chhatarpur district for their remarkable achievement in transforming 2 hectares of barren land, freed from encroachment by the administration, into a lush green fruit forest by planting 2,300 fruit-grafted saplings.

The entire initiative was managed by ten dedicated women from the group, including president Kaushalya Rajak, secretary Parvati Rajak, and members Phula Rajak, Janaki Rajak, Mamta Raikwar, Halki Bai Rajak, Bhagwati Kushwaha, Rachna Kushwaha, Ramdevi Rajak, and Kusum Rajak. **Use of fruit forest vegetables in midday meal** Fruitful plants and vegetables are being produced in the fruit forest of Khaup village. The vegetables here are used for the midday meal of the secondary school. The income earned from selling vegetables has also increased the income of these women.

of the reservoir. She informed that earlier we would go to different haat bazaar to sell fish, Didi Fish Parlour was inaugurated on Republic Day this year with the help of the Dindori district administration due to which we started generating more income. The Chairman said that 12 didis associated with the group are engaged in fish production and selling fish through Didi Parlour. Fish production is being increased in a 10-hectare reservoir by using seeds received from the Fisheries Department. Along with fish farming, the water of the reservoir is also used for irrigation. The production of fish species like Rohu, Katla, Karcha, Nareni continues in the reservoir. These fish are processed and brought to Didi Fish Parlour every day for being sold. Secretary of Sharda Group, Smt. Suman Dhumketi said that earlier we used to earn our living by working as labourers, due to which we had to face financial crisis. But soon after we started fish farming from 2014, our financial condition improved and we have also gained respect.

Fish parlour of Sharda self-help group also lauded In his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, Prime Minister Modi praised the fish parlour run by the sisters of Sharda Self-Help Group of Raipura village in Dindori district.

President of the group, Smt. Sharda Dhurve says that in 2014, the lease of Raipura reservoir was given to the group by the Fisheries Department for 10 years. The women of our group started fish production along with the maintenance

Transforming Barren Land into a Lush Green Fruit Forest Initiated in 2022 as part of the NITI Aayog's desilting program, this significant project involved excavating soil from a Chandel-era pond to support plantation efforts under the MNREGA scheme. The women of the self-help group planted saplings to create a garden on land that had been cleared of encroachment by the administration. Additionally, efficient arrangements for drip irrigation were established through the Atal Ground Water Scheme.

PM made women empowered, now they should strengthen BJP by becoming members

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

while getting people to join after the 'Mann Ki Baat' program at booth number 205 of Shahpura Mandal, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives a glimpse of India through the Mann Ki Baat program. The world is seeing the growing influence of India under his leadership. State Organization General Secretary Hitanand, after listening to the 'Mann Ki Baat' program at booth number 167 of Nariyalkheda Mandal, while discussing with the workers about the party's organizational festival, said that anyone can become a member of BJP in four easy ways. Madhya Pradesh BJP has created history in the first phase. In the second phase, all the workers should get busy in making more members than the target. BJP State President and MP Vishnudutt Sharma said that Prime Minister's 'Mann Ki Baat' program has been heard at

every booth in the state today. Party officials and workers have given information about the party's policies to the citizens, mothers and sisters present through 'Chai Pe Charcha' and got them enrolled in the party. This membership campaign is going on throughout the state. The second phase of membership is starting from October 1. Sharma said that our Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about 'Women Led Governance' and he has started many schemes for women's empowerment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making women economically strong through self-help groups. Prime Minister is making women financially strong by connecting them with self-employment through Lakhpati Didi, Drone Didi. Prime Minister has cleared the way for 33 percent reservation for women in the state assemblies and the country's

Parliament by implementing the Nari Shakti Vandan law. Now the number of women in the state assemblies and Parliament will increase and their role will also be effective. Prime Minister Modi is doing so much work for women, so women should also join BJP to strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister. BJP State President Vishnudutt Sharma said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while discussing water conservation in the 'Mann Ki Baat' program, told about the sisters of a self-help group of Chhatarpur, how these sisters contributed to raising the groundwater level by recharging a pond. Similarly, Prime Minister also discussed Dindori district, where self-help sisters are conserving water in a pond and giving its water for use. Due to this effort of women, the water level of that village of Dindori has

come up. While discussing the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told how people are coming forward to join this campaign and how good efforts are being made in this direction in Indore and other districts of Madhya Pradesh. He said that women have a very important role in the Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. While talking about the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, the Prime Minister said that crores of saplings have been planted in Madhya Pradesh under this campaign. BJP State President Sharma said that the people of Madhya Pradesh are participating enthusiastically in every campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this is a matter of pride for us. BJP State President Sharma planted saplings with sisters after the 'Mann Ki Baat' program.

Farmer's body found at Sehore check-post

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A farmer was found dead at Sehore check post on Bhopal-Indore highway in the evening on Saturday; Khajuri police have started investigation of the death. Police said, the deceased identified as Hukam Singh, had in the evening told his wife that he would be back from the farms but later he was found dead. Khajuri police suspects that the death was due to an accident in the initial investigation. The deceased's bike has also been recovered from the spot in a broken condition. On Saturday evening, he

Khajuri police suspects that the death was due to an accident in the initial investigation

had informed his wife on a call that he would be returning home from the farm. The police have registered a case and started an investigation in the matter. After the post-mortem on Sunday afternoon, the body was handed over to the family. Hukam Singh (47) was a resident of Barkhedhaph Khajuri police station area. He has four acres of land a

short distance from the village. His nephew Akash Bhillala said that uncle had left the house on Saturday afternoon saying that he was going to the farm. At around 6 pm, an acquaintance informed his son that his father was lying on the highway near Sehore check post in a blood-soaked condition. After getting the information, the son and other relatives reached the spot and took the uncle to the hospital. Where he was declared dead. The police are investigating the case and trying to find out the exact cause of death. In the initial investigation, it is believed that the death was due to an accident.

Dancers from different folk traditions enthral audience at Tribal museum

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Dancers from various folk traditions regaled the audience at the Tribal museum on Sunday, as curtains came down on the three-day mask-based exhibition and cultural fest in the state capital. Organised by the 'Janatiya Lok Kala Evam Boli Vikas Akademi,' programme on the day started with a ceremonial welcome of the participants.



Gaurang Nayak and his group from Odisha presented the Sahijata (Jatra). In folk dance, Jatra is a popular form of folk theatre in Eastern India, involving music, acting, singing, and dramatic dialogue performed by multiple participants. This folk drama is particularly significant in Bengal and Odisha. The Sahijata dance, performed during religious processions and rituals, involves artists using masks of Lord Ganesha, Narasimha, and the goddess. The Bhairav dance, featuring traditional drum playing, was presented by the Jagri Culture Art Platform Committee from Uttarakhand. "Rammam" is an annual festival held in April in Salood village, of Chamoli district in Uttarakhand. It encompasses a series of diverse programmes, rituals, and traditional worship, honouring the Bhumjal deity and village ancestors. The festival includes worship of the land deity and dances of 18 patters representing Ram, Lakshman, Sita, and

Hanuman. In 2009, UNESCO recognised Rammam as a part of the world cultural heritage. The traditional dances, accompanied by drums and damaus, are captivating, with performances like Mor-Morni and Banya-Baniyan thrilling the audience. At the end, the land deity manifested and settled in his original place for a year. Rammam boasts a tradition over 500 years old. Next, Srishtidhar Mahato and his group from Kolkata performed the Shumbha-Nishumbha tale. Shumbha and Nishumbha, two demons, perform severe penance to receive powerful booms from Lord Brahma. Armed with these boons, they misuse their power to conquer the heavens, earth, and netherworld, attempting to expel the gods. In response, all the gods unite to worship Goddess Durga and Goddess Kali. They appear and slay the demons, symbolising the victory of good over evil.

SIT probe in girl's rape, murder starts

Bhopal: Comprehensive action plans would be implemented by city police after the rape and murder of the girl in the EWS building in Shahjahanabad area. Under this action plan, about 18 EWS buildings in the city would be surveyed. The record of criminals living here will also be searched. As per the rules, flats in these buildings cannot be given on rent. This survey was started on Sunday from the same building in Shahjahanabad, where the incident was reported 4 days ago. In the investigation so far the accused neighbor who raped and murdered a 5-year-old girl is on police remand till Monday, SIT is investigating. On Saturday, the police took medical samples of the accused. This also includes DNA sam-

ples. The police are preparing to present the challan in 10 days. A draft is being prepared to present the challan in the court. The case will be heard in a fast track court. The accused's sister, who helped him hide the body, has been charged with human trafficking. There are photos of many girls in her phone. The people of the multi said that she used to send these photos to boys and charge up to 2.5 lakh rupees for arranging marriage. However, the police have not found any evidence. There are 3500 flats in the buildings built under government schemes at 18 places in the city. These include Dholak Basti, Number 12, Shyam Nagar, Ganga Nagar, Aradhana Nagar, Arjun Nagar etc.



BJP State President VD Sharma during the party's membership drive in ward 45, at Arera Mandal in Bhopal on Sunday.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री						
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग, मैकेनिकल खण्ड, अरविन्द विहार, लहापुर डेम के समीप, बाग मुंगलिया बhopal						
Phone No. 0755-293001, E-Mail I.D. emphbl@mp.nic.in						
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कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग, मैकेनिकल खण्ड भोपाल के अंतर्गत वर्ष 2024-25 के दौरान नर्मदापुरम जिले में विभागीय इंजिलिंग रिग मशीनों पर आवश्यकतानुसार हैवी लाईसेंसधारी पुरुष वाहन चालक (कुशल) तथा पुरुष मजदूर (अकुशल) उपलब्ध कराने हेतु ऑनलाइन डिजिटली हस्ताक्षरित निविदा दिनांक 10.10.2024 सायं 17:00 बजे तक अनुभवी टेकेदार से प्रपत्र 'Annexure 2.10' पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा हेतु अभिलेखों जैसे प्रतिभूति राशि प्राप्त, उक्त कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीय पंजीयन प्रणाली, लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीयन का प्रमाण-पत्र इत्यादि (निविदा अनुसार) निर्धारित अवधि में अनिवार्य रूप से ऑन-लाइन अपलोड करना होगा। निविदा दिनांक 11.10.2024 को सायं 17.15 बजे ऑन-लाइन खोली जावेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन भुगतान करने के उपरान्त वेबसाइट: https://mptenders.gov.in पर ऑनलाइन क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। परशिश्ट/संशोधन केवल वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जावेगा।						
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Centre to hold simultaneous elections with three new bills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Centre is likely to bring three bills, including two to amend the Constitution, to put in place its plan to hold simultaneous elections. One of the proposed Constitution amendment bills, that deals with aligning the local bodies elections to that of the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, will require an endorsement from at least 50 per cent of the states. Moving ahead with its 'one nation, one election' plan, the government earlier this month accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner after a countrywide consensus-building exercise. The proposed first constitutional amendment bill would deal with making provisions for holding Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly elections together. Citing recommendations of the high-level committee, sources said the proposed bill would seek to amend Article 82A by adding sub-clause (1) relating to the 'appointed date'. It will also seek to insert sub-clause (2) to Article 82A relating to the end of terms



the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies together. It also proposes to amend Article 83(2) and insert new sub-clauses (3) and (4) relating to the duration and dissolution of the Lok Sabha. It also has provisions related to the dissolution of the legislative assemblies and amending Article 327 to insert the term "simultaneous elections". This bill will not require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the states, the

recommendation said. The proposed second Constitutional amendment bill will require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies as it will deal with matters relating to state affairs. It will seek to amend constitutional provisions relating to the preparation of electoral rolls by the Election Commission (EC) in consultation with State Election Commissions (SECs) for elections to local

Constitutionally, the EC and SECs are separate bodies. The EC holds elections to the post of the President, the Vice President, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state assemblies and state legislative councils while the SECs are mandated to conduct polls to local bodies such as municipalities and panchayats. The proposed second Constitutional amendment bill will also create provisions to hold simultaneous elections to municipalities and panchayats, along with

elections to Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies by inserting a new Article 324A. The third bill will be an ordinary one to amend provisions in three laws dealing with Union territories having legislative assemblies — Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir — to align the terms of these Houses with other legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha as proposed in the first constitutional amendment bill. The statutes it proposes to

amend are the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act-1991, the Government of Union Territories Act-1963 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019. The proposed bill will be an ordinary legislation not requiring a change in the Constitution and will also not need ratification by the states. The high-level committee had proposed amendments to three Articles, insertion of 12 new sub-clauses in the existing articles and tweaking three laws related to Union Territories having legislative assemblies. The total number of amendments and new insertions stands at 18. In its report submitted to the government in March, just before the general election was announced, the panel recommended implementing "one nation, one election" in two phases. It suggested simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies in the first phase and elections for local bodies like panchayats and municipal bodies within 100 days of the general election in the second phase. It also recommended a common electoral roll, which would need coordination between the Election Commission and State Election Commissions.



Union Minister and BJP National President JP Nadda, and others listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme, in New Delhi, Sunday
Photo by: **RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER**

'Mann Ki Baat' showcases positive developments: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Sunday that his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat' has shown that people like positive developments and inspiring and encouraging stories. Speaking in the latest episode of the radio programme in which he touches about social issues and highlights people's efforts for a cause in different parts of the country, he noted that the broadcast is completing 10 years. Describing it as an "emotional" episode, he said the programme has become a unique platform that celebrates the spirit of India and showcases collective strength of the nation. He also thanked the media for taking its message to people. Modi said there is generally a perception that people don't pay attention if the content is not spicy or negative. However, 'Mann Ki Baat' has shown that they are eager for positive information. People like

positive things, inspiring examples and encouraging stories, he noted. Modi said the 'Make in India' programme is completing its 10 years, asserting that export is rising in every sector and the rise in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a testimony to its success. It has helped local manufacturers a lot, he added. He urged people to buy 'Made in India' products in the coming festival season. Referring to his recent visit to the US, Modi said the return of nearly 300 antiquities to India is being widely talked about. When people start taking pride in their heritage, the world also respects their sentiments, he said, asserting that a large number of ancient artefacts has been returned to India by different countries in the last 10 years of his government. In the programme, he highlighted the success of the 'Swachh Bharat' mission, lauding it as a great tribute to Mahatma Gandhi who put special emphasis on cleanliness all his life.



CITU protests FSNL disinvestment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) on Sunday protested on Government's move to disinvest the profit-making PSU Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited (FSNL). The CITU general secretary Tapan Sen in a statement said the Central Government is resorting to all "illegal practices" to sell the Mini Ratna company to Japan's M/s. Konoike Transport Co. Ltd and must roll back from the sale. Extending solidarity with the striking employees of FSNL, the CITU pointed out that PSU Navratna steel companies

are completely dependent on FSNL for scrap handling since its inception. "With utter surprise, no consultation with them has at all been initiated by the government on such a vital issue and the top managements of FSNL are also not properly aware of this clandestine move. FSNL is a company having a reserve fund of about Rs 200 crore and movable assets worth Rs100 crore employing more than 600 employees and 5,000 contract workers. During the year ended March 31, 2022, Company has paid Interim Dividend for FY 2021-22 amounting to Rs 9.50 per

equity shares," said CITU in a statement detailing the profits of the FSNL. CITU said that "such a golden egg producing company is straight away being guillotined by the government because of its sheer obsession for privatization factually without any valid reason." "CITU once again condemns the authoritarian anti-National move of the Modi government and stands strong with striking FSNL workers. CITU calls upon all its units to take this issue to all sections of workers and mobilize them insolidarity with this anti-privatization struggle," said CITU.

Himalayan research project to analyse sediment impact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As climate change intensifies hazards such as landslides, avalanches, and glacial floods in high mountain regions including Himalayas, a team of researchers from India, Canada and UK is set to conduct a study to understand the long-term impacts of sediment moved by these disasters on communities and river systems including Ganges river. The team, including experts from IIT Roorkee and the Dehradun-based Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, will start research at a 150 km stretch of the Ganges River impacted by the 2021 disaster in Chamoli nestled in Himalayan region in Uttarakhand. Triggered by a rock and ice avalanche, this catastrophic event caused a devastating debris flood, resulting in over 200 fatalities and significant damage to two hydropower stations including Tapovan Vishnu Gad Hydropower. The landslide also temporarily created a dam in the Rishiganga valley, which eventually breached. The £1 million research SUPERSLUG project, led by researchers from the University of Plymouth, will center around the 2021 disaster and focus on understanding how massive sediment flows—termed "sediment slugs"—affect river systems over time, often impacting areas far from the original disaster site. Utilising advanced monitoring technologies such as drones, satellite imagery, seismic sensors, and "smart cobbles," the team will gather data on sediment transport and landscape changes. This information will help create a digital twin of the river system, offering insights for disaster management and resource sustainability. Dr. Matt Westoby, the project lead and Associate Professor

of Physical Geography at the University of Plymouth, emphasised the urgency of this research which is backed by an £840,000 grant from the Natural Environment Research Council. He noted that while the immediate impacts of disasters are clear, the long-term consequences often remain unexplored. "High mountain regions like the Himalayas are among the most hazardous on the planet. The effects of climate change are likely to exacerbate these hazards, leading to increased landslide activity and landscape instability," he said. "We urgently need to understand the legacy impacts of sediment flows on river catchments and the communities that depend on them for water and livelihoods." The project will engage directly with local communities and authorities to ensure that findings are practical and beneficial for disaster preparedness and hydropower operations. Collaborating institutions also include Exeter, Hull, Leeds, Newcastle, Staffordshire, and the University of Calgary. Professor Tom Coulthard from the University of Hull highlighted the importance of understanding sediment movement. "Often it's the sheer volume of sediment, rather than just floodwaters, that causes significant damage during these multi-hazard events. Understanding how long sediment slugs persist in the system is crucial for predicting their impacts and managing future disasters." In a nut-shell, as per the statement from the University of Hull, this three-year initiative aims to fill critical knowledge gaps regarding the long-term effects of sediment slugs on ecosystems and communities, ultimately enhancing disaster resilience in vulnerable regions.

Mental health certificates now needed for Transgender pre-hormonal therapy, surgery

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Transgenders who want to go for pre-hormonal therapy or gender assignment surgery need to be assessed and certified by mental health professionals, according to the Union Health Ministry's standard operating procedures for the purpose. As for gynaecologists, the 'SoP for Medical Treatment of Transgender Persons' states that they should enquire as to how the patient wishes to be addressed in terms of name and pronoun, and also ensure that the words they use uphold the principles of safety, dignity and respect. Outlining the responsibilities of mental health professionals, the SoP document said their primary role would include assessment for gender incongruence, as per the

current diagnostic system followed by the World Health Organization, and certification for the same. Gender incongruence is characterised by a marked and persistent disparity between an individual's experienced gender and the assigned sex. It often leads to a desire for a 'transition' through hormonal treatment, surgery or other healthcare services in order to live and be accepted as a person of the experienced gender. According to the SOP, "Before endocrinology treatment, a certificate from one psychiatrist is required. Before Gender Affirmation Surgery, two certificates are required -- one by a psychiatrist and one by a psychologist/psychiatrist." Apart from that, a mental health professional would also assess for distress and co-



morbidity mental and/or substance use disorders and provide management of the same, the document stated. They would also provide support or therapy, if needed, to cope with issues related to gender incongruence, including participation in integrated cross-disciplinary care and intersectoral

collaboration for clients and caregivers. "The support would be provided pre-hormonal therapy/gender assignment surgery, during the period as well as post-surgery, if need be," it stated. According to the document, one cannot undergo gender affirmation surgery before the age of 18 years and a

certificate of being stable on endocrine treatment for one year and suitability for surgical procedure is required before gender affirmation surgery. The SOP stressed the need to make STD clinics friendly to gender-diverse patients and such facilities should document gender identity and sex assigned at birth for all patients to improve sexual healthcare for transgenders and gender nonbinary persons. Primary care providers should take a comprehensive sexual history, including a discussion on Sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening, HIV PrEP and PEP, behavioural health, and social determinants of sexual health. Clinicians can improve the experience of sexual health screening and counselling for transgender persons by

asking for their choice of terminology or modifying language to be used during clinic visits and history taking and examination, the SOP stated. Options for fertility preservation, pregnancy potential and contraception options should also be discussed, if indicated, the document said. As for the Fertility Preservation in Transgenders (Female to Male), the SoP states that the established method for fertility preservation includes cryopreservation of embryos and oocytes for females. Ovarian tissue cryopreservation is also a successful technique for fertility preservation and is no longer experimental, the document stated, adding that it has limited availability and is possible only after attaining puberty.



Prakash Karat to lead CPI(M) interim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat will be the coordinator of the party's Polit Bureau and the Central Committee as an interim arrangement until the 24th Party Congress to be held in April next year. The decision comes in the wake of the death of CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury on September 12 at the age of 72. "The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), now in session in New Delhi, has decided that Comrade Prakash Karat will

be the coordinator of the Polit Bureau and the Central Committee, as an interim arrangement until the 24th Party Congress to be held in April 2025 at Madurai," the CPI(M) said. "This decision was taken due to the sad and sudden demise of the sitting General Secretary of the CPI(M), Comrade Sitaram Yechury," it added. Karat, one of the senior most leaders of the CPI(M), was its general secretary from 2005 to 2015. He was elected to the Central Committee in 1985 and became a Polit Bureau member in 1992.

Congress demands Sitharaman's resignation over extortion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Sunday attacked the BJP after a case was lodged against Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others on a complaint relating to the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme and demanded her resignation for "undermining democracy". The opposition party reiterated its demand for a Supreme-court monitored inquiry through an SIT into the whole electoral bond scheme. Addressing a press conference here along with party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh charged that four ways were used to extort money through the "conspiracy of electoral bonds — prepaid bribery, postpaid bribery, post-raid bribery and through farzi companies". He said the Finance Minister should immediately resign as



she is "guilty" politically, legally and morally. Ramesh said the FIR was lodged on orders of the court and the Congress has nothing to do with the FIR. He said the Congress has been demanding a Supreme-court monitored inquiry through an SIT into the electoral bonds scheme and reiterates that demand. Singhvi also accused the BJP of "undermining democracy". "The Finance Minister cannot do this on her own. We know who is number 1 and number 2 and this was done on whose

directions," he said. "The larger issue is the level playing field which is necessary for free and fair polls. Free and fair polls are critical for democracy. This is an attack on our democratic system," Singhvi said while terming it as "EBS - Extortionist BJP Scheme". A case was registered on Saturday against Sitharaman and others on the directions of a court in Bengaluru, following a complaint relating to the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme. According to police, an FIR

was registered under IPC sections 384 (punishment for extortion), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) against Sitharaman, ED officials, office-bearers of the BJP at state and national level, based on the order of a special court. BJP Karnataka chief B Y Vijayendra and party leader Nalin Kumar Kateel have also been named in the FIR. The complaint was lodged by Adarsh R Iyer, Co-President of 'Janadhikara Sangharsha Parishath' (JSP) alleging that the accused "committed extortion under the guise and garb of electoral bonds" and benefited to the tune of more than Rs 8,000 crore. The complainant further alleged that Sitharaman through the clandestine aid and support of ED officials facilitated extortion of thousands of crores of rupees for the benefit of others both at the state and national levels.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Saving Sunita Williams

Relying on her mental fortitude, Sunita has not only survived the ordeal but plays a crucial role in her rescue

It is heartening to hear that Sunita Williams will be back home soon. Elon Musk's SpaceX has launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida to rescue two astronauts stranded in the International Space Station (ISS). The mission aims to retrieve American astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams, who have been stranded on the International Space Station for months due to issues with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. Originally planned for an eight-day stay, the astronauts' mission was extended far beyond after technical problems with the Starliner. As every Indian waits for her rescue the image of Kalpana Chawla flashes in the mind who lost her life in a space mission. She was one of the seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster when the spacecraft disintegrated during its re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003. The vast, unexplored frontier of space offers countless wonders, but it also brings unique challenges. The present snag is no fault of the astronauts but a lapse on the part of NASA and Boeing company which allowed the mission to proceed despite several alarms and glitches.

Sunita Williams, a veteran of two spaceflights and a woman who has spent over 300 days in space, embarked on her latest mission with the confidence and expertise that comes from years of training and commitment. However, space is as unpredictable as it is vast. A critical error occurred during her mission, which disabled vital components of the spacecraft, leaving her stranded in the ISS. The malfunction wasn't just a minor glitch—it was a cascade of failures. Yet, if there was one person equipped to face such adversity, it was Sunita Williams. Her resilience, mental fortitude, and the ability to maintain calm in even the most extreme conditions became the defining elements in her survival. Williams is no stranger to adversity. The daughter of Indian and Slovenian immigrants, she broke barriers early in her career by rising to prominence in a male-dominated field. Her indomitable spirit and work ethic have always stood out. She has done spacewalk, she holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, spending 195 days in space until 2017. Over her career, Williams has accumulated more than 322 days in space, marking her as one of the most experienced female astronauts in history. Sunita Williams approached this life-threatening situation with a mix of grit, hope, and resourcefulness. She immediately got involved in troubleshooting, all the while keeping her own morale high through mental exercises and meditation. Let's hope and pray that the rescue mission succeeds and Sunita along with colleague Butch Wilmore reaches home safely and is united with her family. This mission is also a lesson and learning for NASA and its contractors to ensure zero tolerance for any glitches and snags in their operations.

PICTALK



Artistes perform 'Mahishasur Mardini' act ahead of Durga Puja festival, in Nadia district

Transforming India through 'Make in India'



PIYUSH GOYAL

The 'Make in India' initiative has completed 10 years of transformative impact. PM Modi's vision has ignited a revival in manufacturing and spurred job creation

On September 25, the country observed 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's game-changing 'Make in India' initiative that is transforming India's industrial landscape by encouraging job-creating investments and giving many ordinary citizens the confidence to become wealth creators. It's been a remarkable 10-year journey, which gave renewed vigour to industrial sectors turning these into engines of growth, meeting domestic demand as well as contributing to exports. The exciting journey began at a difficult time when domestic investors were despondent because of the policy paralysis and poor governance by the indecisive Congress government.

The economy was down, confidence was shattered, headlines were dominated by a regular dose of corruption scandals, inflation was soaring, interest rates were high and the rupee had an uncertain outlook. To end the feeling of doom and gloom, the Indian voters decisively voted for PM Modi. Our Prime Minister came with a vision for India. He wanted to ensure that India became a global superpower. He wanted India to provide jobs and opportunities to our youth, recognising that manufacturing was critical to India's success story.

That is when the PM launched the 'Make in India' initiative. Ten years has been a remarkable journey, but it would not have been possible for the multidimensional and transformative changes done by the Modi government. Initiatives include GST, the Bankruptcy Code and a multitude of other reforms. To improve the ease of doing business, as many as 42,000 compliance requirements were done away with, and 3,700 provisions that provided for criminal penalties for minor offences were removed from various statutes to protect small businesses from harassment.

India sharply improved its rank in the World Bank's Doing Business Report from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd in 2019. The government's Startup India initiative



has encouraged many job seekers to become job creators with the help of Startup India initiative. This has helped the number of recognised startups increase to 1,40,803 in June this year, bringing in investments, and creating more than 15 lakh jobs.

These startups are driving the innovation ecosystem in the country, working on solutions to pressing issues in areas such as sanitation, space navigation, reducing food wastage, improving access to healthcare, and empowering women. The development of 11 Industrial Corridors is another focus area of the Government. 20 industrial smart cities are being developed under the programme, which would help make these corridors the backbone of India's manufacturing growth. Four of these smart cities have already become magnets of investment with infrastructure and clearances available for manufacturing units to be set up. Potential investment of Rs 1.7 lakh crore is already committed which will provide direct employment to 80,000 persons and indirect to many more. The Government's PLI schemes focus on critical sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, textiles and medical devices to create the eco-systems in these sectors for sustained growth



MANY COUNTRIES ARE KEEN TO SIGN TRADE DEALS WITH INDIA. THE WORLD IS NOW LOOKING AT INDIA AS A MANUFACTURING DESTINATION. AND THE KEY REASON FOR THIS INTEREST IS INDIA'S COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AND ROBUST ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS

and ensure their global competitiveness. PLI schemes have resulted in Rs 1.32 lakh crore in investment and a significant boost in manufacturing output of around 11 lakh crore. More than 8.5 lakh jobs have been created directly and indirectly through this initiative.

The Prime Minister's initiatives on infrastructure have been another shot in the arm of Indian manufacturing, apart from generating demand for goods and services, infrastructure development is a major facilitator of industrial activity. Today, India has a huge, and growing, network of expressways and highways. New, world-class railway stations are being built, while new freight corridors are coming up. India is increasingly being seen as a very attractive destination for investment. The country provides the 4D advantage - The decisive leadership of PM Modi; the Demographic dividend of our youthful, talented, skilled Indians; the Demand that 140 crore Indians generate in the economy; and Democracy that ensures the safety and security of investors, and the rule of law which will never allow discrimination against one or the other. The 4-D is a very, very compelling case to attract manufacturers to India. Domestic and international investors today find a golden opportunity to grow their business. There is a flurry of activity in the investor community. A series of delegations is visiting India, hungry for opportunities to invest and participate in the Indian growth story. Foreign governments and global CEOs are keenly eyeing opportunities in India. Many countries are keen to sign trade deals with India. The world is now looking at India as a manufacturing destination. And the key reason for this interest is India's competitive advantage and robust economic fundamentals. Today, inflation is under control, economic growth is strong and the Modi government is following strict fiscal discipline. This is all the more commendable in the current global situation marked by conflict and uncertainty. The initiatives of PM Modi have helped India rise from the unenviable situation of being regarded as one of the "Fragile Five" in the world in 2014, to being one of the Top Five in the world. In effect, PM Modi's initiatives like Make in India have contributed to making the last 10 years a transformational decade - a quantum jump over the lost decade of Congress rule.

(The writer is Minister of Commerce and Industry; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

QUAD STRENGTHENS INDIA'S ROLE

Madam — China's aggressive posture has consistently threatened peace in the Indo-Pacific region. India, has faced quite a few challenges from the latter. It is a matter of pride that New Delhi is looked upon by other countries to be their firm partner on global platforms to tackle Beijing's economic and military prowess. Specifically, the Asia-Pacific region was described as Indo-Pacific to denote India's increasingly active involvement in the region. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is one international forum that glues the four friendly nations—the United States, Japan, Australia and India—together. All these nations are keen to usher in a free and open Indo-Pacific region, diminishing the influence of a marauding Beijing. The four have been able to sustain a momentum that no country can ignore. In the fourth in-person Quad summit at US Wilmington, leaders of the four countries underlined the importance of shared democratic values that have kept them together. Issues of health, security, climate change, capacity building and technology occupied the leaders' attention. More importantly, India is emerging as a 'leader' of the four, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed to host the next year's summit in New Delhi in 2025. It can only grow stronger from here.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

TOP COURT REJECTS GUJARAT PLEA

Madam— The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea filed by the Gujarat government seeking a review of the court's verdict, which contained certain observations against the State while quashing the remission granted to 11 men convicted of raping Bilkis Bano and murdering seven of her family during the 2002 riots. Having carefully gone through the review petitions, the order under challenge and the papers annexed therewith, the judges were satisfied

Durga Puja has transformed



This is in response to the article titled "A symphony of tradition and transformation" (September 29). In the mid-1980s, Durga Puja used to be celebrated with utmost devotion according to rituals with dominance of Bhakti encompassing both the organisers and public. Only on Saptami morning, we used to get awakened by the rhythmic beats of Dhak, all puja rituals used to

commence with rendition of Sanskrit mantras and people used to start flocking to the pandals. But in last 4 decades all things associated with Durga Puja have undergone a sea change! Far from commencing the Puja on Saptami morning, many pandals and idols now open up for public "consumption" right from the Mahalaya itself thereby "promoting" 4-day Puja to a "modern" 10-day extravaganza! After all majority of these "glamorous" Puja committees do not care to actually offer homage to it through rituals mantras holy hymns or flowers! Durga Puja of today is nothing but a fashion show of sorts with exhibition of flexing muscles - be it monetary might or trophies garnered!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

that there is no error apparent on the face of the record or any merit in the review petitions, warranting reconsideration of the order impugned. The review petitions are, accordingly, dismissed and it is a landmark decision. The Gujarat government in its plea had said the apex court's observation in the January 8 judgement, holding the State guilty of "usurpation of power" and "abuse of discretion" for complying with an order of another top court bench, was an "error apparent on the face of the record" primarily on three grounds.

CK Subramani | Kerala

TOURISM EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT

Madam — Tourism plays a pivotal role in the global economy acting as a bridge between cultures and fostering economic growth in various regions. It contributes approximately 10 per cent to the world's GDP and generates millions of employment opportunities, especially in rural and less developed areas.

By integrating tourism studies into academic curricula, institutions can equip students with essential skills in areas such as sustainable tourism practices, travel management and hospitality management. This education not only prepares students for diverse career opportunities but also fosters a deeper understanding of how to balance tourism's economic benefits with environmental sustainability and cultural preservation. Promoting tourism education in colleges cultivates a new generation ready to take the bull by the horns, driving innovation while advocating for responsible tourism practices that balance economic growth with social and environmental accountability. Moreover, it supports regional development by teaching students how to effectively market and manage local attractions thereby preserving cultural heritage while boosting local economies.

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



SANJAY CHANDRA

Breaking life into small steps for lasting fulfillment

Happiness is actually the most important project of life. True contentment comes from savouring each step, no matter how small

Happiness is the most important project of life. It should be broken up into smaller activities to attain the eventual goal. The only time that we probably understand this is in our childhood. As a child, I had intuitively learned the art of allocating the hours of the day for various activities, like waking up, getting ready and spending time in school, having lunch on return, completing homework, going out to play, returning for dinner, and going to bed. We lived in the present from one hour to the next. I was a satisfied and happy person as I could complete the 'Project Day'. We did not have the need or the time to look too far into the future. As we outgrew childhood, we forgot the lessons learned. I joined college. Like others, I too started making grand resolutions on the first day of the year. My resolution could be as mundane as losing the 15 kgs within the first three months, which had taken me a year to gain. It could also be an important resolution to secure 90 per cent marks in my semester examinations, a substantial



improvement over the 60 per cent in the previous one. Each resolution would fly out of the window within the first few months. I had forgotten to take small steps to reach the end destination. Things did not improve even after I started working. I found a new toy - a 'To Do List'. A diary would be earmarked for this most important ritual. I would start with one such list and continue adding till I had inked the second or third page with only a few activities completed. I would give up, and start all over again. The previous year's diary was promptly destroyed lest anyone glanced into it and called my bluff. This continued for a few years till I discovered the computer. I could delete these pending activities at will, with

no one any wiser to my shenanigans. I was fooling only myself. I quit my railway job to join a government company working in the execution of construction projects. I was exposed to software-based project management tools for the first time. I reluctantly spent weeks with the consultant to develop an activity-based project breakdown structure. He educated us about the importance of breaking each activity into smaller sub-activities. We were reluctant to accept that more activities to monitor would result in successful and timely completion. He was not satisfied with the first draft of less than 100 activities. He was a tough taskmaster. We marched on, to our ever-increasing despair, and his impatience, till we

called it quits after we had reached 1000 odd activities. It was a revelation to me. I now appreciated the time that my wife spent planning the daily household chores. The exercise in project management also brought into stark focus all the wrong I was doing while making my New Year resolutions and the To-Do Lists, and more importantly, living my life. I now understand why we remain unhappy most of the time. We forget to derive joy out of each step that we take, however small it may be. The young of today are far more mature. Hina Khan, a young actor, recently diagnosed with cancer, is a courageous woman fighting all that life has to throw at her. Her thoughts are the most inspiring words I have read in some time, "First normalise the challenges of your lives then set goals for yourself and try to live up to them all along the way. No matter how hard. Never back down. Never give up."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

HARNESSING INNER POTENTIAL

The human mind is still an enigma. It has enormous potential and is a reservoir of energy



RAVI VALLURI

His alcoholism became a quotidian habit. Dharmendra was making a last-ditch effort as he boarded a flight from Jaipur to the Art of Living Ashram in Bangalore. Fortuitously, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar had given him an appointment at 4 PM that evening. Stinking of liquor, and reeking of stale cigarettes, with an unsteady gait he landed at Bangalore airport. He needed a physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional, parachute. Only a 'Master' through grace could provide such a life support system. For some time, my friend was trying to seek redemption from the lethal disease of alcoholism. My inventory list was prepared: join a rehab, attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and undertake the Happiness Programme of the Art of Living.

Gurudev advanced the appointment to 11 AM., and after one glance asked my friend to get admitted to the Ayurveda Hospital in the Ashram for a complete detoxification of body, mind, and soul, and after a 15-day rehab to undergo the Happiness Programme. The Guru had scripted a change in the life of Dharmendra, it was for his mind to grab the opportunity. But the monkey mind invented an excuse and Dharmendra left the Ayurveda Hospital and once again indulged in brinkmanship.

He could not draw the redlines or flag the issues confronting his mind and succumbed to temptation. While the brain is an organ that serves as the centre of the nervous system, the mind is the faculty of consciousness and thoughts. It is an individual's intellect, memory or attention span and will, whose potential needs to be enhanced or live in the past. Such individuals are unable to break the patterns and barriers of their comfort zone. Their prana levels



are exceedingly low and the pendulum of their mind's swings to the past. The moot question is how we use this enormous energy. If we look at the brighter aspects of life, such mental imagery works miraculously. Over some time the mind feels blessed, gains in abundance and becomes grateful. This is what Masters refers to as the

Law of Attraction

The Law of Attraction remains an illusion if it is not in conjunction with the Law of Gratitude. Both these laws operate in tandem and will fuel inner potential to harness growth leading to robust minds. Low and the pendulum of their minds swings to the past. They carry the burden of the past and attempt a course correction without any professional help (Guru) displaying false bravado in their imaginary worlds. They invariably try to also change the behavioural patterns of those close to them, essentially to market their point of view. Such minds invariably resort to shortcuts in life, trying to please everyone without any success. Ignoring the larger picture, this is a cunning and selfish mind, which does not trust anyone: basically, short of confidence and haunted by fear. The human mind is an enigma. It has enormous potential and is a reservoir of energy. The moot question is how we use this enormous energy. If we look at the brighter aspects of life, such mental imagery works miraculously. Over some time the mind feels blessed, gains in abundance and becomes grateful. Positive thoughts beget positivity and have a spiralling effect. The jigsaw puzzle of life gets sorted out. This is what Masters refer to as the Law of Attraction. The Law of Attraction remains an illusion if it is not in conjunction with the Law of Gratitude. Both these laws operate in tandem.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Can India become a manufacturing hub?



UTTAM GUPTA

Growth is driven by strong domestic demand, export potential, government infrastructure efforts, private sector investment, and initiatives like 'Make in India'



According to a Study Report by IDBI Capital, India is set to add US\$ 1 trillion to its gross domestic product (GDP) every 18 months over the next six years. It goes on to say that "with this momentum, the country is on track to become a US\$ 10 trillion economy positioning itself as the world's third-largest economy by 2030". Currently, India has a GDP of US\$ 4 trillion. The report has also highlighted that "India's accelerated growth will be driven primarily by the manufacturing sector, which is projected to contribute 32 per cent to the incremental Gross Value Added (GVA)". It adds "India will overtake the top five economies in manufacturing IIP (Index of Industrial Production) viz. US, China, Germany, South Korea and Japan..."

"Manufacturing essentially involves the production of a wide spectrum of consumer products, industrial machinery and so on. It is the most important component of Industrial activity at a broader level which also includes Construction (primarily building infrastructure); Logistics (transportation and storage of goods); Aerospace (aircraft and spacecraft etc) and maintenance and services required to support industrial activities. The contribution of the Industrial sector to India's GDP is around 30 per cent of which manufacturing alone is 17 per cent. The share of Agriculture and allied activities in GDP is around 18 per cent. The remaining 52 per cent comes from the Services sector (SS). The SS encompasses 'intangible' services such as education, health, entertainment, hospitality and tourism, banking, insurance and so on.



WHILE, ALL THREE SECTORS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN GROWTH, CREATING JOBS AND INCREASING INCOMES, MANUFACTURING CAN PROVIDE A MORE SUSTAINABLE BASIS FOR PROVIDING JOBS AND SURETY OF INCOME

While, all three sectors play a crucial role in growth, creating jobs and increasing incomes, manufacturing can provide a more sustainable basis for providing jobs and surety of income. This is in sharp contrast to agriculture which is fundamentally a seasonal activity and economic fortunes are largely tied to how monsoon pans out. Manufacturing can also provide a good buffer for absorbing the excess workforce from agriculture with positive spin-offs even for the latter in terms of higher productivity and income. Within the manufacturing sector, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) occupy a pivotal position. The

MSMEs are ancillary units engaged in the production, manufacturing and processing of goods and commodities (mostly intermediate goods) which are supplied to large enterprises or master units. These units operate on a small scale and are further categorized into micro, small and medium enterprises depending on the 'investment' and 'turnover' threshold. According to the Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation, the share of MSME manufacturing output in all India Manufacturing output is around 36 per cent. The share of export of MSME-specified products in all India exports has oscillated between 44 - 50 per cent during the last couple of years. As for employment, according to a report released by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), MSMEs in India contribute 62 per cent to the total. Yet, in the past, manufacturing hasn't been given the desired push. Its low contribution of 17 per cent in GDP and even lower share of total employment at about 10 per cent says it all.

Now, India aiming at the generation of 32 per cent of the incremental GVA from manufacturing shows its determination to put in the effort during the next six years or so, which is nearly double what it has done cumulatively to date. At this pace, by 2030, the share of manufacturing in GDP will have reached 26 per cent (4x0.17+6x0.32)/10.

as a global manufacturing hub; giving a boost to the micro small and medium enterprises (MSME) and so on. Nearly 70 per cent of India's GDP is driven by domestic consumption; Stimulating demand holds the key to putting manufacturing on an 'accelerated' and 'sustained' growth trajectory. For this, not only people's income should grow, but it should also be evenly and widely distributed. What do the facts speak? According to an Oxfam report, 'Inequality Kills', the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people in 2021 hit a record high of US\$ 775 billion or over 25 per cent of India's GDP. This shows the extreme inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth. There are other pointers to confirm that this is indeed so. According to an analysis of the financials of India's largest companies - those comprising the BSE 500 index - over five years, the profits of corporations included in this index more than doubled from Rs 480,000 crore during 2017-18 to Rs 1,000,000 crore during 2021-22, whereas their revenue growth was only 47 per cent.

This means that payments to factors of production other than the owners of capital such as to employees/workers, etc., have been kept under a tight leash, resulting in a disproportionate boost to profits. The aggregate dividend paid by these firms increased from Rs 176,000 crore during 2017-18 to Rs 302,000 crore during 2021-22, which is an increase of 72 per cent. In those five years, cumulatively, they paid 34 per cent of aggregate net profit as dividends. This is an unusually high payout ratio - even higher than 30 per cent paid by the world's largest companies in America's S&P 500. The products made in India need to be priced low if they are to be competitive. But, there are three major reasons as to why prices are downward inflexible. First, several big businesses operating in metals

such as copper, zinc, aluminium or hydrocarbons like oil and gas, enjoy a natural monopoly enabling them to set high prices. Firms in the chemical, petrochemicals, pharmaceutical and agrochemicals sectors also charge more courtesy, high tariffs on imports and licensing and registration requirements. Second, you have the impact of high taxation particularly when it comes to petroleum products. These are taxed under the pre-GST regime leading to the high incidence of 80 per cent of the ex-refinery price of petrol (Delhi). Ditto in the case of diesel. Increasing the cost of the movement of goods raises the cost of almost every manufactured item. Third, how can one be oblivious of the exorbitant power tariff set in double digits in many states? The power distribution companies or discoms (mostly owned and controlled by the States) are forced to charge high rates on supplies to industries as they have to make up for the under-recoveries incurred on supplies to farmers and households, either free or at a heavily subsidized price.

Finally, industries are operating in highly interesting environments. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy rate (the interest rate at which it lends money to banks) unchanged at a high of 6.5 per cent along with a 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance (a jargon for tight liquidity) for nearly 20 months. This leads to high cost loans to all industries across the board. The MSMEs are more vulnerable to all the above cost-push factors. To add salt to the injury, they get delayed payment for their dues from large firms. Unless the above fault lines are addressed, Initiatives under 'Make in India' won't yield the desired result and India becoming a manufacturing hub of the world will remain a distant dream.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views expressed are personal)

India's education system must prioritise learning over infrastructure
Despite schools being filled with students, foundational skills like basic literacy and numeracy continue to lag

Since gaining independence, India has made significant strides in the field of education, especially in terms of infrastructure and expanding access to schools. Classrooms now accommodate children from all walks of life, and government initiatives have succeeded in bringing millions of students into the education system.



ASHU KAPOOR

ed to the soil. In the same way, India's educational progress in infrastructure is commendable, but the students' foundational skills—the seeds of education—are still not producing the robust results we hope for. Year after year, surveys like the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) and the National Achievement Survey (NAS) reveal a startling reality: a large proportion of students struggle with essential

skills like basic literacy and numeracy. These are the building blocks of education, without which the entire edifice remains shaky. Students are spending years in school, but many are not learning at the expected level. The alarming gap between schooling and actual learning points to a crucial flaw in the system. If foundational skills are not nurtured early on, the benefits of educational progress will remain elusive, much like the farmer's poor harvest. The introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 brings a renewed sense of hope. It promises transformative change and a shift towards a system that values not just access to education but the quality of learning.

Together with the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational and School Education, NEP 2020 emphasizes the need to measure educational progress through well-designed assessments and to tailor interventions accordingly. The goal is clear: to raise a generation of learners who are not only equipped with knowledge but also the critical thinking skills required to thrive in the modern world. Research consistently shows that assessments play a transformative role in improving education. Their primary goal is not to rank students or schools but to provide insights into where learners stand on their educational journey. By identifying what students know and can do at individual, school, and

system levels, assessments offer a roadmap for educators to develop targeted interventions that can address specific learning gaps. In the quest to transform learning, large-scale assessments like ASER and NAS will be pivotal. ASER, a household-based survey, provides insights into basic literacy and numeracy skills, while NAS offers a broader view of students' achievement of curricular outcomes. Recently, the State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) was conducted by NCERT to provide state-level insights into educational progress. Simply generating report cards on students' performance is not enough. The data must be used to inform policy decisions and to implement specific

interventions aimed at improving learning outcomes. If not, students will continue to face the same challenges year after year, with little improvement. Large-scale assessments should be seen as the first step in a larger strategy to address educational inequities. While NAS offers a broad overview of the education system, state-level assessment surveys (SAS) have the potential to zoom in on specific issues at the school level. NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of these surveys and recommends that each state conduct its own census-based assessment to drive continuous improvement. By focusing on local contexts, SAS can provide valuable insights into the unique challenges faced by

individual states, enabling more targeted interventions. However, the effectiveness of SAS depends on how well states define their objectives. To make SAS truly impactful, states need to align their assessment frameworks with clear objectives. A well-designed assessment should consider the needs of the educational system at the state level, and the data collected should be used to support and improve schools, rather than ranking them. India's states would do well to ensure that all stakeholders in the education system—teachers, school administrators, and district-level educators—are trained in data use and analysis. The road ahead is challenging, but the promise of census-based state assessments is

transformative. By monitoring student progress and providing data-driven insights, SAS can reshape India's educational landscape. When combined with national-level assessments like NAS, SAS has the power to create a more responsive, equitable education system. With a strategic approach and strong governance, India can ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

The writer is a Research Fellow at Australian Council for Educational Research (India) and a former Senior Academic Consultant at NCERT and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Views are personal. Inputs by Dr Priyanka Sharma, Director ACER (India)

India's seven per cent growth fails to generate jobs: Raghuram Rajan

Government seeks industry inputs on Income Tax simplification

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"It is not going well at the lower level. I think the desperate need is for jobs. And you can see this, forget the official statistics. 'You can see it in the number of applications for government jobs, which are overwhelming,' said Rajan, who is a professor of finance at US-based Chicago Booth.



He said that in the medium term, the Indian economy will grow at 6-7 per cent. While welcoming the apprenticeship schemes announced by the finance minister in this year's Budget, Rajan said, "But we have to monitor that very closely, see what works and expand what works much more."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the Union Budget of FY25 that the government will launch three employment-linked schemes based on enrolment in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Citing examples of Vietnam and Bangladesh, which are doing well in labour-intensive industries like textile and leather, he said, "We need to look at this (labour-intensive industry)

According to him, if the Fed had not cut rates, there would be a sense that, oh, the Fed is keeping rates high, so 'we have no room to moderate our policies.' "I think the Fed has created more room for others to perhaps reduce interest rates, and so in that sense, people will be looking at their policies," he said.

To a question on Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates rationalisation, Rajan said after a policy has run for a fair amount of time, it is useful to ask, what has been the experience and 'do we need the policy change.' "I would try and appoint an expert committee to go into it, to take the opinions, just like the Finance Commission does, take the opinions of the various stakeholders, including the states, and come up with something that meets the needs of the country," he said.

'Subsidising' the northern and eastern states, Rajan said the Finance Commission has always been about the appropriate sort of allocation of taxes between the Centre and states. "If India grows together, (then) in fact, it prevents this kind of conflict...This is the equity issue, which is that the states that are growing faster, have also in the process, typically grow wealthier. And that is what is happening in the case of western and in the southern states," he said. Rajan pointed out that the western and southern states feel that they are penalised in two ways one is, they have to hand over more of their revenues to help some of the states who are falling behind. "Plus, on the political front, they may lose seats if there is a delimitation process (where seats in the Lok Sabha are to be allocated based on the results of the next Census), because, you know, the more populous states will get more seats," Rajan said.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



The government has proposed to invite suggestions on Income Tax Act, 1961, from the private sector and tax experts beginning October, as part of an exercise to simplify the direct tax law, sources said. In a meeting with industry chambers earlier this month, the government said that a functionality will be created in the Income Tax portal wherein suggestions could be made on different sections of the I-T Act with a view to simplifying the language and reducing litigation. Following the Budget announcement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had set up an internal committee for a comprehensive review of the six-decade old direct tax law and make it concise, lucid, easy to read and understand. "In the meeting with industry associations, the revenue department suggested that the functionality be developed by the first week of October to give suggestions for reworking

the income tax law," a source said. Another source said that the exercise is not to write a new tax law or a tax code. "Just by removing the outdated clauses, the number of pages could be brought down by about 100. The aim of the I-T law review is simplification of language and mitigation of litigation," the source added. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in 2024-25 Budget presented in July had proposed that the I-T law review would be completed in six months. Considering that the six-month timeline ends in January, it is widely expected that the amended I-T Act could be brought in the Budget session of Parliament. Since no new changes are expected in the law, the amended Act could form part of the Finance Bill, 2025 as well, another source said.

Can the Tata's pull off their aviation plan?

SBI plans combo product of recurring deposit, SIP to attract depositors: Chairman

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI



complex for the Air India and Vistara merger even though there is largely a single-type, the Airbus A320-family of aircraft. This is because of different aircraft configurations as well as different service and training standards. Many frequent flyers, including this writer, particularly on routes out of Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru are unhappy about small things like Air India's new domestic catering options. On a recent flight between Delhi and Kochi at lunchtime, the meal provided was wholly inadequate with a sandwich and stuffed bread roll, unlike Vistara's continuing proper meal service.

There is no need for airlines to offer a meal service, but if they claim to be 'full-service' carriers they should offer a proper meal or at least offer a decent 'Buy on Board' service. The largest airline in India does not pretend to offer 'full service'; but has a 'Buy on Board' service. However, as a frequent flyer, I sincerely recommend that flyers either bring their own food onboard or eat at an airport, no matter how overpriced the latter option is. That said, consolidation of Air India and Vistara into one large airline is a huge opportunity for Tata Sons and Indian aviation to develop India into a proper global aviation hub and compete

with middle-eastern airlines such as Emirates and Qatar Airlines. Particularly as the Indian diaspora across the world grows and will travel back to their home, as well as growing the international inbound tourism market. India is also going to grow domestic aviation at an incredible rate with an estimated 250 million flyers annually by 2028. But if the merger stalls for any reason, Tata Sons ought to be worried as IndiGo which has built themselves up into a massive presence in India, controlling half the domestic market, will certainly make an international and premium passenger play. On the latter front they have already announced that they will be starting a 'premium' class offering from later this winter as well as a new Frequent Flyer program called 'Blu-Chip'. And with an order for 30 new Airbus A350-900 wide-body aircraft and the new Airbus A321XLR entering service next year, IndiGo can potentially threaten Air India's global expansion plans as well.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to attract depositors, State Bank of India is contemplating to come out with innovative products including a combo product of recurring deposit and SIP, said the bank's chairman C S Setty. With the economy progressing, he said, customers are becoming financially more aware and demanding, and have started looking for innovative investment instruments. Today the customers are looking at the value proposition as financial literacy improves and the concept of asset allocation will gain greater importance, he said. "Obviously, nobody wants to put everything in a risky asset or a speculative asset...Banking products will always be part of the basket. So, we are trying to bring products which will appeal to

them," he told PTI in an interview. "We are trying to bring innovation in some of the conventional products like recurring deposit, which is actually a conventional SIP...Maybe, we can combine both fixed deposit/recurring deposit and SIP, a combo product that could be digitally accessible," he said. So, he said, these are the innovations which the bank is thinking of in terms of popularising the deposit products among the Gen Z. Besides, he said, the bank has undertaken a massive outreach programme for the deposit mobilisation. "As I said, for us, deposit mobilisation is a franchisee job. We have the largest number of physical outlets across the country. We are leveraging our huge physical reach by initiating outreach programmes where customers are contacted. Today, the effort on part of



SBI is to reach out to every customer both existing as well as new customers," he said. Stressing that deposit is a function of interest rate and customer service, Setty said, "obviously, there is a requirement of adequately compensating our customers, but we would not like to fight in the rate war. I think most of the banks are also pursuing a balancing act of giving the right rate as well as right service. So, our focus is on improving the customer service and also adequately

compensating our customers." In addition, he said, SBI has given thrust on opening new accounts and almost 50,000 to 60,000 savings bank accounts opened a day. On the fixed deposit side, Setty said, almost 50 per cent of our fixed deposits are garnered through the digital channels only and also many accounts are opened through digital means. Meanwhile, he also said that SBI is aiming to become the first Indian financial firm to cross a milestone of Rs 1 lakh crore net profit in the next 3-5 years. SBI recorded a standalone net profit of Rs 61,077 crore in FY24, registering a growth of 21.59 per cent. "We have potential. Definitely, we would like to be the first company in India to reach that milestone," Setty said when asked if it is possible to cross Rs 1 lakh crore in the next 3-5 years.

PM celebrates 10 years of Make in India, calls India a manufacturing powerhouse

Reliance infrastructure wins arbitration case against DVC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



middle class and MSMEs are getting a lot of benefit from this campaign. Now, both sides are in the final stages of the merger, making some adjustments to the business as per the directions of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). On August 30, the NCLT approved the scheme of merger of Viacom18 Media and Digital 18 Media, holding media and entertainment assets of Reliance Industries, with Star India. The scheme had proposed the transfer and vesting of Media Operations

whole world is looking up to us. Be it automobiles, textiles, aviation, electronics or defence... every sector in the country's exports are constantly on the rise," he added. The prime minister said the continual rise of FDI in the country is narrating the success saga of 'Make in

India.' "Now we are mainly focusing on two things... The first is 'Quality', that is, goods made in our country should be of global standards... and the other is 'Vocal for Local'. That means, local products should get maximum promotion," Modi said. "In 'Mann Ki Baat' we've also

discussed 'My Product My Pride'. How the people of the country can benefit from promoting local products can be understood through an example. In Bhandara district of Maharashtra, there is an old textile tradition of 'Bhandara Tussar Silk Handloom'. Tussar Silk, is known for its colour, design and strength. "In some areas of Bhandara, more than 50 'Self Help Groups are working to preserve it. Women have a huge participation in that. This silk is fast becoming popular and empowering local communities... and that is the spirit of 'Make in India'," he added. In this festive season, Modi urged people that anything that they buy, should

necessarily be 'Made in India'. "Anything you gift that too should be 'Made in India'. Merely buying earthen lamps is not 'Vocal for Local'. You should promote local products made in your area and more. Any such product, that has been made with the sweat of an Indian artisan, that is made on Indian soil, is our pride - we always have to lend glory to this pride," he said. On the 10th anniversary of his government's 'Make in India' drive, Prime Minister Modi on Wednesday affirmed that the flagship initiative to boost manufacturing has transformed a dream into a powerful movement and its impact shows that "Bharat is unstoppable".

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Calcutta High Court has upheld a Rs 780 crore arbitration award in favour of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd in a dispute with West Bengal-based Damodar Valley Corporation, the Anil Ambani group firm said in a stock exchange filing. More than a decade back, Reliance Infrastructure had won a contract to set up a 1,200 MW thermal power plant in Purulia in West Bengal for Rs 3,750 crore. The project was delayed due to disputes and other reasons, leading to DVC seeking damages from Reliance Infrastructure, however, challenged this, and

an arbitration tribunal in 2019 ruled in favour of the company and directed DVC to pay Rs 896 crore to the company. DVC challenged the order of the arbitral tribunal in the Calcutta High Court, which was dismissed by the court. "This is to inform that on September 27, 2024, the Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta delivered its judgment in a petition filed by DVC challenging the arbitration award under Section 34, dated September 29, 2023, amounting to approximately Rs 780 crore, including accrued interest in favour of the company concerning the Raghunathpur Thermal Power Project," the firm said.

Government approves transfer of Reliance TV licenses to Star India

Mcap of 10 most valued firms surges to ₹ 1.21 lakh crore

INBRIEF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Private Limited in favour of Star India," it said. This would be "subject to conditions laid by the Competition Commission of India". Viacom18 is the holding company that owns the media and entertainment business of Reliance Industries and Bodhi Tree Systems. Now, both sides are in the final stages of the merger, making some adjustments to the business as per the directions of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). On August 30, the NCLT approved the scheme of merger of Viacom18 Media and Digital 18 Media, holding media and entertainment assets of Reliance Industries, with Star India. The scheme had proposed the transfer and vesting of Media Operations

Undertaking from Viacom 18 and Jio Cinema into Digital18, which is a subsidiary of Viacom 18. This would be followed by "demerger, transfer and vesting of V18 Undertaking from Digital 18 into Star India". The merger of the media assets of Reliance Industries and The Walt Disney Co. Will create the country's largest media empire worth over Rs 70,000 crore. Earlier, the CCI had said it had cleared the "proposed combination involving Reliance Industries Ltd, Viacom18 Media Pvt Ltd, Digital18 Media Ltd, Star India Pvt Ltd and Star Television Productions Ltd, subject to the compliance of voluntary modifications". Viacom18 is part of the RIL group, and SIPL is wholly

owned by The Walt Disney Company. STPL, a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands, is owned indirectly by Walt Disney. The CCI, however, did not disclose voluntary modifications in the original deal made by the two parties. Under the deal, the Mukesh Ambani-led RIL and its affiliates will hold 63.16 per cent of the combined entity that will house two streaming services and 120 television channels. Walt Disney will hold the remaining 36.84 per cent stake in the combined entity, which will also be India's largest media house. Nita Ambani, wife of RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani, will head the joint venture, while Uday Shankar will be its vice-chairperson.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms surged Rs 1,21,270.83 crore last week, with Reliance Industries becoming the biggest gainer, in line with an outstanding rally in benchmark equity indices. Last week, the BSE Sensex jumped 1,027.54 points or 1.21 per cent. The BSE Sensex hit its record high of 85,978.25 on Friday. The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 53,652.92 crore to Rs 20,65,197.60 crore. State Bank of India added Rs 18,518.57 crore taking its valuation to Rs 7,16,333.98 crore. Bharti Airtel's market valuation soared Rs 13,094.52

crore to Rs 9,87,904.63 crore and that of ITC grew by Rs 9,927.3 crore to Rs 6,53,834.72 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) surged Rs 8,592.96 crore to Rs 15,59,052 crore. HDFC Bank's valuation climbed Rs 8,581.64 crore to Rs 13,37,186.93 crore and that of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) zoomed Rs 8,443.87 crore to Rs 6,47,616.51 crore. The mcap of Infosys went up by Rs 459.05 crore. However, the market valuation of ICICI Bank tumbled to Rs 9,20,520.72 crore. The mcap of Hindustan Unilever declined by Rs 3,195.44 crore to Rs 6,96,888.77 crore. In the chart of the most valued firms, Reliance Industries retained the highest ranking.

22ND KISHORE KUMAR MEMORIAL AWARDS

NEW DELHI: Dr. Kamal Pathak, Registrar of IP University was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of 22nd Kishore Kumar Memorial Awards organised by Kishore Kumar Memorial Club at Pyarelal Lal Bhavan.



GNDU RELEASED SCHEDULE THROUGH ONLINE PORTAL

AMRITSAR: The online examination form submission and fee payments for Sem-1 December 2024 exams of Law FYIP/TYP, B.Ed, B.A-B.Ed, B.Sc-B.Ed, B.Com-B.Ed and B.Ed-M.Ed for Regular students through online portal has been scheduled.

GNDU ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

AMRITSAR: The three-day Zonal Youth Festival of "B-Zone" of Guru Nanak Dev University began, marked by an impressive inauguration ceremony presided over by Dr. Ravjit Singh from Dr Daljit Singh Eye Hospital, Amritsar.



Destination Uttarakhand

WORLD TOURISM DAY SPECIAL

Kedarnath Dham gets a major facelift, enhances facilities for pilgrims

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama is pushing ahead Uttarakhand government's efforts to transform Kedarnath into a premier spiritual destination



>> PM Narendra Modi along with CM Pushkar Singh Dhama during his visit to Kedarnath Dham

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's deep faith in Baba Kedarnath and his special attachment to Uttarakhand, have received support from the Centre. With assistance from the Centre, reconstruction work is going on at Kedarnath Dham. Uttarakhand Government led by Pushkar Singh Dhama, endeavoured to restore the shrine and the surrounding area to its pristine glory, while providing devotees with all modern amenities and services. The state administration has provided all kinds of facilities to the pilgrims, which is among the reasons behind the record number of people visiting every year.

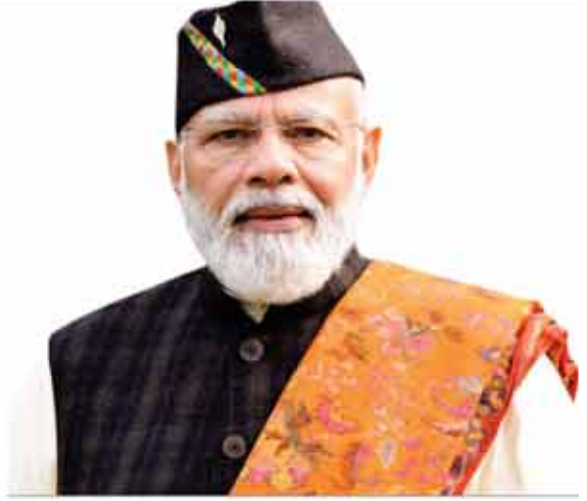
The redevelopment and reconstruction work in the first phase of Kedarnath Dham was completed in 2022. In the second phase, 21 works worth Rs 188 crore are underway. The master plan proposes the redevelopment of the Kedarnath temple area that was washed away in the Uttarakhand floods of 2013. The plan proposes a wide and clear path that leads to the shrine, with structures in small clusters on either side accommodating the residential needs.

MANDAKINI PATH READY FOR PILGRIMS COMING TO KEDARNATH

The master plan proposes a new layout to ensure

a safer and more organised settlement around the shrine, including the construction of Mandakini path, leading to the temple and the arrangement of residential spaces in small, dispersed clusters for better management and safety. Officials confirmed that the first phase of the Kedarnath Dham's redevelopment was completed in 2022, and the second phase is currently underway.

Under the supervision of CM Pushkar Singh Dhama, the Mandakini path is ready for pilgrims' ease, and additional amenities such as food kiosks and pilgrim care will be available there. All the work would be completed before the yatra commences



I congratulate the Uttarakhand government on the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years. This has been made possible by sustained policy push and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. Alongside, the state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, setting new benchmarks for sustainable growth. Uttarakhand's commitment to harnessing its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only bolstered its economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I applaud the state's dedication to inclusive development and look forward to its continued success in the years ahead."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, U'khand is experiencing growth with new ropeway projects and advancements in rail, road, and air connectivity. These initiatives promise eco-friendly travel, boost regional economy, and create opportunities for locals. With its rich spiritual, adventure, and cultural experiences, the state continues to attract global visitors while preserving its natural and cultural heritage.

Pushkar Singh Dhama
Chief Minister



>> CM on his visit to Corbett National Park

Tehri takes flight: Rising paragliding destination

According to some internationally renowned paragliding experts, Tehri has the potential to become a world-class paragliding center. With



a clear dropping height of more than 1500 mt, conducive climate with lesser wind disturbances and easy access from Dehradun airport, the Tehri-lake is being touted as an upcoming paragliding hub.

The Tourism Department organised an International Paragliding Acrobatic Festival in November 2023 which saw participation from more than 150 paragliding acrobats from more than 30 countries. The event catapulted Tehri to an exalted status in the international paragliding circuit and international paragliding instructors are beeing up at Tehri for their training groups.

In order to promote paragliding activity in the state, the tourism department has started various levels of paragliding training courses like P1, P2 and SIV at Tehri to equip the local youth with the necessary skills and safety certifications to meet international requirements. This step would ensure availability of local skilled manpower as Tehri sees a rise in paragliding sporting activity.

U'khand Tourism Policy 2023-30: Spiritual bliss with modern tourism

Following PM Modi's vision, and under the leadership of CM Pushkar Singh Dhama, Uttarakhand has embarked on creating better experiences for tourists



>> CM Pushkar Singh Dhama, CM, Uttarakhand, interacting with Goa government officials. MoU was signed recently with with an aim to enhance the overall tourism in both states

Uttarakhand, also known as Devbhoomi, has been a spiritual center since time immemorial. With holy cities like Haridwar and Rishikesh on the banks of the River Ganga, the annual Char Dham Yatra, the Kumbh Mela and several Shiva and Shakti temples, each telling its own mystical story, dotted across the state, the state is a haven for spiritual seekers.

Under the able leadership of Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Pushkar Singh Dhama, the state has embarked on creating better and newer experiences for tourists visiting the state. From infrastructure development to opening up

newer segments of tourism, the state is offering multitude of tourism products to target various strata of tourists. At the same time, it is imperative for the state to take note of the fragile ecology and plan activities without causing any harm to the natural environment.

The Tourism Policy envisaged by Government of Uttarakhand lays the roadmap for developing new tourism related activities in the state. The state is offering several incentives including capital subsidy, interest subvention, marketing & promotion, training etc for industry players who wish to invest in the future tourism growth of the

state. The activities for which these incentives are offered range from hospitality services and other tourism services such as adventure parks, electric taxi services etc.

Due to the unique ecological positioning of the state, with the Himalayas being one of the youngest mountain ranges of the world, subject to various geographical changes, the Tourism Policy 2023-2030 lays down guidelines for development of environmental-friendly sustainable tourism infrastructure.

Several initiatives have been taken by the govt to boost tourism in the state ranging from promoting Adventure Sports, yoga and wellness, Border Village Tourism and boosting tourism to hidden gems of the state through Manaskhand Express train

Recently, the government has laid down policy guidelines for inviting investment from within the state for state players with intended investment of Rs 1-5 crore. With this policy, the state aims to develop entrepreneurial enterprise within the state for land owners of the state. Another unique feature of the policy is that the investors will have to provide employment to at least 70% local youth in their enterprise.

The policy includes several incentives including Capital Subsidy and Interest Subsidy depending upon the geographical location of the project.

Homestays: Future of accommodation in the state

Empowering homestay owners, strengthening economy

Due to various geographical and ecological factors, setting up of large hotels in the state is not feasible. Hence, the state has launched various facilities and incentives to homestay owners to develop a resilient homestay infrastructure across the state.

The state has adopted a three-pronged strategy to promote the homestay economy – providing capital support to build infrastructure, providing training to hone skills and the third is the launch of a dedicated homestay booking portal www.uttarastays.com, which offers homestay owners to list their homestays without any integration charges and commission.

This strategy is set to impact migration from the state with more locals setting up homestays and the tourism department providing online booking facility through a state-owned portal.

The Himalayan hinterland is dotted with pictur-



>> CM Pushkar Singh Dhama at a homestay esque and quaint locations, where finding quality accommodation is still a challenge. For locals, who have set up accommodation units at these locations, it is difficult to reach out to their potential guests through online medium. The uttarastays.com portal is set to bridge this gap and provide exposure to all homestays of the state.

Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and the guidance of Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama, Uttarakhand has launched various facilities and incentives to homestay owners to develop a resilient homestay infrastructure across the state



Uttarakhand embraces new-age tourism for sustainable and ecological growth

With new-age tourism products, Uttarakhand is poised for an era of tourism growth, which is both sustainable and inclusive

Uttarakhand has been known as a hub for Yoga and wellness activities for a long time with Rishikesh being branded as the Yoga Capital of the World. With various developmental initiatives of the Department of Ayush and Department of Tourism, Wellness Centers are being developed across the state providing

holistic Ayurvedic remedies. These Wellness Centers are being promoted by the Tourism department by linking them to the nearby homestays. The Tourism Department and Ayush Department have also developed an Ayurveda based welcome kit for the tourists residing at the homestays.

The wellness centers linked to

the homestays are being actively promoted on the www.uttarastays.com portal to provide information about the facilities available at these Wellness Centers.

With these new-age tourism products, Uttarakhand tourism is poised for an era of tourism growth which is both sustainable and inclusive.

Nakshatra Sabha: Exploring the Cosmos

With focus of 'Leave No Trace', the event aimed to promote responsible tourism with the participants actively involved in the managing the surroundings



With an aim to promote 'Leave No Trace Behind' tourism activity and expose remote locations of the state, the tourism department has come up with a six-part astro-tourism event series titled Nakshatra Sabha. The locations chosen for these events are unique with astro enthusiasts camping at the sites in tents. The astro enthusiasts witness various celestial events and objects through state-of-the-art equipment, participate in sessions about astronomy, learn about astro-photography,

unravel the mysteries of the night sky, go on local hikes, indulge in musical evenings and admire the beauty of their surroundings pledging to 'Leave No Trace' when they vacate the site.

The first event in the series was held at the iconic George Everest House near Mussoorie in June 2024 which saw overwhelming response from more than 100 participants from all across the country and even international participation.

The next event is scheduled to be held at Jageshwar in Almora in the first week of October 2024 with more events lined up at Benital in Chamoli, Jading in Uttarkashi and Gunji in Pithoragarh. The events aim to create awareness about Dark Sky Observations, develop a Dark Sky Policy for the state, promote training & development around the events to create opportunities for the local youth.

With focus of 'Leave No Trace', these events also aim to promote responsible tourism with the participants actively involved in the managing the surroundings.



Adventure Tourism gains momentum



With a full-fledged adventure tourism wing functioning under the Tourism Department, adventure tourism activities in the state have evolved over the years. In the year 2023, the department took a decision to waive off the river rafting fee from rafting operators for all rivers except the Ganga. This fee waiver has generated interest of the rafting operators to start rafting operations in rivers other than the Ganga including Tons, Ramganga and Sharda, thus paving way for rafting activities at many more destinations in addition to Rishikesh.

The National Rafting Championship was held in the Sharda River at Champawat, which saw participation from several teams including a team from Nepal. The state has organised several paragliding competitions at various locations including Tehri and Pithoragarh

to boost the paragliding activities in the state. Water Sports activities have been added at Baur Jalashay in Udham Singh Nagar District and more activities are being planned at Tehri-lake. Uttarakhand became the first state to test fly a Gyrocopter from Haridwar. Gyrocopters are light weight helicopters which can fly at low altitudes and can usher an new era in adventure tourism.

The state was awarded the Best Adventure Tourism State in 2023 by Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI).

#ExploreUttarakhand



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Sri Lanka crushes New Zealand to clinch historic series win

AP ■ GALLE (SRI LANKA)



Sri Lanka stormed to a series victory over New Zealand, securing the two-match test series with a resounding innings and 154-run triumph on the fourth day in Galle on Sunday. This victory, Sri Lanka's most dominant over the Kiwis, also marks their first win against New Zealand in 15 years. The hero of the games, left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya, was named Player of the Series after a masterful performance, claiming 18 wickets across the two matches. Meanwhile, Kamindu Mendis took home Man of the Match honours for his unbeaten 182, anchoring Sri Lanka's colossal total of 602-5 declared. With this knock, Mendis etched his name in history, joining the great Sir Don Bradman as the third joint-fastest player to reach 1,000 test runs. Jayasuriya, who took nine wickets in the first test, was at his best again, snaring another nine wickets in the second test as New Zealand's batters struggled to cope with Sri Lanka's spin-heavy attack. Debutant Nishan Peiris was the perfect foil, chipping in with nine wickets of his own, including a five-wicket haul in the second innings. "We discussed the need to score big in the first innings. That has been something that has been worrying us for a while. Glad we rectified that this innings," said Sri Lanka captain Dananjaya de Silva. "The spinners were superb. They kept creating pressure and didn't allow New Zealand to get away with things. It was

a superb display. That's how we want to compete in home conditions, dominate the opposition from ball one," he added. New Zealand's woes began early, bundled out for a paltry 88 in their first innings. Forced to follow on, the Kiwis showed more fight in their second innings, posting 360 - their highest total of the tour and in Galle - but it was too little, too late. Tom Blundell, Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner all contributed half-centuries in the second innings, but the tourists needed far more to challenge Sri Lanka's dominance. Resuming at 199-5, New Zealand lost three wickets before lunch on the fourth day. Despite Sri Lanka's fielding lapses, which saw three catches dropped, they eventually cleaned up after lunch. Jayasuriya removed Ajaz Patel and Peiris took the final scalp of Santner, stumped by Kusal Mendis, sealing the series win for Sri Lanka. "We had our moments in the series, but disappointed with the end result," said New Zealand captain Tim Southee. "That morning session on day three when we lost nine wickets was very disappointing. "There were dropped catches and missed stumpings as well in the Sri Lankan innings and in these conditions when you don't hold onto those chances it is very difficult." With this victory, Sri Lanka has now won three consecutive test matches and bolstered their hopes of qualifying for the ICC World Test Championship final at Lord's next June.

Indian shooters win two gold medals in Peru

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian shooters began their ISSF Junior World Championship (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) campaign in Peru on a good note, winning team gold in men's and women's 10m air pistol events, though a potential top-podium finish was lost in the individual category after a marksman was docked two points for reporting late for the final. The junior men's trio of Umesh Choudhary, Pradhyumn Singh and Mukesh Nelavalli topped the men's team competition in 10m air pistol with a tally of 1726 points. They finished 10 points ahead of second-placed Romania, while Italy took bronze with a score of 1707. Choudhary though missed a potential individual gold after being penalised two points for reporting late for the final. Choudhary and Singh had earlier made it to the individual finals placed third and fourth respectively in the qualification round. Choudhary shot 580 and



Singh 578 but missed out on individual medals, ending up sixth and eighth respectively. Luca Joldea of Romania won the gold medal, while Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Hsiang-Chen clinched the silver. Nelavalli was ninth in qualification with a score of 574. The combination of Kanishka Dagar, Lakshita and Anjali Chaudhary tallied 1708 to clinch the junior women's 10m air pistol team gold. They

pipped Azerbaijan by a point and Ukraine by four points. Dagar also made the individual final in third place with a score of 573 along with Kanak who also shot the same score but with lesser inner 10s, to bag the fifth qualifying spot. In the final, Kanak won bronze with a score of 217.6, while Dagar finished eighth. Chinese Taipei's Chen Yu-Chun won gold, while Slovakia's Manja Slak bagged the silver.

Wet outfield wipes out play for second day

PTI ■ KANPUR

No play was possible for the second consecutive day in the second Test between India and Bangladesh due to a wet outfield at the Green Park Stadium here. Overnight rain had caused a delay to the start of action but even as the sun was shining bright around 2:00pm and there were no soggy patches on the ground, the officials decided to call off the play. Almost eight sessions have been lost in the game due to persistent rain that has played havoc with the final match of the two-game series. Questions on the drainage system used at the venue have been duly raised. Bangladesh had ended the rain-shortened opening day at 107 for 3. The entire second day was washed out without a ball being bowled, and only 35 overs were bowled on the opening day. India pacer Akash Deep (2/34) and Ravichandran Ashwin (1/22) were among the wickets.

Champions League returns missing Mbappé, Rodri, Barella as injury wave hits European soccer

AP ■ PARIS



Key players will be sidelined when the Champions League resumes on Tuesday after a wave of injuries within a week of the new-look competition starting. Kylian Mbappé's sore hamstring is likely to sideline him beyond Wednesday when he was due to return to France with defending champion Real Madrid to face Lille. Serious knee injuries mean Manchester City midfielder Rodri is out for the season and Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen will miss at least most of it. Inter Milan midfielder Nicolò Barella, who was a standout playing against Rodri on September 18, will miss at least one Champions League game because of a thigh strain. The injuries to four players who were involved at the European Championship into the knockout phase have sharpened the debate about player workload in a calendar made more congested by the bigger Champions League. The extended program is what influential clubs all-but forced UEFA to create and the 18 games this week, split between Tuesday and Wednesday, still leaves each of them with six more to play through January.

by Juventus. Both eased to winning starts two weeks ago. Villa won 3-0 at Young Boys and Bayern's nine goals against Dinamo Zagreb was a record for any team in the 33-season Champions League era. Harry Kane scored four in Bayern's 9-2 win and has a good record visiting Villa, with five goals there in five Premier League games for Tottenham. He faces a late check on an ankle injury. Kane edges Haaland as Kane's fast start to the season, with 10 goals in seven games for Bayern has outpaced even

Erling Haaland's 10 in eight games for Man City. Haaland was kept quiet by Inter for the second time in 16 months, a fact he was reminded of in a post-game talk with the Italian champion's center back Francesco Acerbi, who smiled and held up two fingers. Haaland should find it easier on Tuesday in Slovakia when Man City faces Slovan Bratislava, which took the second biggest beating in the opening round, 5-1 at Celtic. Crowd size and fan fervour The pulsating atmosphere at Celtic Park for a rare European win by the Scottish champion stood out in an opening week where anticipation was not universal. Pundits including former Man City goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel noted a quietness about the stadium for the Inter game. The attendance was nearly 2,000 higher five days later when Man City met Arsenal in a tempestuous Premier League clash where title ambitions were already in play. Milan-Liverpool was a heavyweight European fixture yet far from sold out, with fewer than 60,000 at San Siro. The crowd topped 70,000 at each of Milan's first two Serie A home games this season, and 66,000 on the equivalent Champions League opening

night last season to see another English club, Newcastle. Paris Saint-Germain drew at least 46,000 fans for each home game in Ligue 1 this season - and all three Champions League group-stage games last season - yet fewer than 40,000 were at Parc des Princes to see European debutant Girona two weeks ago. Sporting Lisbon also had 40,000 fans for a Champions League opener against Lille

that was 6,000 down on the crowd for a domestic league game against Porto. The attendance and atmosphere trends will be watched as fans respond to the longer and more expensive program of four Champions League home games. The 36-team standings is set to be more dynamic for the final two rounds in January. Tuesday's games The raucous atmosphere should follow Celtic to Borussia Dortmund

whose fans in the Yellow Wall tribune are among the noisiest in Europe. Bundesliga champion Bayer Leverkusen hosts Milan after making a fast star in a 4-0 rout at Feyenoord. San Siro now reverts to Inter to host Red Star Belgrade. Arsenal hosts PSG in a meeting of two teams chasing a trophy they never won. Each was a beaten finalist once. Also, Barcelona hosts Young Boys. Wednesday's games

Even without Mbappé, Madrid should have too much for Lille playing in the stadium that hosted basketball group-stage games at the Paris Olympics. Premier League leader Liverpool hosts Bologna, and Girona's first European visitor to the Montilivi stadium is Feyenoord. Dinamo Zagreb fired its coach, Sergej Jakirovic, after the drubbing at Bayern and brought back Nenad Bjelica for a second spell.

Messi scores, Inter Miami moves closer to No. 1 seed with 1-1 draw

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (US)



Lionel Messi moved Inter Miami another step closer to the No. 1 seed for the MLS Cup playoffs. And the MLS single-season points record remains in the club's reach as well. Messi scored in the 67th minute and Inter Miami pushed its unbeaten streak to eight straight Major League Soccer matches with a 1-1 tie against Charlotte FC on Saturday night. It was Messi's 15th goal in 16 league matches this season. Messi became the sixth player in MLS history with at least 15 goals and 15 assists in a single season - and he's done that while missing 15 of Inter Miami's league contests. The tie, combined with Columbus' 2-2 draw with D.C. United on Saturday, left Inter Miami eight points clear of the Crew for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. Inter Miami is also seven points up on the LA Galaxy for the No. 1 overall seed in the MLS playoffs. Inter Miami plays at Columbus on Wednesday, and a win would wrap up the No. 1 overall seed - not just the East, but the Supporters Shield as the regular-season winners as well. Inter Miami (19-4-8) has 65 points with

three matches left; Columbus (16-5-9) has 57 points with four matches remaining. "We are playing a great team that is chasing us in the Supporters' Shield," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said. "It is a very important game but so are the games against Toronto and New England. We will be ready for these remaining dates." But first, the Columbus match looms and Inter Miami knows exactly what's at stake. "It's very important," defender Jordi Alba said. The Supporters Shield would give Inter Miami home-field edge throughout the playoffs,

including for a potential MLS Cup final December 7. And if Inter Miami wins out, it will finish with 74 points - one more than the MLS record of 73 set by New England in 2021. DC United helped Inter Miami a bit on Saturday. Columbus led 2-1 late in the second half but surrendered the tying goal in the 81st minute; otherwise, the Crew could have been two points closer to Inter Miami in the standings and made Wednesday's match far more interesting. Messi's goal was his typical brilliance. He took a pass near the top of the penalty box, dribbling once and threading his natural left-footed shot between four defenders and into the net to tie the match. It came 10 minutes after Charlotte (11-11-9, 42 points, seventh in the East) struck first, with Karol Swiderski deflecting a shot into the net. But Messi answered, and Inter Miami settled for its third consecutive draw. The team is 5-0-3 in its last eight league matches and 9-1-3 in MLS play since June 1. "Obviously, we are frustrated with the three consecutive ties," Martino said. "But the story continues." There were two great chances for Inter Miami in the final moments. Messi lobbied for a shot at the gamewinner in the 10th minute of stoppage time, after getting taken down near the top of the penalty area. No foul was called - one almost certainly would have led to a penalty shot opportunity - and about two minutes later, Luis Suarez somehow missed from point-blank range on the final play of the match. The match was the next-to-last of the home regular season slate for Inter Miami. After the showdown at Columbus on Wednesday, the club goes to Toronto on October 5 and then wraps up the 34-match schedule at home against New England on October 19.

पुण्य स्मरण

श्रीमंत माधवराव सिंधिया जी
(जन्म : 10 मार्च 1945 - स्वर्गवास : 30 सितम्बर 2001)

युग बीता पर श्रद्धा भाव से, आज भी भर आते नयन।
संघर्षशील उस प्रेरक व्यक्तित्व को
कोटि-कोटि सादर नमन्!

सिंधिया स्कूल, द फोर्ट, ग्वालियर (स्थापना-1897)

सिंधिया कन्या विद्यालय, ग्वालियर

ए.एम.आई. शिशु मन्दिर, ग्वालियर

माधव प्रौद्योगिकी एवं विज्ञान संस्थान, सम विश्वविद्यालय, ग्वालियर

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